

SD18



Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol

Blaenau Gwent

County Borough Council

Regeneration Division

Local Development Plan

Issues & Vision Workshop
Draft Report of Consultation

August 2007

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Summary

This Consultation Report outlines the views expressed at a stakeholder ‘Issues and Vision’ workshop, which was held to build consensus on where we were (issues) and where we wanted to be (vision). The workshop was held on Friday 27th July 2007, at the VITCC, in Tredegar and involved 27 attendees representing the LDP Steering Group Sub-group members and LDP Forum members (see Appendix A).

Issues Workshops

The first workshop task involved attendees discussing different topic areas, to agree and then priorities issues. The two most significant issues for each of the topic areas is as follows:

Housing

- Create a more balanced population stemming out migration
- Provide a range of housing opportunities to meet aspirations including the need for affordable housing.

Town Centres

- To find a role/ function for town centres
- Encourage multiple retailers and a mix of uses within the town centres – specialist shops, coffee shops and offices – creating a niche market.

Recreation, Leisure and Tourism

- To foster sustainable tourism and leisure in order to boost the local economy
- To foster sustainable tourism, re-engaging local communities with the national and built historic environment

Transport

- To improve access to services facilities and employment, particularly by public transport, walking and cycling

Joint second were

- To provide a transport system that encourages healthy and active lifestyles, is safer and supports local communities
- To improve the transport system to assist in the regeneration of the area

Employment

- The implications of the decline in the manufacturing sector and the shift in favour of the service sector and technological industries
- Changing dependence on particular industries and diversifying the economy

Environment

- To protect and enhance local landscape in the face of competing development uses
- Maximise the natural environment for health and well being

This was followed by a further task where attendees were required to prioritise the most significant issues for Blaenau Gwent. The two most significant issues were:

- The implications of the decline in the manufacturing sector and the shift in favour of the service sector and technological industries; and

- The need to find a role/ function for town centres.
- With the following two housing issues were close behind:
- The need to create a more balanced population stemming out migration; and
 - The need to provide a range of housing opportunities to meet aspirations including the need for affordable housing.

Vision Workshops

The 'Vision' workshop involved building consensus on where Blaenau Gwent wanted to be by 2021. This involved attendees discussing whether or not the Community Plan Vision was appropriate for the LDP. As each of the groups agreed that the Community Plan Vision required further work, each group attempted to write a Vision for the area.

Way Forward

The Council will seek to ensure that the issues identified are addressed in the preparation of the Local Development Plan. The discussions held around the Vision will be used to prepare the Vision for the Local Development Plan.

Participants gave feedback on the workshop and 95% found the experience useful to very useful.

1. Introduction

- 1.1. In November 2006 Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council made the decision to discontinue work on their Unitary Development Plan and start work on a Local Development Plan. The timetable for the various statutory stages of production of the Local Development Plan is set out in the Delivery Agreement (May 2007).
- 1.2. The first step in the process of preparing the Plan was to draft and formally consult on the 'Issues Paper' and alongside this an 'Issues and Visioning Workshop' was held. The workshop took place on the 27th July 2007 with LDP Steering Group Sub-Group members and the LDP Forum members. A full list of attendees is provided at appendix A, a copy of the agenda at appendix B and a copy of the introductory presentation at appendix C.
- 1.3. The purpose of this report is to record and analyse the information gathered and to provide the Council with a clear indication of the views and wishes of those attending the workshop.

2. Issues Workshops

The aim of workshops 1 and 2 was to work collaboratively to identify the main issues that needed to be addressed by the Local Development Plan.

- 2.1. In all, six different topic areas were discussed, three in the first set of workshops and a further three in the second set of workshops. The first workshops looked at Housing, Town Centres and Recreation, Leisure and Tourism. The second workshops looked at Transport, Environment and Employment.
- 2.2. All those attending were allocated to one topic in each of the 2 workshops. In allocating people to groups the intention was to secure a cross section of interest groups whilst ensuring experts were allocated to their particular field. The following tables indicate who was involved in each workshop.

Workshop 1

Housing	Town Centres	Recreation, Leisure and Tourism
Angela Chard BGCBC- Resources	Leanne Connor BGCBC – Economic Development	Alun Evans BGCBC – Transport
Bernadette Elias BGCBC – Governance	Chris Engel BGCBC – Environment	Lyn Evans BGCBC – Leisure
Louise Horner BGCBC - Estates	Eirlys Hallett BGCBC – Planning Control	Alyson Tippings BGCBC – Tourism
John Howells BGCBC - Education	Mark Hopkins BGCBC – Transport	Jenny Turner BGCBC – Waste
Andrew Parker BGCBC – Governance	Allwyn Hughes BGCBC – Economic	Jim Parry GGAT

	Development	
Richard Price Home Builders Federation	Ged McHugh BGCBC – Environment	Will Beer Health Board
Joanna Rhead BGCBC – Resources	Alan Reed BGCBC – Environment	Wayne Thomas RISE
Dave Thompson BGCBC – Private Sector Housing	Jayne Layzell Local Health Board	Kate Rodgers CCW
Gemma White Health Board	John Morgan Tredegar Town Council	
	Bethan Cartwright Town Centre Manager	

Workshop 2

Transport	Environment	Employment
Mark Hopkins BGCBC – Transport	Chris Engel BGCBC - Environment	Bethan Cartwright Town Centre Manager
Alun Evans BGCBC – Transport	Lyn Evans BGCBC – Leisure	Angela Chard BGCBC- Resources
Louise Horner BGCBC - Estates	Alyson Tippings BGCBC – Tourism	Leanne Connor BGCBC – Economic Development
John Howells BGCBC - Education	Jenny Turner BGCBC - Waste	Bernadette Elias BGCBC – Governance
Allwyn Hughes BGCBC – Economic Development	Kate Rodgers CCW	Eirlys Hallett BGCBC – Planning Control
Richard Price Home Builders Federation	Will Beer Health Board	Ged McHugh BGCBC - Environment
Dave Thompson BGCBC – Private Sector Housing	Jim Parry GGAT	Andrew Parker BGCBC – Governance
Alan Reed BGCBC - Environment	John Morgan Tredegar Town Council	Joanna Rhead BGCBC – Resources
Gemma White Health Board		Jayne Layzell Local Health Board
		Wayne Thomas RISE

2.3. The facilitator set the context for the workshop by summarising the National and County Borough Picture for the particular topic area, as set out in the Issues Paper (distributed to the invitees beforehand). The facilitator then set the following tasks:

Task 1 – The group was asked to delete/amend/add to the Issues identified in order to build consensus on the issues in that topic area.

Task 2 – The group were then asked to prioritise the issues to identify the most significant issues. Each person was provided with 2 stickers to identify what they see as the most significant issues.

For detailed results of this task see Appendix D.

Task 3

The aim of task 3 was to identify the most significant issues for Blaenau Gwent.

2.4. Following workshop 1 and 2 the Issues identified for each topic area were placed around the room for everyone to view to enable the group to identify further issues and to vote for which were the two most significant issues overall. The following table indicates how many votes each issue received.

Number of votes	Issue
	Housing
2	Improving the quality of our built environment and maximising opportunities
5	Create a more balanced population stemming out migration
5	Provide a range of housing opportunities to meet aspirations including the need for affordable housing
	Town Centres
	To arrest decline in the town centres
6	To find a role/ function for town centres
	Decrease vacancy rates in the town centres
	Encourage multiple retailers and a mix of uses within the town centre – specialist shops, coffee shops and offices – creating a niche market
	Out of town shopping and the effect on the vitality and viability of existing town centres
	High Rates in Town Centres
	Effect of retail in employment areas on existing Town Centres
	Number of Takeaways in the Town Centre
	Access and Parking
	Recreation, Leisure and Tourism
4	To foster sustainable tourism and leisure in order to boost the local economy
3	To improve health and well being by promoting leisure and recreational facilities
	Ensuring the requirements of participants in all leisure activities are taken into account
1	To foster sustainable tourism, re-engaging local communities with the national and built historic environment
	Transport
1	To improve access to services, facilities and employment, particularly by public transport, walking and cycling
	To provide a transport system that increases the use of sustainable modes of travel
	To reduce the demand for travel

	To provide a transport system that encourages healthy and active lifestyles, is safer and supports local communities
	To make better use of the existing transport system
3	To improve the transport system to assist in the regeneration of the area
1	To reduce emission of greenhouse gases and air pollution from transport
	Employment
8	The implications of the decline in the manufacturing sector and the shift in favour of the service sector and technological industries
	The need to improve the employment rate
4	The need to decrease the economic inactivity rate
	Encourage a higher number of people in Blaenau Gwent to gain qualifications and develop skills
	Implications of sustainable tourism and employment
	Changing dependence on particular industries and diversifying the economy
	Access to employment sites – active travel
	Location of employment sites
	Loss of employment sites
1	Allocate additional employment land
1	Wider range of uses on employment land
	Environment
1	To protect and enhance biodiversity and geodiversity
2	To protect and enhance local landscape in the face of competing development uses
	To retain green wedges to protect against coalescence of communities
	Protection of sand and gravel resources
	Harnessing renewable energy without causing harm to the quality of the environment
	Minimise the impacts of new developments on the environment
	Ensure access to natural green spaces within urban areas in line with the green spaces toolkit
	Create and protect green spaces within urban areas
	Protect and enhance the historic and built environment
	Maximise the natural environment for health and well being
	Other Issues
3	The need to improve education and skills
	The lack of reference to regeneration

From this it can be deduced that the two most significant issues were:

- The implications of the decline in the manufacturing sector and the shift in favour of the service sector and technological industries; and
- To find a role/ function for town centres.

With the following two housing issues close behind:

- Create a more balanced population stemming out migration; and
- Provide a range of housing opportunities to meet aspirations including the need for affordable housing.

3. Vision Workshop

3.1. A short presentation (see Appendix C) was given on the aim of the workshop which was to create a vision for Blaenau Gwent.

3.2. The facilitators identified visions that should be taken into account in preparing the vision for Blaenau Gwent (the Community Plan and other local and regional visions) and then set the following tasks:

Task 1 – Is the Community Plan Vision sufficient? Does it meet the requirements for a Local Development Plan Vision?

3.3. This was discussed and all three groups reached agreement that although the statement was succinct, it was not distinctive to Blaenau Gwent. It therefore failed to meet the criteria for a LDP Vision Statement i.e. that it should be a succinct statement of intent; a point of reference for all parts of the plan and all participants; distinct to the area.

Task 2 – Required that if the Community Plan Vision was not considered appropriate, the group would need to create a vision for the Local Development Plan.

3.4. As all three groups considered that the vision of the Community Plan was not appropriate for the purpose of this exercise, the attendees drafted new visions under the guidance of the facilitators.

Group 1 used the issues identified for the County Borough as a basis for the vision and produced the following:

By 2020 Blaenau Gwent will offer a valleys experience that will benefit local people, visitors and those who work in Blaenau Gwent by providing:

- *quality housing*
- *a sustainable, diverse economy*
- *towns that have specific roles*
- *lifelong learning opportunities*
- *a vibrant visitor destination*

Group 2 used the related visions as the basis for the new vision by identifying key words and incorporating them to create a vision relevant to Blaenau Gwent.

By 2021 Blaenau Gwent will be a network of sustainable, vibrant valley communities, providing a high quality of life.

Group 3 used the visions provided as the basis for the new vision for Blaenau Gwent by choosing key words and incorporating them to create the following visions.

Blaenau Gwent, vibrant valley communities, where people feel proud, happy, valued and included.

Blaenau Gwent, rich past, dynamic future.

Blaenau Gwent, communities for the future.

4. What Next?

4.1. The workshop was useful for discussing and prioritising the issues and assisted in setting a vision for the Local Development Plan. These findings will be taken into account when the Council prepares draft Strategy Options for discussion at workshops in November 2007 and when it drafts the 'Preferred Strategy' for consultation in September 2008.

Appendix A: Workshop Attendees

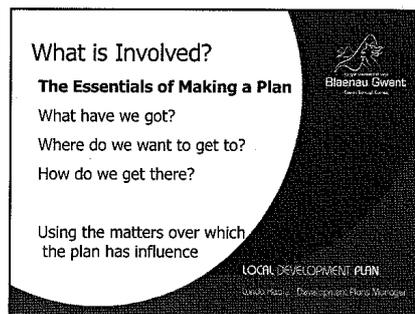
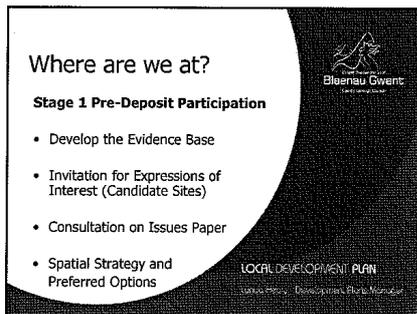
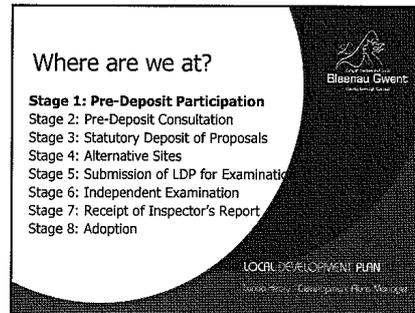
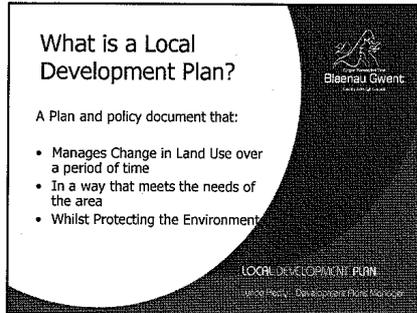
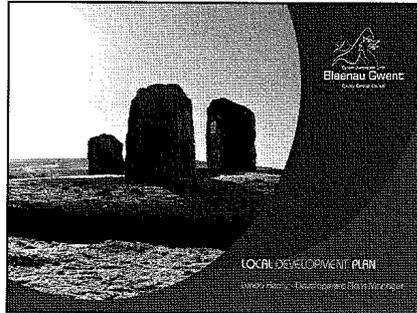
Name	Organisation
A Chard	BGCBC Chief Accountant - Corporate Service
Alan Reed	BGCBC Head of Environment Management & Highways Services
Alun Evans	BGCBC Transportation Strategy Manager
Alwyn Hughes	BGCBC Business Development Officer
Alyson Tippings	BGCBC Tourism Officer
Andrew Long	BGCBC Team Leader, General Services
Andrew Parker	BGCBC Research Officer
Bernadette Elias	BGCBC Head of Policy Performance & Development
Bethan Cartwright	BGCBC Ebbw Vale and Tredegar Town Centre Manager
Dave Thompson	BGCBC Team Leader, Grants Policy & Operations
Eirlys Hallett	BGCBC Principal Planning Officer Planning Control
Ged McHugh	BGCBC Head of European and Economic Policy
Gemma White	NHS Local Public Health
Jane Layzell	Local Health Board
Jane McNeil	BGCBC Community Development Manager
Jenny Turner	BGCBC Strategy & Policies Officer
Jeremy Gass	University of the Valleys
Jim Perry	Glamorgan & Gwent Archaeological Trust
Joanna Rhead	BGCBC Group Auditor
John Howells	BGCBC Divisional Head - Development Division (Education)
Kate Rodgers	CCW
Leanne Connor	BGCBC Business Development Support Officer
Louise Horner	BGCBC Senior Estates Officer
Lyn Evans	BGCBC Grounds Maintenance & Countryside Manager
Mark Hopkins	BGCBC Engineer
Wayne Thomas	RISE
Will Beer	NHS Local Public Team
Brian Swain	BGCBC Facilitator
Hayley Spender	BGCBC Facilitator
Lynda Healy	BGCBC Facilitator

Appendix B: Workshop Agenda

Agenda

- 9.30 – 9.45** *Registration and Coffee*
- 9.45 – 9.50** Welcome and Introductions – Purpose of the session
Ged McHugh
- 9.50 – 10.20** Local Development Plan and Introduction to Workshop 1 and 2
Lynda Healy
- 10.20 – 10.40** Workshop 1 – Consideration of Housing, Town Centres, Recreation,
Leisure & Tourism Issues
- 10.40 – 11.00** Workshop 2 – Consideration of Transport, Environment and
Employment Issues
- 11.00 – 11.20** *Coffee Break*
- 11.20 – 11.30** Introduction to Workshop 3 - Visioning
Lynda Healy
- 11.30 – 12.00** Workshop 3 - Visioning
- 12.00 – 12.10** What Happens Next?
Lynda Healy
- 12.10 – 12.15** Close and Evaluation
Ged McHugh
- 12.15** *Lunch*

Appendix C: Workshop Presentation



What is Involved?

With a Process that:

- Is understandable
- Engages stakeholders and the community
- Is informed by evidence

LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN
Llanidloes Development Plan Manager

Blaenau Gwent
Council of Gwent

Why are we here this morning?

Build Consensus on:

- What have we got?
- Where we want to go?

LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN
Llanidloes Development Plan Manager

Blaenau Gwent
Council of Gwent

What have we got?

The Issues Paper is the starting point for a discussion on where we are:

Workshop 1	Workshop 2
Housing	Transport
Leisure/Tourism	Environment
Town Centres	Employment

LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN
Llanidloes Development Plan Manager

Blaenau Gwent
Council of Gwent

What have we got?

Aim of the first two workshops is to build consensus on the issues

Are there issues that have not been identified/need changing/are not relevant? Task 1

What are the priorities in the particular topic area? Task 2

LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN
Llanidloes Development Plan Manager

Blaenau Gwent
Council of Gwent

What have we got?

Task 3

What are the 2 most significant issues the authority faces?

LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN
Llanidloes Development Plan Manager

Blaenau Gwent
Council of Gwent

What have we got?

Feedback on Issues

LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN
Llanidloes Development Plan Manager

Blaenau Gwent
Council of Gwent

Where do we want to get to?

Aim of workshop 3 is to create a **Vision** for Blaenau Gwent

- A succinct statement of intent
- A point of reference for all parts of the plan and all participants
- Distinct to the area



LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN
Blaenau Gwent Development Plan Manager

Where do we want to get to?

Aim of workshop 3 is to agree a **Vision** for Blaenau Gwent

- Is the Community Plan Vision sufficient (Task 1)
- If not, create a vision for the Blaenau Gwent Local Development Plan (Task 2)



LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN
Blaenau Gwent Development Plan Manager

What Happens Next?

- Consider the findings of today's workshops and the formal consultation on the Issues Paper
- Prepare a draft Vision, Objectives and possible Strategies for further participation work in the Autumn



LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN
Blaenau Gwent Development Plan Manager

Close

- Thanks
- Evaluation Form



LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN
Blaenau Gwent Development Plan Manager

Appendix D: Issues Workshop Report

HOUSING

Task 1

The Issues Identified for the task were:

- The need to stem out migration
- To create a more balanced population base
- The need to understand International migration patterns
- Need to take into consideration the implications of WHQS on Council stock
- Need to Ensure a range of house types are built to meet aspirations and retain residents
- Need to tackle problems of vacant buildings and make most use of voids in town centres
- The need to improve unfitness levels in private sector housing
- The need to deliver affordable housing solutions

The group chose to merge these issues to create three major issues.

- Improving the quality of our built environment and maximising opportunities
- Create a more balanced population stemming out migration
- Provide a range of housing opportunities to meet aspirations including the need for affordable housing

Task 2

This task required the group to vote for the 2 most significant issues in terms of Housing. The following table shows the number of votes received:

Number of votes	Issue
5	Improving the quality of our built environment and maximising opportunities
7	Create a more balanced population stemming out migration
6	Provide a range of housing opportunities to meet aspirations including the need for affordable housing

In terms of the most significant issues the three issues were all fairly close but the two with the most votes were:

- Create a more balanced population stemming out migration
- Provide a range of housing opportunities to meet aspirations including the need for affordable housing

TOWN CENTRES

Task 1

The Issues identified as a starting point were:

- To arrest decline in the town centres
- To find a role/ function for town centres
- Decrease vacancy rates in the town centres
- Encourage multiple retailers and a mix of uses within the town centre

The group added a further 5 issues to the identified list to produce the following:

- To arrest decline in the town centres
- To find a role/ function for town centres
- Decrease vacancy rates in the town centres
- Encourage multiple retailers and a mix of uses within the town centre – specialist shops, coffee shops and offices – creating a niche market
- Out of town shopping and the effect on the vitality and viability of existing town centres
- High Rates in Town Centres
- Effect of retail in employment areas on existing Town Centres
- Number of Takeaways in the Town Centre
- Access and Parking

Task 2

This task required the group to vote for the 2 most significant issues in terms of Town Centres. The following table shows the number of votes received:

Number of votes	Issue
	To arrest decline in the town centres
9	To find a role/ function for town centres
	Decrease vacancy rates in the town centres
7	Encourage multiple retailers and a mix of uses within the town centre – specialist shops, coffee shops and offices – creating a niche market
2	Out of town shopping and the effect on the vitality and viability of existing town centres
	High Rates in Town Centres
	Effect of retail in employment areas on existing Town Centres
	Number of Takeaways in the Town Centre
2	Access and Parking

The two most significant issues for Town Centres were:

- To find a role/ function for town centres
- Encourage multiple retailers and a mix of uses within the town centres – specialist shops, coffee shops and offices – creating a niche market

RECREATION, LEISURE & TOURISM

Task 1

The Issues identified as a starting point were:

- To foster tourism and leisure in order to boost the local economy
- To promote healthy living by promoting leisure and recreational facilities
- Ensuring the requirements of participants in ‘newer’ leisure activities (off-road biking) are taken into account

The group amended Issue 1 and 3 and added a further issue. As a result the Issues identified following task 1 were:

- To foster sustainable tourism and leisure in order to boost the local economy
- To improve health and well being by promoting leisure and recreational facilities
- Ensuring the requirements of participants in all leisure activities are taken into account
- To foster sustainable tourism, re-engaging local communities with the national and built historic environment

Task 2

This task required the group to vote for the 2 most significant issues in terms of Recreation, Leisure & Tourism. The following table shows the number of votes received:

No. of Votes	Issues
9	To foster sustainable tourism and leisure in order to boost the local economy
1	To improve health and well being by promoting leisure and recreational facilities
1	Ensuring the requirements of participants in all leisure activities are taken into account
5	To foster sustainable tourism, re-engaging local communities with the national and built historic environment

The two most significant issues for Recreation, Leisure and Tourism were:

- To foster sustainable tourism and leisure in order to boost the local economy
- To foster sustainable tourism, re-engaging local communities with the national and built historic environment

TRANSPORT

Task 1

The Issues identified as a starting point were:

- To improve access to services, facilities and employment, particularly by public transport, walking and cycling
- To provide a transport system that increases the use of sustainable modes of travel
- To reduce the demand for travel
- To provide a transport system that encourages healthy and active lifestyles, is safer and supports local communities
- To make better use of the existing transport system
- To improve the transport system to assist in the regeneration of the area
- To reduce emission of greenhouse gases and air pollution from transport

Following task 1 the Issues remained unchanged though some members of the group considered that some issues could have been merged.

Task 2

This task required the group to vote for the 2 most significant issues in terms of the Transport. The following table shows the number of votes received:

Number of votes	Issues
5	To improve access to services, facilities and employment, particularly by public transport, walking and cycling
2	To provide a transport system that increases the use of sustainable modes of travel
2	To reduce the demand for travel
3	To provide a transport system that encourages healthy and active lifestyles, is safer and supports local communities
1	To make better use of the existing transport system
3	To improve the transport system to assist in the regeneration of the area
2	To reduce emission of greenhouse gases and air pollution from transport

The most significant issue for transport was:

- To improve access to services, facilities and employment, particularly by public transport, walking and cycling

Joint second were:

- To provide a transport system that encourages healthy and active lifestyles, is safer and supports local communities
- To improve the transport system to assist in the regeneration of the area

EMPLOYMENT

Task 1

The Issues identified as a starting point were:

- The implications of the decline in the manufacturing sector and the shift in favour of the service sector and technological industries
- The need to improve the employment rate
- The need to decrease the economic inactivity rate
- Encourage a higher number of people in Blaenau Gwent to gain qualifications and develop skills

Following task 1, the group added a further 7 issues to the list::

- The implications of the decline in the manufacturing sector and the shift in favour of the service sector and technological industries
- The need to improve the employment rate
- The need to decrease the economic inactivity rate
- Encourage a higher number of people in Blaenau Gwent to gain qualifications and develop skills
- Implications of sustainable tourism and employment
- Changing dependence on particular industries and diversifying the economy
- Access to employment sites – active travel
- Location of employment sites
- Loss of employment sites
- Allocate additional employment land
- Wider range of uses on employment land

Task 2

This task required the group to vote for the 2 most significant issues in terms of Employment. The following table shows the number of votes received:

Number of votes	Issue
6	The implications of the decline in the manufacturing sector and the shift in favour of the service sector and technological industries

	The need to improve the employment rate
	The need to decrease the economic inactivity rate
	Encourage a higher number of people in Blaenau Gwent to gain qualifications and develop skills
4	Implications of sustainable tourism and employment
6	Changing dependence on particular industries and diversifying the economy
	Access to employment sites – active travel
1	Location of employment sites
	Loss of employment sites
1	Allocate additional employment land
1	Wider range of uses on employment land

The two most significant issues for employment were:

- The implications of the decline in the manufacturing sector and the shift in favour of the service sector and technological industries
- Changing dependence on particular industries and diversifying the economy

ENVIRONMENT

Task 1

The Issues identified as a starting point were:

- To protect and enhance biodiversity
- To protect and enhance local landscape in the face of competing development uses
- To retain green wedges to protect against coalescence of communities
- Protection of sand and gravel resources
- Harnessing renewable energy without causing harm to the quality of the environment

The Issues identified following task 1 were:

- To protect and enhance biodiversity and geodiversity
- To protect and enhance local landscape in the face of competing development uses
- To retain green wedges to protect against coalescence of communities
- Protection of sand and gravel resources
- Harnessing renewable energy without causing harm to the quality of the environment
- Minimise the impacts of new developments on the environment
- Ensure access to natural green spaces within urban areas in line with the green spaces toolkit
- Create and protect green spaces within urban areas
- Protect and enhance the historic and built environment
- Maximise the natural environment for health and well being

The group amended Issue 1 and added 5 additional issues.

Task 2

This task required the group to vote for the 2 most significant issues in terms of the Environment. The following table shows the number of votes received:

Number of votes	Issue
2	To protect and enhance biodiversity and geodiversity
5	To protect and enhance local landscape in the face of competing development uses
	To retain green wedges to protect against coalescence of communities
	Protection of sand and gravel resources
	Harnessing renewable energy without causing harm to the quality of the environment
1	Minimise the impacts of new developments on the environment
1	Ensure access to natural green spaces within urban areas in line with the green spaces toolkit
1	Create and protect green spaces within urban areas
2	Protect and enhance the historic and built environment
4	Maximise the natural environment for health and well being

The two most significant issues in the environment were:

- To protect and enhance local landscape in the face of competing development uses
- Maximise the natural environment for health and well being