

**BLAENAU GWENT COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN EXAMINATION
CYNGOR BWRDEISDREF SIROL BLAENAU GWENT YMCHWILIAD CYNLLUN DATBLYGU LLEOL**

**Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council
Response to Inspector's Questions INSP 005**

SESSION 1 - REVIEW OF DISTINCTIVENESS OF LDP POLICIES

Are the detailed policies that support the strategy locally distinctive? Do any of the policies repeat national guidance? If so, should these policies be amended or deleted? Do the policies contain an appropriate element of flexibility?

Policy	How is this policy locally distinctive?	Does the policy repeat national guidance? If so, why?	Is it necessary to delete / amend the policy?	If so, what changes are needed for reasons of soundness?
SP6	Policy SP6 is considered to be distinctive as it sets out the locally important issues that are considered necessary for ensuring accessibility in Blaenau Gwent.	It is accepted that the following criteria repeat national guidance set out in Planning Policy Wales: SP6.6 (W41 , paragraph 4.10.11). Access and mobility were specific issue raised through consultation with the Access for All Forum and should therefore form part of the strategic policy. The aim of the Plan is to set out a coherent strategy for Blaenau Gwent, covering the issues that have been identified as being of local importance.	No.	N/A
SP7	Policy SP7 is considered to be distinctive as it sets out the locally important issues that are considered necessary for ensuring	It is accepted that the following criteria repeat national guidance set out in Planning Policy Wales: SP7.1.d (W41 , paragraph 4.8.1). SP7.2.a (W41 , paragraph 4.10.6)	No.	N/A

	climate change is addressed in Blaenau Gwent.	The lack of reference to these issues was raised through consultation on the Preferred Strategy and the Sustainability Appraisal process. The aim of the Plan is to set out a coherent strategy for Blaenau Gwent, covering the issues that have been identified as being of local importance.		
SP9	Policy SP9 is considered to be distinctive as it sets out the locally important issues that are considered necessary for ensuring active and healthy communities are created.	It is accepted that the following criteria repeat national guidance set out in Planning Policy Wales: SP9.b (W41 , paragraph 11.2.3) SP9.c (W41 , paragraph 4.10.11) The health of residents in Blaenau Gwent is an important issue as identified in the Community Plan. The Local Health Board identified the key part open space provision plays and sought reference to this within the Plan. The aim of the Plan is to set out a coherent strategy for Blaenau Gwent, covering the issues that have been identified as being of local importance.	No.	N/A
SP10	Policy SP10 is considered to be distinctive as it sets out the locally important issues that are considered necessary for ensuring the protection and enhancement of the natural environment within Blaenau Gwent.	It is accepted that the following criteria repeat national guidance set out in Planning Policy Wales: SP10.a (W41 , paragraph 5.3.1) SP10.d (W41 , paragraph 4.5.4) The need for reference to these issues was raised through the Sustainability Appraisal process and Habitat Regulation Assessment. The aim of the Plan is to set out a coherent strategy for Blaenau Gwent, covering the issues that have been identified as being of local importance.	No.	N/A
SP11	Policy SP11 is considered to be distinctive as it sets out the locally important issues that are considered necessary for ensuring	It is accepted that the following criterion repeats national guidance set out in Planning Policy Wales: SP11.a (W41 , paragraph 6.5.9) The aim of the Plan is to set out a coherent strategy for	No.	N/A

	the protection and enhancement of the built environment within Blaenau Gwent.	Blaenau Gwent, covering the issues that have been identified as being of local importance.		
DM1	LDPW (PG3 , paragraph 2.15) encourages a focus on topic related policies such as residential amenity; biodiversity; landscape; heritage and natural resources; accessibility and transport issues; economic and cultural vitality; and viability; and design.	It is accepted that the following criterion repeats national guidance set out in Planning Policy Wales: DM1. 3.c (W41 , paragraph 4.10.11) The aim of the Plan is to set out a coherent strategy for Blaenau Gwent, covering the issues that have been identified as being of local importance.	No.	N/A
DM2	LDPW (PG3 , paragraph 2.15) encourages a focus on topic related policies one of these being design. This policy is considered to be locally distinctive.	It is accepted that the following criteria repeats national guidance set out in Planning Policy Wales: DM2.a (W41 , paragraph 4.10.9) DM2.b (W41 , paragraph 4.6.8) DM2.g (W41 , paragraph 4.10.8) The aim of the Plan is to set out a coherent strategy for Blaenau Gwent, covering the issues that have been identified as being of local importance.	No.	N/A
DM3	LDPW (PG3 , paragraph 2.15) encourages a focus on topic related policies one of these being natural resources.	It is accepted that the following criteria repeats national guidance set out in Planning Policy Wales: DM3a and b. (W41 , paragraph 4.10.8) The Environment Agency specifically asked for this policy to be included within the Plan.	No.	N/A
DM5	Policy DM5 provides a positive policy framework for the development of low and zero carbon technologies in accordance with PPW (W41 , paragraph 12.9.1)	It is considered that the policy does not repeat national policy.	N/A	N/A
DM9	It is accepted that criterion f repeats policy DM2.	WG requested the inclusion of this policy.	It is accepted that this criterion	Delete criterion f

			could be deleted.	
DM14	The loss of open space is local issue for the area.	It is accepted that the following criterion repeats national guidance set out in Planning Policy Wales: DM14 c (W41 , paragraph 4.10.10) The aim of the Plan is to set out a coherent strategy for Blaenau Gwent, covering the issues that have been identified as being of local importance.	No.	N/A
DM15	LDPW (PG3 , paragraph 2.15) encourages a focus on topic related policies one of these being biodiversity.	It is accepted that the following criterion repeats national guidance set out in Planning Policy Wales: DM15.1 (W41 , paragraph 5.3.1) DM15 2.a (W41 , paragraph 4.5.4) The need for reference to these issues was raised through the Sustainability Appraisal process and Habitat Regulation Assessment.	No.	N/A
DM17	Loss of trees is a local issue in the area.	It is accepted that policy DM17 repeats national guidance set out in Planning Policy Wales. The aim of the Plan is to set out a coherent strategy for Blaenau Gwent, covering the issues that have been identified as being of local importance.	No.	N/A