

Pre-Deposit Engagement Paper

Papur Cyfathrebu cyd Adneuo



Replacement Local Development Plan 2018-2033
Cynllun Datblygu Lleol Newydd 2018 - 2033

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Contents	Page Number
1.0 INTRODUCTION	1
2.0 COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT SCHEME	1
3.0 THE CONSULTATION DATABASE	2
4.0 CALL FOR CANDIDATE SITES	3
Purpose	3
When and Who?	3
How?	3
Responses to the Candidate Site Process	4
5.0 ISSUES AND VISION WORKSHOP SESSIONS	5
Purpose	5
When?	5
Who?	5
How?	5
Children’s Grand Council	5
Key Findings from the Issue and Vision Workshops	6
6.0 SPATIAL STRATEGY OPTIONS WORKSHOPS SESSIONS	7
Purpose	7
When?	7
How?	8
Summary of Results from the Spatial Strategy Options Workshops	8
Youth Forum	9
How the Responses informed the Preferred Strategy	10
7.0 SPATIAL STRATEGY OPTIONS BRIEFING PAPER	11
8.0 MEMBER BRIEFING SESSION – 3RD OCTOBER 2019	11
9.0 RETAIL STRATEGY OPTIONS	12
10.0 INTEGRATED SUSTAINABILITY APPRAISAL (ISA)	14
Scope of the ISA	14
11.0 HABITAT REGULATION ASSESSMENT	15
12.0 SOUNDNESS SELF-ASSESSMENT	15
Appendices	
Appendix 1: Consultation Organisations on the Database	16
Appendix 2: A copy of the press release and advertisement	19
Appendix 3: A list of attendees to the Workshop Sessions	21
Appendix 4: Comments Received to the Revised Issues / Challenges	26
Appendix 5: A list of attendees to the Members Briefing Session	31

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 This Engagement Report illustrates:

- Conformity with the Community Involvement Scheme set out in the Revised Delivery Agreement which was approved in October 2018;
- The main issues raised through the pre deposit engagement; and
- How responses have influenced the development of the Preferred Strategy.

1.2 Throughout this report, reference is made to other reports and documents which have collectively shaped the Preferred Strategy. These are not included as appendices to this report as they are too lengthy, but can be accessed via hyperlinks in this report or are available on the Replacement Local Development Plan (RLDP) webpages.

2.0 COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT SCHEME

2.1 The Blaenau Gwent Replacement Local Development Plan [Delivery Agreement](#) (DA) was formally agreed by the Council and the Welsh Government in October 2018. The DA contains the preparation timetable as well as the Community Involvement Scheme (CIS).

2.2 The CIS establishes a framework for community and stakeholder engagement throughout the RLDP preparation process. It seeks to ensure that engagement activities undertaken during the preparation of Blaenau Gwent RLDP are inclusive, consistent and co-ordinated with the aim of providing a more transparent planning process.

2.3 Table 1 summarises the key pre-deposit participation community involvement scheme actions, committed to in the CIS.

2.4 The RLDP Preferred Strategy has been produced in accordance with the provisions of the CIS. The responses received during the pre-deposit participation stage have influenced the Preferred Strategy.

Table 1: Community Involvement Scheme – Pre Deposit Participation Community Involvement Scheme Actions

Pre-Deposit Participation		
Stage	Involvement	Consultation Mechanism
'Call for Candidate Sites'	Consultation Database including: Local landowners Local developers Agents Home Builders Federation Registered Social Landlords Internal Officers	Email/letter Website Social media Information gathering
Identification and assessment of vision,	Members Public Service Board	Various Workshops and Meetings

objectives and options	Existing Local Forums Internal Officers Other consultees	Email / Letter
To comment on the scope of the SA/SEA Scoping Report	Statutory Consultees SA/SEA Working Group Elected Members Neighbouring LAs	Email / letter Working Steering Group Meeting Website

3.0 THE CONSULTATION DATABASE

3.1 Throughout the current adopted LDP process, a database was maintained to include members of the public, stakeholders and interested parties. In accordance with the General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR), in October 2018, the Council wrote to all those on the current LDP consultation database asking if they wished to remain on the database or to be removed. The new data protection legislation means that to receive information on the LDP, stakeholders, the public and interested parties need to opt in to the LDP consultation database. Those who wished to remain on the database were asked to provide their communication (post or email) and language (Welsh or English) preferences. Those who asked to be removed or did not reply were removed from the database at the middle of November 2018 (prior to the call for candidate sites). For those who wished to remain on the database, a record of their communication and language preferences are kept in the database and are followed when communicating with the consultees.

3.2 As it currently stands, there are approximately 200 consultees on the database. Appendix 1 lists the consultation organisations on the database. As the RLDP progresses it is acknowledged that the number of consultees will increase as anyone who comments on the RLDP and are not already on the database will be included as set out in the Revised Delivery Agreement.

3.3 Table 2 below shows a general overview of the number of people consulted with and the number of representations received at each stage of the RLDP preparation undertaken so far.

Table 2: General Overview of the Number of People Consulted With and Representations Received at each Stage of RLDP Preparation Undertaken so Far

LDP Stage	Preparation	Number of Invitees / Consultees	Number of Attendees / Representors	Number of Representations
Delivery Agreement		3	2	2
Call for Candidate Sites		200	45	111 (submissions)
Issues and Vision Workshop		200	87	-
Vision and Strategy Options Workshop		200	71	-
Spatial Strategy Options Briefing Paper		200	4	12
Integrated Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report		2	2	14
Habitat Regulation Assessment Screening Report		2	1	2

4.0 CALL FOR CANDIDATE SITES

Purpose

4.1 The purpose of the candidate site process was to undertake early engagement with developers and landowners on potential sites to be included in the RLDP.

When and Who?

4.2 During the period of mid November to the end of January (15th November 2018 – 24th January 2019), a call for candidate sites was undertaken. Correspondence either via email or letter (dependent on communication preferences included in the database) was sent to all those listed in Appendix 1. In addition to this, landowners of undeveloped sites allocated in the current LDP were also contacted and encouraged to resubmit their sites for consideration as part of this process.

How?

4.3 The Council formally wrote to all consultees (as described above) inviting them to submit land for consideration for inclusion in the RLDP process. Attached to the invitation was a candidate site submission form either electronically or in the form of a hard copy depending on their preference of communication. Links to a guidance note and methodology paper were also sent. To assist with the completion of the form, a free drop in session was offered. Consultees were encouraged to contact the team to arrange an appointment.

4.4 However, instead of a set drop in session date with individual time slots, appointments were made with the landowners according to their availability. Officers were also available to assist with the completion of the forms during normal office hours and helped a number of landowners on this basis. A number of consultees took up the opportunity of assistance. No fees were charged.

4.5 A press release was issued on Monday 12th November 2018, however it did not appear in any local papers. Notwithstanding this, an advertisement was included in the BG issue which is a Council magazine. Posts were made throughout the consultation period on social media via the corporate accounts of Facebook and Twitter. The press release was also included on the home page banner and the news pages of the Blaenau Gwent Council website throughout the duration of the call for sites. A copy of the press release and advertisement is set out at Appendix 2.

4.6 This is fully compliant with the actions committed to in the Community Involvement Scheme in Table 1.

Responses to the Candidate Site Process

4.7 In total, 111 sites were submitted for varying uses including: residential; employment; renewable energy; gypsy and traveller site; mixed uses; leisure and recreation; tourism and settlement boundary changes. A [candidate sites register](#) has been prepared and has been published online.

4.8 The information gained at this stage was integral to the formulation of strategic spatial options for development across the County Borough.

5.0 ISSUES AND VISION WORKSHOP SESSIONS

Purpose

5.1 Issues and Vision Workshop Sessions were held to identify the issues that the replacement Local Development Plan will need to address; and identify where we want to be by 2033 in the form of a Vision.

When?

5.2 A series of issues and vision workshop sessions were held with stakeholders, internal officers, Members and primary school children as set out below:

Internal regeneration officers – Wednesday 17th April 2019 held at the General Offices, Ebbw Vale
 Members Workshop 1 – Wednesday 8th May 2019 (10:30am) held at the Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale
 Members Workshop 2 – Wednesday 8th May 2019 (2pm) held at the Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale
 Stakeholder Workshop 1 – Tuesday 14th May 2019 held at the General Offices, Ebbw Vale
 Stakeholder Workshop 2 – Thursday 6th June 2019 held at the Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale
 Children’s Grand Council – Wednesday 19th June 2019 held at Bedwellty House, Tredegar

Who?

5.3 All consultees on the consultation database (Appendix 1) were invited to attend the stakeholder workshop of which 87 attended. All members of the Council were invited to attend one of the Member workshop sessions. In total, 18 members attended. Appendix 3 is a full list of attendees who attended the sessions.

How?

5.4 Apart from the Children’s Grand Council, generally the workshop sessions followed the same format and sought to cover two tasks. The first task sought to identify the issues that the replacement Local Development Plan will need to address. Attendees were asked to review each of the current challenges within the current LDP by considering the following:

- Is the challenge relevant?
- What are the new influences/issues in that area?
- Does it need to be amended?
- Can any be merged?

The task also gave an opportunity for participants to identify any new challenges that had not been covered.

5.5 Task 2 was to identify where we want to be by 2033 taking into account the issues identified in task 1. Attendees were asked to judge if the current LDP vision was fit for purpose or if it needed to be amended. If it needed amending what needed to change and how should it be changed.

Children’s Grand Council

5.6 To engage with the children of Blaenau Gwent, the planning policy team attended a Children’s Grand Council on Wednesday 19th June 2019. The session was about Planning for

the Future – What will it look like? The children were given the task of what will the future look like in the next 20 years and asked to pick a topic (live, work, play or getting about) and either draw or write a few lines about what it will be like. Some prompts were provided for example, will you live in Blaenau Gwent? What type of house will you live in? What type of work will there be? Where will children play?

5.7 This is fully compliant with the actions committed to in the Community Involvement Scheme as set out in Table 1.

Key Findings from the Issues and Vision Workshops

5.8 Taking into account all of the comments received at the different workshop sessions, the key issues / challenges for the replacement LDP to address can be identified, as follows:

- Greater focus on economic growth rather than economic diversification;
- Town centres and their future role – taking a more flexible policy approach;
- Connectivity within and outside of Blaenau Gwent;
- Support for improved sustainable transport in the form of electric charging points, and improved public transport; and
- Improved housing offer in terms of aspirational homes and range particularly in terms of the ageing population.

5.9 With regards to the Vision and taking into account the comments received across the different workshop sessions it was generally considered that the Vision was fit for purpose. A summary of the improvements suggested were made as follows:

- The current Vision lacks an economic growth focus
- Connectivity and accessibility needs to be included
- Greater consideration to low carbon and technology and use of sustainable resources is required
- Town centres are not thriving therefore the vision needs to refer to thriving communities
- The vision should be more than just about affordable homes
- The vision should be changed to read better and consideration should be given to shorter sentences, bullet points and punctuation

5.10 The key findings from the Children’s Grand Council are as follows:

Live

- There will be more people living in care homes
- More people will be growing their own food
- There will be an increase in energy efficient homes
- More houses will be built on stilts and there will be an increase in tower blocks
- There will be an increase in the use of solar panels on homes

Work

- Robots will take over jobs
- There will be a greater reliance on technology

Play

- There will be an increase in walking paths

Getting About

- There will be significantly more electric cars, increased use of trains, use of electric scooters and bikes and hoverboards
- Autonomous vehicles will be used more

Environment

- Increased recycling
- Cleaner environment
- More trees and plants
- Less use of plastic
- Pollution is a problem

5.11 A more detailed report of the Issues and Vision Workshop Session can be accessed [here](#).

6.0 SPATIAL STRATEGY OPTIONS WORKSHOP SESSIONS

Purpose

6.1 Building on the opinions and views expressed at the issues and vision workshop events, a second series of workshop events were held in July and August 2019 to gain views on the spatial strategy options.

6.2 The purpose of the spatial strategy options workshop sessions were the same and was based around the following five tasks:

- Task 1 – Identify growth level preference
- Task 2 – Identify spatial distribution preference
- Task 3 – Identify settlement hierarchy preference
- Task 4 – Assess spatial strategy options against the revised challenges
- Task 5 – Identify own spatial strategy option

When?

6.3 A series of workshop sessions were held with stakeholders, internal officers, Members and the youth forum as set out below, of which 71 attended. Appendix 3 is a full list of attendees who attended the sessions.

- Members Workshop – Tuesday 2nd July 2019 (2-4pm) held at the Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale
- Internal Regeneration Officers – Thursday 4th July 2019 (2-4pm) held at the General Offices, Ebbw Vale
- Stakeholder Workshop 1 – Monday 8th July 2019 (6-8.30pm) held at the Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale
- Stakeholder Workshop 2 – Tuesday 16th July 2019 (10-12.30pm) held at the General Offices, Ebbw Vale

- Stakeholder Workshop 3 – Thursday 18th July 2019 (2-4.30pm) held at the General Offices, Ebbw Vale
- Youth Forum – Monday 5th August 2019 (6-7.30pm) held at the Tabor Centre, Brynmawr

How?

6.4 The first three tasks provided the attendees with the opportunity to identify their growth level, spatial distribution and settlement hierarchy preferences. These three variants were then used to create four spatial strategy options which were presented to the attendees. In Task Four, attendees were asked in small groups to assess the spatial strategy options against the revised challenges in terms of their impact. Task five gave the attendees the opportunity to identify their own spatial strategy option. The results of these workshops helped to influence the preparation of the Preferred Strategy.

Summary of Results from the Spatial Strategy Options Workshops

6.5 The following is a summary of the results from each of the tasks in the Spatial Strategy Options workshop sessions. The percentages relate to the attendees preferences.

- **Task 1 Preferred Growth Level** – high level of growth (71%); medium growth level (29%); and low growth level (0%).
- **Task 2 Spatial Distribution Preference** – option 3 balanced growth (63%); option 2 Heads of the Valleys emphasis (30%); and option 1 current LDP (7%).
- **Task 3 Settlement Hierarchy Preference** – option 2 based on settlement assessment of settlements (86%).
- **Task 4: Assessment of Spatial Strategy Options** – Spatial Strategy Option 4: Sustainable Economic Growth Strategy was identified as having the most positive impact (69) on the revised challenges for the LDP to address.
- **Task 5: Identify own Spatial Strategy Option** - most of the attendees supported Option 4: Sustainable Economic Growth Strategy as the variables that make up that option (high growth, distributed across the borough and settlement hierarchy based on the sustainable assessment) were identified as the preferred variables across all of the sessions.

6.6 Although no new spatial strategy options were identified by the different combination of variables, a number of alternatives to the variables were identified as follows:

Growth levels

- Medium – high growth levels should be looked at in order to set a realistic housing requirement figure. A housing requirement figure of 120 per annum was suggested. This figure is not too far from the average of 99 currently being achieved and also includes an element of aspiration.
- The growth levels should be for Blaenau Gwent residents and not incomers.

Spatial Distribution

- No development on greenfield land

Settlement Hierarchy

- The settlement hierarchy should have a Heads of the Valleys focus – Ebbw Vale,

Tredegar, and Brynmawr should be principal settlements with associated hierarchy for the other settlements.

- The settlement hierarchy should follow Ebbw Vale, Tredegar and Brynmawr axis.
- Sustainable local services and much better public transport is required.
- The settlement hierarchy should follow the 3 natural valley areas. The Ebbw Fach Valley should be considered as a whole and not split into upper and lower
- The settlement hierarchy should be:
 - Principal settlements – Tredegar/Ebbw Vale/Brynmawr/Abertillery (incl. Cwmillery and Six Bells
 - 2nd tier – Blaina and Nantyglo
 - Village hamlets – Cwm, Trefil and Llanhilleth

Youth Forum

6.7 To engage with the young people of Blaenau Gwent, Lynda Healy attended a Youth Forum on Monday 5th August 2019. The session was about Planning for the Future – What will it look like? The young people were encouraged to think about the following in order to complete a handout:

- How many people will live in Blaenau Gwent?
- How many jobs will be required and in what type of work?
- What facilities are needed?
- How will we get about?
- What will become of our environment?

6.8 The key findings from the Youth Forum are set out below. It is important to note that due to the low number of attendees and their ages being around 11, the responses received were not considered to be a true representation of the young people (age range 11-25) of Blaenau Gwent.

How many people will live in Blaenau Gwent?

- 60% of respondents identified the high growth level as their growth level preference and 40% chose the medium growth level.
- In terms of spatial distribution, 40% of respondents chose option 1: current LDP and 60% chose option 3: balanced growth.

How many jobs will be required and in what type of work?

When considering what type of jobs, 3 responses were given as follows:

- Work that helps the society (eg. Social work and youth)
- All jobs
- More jobs in Ebbw Vale

60% of the respondents also considered that more people would be working from home.

What facilities are needed?

When thinking about town centres, the respondents were asked how many town centres should Blaenau Gwent have. 80% considered that we should only have 4 town centres (Ebbw Vale, Tredegar, Brynmawr, Abertillery). One respondent considered that town centres

should have different facilities to ensure multiple towns are being used by the public. In terms of what leisure facilities should be provided, leisure centres and schools were named.

How will we get about?

80% of respondents envisage that walking and cycling being prioritised will work in Blaenau Gwent. 60% of respondents considered that public transport was fit for purpose, whilst the remainder considered that buses are very inconvenient meaning that multiple buses need to be caught. There are also poor connections.

What will become of our environment?

80% of respondents considered that the environment is a priority. The reasons quoted for this were due to the increase in pollution and climate change and the health and aesthetic value of a green environment.

6.9 This is fully compliant with the actions committed to in the Community Involvement Scheme as set out in Table 1.

How the Responses informed the Preferred Strategy

6.10 The key findings from the stakeholder engagement activities at the pre deposit participation stage are presented in more detail in the Report of Consultations – [Issues and Vision Workshops](#) and [Spatial Strategy Options Workshops](#).

6.11 Building consensus at the early stages of the Plan production was beneficial to the process. Stakeholder engagement at this stage proved worthwhile in clarifying the main issues that the RLDP needs to address and provided a significant steer in the production of the Preferred Strategy.

7.0 SPATIAL STRATEGY OPTIONS BRIEFING PAPER

7.1 In advance of the Spatial Strategy Options Workshop Sessions, stakeholders were sent a Spatial Strategy Options Briefing Paper. The paper provided background information to inform the workshop session and was issued a week in advance of the stakeholder's workshop sessions. It also included the revised issues/challenges and vision taking into account the views expressed at Workshop 1 Issues and Vision engagement sessions. Comments were invited by the 31st July 2019 on the revised issues/challenges and vision.

7.2 12 representations were received from 4 representors with regards to the revised issues/challenges. No comments were received on the vision. Appendix 4 is a report of the comments received to the revised issues / challenges and a response to them showing further changes where considered appropriate.

8.0 MEMBER BRIEFING SESSION – 3RD OCTOBER 2019

8.1 On the 3rd October 2019, a Member briefing session was scheduled following the workshop sessions and feedback from Welsh Government (WG) on the draft Preferred Strategy. The purpose of the session was to discuss the growth level and spatial distribution variants to address the concerns raised by WG and to gain Members support. Appendix 5 lists the Members who attended the session.

8.2 Lynda Healy gave a presentation outlining feedback from the workshop sessions and explaining WG concerns as set out below:

8.3 Informal consultation with Welsh Government on the draft Preferred Strategy identified concerns with the level of growth and the level of flexibility that was being proposed. They considered the growth level too ambitious and undeliverable based on past build rates. This has resulted in the setting of a slightly lower housing requirement figure (117 rather than 141) than that which was generally supported by stakeholders. Similarly the flexibility was reduced from 27% to 21%. Further details are set out in the **Strategic Growth Options Background Paper**.

8.4 Another concern expressed by Welsh Government related to the soundness of the preferred strategy which sought to disperse growth across the County Borough with all main settlements all classed as Tier 1. This approach was considered contrary to Planning Policy Wales 10, the principle of delivering sustainable development, promoting Active Travel, placemaking and evidence. The role and function and level of service provision in Ebbw Vale are significantly greater than the much smaller Tier 1 settlements of Six Bells and Cwmtillery.

8.5 To address this concern the Abertillery settlement was split into two as follows: Abertillery (including Cwmtillery and Six Bells); and Aberbeeg/Brynithel/Llanhilleth. The settlement hierarchy assessment increased from 3 tiers to 5 tiers and the spatial distribution of growth is being focussed on the most sustainable settlements Tiers 1 and 2. Whilst the growth is spread across the Borough it is not equally spread as was generally supported by stakeholders.

8.6 These amendments resulted in Spatial Strategy Option 5: Sustainable Economic Growth:

Option 5: Sustainable Economic Growth		
Growth Level	Spatial Distribution	Settlement Hierarchy
<p>High Growth Population: 1,471-1,996 to (2 to 2.9% growth) Housing: 117-141 per annum (Total 1,755 to 2,115) Employment: loss of 28 to 16 per annum (Total loss of 420 to 240) With UR reducing & EA adjusted + CR Reducing 210 to 225 per annum (Total of 3,150-3,375)</p>	<p>Spread across the Borough based on Sustainable Settlement Assessment</p>	<p>Sustainable Settlement Assessment Tier 1: Primary Settlement Ebbw Vale Tier 2: Main Settlements Tredegar Brynmawr/ Nantyglo / Blaina Abertillery (including Cwmtillery and Six Bells) Tier 3: Secondary Settlements Cwm Aberbeeg / Brynithel / Llanhilleth Tier 4: Villages Swfrydd Tier 5: Hamlets Trefil, Pochin and Bedwelty Pits</p>

8.7 Following this element of the presentation, discussion ensued around Spatial Strategy Option 5. The proposed growth levels and housing requirement figures were generally agreed.

8.8 However, comments were made regarding the proposed settlement tier structure and the low proportion of housing delivery in Abertillery. A comment was also made in relation to Llanhilleth being the most deprived ward yet is not an area that will benefit from future growth and development through the RLDP.

9.0 RETAIL STRATEGY OPTIONS

9.1 Another area of focus for stakeholders has been our town centres in terms of their hierarchy and future roles. On 31st July 2019, a meeting was held with Blaenau Gwent Business Community on the development of a retail hierarchy for the replacement Local Development Plan. As a way of an introduction to the meeting, Hayley Spender outlined what Planning Policy Wales requires in terms of developing a retail hierarchy and outlined the definitions contained in Technical Advice Note (TAN) 4: Retail and Commercial Development relating to principal, district, local and neighbourhood centres.

9.2 The first point of discussion was to designate the existing town centres of Abertillery, Blaina, Brynmawr, Tredegar and Ebbw Vale according to the definitions as set out in TAN 4. However, there was reluctance from the attendees to do this. Instead the attendees were keen to discuss what the different options were for a retail hierarchy. Although not presented initially, this had been prepared as background information and was provided as set out below. The options below were based on suggestions made at the issues and vision workshop sessions.

Option 1: Current LDP Retail Hierarchy

- Principal Town Centres – Ebbw Vale (sub regional retail role)
- District Town Centres – Abertillery, Tredegar and Brynmawr (serve the needs of the district)
- Local Town Centre – Blaina (provide facilities for the local community) and Cwm*
- Neighbourhood Centres* – Attlee Way, Tredegar; Park Place, Tredegar; Queensway, Garnlydan, Ebbw Vale; Beaufort Rise, Ebbw Vale; Cambridge Gardens Ebbw Vale; Tredegar Rd, Hilltop, Ebbw Vale; Church Street, Ebbw Vale; Park Place Waunlwyd Ebbw Vale; Marine Street, Cwm Ebbw Vale; Mill Terrace, Cwm Ebbw Vale; Canning Street, Cwm, Ebbw Vale; Alexandra Road, Abertillery; Commercial Road, Abertillery; and Walters Avenue Swffryd.

*not identified in the LDP therefore this would be a slight change

Option 2: Equal Status

- No Principal Town Centres
- District Town Centres (serve needs of districts) – Ebbw Vale, Brynmawr, Abertillery and Tredegar
- Neighbourhood Centres – include Blaina, Cwm and the list above (local day to day shopping)

Option 3:

- Principal Town Centres – Ebbw Vale and Brynmawr (The boundary of Brynmawr would be enlarged to include the former NMC Factory site, Lakeside Retail Park, the Boiler House and Land east of Blaina Road and would consider the conclusions of the masterplan work currently being undertaken)
- District Town Centres– Abertillery and Tredegar
- Neighbourhood Centres – Blaina and list of neighbourhood centres identified above under option 1

9.3 Significant levels of discussion ensued around the options, however the views were widespread and no consensus could be reached. The following records the views expressed in terms of the above options:

- Tredegar and Abertillery Business Communities expressed support for option 2 and that all town centres should be given equal status
- Ebbw Vale Business Community supported option 1 and considered that Ebbw Vale is the main service and retail town centre in the County Borough providing a range of facilities and serving a sub-regional retail role and therefore it should remain to be defined as a Principal town centre. However Ebbw Vale Business forum acknowledged that Brynmawr could also be designated as a principal town centre given the current private investment taking place on the edge of the town centre improving the range of facilities.

- Brynmawr Business Community favoured option 3 and supported the option due to the recognition of Brynmawr as a principal town centre.
- Blaina Business Community supported option 1
- There were significant variations in views with regards to Blaina being designated as a local town centre. Some of the forums expressed support whilst others considered that if Blaina was to be identified then there are other centres like Cwm that should also be recognised.

8.4 As part of the member briefing session held on Thursday 3rd October the retail hierarchy issue was further discussed. The current LDP retail hierarchy was presented to stimulate discussion. However, it was difficult to build consensus on a way forward. Strategic Policy 10: Retail Centres and Developments proposes that the existing retail hierarchy is reviewed based on the results of a new Retail Study. As soon as the growth level is agreed a retail study will be commissioned which will undertake an assessment of key market trends; shopping patterns; and quantitative and qualitative retail need. Decisions on the retail hierarchy are technical matters based on evidence of the ranking, catchment areas and mix of uses along with an assessment of the likely future status of town centre based on growth plans and availability of sites.

10.0 INTEGRATED SUSTAINABILITY APPRAISAL (ISA)

10.1 AECOM has been jointly commissioned by Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council, Monmouthshire County Council and Torfaen County Borough Council to lead on Integrated Sustainability Appraisal (ISA) for the RLDPs. ISA fulfils the requirements and duties for Sustainability Appraisal (SA) and Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA), Equalities Impact Assessment Equalities Impact Assessment (EqIA), Health Impact Assessment (HIA), Welsh Language Impact Assessment (WLIA) and Well-being of Future Generations (WCFG).

Scope of the ISA

10.2 The purpose of this stage is to introduce the scope of the ISA i.e. the sustainability issues / objectives that should be a focus of (and provide a broad methodological framework) for the ISA. This was presented in a document called The Scoping Report.

10.3 The regulations require that *“When deciding on the scope and level of detail of the information that must be included in the Environmental Report [i.e. the SA scope], the responsible authority shall consult the consultation bodies”*. In Wales, the consultation bodies are the Natural Resources Wales and Cadw. A Scoping Report was sent to the statutory consultees for comment between 31st October and 5th December 2018.

10.4 14 responses were received from the 2 statutory consultees. The responses received were taken into account and amendments were made to the baseline information and draft ISA objectives where necessary. A report of consultation has been produced and is available on the Council’s website. A Final Scoping Report was produced in January 2019.

10.5 Since that time, the ISA Scoping Report has evolved as new evidence has emerged and there have been some minor refinements to the ISA objectives – however, the scope

remains fundamentally similar to that agreed through the dedicated scoping consultation in 2018.

10.6 The Delivery Agreement identified that an SA/SEA Working group will be established as an internal and external group of expert professionals and interested parties that will assist in the scoping of the SEA and the assessment of the likely significant effects of implementing the RLDP on the environment. This group has not formally been established, although a number of internal officers assisted with the baseline data and meetings were held with neighbouring authorities to explore commonality and consistency in the preparation of the SA framework. As part of the formal consultation, Natural Resources Wales provided detailed comments in terms of the minimal changes they required therefore no working group was deemed necessary at this stage.

11.0 HABITAT REGULATION ASSESSMENT

11.1 In line with the requirements set by the Conservation (Natural Habitats & c) (Amendment) Regulations 2007, the Council has undertaken a Habitat Regulation Assessment.

11.2 The first process of the Habitat Regulation Assessment was to undertake a screening exercise. This was undertaken alongside the Integrated Sustainability Appraisal Scoping exercise. The screening exercise is the first stage of the process to identify, assess and address any likely significant effects on European sites from the RLDP.

11.3 Subsequently, a Habitat Regulation Assessment Screening Report was produced and issued for consultation alongside the Integrated Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report from the 31st October and 5th December 2018. The stakeholders engaged were the statutory consultees of Natural Resources Wales and Cadw. 2 comments were received from 1 representor. The responses received were taken into account and amendments were made. A report of consultation has been produced and is available on the Council's website.

11.4 Since the screening exercise, AECOM have been appointed to undertake the remainder of the HRA process which will run concurrently with the plan making process and form an iterative part of the RLDP.

12.0 SOUNDNESS SELF-ASSESSMENT

12.1 In order to demonstrate soundness of the RLDP Preferred Strategy the Council has conducted its own assessment of the soundness. This is contained in the **Tests of Soundness Background Paper**.

Appendix 1: List of Organisations on the RLDP Consultation Database

Statutory Consultees	
Category	Organisation
B4 ii Bodies which represent the interests of Ethnic Minority Groups	Muslim Council for Wales
	Citizens Advice Cymru
	Ethnic Minority Foundation
	Families and Travellers
B4 iii Bodies which represent the interests of different religious groups	South Wales Baptist Association
	Archdiocese of Cardiff
	Kingdom Hall Jehovah's Witnesses
	Church in Wales
	Salvation Army
	Evangelical Movement in Wales Methodist Church
	Cardiff Buddhist Centre
	The United Reform Church
	UK Islamic Mission
	B4 iv. Bodies which represent the interests of disabled persons
Down's Syndrome Association	
Gwent Association for the Blind	
RNIB Cymru	
The Royal National Institute for Deaf People	
Wales Council for Deaf People	
Wales Council for the Blind	
Mind Cymru	
Disability Wales	
Disabled Persons Transport Advisory Committee	
Blaenau Gwent Engagement Group	
Royal Mencap Society	
B4 v. Bodies which represent the interests of businesses	Business Wales
	Blaenau Gwent Business Forum
	FSB
B4 vi .Bodies which represent Welsh Culture	Royal Commission on Ancient and Historic Monuments
	Glamorgan Gwent Archaeological Trust Ltd
	Cadw
B4.1 Voluntary Bodies some or all of whose activities benefit any part of the authority's area	Senior Development Officer, GAVO
	Age Concern Gwent
	Gwent Wildlife Trust
	Royal Voluntary Service
i. Welsh Government	Welsh Government

Appendix 1: List of Organisations on the RLDP Consultation Database

ii NRW	Natural Resource Wales
iii Network Rail	Network Rail Infrastructure Ltd
iv Office of the Secretary of State for Wales	Office of the Secretary of State of Wales (Cardiff)
v. Relevant Authority or a Community or Town Council	Caerphilly County Borough Council
	Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council
	Torfaen County Borough Council
	Powys County Council
	Brynmawr Town Council
	Brecon Beacons National Park
	Monmouthshire County Council
	Abertillery & Llanhilleth Community Council
	Nantyglo & Blaina Town Council
	Tredegar Town Council
vi Telecommunications Operators	Local Network Planning Manager, British Telecom
vii Electronic Apparatus	EE
	Vodafone Group PLC
	O2 Communications PLC
	Virgin Media
	Openreach
viii,a. Local Health Board	Aneurin Bevan University Health Board
viii,b. Electricity	Wood Plc on behalf of National Grid
	National Grid Electricity
	Npower
	Western Power
viii.c Gas Act	National Grid Transco
	Wales and West Utilities
viii.d and e water and sewerage undertaker	Dwr Cymru Welsh Water
	Department for Transport
	Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy
	The Home Office
	Ministry of Defence

Other Consultees	
Category	Organisation
	One Voice Wales
	Arts Council of Wales
	Rhymney & Bedwellty Commoners Association
	Mineral Products Association
	Country Landowners and Business Association

Appendix 1: List of Organisations on the RLDP Consultation Database

	The Coal Authority
	Home Builders Federation Wales
	British Aggregates Association
	Welsh Language Commissioner
	Arts Council of Wales
Environmental Groups National and Regional	The Campaign for the Protection of Rural Wales (Newport & Valleys)
	RSPB
	Welsh Historic Gardens Trust
	Welsh Historic Gardens Trust
	Local Nature Partnership
	Fields in Trust Cymru
	Gwent Wildlife Trust (Eastern Valleys)
Transport Operators	Stagecoach in South Wales
	Rail Freight Group
	Sustrans Cymru
	Intervention & Prevention Department Designing Out Crime Officer
	Wales Environmental Link
Housing Association	Melin Homes
	United Welsh
	Tai Calon
Local Estate Agents	Darlows
Planning Agents	Asbri Planning
	Boyer Planning
	Cushman and Wakefield
	Louis Chicot Associates - Town Planning and Development Consultants
	WYG
	Peter Barnes & Associates
	FTAA Ltd
	Owen Davies Consulting Ltd
	DevPlan
	Planware Ltd
Political	Assembly Minister
Voluntary Bodies	Ramblers Cymru
	Children in Wales
	Commissioner for Girlguiding
	Theatres Trust
	Gwent Police - Strategy, Performance and Change
	Commoners Associations



Suggest sites for development in Blaenau Gwent

Blaenau Gwent Council is required to produce a Local Development Plan (LDP) to guide the use of land and development in the Borough. The current LDP is available until 2021 and a revised Plan is being prepared which will set out guidelines for the development and use of land within Blaenau Gwent until 2033.

Blaenau Gwent Council is calling for developers, landowners and the public to submit sites that could be included for new development, redevelopment or protection within a revised LDP. This could be for any land use including residential, employment, education, recreation and leisure, other community facilities, retail, tourism, gypsy and travellers, minerals and waste and renewable energy technology.

There is no guarantee that the sites suggested at this stage will be taken forward. However, their submission will enable the Council to assess the suitability and availability of these areas. This information can then be used when formulating a strategy for the future development of sites across the Borough.

To nominate a site for consideration, a plan of the site and a candidate site submission form must be submitted. Copies of the form are available from the Development Plans team based at the Civic Centre - Ebbw Vale, Anvil Court - Abertillery, all local libraries or via the revised Local Development Plan webpages.

The deadline for the submission of sites is **Thursday 24th January 2019**. Officers are available to assist with the completion of the forms.

For more information contact the Development Plans Team on **01495 355538** or email planningpolicy@blaenau-gwent.gov.uk

Ends

For more information:

Sean Scannell
01495 355113
sean.scannell@blaenau-gwent.gov.uk

Louise Bishop
01495 356004
louise.bishop@blaenau-gwent.gov.uk

Alan Powell
01495 357809
alan.powell@blaenau-gwent.gov.uk



Appendix 3: List of Attendees to Issue and Vision Workshops and Spatial Strategy Options Workshops

Attendees at the Issues and Vision Workshop Sessions

Internal Regeneration Workshop: Wednesday 17th April 2019

	Name	Title
1	Alwyn Hughes	Team Leader – Industrial Units
2	Bethan Macpherson	Team Manager – Connected Communities
3	Colin Jones	Team Leader – Building Control
4	Ellie Fry	Head of Regeneration and Development
5	Justin Waite	Team Leader – Development Management
6	Louise Horner	Senior Estates Officer
7	Martyn Jeffries	Regional Inspire Manager
8	Muhammad Forouzan	Team Manager – Business and Innovation
9	Nick Landers	Principal Project Officer
10	Richard Crook	Director – Regeneration and Community Services
11	Steph Hopkins	Team Leader – Development Management
12	Steve Smith	Service Manager – Development Services
13	Tara Lane	Skills Development Manager

Member Workshop 1 (am session): Wednesday 8th May 2019

	Name	Ward
1	Councillor Bob Summers	Ebbw Vale North
2	Councillor Joanne Collins	Llanhilleth
3	Councillor John Hill	Brynmawr
4	Councillor Jonathan Milliard	Ebbw Vale South
5	Councillor Keith Pritchard	Ebbw Vale South
6	Councillor Lee Parsons	Llanhilleth
7	Councillor Lyn Elias	Brynmawr
8	Councillor Martin Cook	Abertillery
9	Councillor Phil Edwards	Ebbw Vale North
10	Councillor Stewart Healy	Beaufort
11	Councillor Wayne Hodgins	Brynmawr

Member Workshop 2 (am session): Wednesday 8th May 2019

	Name	Ward
1	Councillor Bernard Willis	Tredeggar Central & West
2	Councillor Clive Meredith	Badminton
3	Councillor Dai Davies	Ebbw Vale North
4	Councillor John C Morgan	Georgetown
5	Councillor Keith Hayden	Georgetown
6	Councillor Keri Rowson	Nantyglo
7	Councillor Tommy Smith	Sirhowy

Appendix 3: List of Attendees to Issue and Vision Workshops and Spatial Strategy Options Workshops

takeholder Workshop 1: Tuesday 14th May 2019

	Name	Organisation
1	Adrian Drew	Local Agent
2	Alan Reed	Individual
3	Alison Hoskins	Head of Adult Services
4	Alun Squire	Local Landowner
5	Alyson Tippings	BGCBC
6	Brian Brooks	Local Landowner
7	Brian Cromwell	Individual
8	Chris Engel	BGCBC
9	Councillor Barrie Sutton	Brynmawr Town Council
10	Councillor Julie Holt	BGCBC Councillor
11	Daniel Lewis	NRW
12	David Sharman	Tai Calon
13	Dr Elaine Davey	Welsh Historic Gardens Trust
14	Ellie Griffin	Individual
15	Howard Allen	Local Landowner
16	Hywel Jukes	Local Landowner
17	Ivor Beynon	Individual
18	Jason Price	Persimmon Homes
19	Jeff Price	Local Landowner
20	Joan Price	Local Landowner
21	John Cowley	Site Promoter
22	John Raine	Merthyr CBC
23	Judith Doyle	GGAT
24	Julie McKim	BGCBC
25	Kelly Collins	CCBC
26	Ken Thomas	Goldtops
27	Kevin Stevens	E5
28	Laura - Jane Suter	Girl Guiding Gwent
29	Lisa Thomas	Individual
30	Liz Hancocks	BGCBC
31	Malcolm Shepherd	Local Landowner
32	Mark Brooks	Individual
33	Mark Hopkins	BGCBC
34	Martin Haven	Local Landowner
35	Matthew John	Tai Calon
36	Michelle Church	BGCBC
37	Mike Rees	LRM
38	Ms. Nicola Williams (Asst. Town Clerk)	Brynmawr Town Council
39	Nia Watts	Monmouthshire County Council
40	Owen Davies	Owen Davies Consulting
41	Patrick Addison	Spicer Haart
42	Peter Adamson	Abertillery and Llanhilleth Community Council
43	Peter Barnes	Local Agent
44	Robert Davies	BGCBC
45	Robert Murray	Torfaen CBC
46	Sarah Jeremiah	BGCBC

Appendix 3: List of Attendees to Issue and Vision Workshops and Spatial Strategy Options Workshops

	Name	Organisation
47	Sharon Northall	BGCBC
48	Stacey Irish	Girl Guiding Gwent
49	Steven Roberts	Cwmglo Jewellery and Fashion
50	Susan Davies	Local Landowner
51	Terry Morgan	Local Agent
52	Vic Warren	Campaign for the Protection of Rural Wales

Stakeholder Workshop 2: Thursday 6th June 2019

	Name	Organisation
1	Ralph Connor	Site Promoter
2	Councillor Nick Simmons	Abertillery and Llanhilleth Town Council
3	Councillor Keith Jenkins	Nantyglo and Blaina Town Council
4	Councillor Tracey Dyson	Abertillery and Llanhilleth Town Council
5	Councillor Rob Phillips	Abertillery and Llanhilleth Town Council

Attendees at the Spatial Strategy Options Workshop Sessions

Member Workshop: Tuesday 2nd July 2019

	Name	Ward
1	Councillor Bernard Willis	Tredegar Central and West
2	Councillor Bob Summers	Ebbw Vale North
3	Councillor Clive Meredith	Badminton
4	Councillor Dai Davies	Ebbw Vale North
5	Councillor Derek Bevan	Cwm
6	Councillor Garth Collier	Blaina
7	Councillor Hadyn Trollope	Tredegar Central and West
8	Councillor John Hill	Brynmawr
9	Councillor John Mason	Nantyglo
10	Councillor John Morgan	Georgetown
11	Councillor Jonathan Milliard	Ebbw Vale South
12	Councillor Keith Pritchard	Ebbw Vale South
13	Councillor Lisa Winnett	Blaina
14	Councillor Nigel Daniels	Abertillery
15	Councillor Phil Edwards	Ebbw Vale North
16	Councillor Stewart Healy	Beaufort
17	Councillor Tommy Smith	Sirhowy
18	Councillor Wayne Hodgins	Brynmawr

Internal Regeneration Workshop: Thursday 4th July 2019

	Name	Title
1	Eirlys Hallet	Team Manager – Development Services
2	Julie Mckim	Residential Development Officer
3	Justin Waite	Team Leader – Development Management
4	Lee Williams	Senior Estates Officer

Appendix 3: List of Attendees to Issue and Vision Workshops and Spatial Strategy Options Workshops

Stakeholder Workshop 1: Monday 8th July 2019

	Name	Organisation
1	Chris Hays	Cushman and Wakefield
2	Councillor Gary Oakley	Abertillery and Llanhilleth Town Council
3	Councillor Nick Simmons	Abertillery and Llanhilleth Town Council
4	Councillor Peter Adamson	Abertillery and Llanhilleth Town Council
5	Councillor Rob Phillips	Abertillery and Llanhilleth Town Council
6	Howell Jukes	Local Landowner
7	Jack Hanbury	Pontypool Park Estates
8	John Cowley	Site Promoter
9	Martin Haven	Local Landowner
10	Michael Rees	LRM Planning
11	Mr Musto	Individual
12	Vic Warren	Campaign for the Protection of Rural Wales

Stakeholder Workshop 2: Tuesday 16th July 2019

	Name	Organisation
1	Alyson Tippings	Blaenau Gwent CBC
2	Bethan Owen	Site Promoter
3	Councillor Carol Hillman	Nantyglo and Blaina Town Council
4	Councillor Des Hillman	Nantyglo and Blaina Town Council
5	Ellie Griffin	Individual
6	Jeff Price	Local Landowner
7	Joan Price	Local Landowner
8	Judith Doyle	Glamorgan Gwent Archaeological Trust
9	Kelly Collins	Caerphilly CBC
10	Mark Harris	Home Builders Federation
11	Mark Hopkins	Blaenau Gwent CBC
12	Nicola Williams	Assistant Town Clerk – Brynmawr Town Council
13	Owen Davies	Owen Davies Consulting
14	Phillipa Cole	Site Promoter
15	Ralph Connor	Coetir / Pentref Tyleri
16	Robert Davies	Blaenau Gwent CBC
17	Sarah Jeremiah	Blaenau Gwent CBC
18	Stacey Irish	Girl Guiding Gwent

Stakeholder Workshop 3: Thursday 18th July 2019

	Name	Organisation
1	Alan Reed	Individual
2	Brian Cromwell	Local Landowner
3	Councillor Keith Jenkins	Nantyglo and Blaina Town Council
4	David Powell	Aneurin Bevan UHB
5	Howard Allen	Local Landowner
6	Liz Hancocks	Blaenau Gwent CBC
7	Matthew John	Tai Calon

Appendix 3: List of Attendees to Issue and Vision Workshops and Spatial Strategy Options Workshops

8	Natalie Waller	Gwent Wildlife Trust
9	Nia Watts	Monmouthshire CBC
10	Patrick Addison	Spicer Haart
11	Steven Roberts	Cwmglo Jewellrey
12	Susan Davies	Local Landowner
13	Mrs Wyatt	Individual
14	Robert Murray	Torfaen CBC

Youth Forum: Monday 5th August 2019

	Name	Title
1	Seren Swanson	Chair
2	Charlotte Clark	Deputy Youth Mayor
3	Darcey Howell	
4	Chloe Lines	
5	Mara Moruz	

Appendix 4: Comments Received on the Revised Issues/ Challenges set out in the Spatial Strategy Briefing Paper

Consultee	Challenge Ref	Summary of Comments	Suggested Change	BGCBC Response
Alyson Tippings – BGCBC	Challenge 2	One of the problems in the town centres is the opening hours – shops close early don't open every day. Takeaways only open after the shops close and then the shutters remain down throughout the day. Residential properties above shops have in the past led to a reluctance of late opening. To revitalise our town centres we need to encourage extended opening hours so that our towns seem 'open' and not 'closed' to customers/visitors.	Consider the following change: There may be an opportunity to amend opening hours/ operational times to generate night time economy.	Disagree. This is a matter for licensing to consider and would not be determined by planning.
Alyson Tippings – BGCBC	Challenge 3	There should be active encouragement of eco builds	No change suggested.	Disagree. This level of detail should not be included as a challenge but could be considered as part of a policy.
Alyson Tippings – BGCBC	Challenge 6	No comment made.	At the end of the challenge add the following text: <i>equally across the area</i>	Disagree. Given the topographical constraints of the County Borough it is unrealistic as to whether this will be achieved. The issue for Blaenau Gwent is connectivity. Challenge 5 concentrates on creating well-connected network of communities.
Alyson Tippings – BGCBC	Challenge 7	Is fear of crime a key issue for residents? Is there police data to back this up?	No change suggested	Fear of crime was identified as a critical issue for the public services to address as part of the Blaenau Gwent Well-being Plan. The Well-being Assessment provides the evidence for the identification of these critical issues.
Alyson Tippings – BGCBC	Challenge 8	No comment made.	The first sentence should read – Blaenau Gwent sits at the head of the south Wales Valleys on the fringe of the Brecon Beacons with dramatic uplands in the north and steep sided valleys to the south. This landscape is a major asset appreciated by residents and visitors alike..... Climate change	Agree amend the first sentence as follows: The setting of Blaenau Gwent, sits at the head of the South Wales Valleys on the fringe of bordering the Brecon Beacons and the Vale of Usk, with its dramatic uplands in the

Appendix 4: Comments Received on the Revised Issues/ Challenges set out in the Spatial Strategy Briefing Paper

Consultee	Challenge Ref	Summary of Comments	Suggested Change	BGCBC Response
			and disrespectful activities are a threat to this.....	north and steep sided valleys to the south. rugged mountains and its peaceful valleys. This landscape is a major asset which needs to be appreciated by residents and visitors alike... Climate change and disrespectful activities is are a threat to this
John Cowley	Challenge 10	The revised Challenge concludes with the "provision of an adequate supply of minerals" but the unrealistic and unjustified comment that exploitation needs to be limited remains and should be removed and preferably replaced as follows.	The exploitation of minerals needs to relate to essential demands from society, construction and industry to provide resources to sustain the economy and the environment at the local, national and international level and should be provided in the most sustainable way.	Agree to delete reference to the exploitation of minerals needs to be limited as follows: Responsible use of the area's physical resources is a key part of a better future. The amount of waste going to landfill needs to be reduced. The exploitation of minerals needs to be limited. The challenge is to promote the circular economy by reducing waste generation and maximising reuse and recycling, ensuring the sustainable use of natural resources and the provision of an adequate supply of minerals.
Liz Hancocks - BGCBC	Challenge 1	Disagree with the first part of the reworked Challenge 1, Economic Growth, but agree with its conclusion, that: "The area suffers from high levels of unemployment and economic inactivity, high benefit dependence and limited quality employment opportunities, which together	No changes suggested.	Noted. No changes required.

Appendix 4: Comments Received on the Revised Issues/ Challenges set out in the Spatial Strategy Briefing Paper

Consultee	Challenge Ref	Summary of Comments	Suggested Change	BGCBC Response
		<p>result in low household incomes.”</p> <p>Recent figures show that levels of unemployment have reduced in recent years in Blaenau Gwent. These figures do not show how many hours people are working, or how many jobs they have, or whether they are suffering from in work poverty. I would also challenge the notion that economic inactivity is undesirable. A resident could be contributing to our communities by caring for someone else, studying or perhaps volunteering having taken early retirement. To me these are all desirable actions of people in the community.</p>		
Liz Hancocks - BGCBC	Challenge 1	Agree with the second part of Challenge 1 “A key challenge for the area is to secure jobs for the future. This will mean increasing the proportion of jobs in sectors with good growth prospects, such as, new technologies and advanced manufacturing, IT and cyber security, tourism and low carbon sustainable technologies.”	No change suggested.	Support welcomed.
Liz Hancocks - BGCBC	Challenges 4, 6, 7, 9 and 11	Suggest that people’s health and well-being is put at the centre of the Local Development Plan challenges for 2018-33, including challenges 4, 6, 7, 9 and 11. The focus on economic growth should be shifted to sustainable development in line with the well-being of future generations act: “‘sustainable development’ means the	No change suggested	The Well-being goals and the broader sustainable development principle will be demonstrated at each stage of plan preparation through the five ways of working contained in the Act. These require consideration of involvement,

Appendix 4: Comments Received on the Revised Issues/ Challenges set out in the Spatial Strategy Briefing Paper

Consultee	Challenge Ref	Summary of Comments	Suggested Change	BGCBC Response
		process of improving the economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales by taking action, in accordance with the sustainable development principle, aimed at achieving the well-being goals		collaboration, integration, prevention and long term balancing factors in the decision making process, all of which have formed and will continue to form an intrinsic part of the LDP's development. Each strategic policy will closely link with and reference the goal(s) which relate most to its purpose and implementation, with emphasis on maximising social, economic, environmental and cultural benefits to ensure that the Council has carried out its sustainable development duty.
Nick Horsley – Minerals Products Association	Challenge 1	The Challenge appears to overlook the rural environment and the need to safeguard rural employment in agriculture, forestry and quarrying. These environments all contribute to economic growth and well-being.	No change suggested.	Disagree. The number of employee jobs in agriculture, forestry and quarrying is very small. In fact they are identified as sectors that are in decline according to the evidence base contained in the Employment Land Review (2019).The Challenge is all about increasing the proportion of jobs in sectors with the good growth sectors such as, new technologies and advanced manufacturing, IT and cyber security, tourism, low carbon sustainable technologies and the foundation economy.
Nick Horsley	Challenge	Whilst we appreciate the need for the efficient	The sentence should be deleted.	Agree to delete this sentence.

Appendix 4: Comments Received on the Revised Issues/ Challenges set out in the Spatial Strategy Briefing Paper

Consultee	Challenge Ref	Summary of Comments	Suggested Change	BGCBC Response
– Minerals Products Association	10	use of minerals and sustainable management of natural resources, this challenge does not reflect planning policy in Planning Policy Wales. There is nothing in PPW which states <i>“The exploitation of minerals needs to be limited”</i>		
Nick Horsley – Minerals Products Association	Challenge 10	Challenge 10 needs to properly reflect PPW which requires each Local Planning Authority to make an appropriate contribution to the sustainable supply of minerals. This is to be achieved through balancing the adequate supply of minerals with environmental protection through limiting the environmental effects of mineral working. PPW recognises that minerals are essential to the economy and the economic contribution made by minerals and minerals products. It places a duty upon LPAs to safeguard mineral resources and minerals infrastructure. PPW requires the adequate supply of aggregates to be delivered through collaboration with other local planning authorities in accordance with MTAN1 and the Regional Technical Statement.	Challenge 10 therefore needs a fundamental rewrite to reflect the above and fully accord with PPW.	The deletion of the above sentence is the fundamental change that is required to accord with PPW10. Further detail will be set out in the strategic policy.

Appendix 5: A List of Attendees to the Members Briefing Session -3rd October 2019

	Name	Ward
1	Councillor Bob Summers	Ebbw Vale North
2	Councillor Clive Meredith	Badminton
3	Councillor Dai Davies	Ebbw Vale North
4	Councillor Garth Collier	Blaina
5	Councillor Joanne Collins	Llanhilleth
6	Councillor John Hill	Brynmawr
7	Councillor John Mason	Nantyglo
8	Councillor Lee Parsons	Llanhilleth
9	Councillor Lyn Elias	Brynmawr
10	Councillor Martin Cook	Abertillery
11	Councillor Nigel Daniels	Abertillery
12	Councillor Phil Edwards	Ebbw Vale North
13	Councillor Wayne Hodgins	Brynmawr



Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol

Blaenau Gwent

County Borough Council



Planning Policy Team

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