

Compatibility Assessment of the RLDP Vision and Objectives against the Wellbeing of Future Generation Act

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

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1.0 BACKGROUND

1.1 The Well-being of Future Generations Act (WBFGA) places a duty on public bodies to carry out sustainable development. This is not a new concept for the planning system as the principles of sustainable development have been at the heart of planning policy since Planning Policy Wales (PPW) was first published in 2002. However, the concept has been expanded under the Act and it requires an improvement in the delivery of all four aspects of well-being: social; economic; environmental and cultural.

1.2 The WBFGA has established seven well-being goals which are intended to shape the work of all public bodies in Wales. In order to demonstrate that appropriate consideration has been given to the well-being goals and sustainable development principle in the decision making process, public bodies are required to have regard to the five ways of working contained in the WBFGA. These require consideration of: involvement; collaboration; integration; prevention; and long term factors.

Goal	Description of Goal
A Prosperous Wales	An innovative, productive and low carbon society which recognises the limits of the global environment and therefore uses resources efficiently and proportionately (including acting on climate change); and which develops a skilled and well-educated population in an economy which generates wealth and provides employment opportunities, allowing people to take advantage of the wealth generated through securing decent work.
A Resilient Wales	A nation which maintains and enhances a biodiverse natural environment with healthy functioning ecosystems that support social, economic and ecological resilience and the capacity to adapt to change (for example climate change).
A Healthier Wales	A society in which people's physical and mental well-being is maximised and in which choices and behaviours that benefit future health are understood.
A More Equal Wales	A society that enables people to fulfil their potential no matter what their background or circumstances (including their socio-economic background and circumstances).
A Wales of Cohesive Communities	Attractive, viable, safe and well-connected communities.
A Wales of Vibrant Culture and Welsh Language	A society that promotes and protects culture, heritage and the Welsh language, and which encourages people to participate in the arts, and sports and recreation.
A Globally Responsible Wales	A nation which, when doing anything to improve the economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales, takes account of whether doing such a thing may make a positive contribution to global well-being.

1.3 The Planning Act introduced a statutory purpose for the planning system. Any statutory body carrying out a planning function must exercise those functions in accordance with the principles of sustainable development as defined in the WBFGA. The planning system is central to achieving sustainable development in Wales. It provides the legislative

and policy framework to manage the use and development of the land in public interest so that it contributes positively to the achievement of the well-being goals.

2.0 PURPOSE OF ASSESSMENT

2.1 The purpose of this assessment is to demonstrate that the Replacement Local Development Plan (RLDP) assists in the delivery of the 7 Well-being Goals. Due consideration to these 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, 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 RLDP'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 and environmental and cultural benefits to ensure that the Council has carried out its sustainable duty. The vision and objectives will continually be refined during the review process based on stakeholder engagement and the outcomes a refreshed evidence base.

3.0 VISION AND OBJECTIVES

Vision

3.1 The following sets out the RLDP Vision (2018-2033) of what the area should look like in 15 years' time and will guide the future development of Blaenau Gwent. The LDP Vision has been developed to take into account the 7 Well-being Goals and Blaenau Gwent's Local Well-being Plan with the specific characteristics and key issues affecting the County Borough:

Through collaborative working, by 2033, Blaenau Gwent will become a network of connected **sustainable, vibrant valley communities** that support the **well-being** of current and future generations with:

- a **prosperous low carbon economy** where people have the skills, knowledge and opportunities to achieve a better quality of life; and
- residents living in **well connected**, healthy and safe communities, in a range of good quality homes with better access to services;
- its **distinctive natural environment**, cultural and historic identity is protected and enhanced creating a place where people want to live, work and visit.

Replacement LDP Objectives (2018-2033)

3.2 The RLDP Vision has been broken down into four outcomes (see below). These are considered central to the delivery of the RLDP vision as they embrace the principles of sustainable development and the concept of placemaking and embed the duties set out in the Well-being of Future Generations Act 2015.

- **Outcome 1:** Create a Network of Sustainable Vibrant Valley Communities (Placemaking)
- **Outcome 2:** Create Well-Connected, Active and Healthy Communities

- **Outcome 3:** Create Opportunities for a Prosperous Low Carbon Economy and Promote Learning and Skills
- **Outcome 4:** Protect and Enhance the Distinctive Natural and Built Environment

3.3 Under the four key Outcomes sit 19 objectives which have been identified to address the challenges facing the County Borough and to reflect updated national policy and legislation. The 19 objectives have been formulated to create the right conditions to address the various social, cultural, environmental and economic well-being outcomes. The draft vision and objectives will continually be refined during the process to reflect the development of the evidence base.

3.4 One of the key challenges of producing a sustainable Plan is to ensure that a reasonable balance is achieved between these elements of sustainability. This will need to minimise the potential conflicts that will arise from such a broad ranging set of Plan objectives. This process has been aided by consideration of the objectives via the SA/SEA process, the outcome of which has been used to refine the objectives and reduce the areas of potential conflict. The objectives will also form part of the basis for monitoring the implementation of the Plan, once adopted and operational.

3.5 The following section assesses the 4 key outcomes and 19 objectives against the 7 Well-being Goals.

+	Objective makes a significant positive contribution towards the Well-being goals
0	Objective is considered to make a neutral contribution to the Well-being objectives
-	Objective is considered to have a significant negative impact upon the Well-being goals

Table 1: Assessment of the Key Outcomes and Objectives against the 7 Well-being Goals

Objective		A Prosperous Wales	A resilient Wales	A healthier Wales	A More Equal Wales	A Wales of cohesive communities	A Wales of vibrant culture and welsh language	A globally responsible Wales
Outcome 1: Create a Network of Sustainable Vibrant Valley Communities (Placemaking)		+	+	+	+	+	+	+
1	To promote the 4 main settlements of the County Borough as the focus for major employment, commercial and residential development	+	+	+	+	+	0	+
2	To increase opportunities for people to live and work within Blaenau Gwent resulting in population growth.	+	+	+	+	+	0	+
3	All developments should contribute to creating high quality, attractive, safe and sustainable places which enhance the community in which they are located whilst having regard to the natural, historic and built environment and supporting and safeguarding the welsh language.	+	+	+	+	+	+	+

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4	<p>To minimise climate change impacts through reduced emissions of greenhouse gases in both new and existing developments, and to adapt to climate change through considerations of its effects through the design and location of new developments</p> <p>This can be achieved by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maximising the use of previously developed land; Promoting the re-use and restoration of derelict land and buildings; By focussing development away from areas vulnerable to flooding; By increasing the supply of renewable energy; Encouraging balanced job and population growth to reduce out commuting; Provision of broadband connectivity to reduce the need to travel; Provision of ultra-low emission vehicle charging infrastructure to reduce emissions and improve air quality; and Provision of quality green infrastructure. 	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
Outcome 2: Create Opportunities for a Prosperous Low Carbon Economy and Promote Learning and Skills	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	

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5	To support economic growth through the creation of a thriving, well-connected, diverse economy which provides a range of good quality employment opportunities to enable indigenous business growth, attract inward investment and competitive innovative businesses in appropriate growth sectors.	+	+	+	+	+	0	+
6	To contribute to the improvement of the education and skills infrastructure through ensuring that skills and training match economic growth sectors and facilities can be accessed by all.	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
7	To meet the County Borough's national, regional and local requirements to manage and dispose of its waste and to safeguard and to use its mineral resource in a sustainable manner.	+	+	+	0	0	0	+
8	Promote the circular economy and make the best use of material resources for the benefit of both the built and natural environments.	+	+	+	+	0	0	+
9	Develop a growing tourism economy to support sustainable and vibrant town centres recognising the role of the County Borough's proximity to the Brecon Beacons National Park, local heritage and leisure opportunities.	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
Outcome 3: Create Well-Connected, Active and Healthy Communities		+	+	+	+	+	+	+

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10	To improve the range and quality of housing through ensuring new developments contain a mix of house types and tenures thus providing affordable, accessible and aspirational homes for existing and future residents.	+	+	+	+	+	0	+
11	To sustain and enhance a network of 4 town centres serving their own populations and valley catchments whilst recognising that the role of these centres is evolving	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
12	To promote accessibility for all by prioritising walking and cycling (active travel) then public transport and finally motor vehicles thus reducing air borne pollution, the need to travel and dependency on private vehicles	0	+	+	+	+	+	+
13	To create a network of well-connected settlements where services are easily accessible through improved integrated sustainable modes of transport	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
14	To create an accessible network of green open spaces and high quality leisure and community infrastructure to contribute towards improving health and well-being.	0	+	+	+	+	+	+
Outcome 4: Protect and Enhance the Distinctive Natural and Built Environment		+	+	+	+	+	+	+

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15	To protect, enhance and manage the ecosystems of Blaenau Gwent by enabling them to adapt to climate change through connecting existing areas by creating new linkages and stepping stones.	0	+	+	+	+	0	+
16	Promote multi-functional green infrastructure with an emphasis on its integration with existing and new development.	0	+	+	+	+	+	+
17	To protect, enhance and manage the distinctive landscape of Blaenau Gwent to help foster sustainable tourism and community pride.	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
18	To protect and enhance the historical and cultural environment of Blaenau Gwent to contribute to the regeneration of the area.	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
19	To safeguard the quality of water, air and soil and tackle all sources of pollution including noise.	0	+	+	+	+	0	+

4.0 PREFERRED STRATEGY – STRATEGIC POLICIES

4.1 The Blaenau Gwent Preferred Strategy is for **Sustainable Economic Growth** with an aim to improve prosperity and close the employment gap with the rest of Wales This involves helping 3,375 people into work through increasing economic activity, reducing unemployment, reducing out-migration and out- commuting. This will be achieved by enabling good quality, secure and sustainable jobs. The Strategy encourages **growth** based on a clear understanding of the population and household changes over the Plan period. It must strike a balance by providing the right level of housing and employment growth and the necessary community infrastructure to encourage the younger population to return and middle aged population to remain in the area. Whilst enabling the older population to live healthy and active lives. The Plan makes provision for **2,115 new homes** which supports **household growth of 6.5%** and a **population growth of 2.9%**. **Distribution of the growth** reflects a desire to **spread this growth** in an equitable manner in order to achieve a **sustainable pattern of growth**, minimise unsustainable patterns of movement and support local services and facilities.

4.2 The Preferred Strategy essentially provides a framework to help realise the regeneration priorities of the Council, whilst also apportioning sustainable growth towards existing settlements that demonstrate strong employment, service and transportation functions. This dual faceted approach seeks to broadly balance housing need, economic development and environmental protection and enhancement to allow the County Borough to prosper, simultaneously contributing to the success of the Cardiff Capital City Region and delivering against each of the well-being goals of the Well-Being of Future Generations Act.

4.3 The Strategic Policies form the framework for implementing and delivering the Council’s Preferred Strategy. It is imperative that ‘sustainable development’ principles are embed into the LDP (including strategic policies) in order to help achieve the delivery of the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 Goals. A high level assessment to determine if the LDPs Strategic Policies are helping to deliver the Well-being goals is set out below:





+	Strategic Policy makes a significant positive contribution towards the Well-being goals
0	Strategic Policy is considered to make a neutral contribution to the Well-being objectives
-	Strategic Policy is considered to have a significant negative impact upon the Well-being goals

Table 2: Assessment of the Strategic Policies against the 7 Well-being Goals


Strategic Policy		A Prosperous Wales	A resilient Wales	A healthier Wales	A more equal Wales	A Wales of cohesive communities	A Wales of vibrant culture and Welsh language	A globally responsible Wales
Outcome 1: Deliver a Network of Vibrant Valley Communities (Placemaking)								
SP1	Sustainable Economic Growth	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
SP2	Sustainable Placemaking and Design	0	0	+	+	+	0	+
SP3	Climate Change	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
Outcome 2: Deliver opportunities for a Prosperous Low Carbon Economy and Promote Learning and Skills								
SP4	Employment and Skills	+	+	+	+	+	0	+
SP5	Growing Tourism	+	+	+	+	+	+	0
SP6	Sustainable Minerals Management	+	+	0	+	0	0	+
SP7	Sustainable Waste Management	+	+	0	+	0	0	+
Outcome 3: Deliver Well-Connected, Active and Healthy Communities								
SP8	Delivery of Homes	+	+	+	+	+	0	+
SP9	Gypsy and Travellers	+	+	+	+	+	0	+
SP10	Retail Centres and Development	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
SP11	Sustainable Transport and Accessibility	0	+	+	+	+	+	+
SP12	Social and Community Infrastructure	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
Outcome 4: Protect and Enhance the Distinctive Natural and Built Environment								
SP13	Protection and Enhancement of the Natural Environment	0	+	+	+	+	+	+
SP14	Preservation and Enhancement of the Historic Environment	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
SP15	Environmental Protection	0	+	+	+	+	0	+

5.0 FIVE WAYS OF WORKING

5.1 In order to demonstrate due consideration to these goals and the Sustainable Development Principle, each stage of Plan preparation will have strong regard to the 'Five Ways of Working' contained in the Act. These require consideration of involvement, collaboration, integration, prevention and long term balancing factors in decision making process, all of which have formed and will continue to form an intrinsic part of the RLDP's development.

Five Ways of Working		How the RLDP Meets the Five Ways of Working	
<p>Long Term</p> 	<p>The importance of balancing short-term needs with the needs to safeguard the ability to also meet long-term needs</p>	<p>The RLDP is a statutory document that will guide sustainable development in the County Borough over the period 2018-2033. The RLDP will be used by the Council to guide and manage development, providing a basis for consistent and appropriate decision making in the short, medium and long term.</p>	+
<p>Prevention</p> 	<p>How acting to prevent problems occurring or getting worse may help public bodies meet their objectives</p>	<p>The RLDP provides an opportunity to understand the root causes of issues and prevent them by being proactive in our thinking and understanding the need to tackle problems at source.</p>	+
<p>Integration</p> 	<p>Considering how the public body's well-being objectives may impact upon each of the well-being goals, on their objectives, or on the objectives of other public bodies</p>	<p>Refer to the above assessment.</p>	+
<p>Collaboration</p> 	<p>Acting in collaboration with any other person (or different parts of the body itself) that could help the body to meet its well-being objectives</p>	<p>As per the requirements of the Delivery Agreement, a wide range of stakeholders have been consulted and engaged when formulating the Preferred Strategy. A considerable amount of partnership working is and has been undertaken with Monmouthshire and Torfaen in commissioning a number of studies. Regular meetings have also been held with Monmouthshire and Torfaen to ensure there is a consistency of approach. Ongoing partnership working with key bodies will ensure sustainable development is delivered in a collaborative manner to meet the well-being objectives.</p>	+

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<p>Involvement</p> 	<p>The importance of involving people with an interest in achieving the well-being goals, and ensuring that those people reflect the diversity of the area which the body serves</p>	<p>The Community Involvement Scheme sets out how the Council proposes to proactively involve the community and stakeholders in the preparation of the replacement LDP. The Council is committed to improving the quality of stakeholder and community involvement in plan-making. Early and continued community involvement should help in addressing contentious issues, and assist in resolving conflicts throughout plan preparation. It can also help to identify shared goals and common ground. Ongoing political involvement, public consultation events and workshops will ensure the diverse views and needs of all members of the community are duly considered.</p>	<p>+</p>
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