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Our Ref./Ein Cyf.
Your Ref./Eich Cyf.
Contact:/Cysylltwch â: Gwasanaethau Democraidd

THIS IS A MEETING WHICH THE PUBLIC ARE ENTITLED TO ATTEND

Dydd Iau, 19 Ionawr 2023 Dydd Iau, 19 Ionawr 2023

Dear Sir/Madam

CYFARFOD CYFFREDINOL Y CYNGOR

A meeting of the Cyfarfod Cyffredinol y Cyngor will be held in Siambr y Cyngor, Canolfan Ddinesig on Dydd Iau, 26ain Ionawr, 2023 at 10.00 am.

Yours faithfully

Damien McCann
Interim Chief Executive

AGENDA

Pages

1. CYFIEITHU AR Y PRYD

Mae croeso i chi ddefnyddio'r Gymraeg yn y cyfarfod, mae angen o leiaf 3 diwrnod gwaith o rybudd os dymunwch wneud hynny. Darperir gwasanaeth cyfieithu ar y pryd os gwneir cais.

2. YMDDIHEURIADAU

Derbyn ymddiheuriadau.

Mae'r Cyngor yn croesawu gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg a Saesneg a byddwn yn cyfathrebu gyda chi yn eich dewis iaith, dim ond i chi rhoi gwybod i ni pa un sydd well gennych. Ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn creu unrhyw oedi.

The Council welcomes correspondence in Welsh and English and we will communicate with you in the language of your choice, as long as you let us know which you prefer. Corresponding in Welsh will not lead to any delay.

3. DATGANIADAU BUDDIANT A GODDEFEBAU

Ystyried unrhyw ddatganiadau buddiant a goddefebau a gafwyd

4. CHLOE LINES – MAER IEUENCTID SY’N GADAEI Y SWYDD

Derbyn trosolwg gan Chloe Lines, Maer Ieuenctid sy’n gadael y swydd a ei thaith ddemocratiaeth.

5. CYHOEDDIADAU'R CADEIRYDD

Derbyn cyhoeddiadau'r Cadeirydd.

6. CYFARFOD CYFFREDINOL Y CYNGOR 7 - 16

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7. CYFARFOD ARBENNIG O'R CYNGOR 17 - 22

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8. PWYLLGOR CRAFFU CYNLLUNIO 23 - 26

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9. PWYLLGOR TRWYDDEDU CYFFREDINOL 27 - 28

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15. **PWYLLGOR CRAFFU LLE** 51 - 54
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21. CWESTIYNAU GAN Y CYHEODD

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**22. AMSERLEN DDIWYGIEDIG CYTUNDEB CYFLENWI
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To: Councillor C. Smith (Aelod Llywyddol)
Councillor C. Bainton
P. Baldwin
Councillor S. Behr
D. Bevan
Councillor K. Chaplin
M. Cross
Councillor H. Cunningham
D. Davies
G. A. Davies
M. Day
Councillor S. Edmunds
Councillor J. Gardner
J. Hill
W. Hodgins
J. Holt
Councillor G. Humphreys
Councillor R. Leadbeater
Councillor E. Jones
Councillor J. Morgan, J.P.

J. C. Morgan
J. P. Morgan
L. Parsons
Councillor D. Rowberry
T. Smith
G. Thomas
Councillor J. Thomas
S. Thomas
H. Trollope
J. Wilkins
L. Winnett
Councillor D. Woods

All other Members (for information)
Interim Chief Executive
Chief Officers

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COUNTY BOROUGH OF BLAENAU GWENT

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| REPORT TO: | <u>THE PRESIDING MEMBER AND MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL</u> |
| SUBJECT: | <u>ORDINARY MEETING OF THE COUNCIL – 24TH NOVEMBER, 2022</u> |
| REPORT OF: | <u>DEMOCRATIC OFFICER</u> |

PRESENT: COUNCILLOR C. SMITH (PRESIDING MEMBER, CHAIRING)

Councillors C. Bainton
P. Baldwin
S. Behr
D. Bevan
K. Chaplin
M. Cross
H. Cunningham
D. Davies
G. A. Davies
M. Day
S. Edmunds
J. Gardner
J. Hill
W. Hodgins
J. Holt
G. Humphreys
R. Leadbeater
J. Morgan, J.P.
J. C. Morgan
J. P. Morgan
L. Parsons
T. Smith
J. Thomas
S. Thomas
H. Trollope
D. Wilkshire
L. Winnett

AND: Interim Chief Executive
 Corporate Director of Education
 Corporate Director of Regeneration & Community Services
 Chief Officer Resources
 Chief Officer Commercial & Customer
 Head of Legal & Corporate Compliance
 Head of Organisational Development
 Interim Head of Children's Services
 Service Manager Performance & Democratic
 Communications & Marketing Manager
 Business Partner - Resources

| <u>ITEM</u> | <u>SUBJECT</u> | <u>ACTION</u> |
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| 1. | <p><u>SIMULTANEOUS TRANSLATION</u></p> <p>It was noted that no requests had been received for the simultaneous translation service.</p> | |
| 2. | <p><u>APOLOGIES</u></p> <p>Apologies for absence were received from:</p> <p>Councillors E. Jones, D. Rowberry, G. Thomas, J. Wilkins, D. Woods, Interim Corporate Director of Social Services and the Head of Democratic, Services, Governance & Partnerships.</p> | |
| 3. | <p><u>DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND DISPENSATIONS</u></p> <p>There were no declarations of interest or dispensations reported.</p> | |

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| <p>4.</p> | <p><u>PRESIDING MEMBER’S ANNOUNCEMENTS</u></p> <p><u>Congratulations</u></p> <p>Congratulations were expressed to Grace Bayton from Llanhilleth on qualifying as a Chartered Accountant at the age of 20, the youngest person in the World to qualify.</p> <p>It was noted that a letter of congratulations had been sent to Grace on behalf of the Council.</p> <p><u>Condolences</u></p> <p>Condolences were expressed to Steph Hopkins, Team Manager Development Management on the sad passing of her mother.</p> <p>Members and officers paid their respects with a minute’s silence.</p> | |
| <p>5 – 22.</p> | <p><u>DECISION BOOK SEPTEMBER – NOVEMBER 2022</u></p> <p>The Decision Book for the period September - November 2022 - was submitted for consideration.</p> <p>It was unanimously,</p> <p>RESOLVED that the decisions be approved and confirmed as a true record of proceedings.</p> | |

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| 23. | <p><u>COUNCIL – ACTION SHEET – 29TH SEPTEMBER, 2022</u></p> <p>The Action Sheet arising from the meeting held on 29th September, 2022 was submitted.</p> <p>It was unanimously,</p> <p>RESOLVED that the information contained therein be noted.</p> | |
| 24. | <p><u>SPECIAL COUNCIL – ACTION SHEET – 26TH OCTOBER, 2022</u></p> <p>The Action Sheet arising from the meeting held on 26th October, 2022 was submitted.</p> <p>It was unanimously,</p> <p>RESOLVED that the information contained therein be noted.</p> | |
| 25. | <p><u>MEMBERS QUESTIONS</u></p> <p>There were no questions submitted by Members.</p> | |
| 26. | <p><u>PUBLIC QUESTIONS</u></p> <p>There were no questions submitted by members of the public.</p> | |

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| <p>27.</p> | <p><u>CONSULTATION ON THE INDEPENDENT REMUNERATION PANEL FOR WALES DRAFT ANNUAL REPORT 2023</u></p> <p>Consideration was given to the joint Officers' report.</p> <p>Following a discussion, the Leader of the Council proposed that Option 2 be endorsed and the following comments form part of the consultation response to be forwarded to the Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales, i.e.</p> <p>Given the current financial and cost of living crisis, the Council did not agree that the basic salary nor the proposed uplift to the role elements of Bands 1 and 2 should be referenced to the ASHE 2021 data. The Council felt that all role determinations for 2022 to 2023 should continue as they were.</p> <p>It was, thereupon, unanimously,</p> <p>RESOLVED, subject to the foregoing, that the report be accepted and Option 2 be endorsed, namely that each of the determinations contained in the draft IRPW report for 2023/2024 highlighted in paragraphs 6.1.1 to 6.1.6 were considered and the comments above relating to the above determinations be submitted to the IRPW as part of the consultation process that would end on 1st December, 2022.</p> | |
| <p>28.</p> | <p><u>TREASURY MANAGEMENT ANNUAL REVIEW REPORT 1ST APRIL, 2021 TO 31ST MARCH, 2022</u></p> <p>Members considered the report of the Chief Officer Resources.</p> <p>Appreciation was expressed to the officers within the team for the work undertaken during difficult financial circumstances.</p> | |

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| | <p>It was unanimously,</p> <p>RESOLVED that the report be accepted and Option 1 be endorsed, namely that the treasury management activity undertaken during the 2021/22 financial year be noted and the record of performance and compliance achieved during the year be accepted.</p> | |
| <p>29.</p> | <p><u>DRIVING AT WORK POLICY</u></p> <p>The report of the Head of Organisational Development was submitted for consideration.</p> <p>The Head of Organisational Development advised that advice was in the process of being sought from colleagues in relation to the checking and monitoring of Members documentation. In addition, a corporate communication would be sent to all staff and managers would be requested to cascade the details of the policy to the workforce. It was noted that safety measures within vehicles would be included as part of this information.</p> <p>It was unanimously,</p> <p>RESOLVED, subject to the foregoing, that the report be accepted and Option 1 be endorsed, namely that Health and Safety compliance be supported and the implementation of the Driving at Work Policy be approved.</p> | |
| <p>30.</p> | <p><u>PUBLIC PROTECTION & ENVIRONMENTAL ENFORCEMENT SERVICES – REVISED ENFORCEMENT POLICY</u></p> <p>Consideration was given to the report of the Service Manager – Public Protection.</p> | |

Members expressed their appreciation to the Litter Champions for the invaluable work they undertook on a voluntarily basis, collecting litter within their areas in Blaenau Gwent.

The Presiding Member advised that the volunteer Litter Champions would be recognised for the work they undertook at a meeting with officers in the General Offices which, would be arranged in due course.

In reply to a comment raised regarding the publication of prosecutions, the Chief Officer Commercial & Customer advised that investigations would take place into this information being communicated through the Council's social media platforms.

Councillor G. A. Davies left the meeting at this juncture.

A lengthy discussion ensued when the Cabinet Member for Place & Environment responded to questions and clarified points raised. She expressed her appreciation to the officers involved in the development of the policy and thanked the team as whole for the multitude of work they undertook on a daily basis.

It was, thereupon, unanimously,

RESOLVED, subject to the foregoing, that the report be accepted and Option 1 be endorsed, namely that the adoption of the Public Protection & Environmental Enforcement Policy be approved.

The Policy would be formally reviewed every five years for approval by Council, or earlier if deemed necessary.

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| <p>31.</p> | <p><u>NATIONAL COLLABORATIVE ARRANGEMENTS FOR WELSH (LOCAL AUTHORITY) ADOPTION AND FOSTERING SERVICES</u></p> <p>Consideration was given to the report of the Interim Corporate Director of Social Services.</p> <p>It was unanimously,</p> <p>RESOLVED that the report be accepted and Option 1 be approved, namely that the proposals for developing the governance arrangements for the National Adoption Service for Wales be adopted as it assumed responsibility for Foster Wales.</p> <p>Support for the Joint Committee Agreement for the National Adoption Service and Foster Wales be confirmed and the agreement signed.</p> | |
| <p>32.</p> | <p><u>MEMBERSHIPS REPORT</u></p> <p>Consideration was given to:</p> <p><u>ADVISORY PANEL FOR LOCAL AUTHORITY GOVERNORS</u></p> <p>It was noted that the Advisory Panel which had been scheduled to be held on 22nd November, 2022 had been postponed and would be re-arranged in due course.</p> <p><u>GWENT PUBLIC SERVICE BOARD SCRUTINY COMMITTEE</u></p> <p>To appoint Councillors Tommy Smith and Ellen Jones to the Gwent Public Services Board Scrutiny Committee.</p> <p>RESOLVED accordingly.</p> | |

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| | <p><u>SAFER SCHOOLS PARTNERSHIP BOARD</u></p> <p>To appoint Councillor Tommy Smith to the Safer Schools Partnership Board.</p> <p>RESOLVED accordingly.</p> | |
| <p>33.</p> | <p><u>EXEMPT ITEM</u></p> <p>To receive and consider the following report which in the opinion of the proper officer were exempt items taking into account consideration of the public interest test and that the press and public should be excluded from the meeting (the reason for the decision for the exemption was available on a schedule maintained by the proper officer).</p> <p>The Corporate Director of Regeneration & Community Services left the meeting at this juncture.</p> | |
| <p>34.</p> | <p><u>APPOINTMENTS COMMITTEE – JNC OFFICERS</u></p> <p>Having regard to the views expressed by the Proper Officer regarding the public interest test, that on balance, the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighed the public interest in disclosing the information and that the report should be exempt.</p> <p>RESOLVED that the public be excluded whilst this item of business is transacted as it is likely there would be a disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraphs 12 & 13, Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act, 1972 (as amended).</p> <p>Consideration was given to the report of the meeting held on 28th September, 2022.</p> <p>It was unanimously,</p> | |

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| RESOLVED that the report which related to staffing matters be accepted and the post be offered to Eleanor Fry on a salary in accordance with JNC CO (£83,481 - £91,826 per annum). | |
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COUNTY BOROUGH OF BLAENAU GWENT

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| REPORT TO: | <u>THE PRESIDING MEMBER AND MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL</u> |
| SUBJECT: | <u>SPECIAL MEETING OF THE COUNCIL – 21ST DECEMBER, 2022</u> |
| REPORT OF: | <u>DEMOCRATIC OFFICER</u> |

PRESENT: COUNCILLOR C. SMITH (PRESIDING MEMBER, CHAIRING)

- Councillors
- C. Bainton
 - P. Baldwin
 - S. Behr
 - D. Bevan
 - K. Chaplin
 - M. Cross
 - H. Cunningham
 - G. A. Davies
 - M. Day
 - S. Edmunds
 - J. Gardner
 - J. Hill
 - W. Hodgins
 - J. Holt
 - G. Humphreys
 - E. Jones
 - R. Leadbeater
 - J. C. Morgan
 - J. P. Morgan
 - L. Parsons
 - D. Rowberry
 - T. Smith
 - G. Thomas
 - J. Thomas
 - S. Thomas
 - H. Trollope
 - J. Wilkins
 - D. Wilkshire
 - L. Winnett

AND:

- Interim Chief Executive
- Corporate Director of Education
- Corporate Director of Regeneration & Community Services
- Chief Officer Resources
- Head of Legal & Corporate Compliance
- Head of Organisational Development
- Head of Adult Services
- Head of Community Services
- Head of Democratic Services, Governance & Partnerships
- Service Manager Policy & Partnerships
- Professional Lead for Engagement, Equality & Welsh Language
- Press & Publicity Officer

| <u>ITEM</u> | <u>SUBJECT</u> | <u>ACTION</u> |
|-------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------|
| 1. | <p><u>SIMULTANEOUS TRANSLATION</u></p> <p>It was noted that no requests had been received for the simultaneous translation service.</p> | |
| 2. | <p><u>APOLOGIES</u></p> <p>Apologies for absence were received from:</p> <p>Councillors D. Davies, J. Morgan, J.P., D. Woods, Interim Corporate Director of Social Services and the Chief Officer Commercial & Customer.</p> | |

3. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND DISPENSATIONS**

The following declarations of interest were reported:

Item No. 5: NJC Local Government Services Pay Agreement 2022-2023 – Additional Annual Leave

- Damien McCann - Interim Chief Executive
- Lynn Phillips - Corporate Director of Education
- Ellie Fry - Corporate Director of Regeneration & Community Services
- Rhian Hayden - Chief Officer Resources
- Andrea Jones - Head of Legal & Corporate Compliance
- Andrea Prosser - Head of Organisational Development
- Alison Hoskins - Head of Adult Services
- Clive Rogers - Head of Community Services
- Sarah King - Head of Democratic Services, Governance & Partnerships
- Andrew Parker - Service Manager Policy & Partnerships

The Interim Chief Executive confirmed that following advice received from the Monitoring Officer, whilst above-named officers had declared an interest in respect of the above item they would be permitted to remain in the meeting. However, should debate ensue those officers who had declared an interest would leave the meeting at the appropriate juncture, with the exception of the following officer who would remain in the meeting to answer any questions and clarify points raised:

- Andrea Prosser – Head of Organisational Development

PRESIDING MEMBER'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Congratulations

Congratulations were expressed to Gwendoline Moore who had been born in Tredegar but was now residing in Australia on celebrating her 111th birthday.

RESOLVED that an appropriate letter be sent.

Condolences

Condolences were expressed to the family of former County Borough Councillor and Mayor Des Davies, who had sadly passed away. Des had been a Councillor for the Cwm Ward for over 35 years and would be sorely missed.

Members and officers paid their respects with a minute's silence.

An appropriate letter had been sent to the family.

4.

WORKFORCE CHRISTMAS WORKING AND PAY

Consideration was given to the report of the Head of Organisational Development.

It was unanimously,

RESOLVED that the report be accepted and Option 1 be endorsed, namely that adjusting the pay outside of the NJC guidance be agreed for those who were on rota to work between 25th December, 2022 and 2nd January, 2023 and be paid as follows:

- 25th December, 2022 – 2nd January, 2023 pay to be at treble time with no lieu time allowance.
- The 30th December (classed as a normal working day) to be an exception and paid at double time with no lieu time allowance.

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| <p>5.</p> | <p><u>NJC LOCAL GOVERNMENT SERVICES PAY AGREEMENT 2022-2023 – ADDITIONAL ANNUAL LEAVE</u></p> <p>The following officers declared an interest in this item but remained in the meeting whilst it was considered:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Damien McCann - Interim Chief Executive - Lynn Phillips - Corporate Director of Education - Ellie Fry - Corporate Director of Regeneration & Community Services - Rhian Hayden - Chief Officer Resources - Andrea Jones - Head of Legal & Corporate Compliance - Andrea Prosser - Head of Organisational Development - Alison Hoskins - Head of Adult Services - Clive Rogers - Head of Community Services - Sarah King - Head of Democratic Services, Governance & Partnerships - Andrew Parker - Service Manager Policy & Partnerships <p>Members considered the report of the Head of Organisational Development.</p> <p>It was unanimously,</p> <p>RESOLVED that the report be accepted and Option 1 be endorsed, namely that an uplift of one day annual leave (pro rata for part time staff) for the Council’s JNC Chief Officers and Chief Executive be agreed.</p> | |
| <p>6.</p> | <p><u>WELSH LANGUAGE PROMOTION STRATEGY 2022/2027</u></p> <p>Consideration was given to the report of the Service Manager Policy & Partnerships.</p> | |

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| | <p>It was noted that the Corporate and Performance Scrutiny Committee had endorsed the Strategy at it's meeting on 15th December, 2022.</p> <p>It was unanimously</p> <p>RESOLVED that the report be accepted and Option 1 be endorsed, namely that the Welsh Language Promotion Strategy 2022-2027 be approved.</p> | |
| 7. | <p><u>SUMMARY ASSESSMENT OF THE FINANCIAL POSITION 2023/24 TO 2027/28</u></p> <p>Due to the need to consider the following item as a matter of urgency, the Presiding Member confirmed that the following matter could be considered under the Provisions of Paragraph 4(b), Section 100(b) of the Local Government Act, 1972.</p> <p>Consideration was given to the report of the Chief Officer Resources.</p> <p>It was unanimously,</p> <p>RESOLVED that the report be accepted and Option 1 endorsed, namely;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the main assumptions used in the MTFS (section 5.1.2 of the report) be approved; • the forecast funding gap for the period of the MTFS (section 5.1.3 of the report) be noted; and • the continuing development of Bridging the Gap Strategic Business Reviews be noted. | |

COUNTY BOROUGH OF BLAENAU GWENT

REPORT TO: THE PRESIDING MEMBER AND MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

SUBJECT PLANNING COMMITTEE – 12TH JANUARY, 2023

REPORT OF: DEMOCRATIC & COMMITTEE SUPPORT OFFICER

PRESENT: COUNCILLOR LISA WINNETT (Chair)

Councillors D. Bevan (Vice-Chair)

P. Baldwin

J. Hill

W. Hodgins

G. Humphreys

J. Thomas

D. Wilkshire

Councillor John C. Morgan (Cabinet Member Place & Regeneration)

WITH: Team Leader Development Management (x 2)

Team Leader Built Environment

Planning Officer (x 3)

Solicitor

Press Officer

AND: Public Speakers

Tim Gent – Agent - Application No. C/2022/0182

Brett Jones – Applicant - Application No. C/2022/0123

DECISIONS UNDER DELEGATED POWERS

| <u>ITEM</u> | <u>SUBJECT</u> |
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| No. 1 | <u>SIMULTANEOUS TRANSLATION</u> It was noted that no requests had been received for the simultaneous translation service. |

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| No. 2 | <p><u>DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND DISPENSATIONS</u></p> <p>There were no declarations of interest and dispensations reported.</p> |
| No. 3 | <p><u>APOLOGIES</u></p> <p>Apologies for absence were received from:-</p> <p>Councillors M. Day and J. Gardner.</p> <p>Service Manager Development & Estates Team Manager Development Management</p> |
| No. 4 | <p><u>AREAS FOR MEMBER BRIEFINGS AND TRAINING</u></p> <p>No areas for Members Training/Briefings were raised.</p> |
| No. 5 | <p><u>PLANNING APPLICATIONS REPORT</u></p> <p>Consideration was given to the report of the Team Manager Development Management.</p> <p><u>Application No. C/2022/0152</u> <u>Vivian Street Builders Merchants, Vivian Street, Abertillery</u> <u>NP13 2LE</u> <u>Demolition of existing workshop and change of use of existing builder's merchants for the construction of 2 no. 2 bed detached dwellings</u></p> <p>Following a discussion, it was unanimously</p> <p>RESOLVED that planning permission be <u>GRANTED</u>, subject to the conditions detailed in the report.</p> <p><u>Application No. C/2022/0270</u> <u>Unit 2, The Walk, Ebbw Vale NP23 6AY</u> <u>Change of use from retail unit to health care (dental surgery)</u></p> <p>Following a discussion, it was unanimously</p> <p>RESOLVED that planning permission be <u>GRANTED</u>, subject to the conditions detailed in the report.</p> <p><u>Application No. C/2022/0182</u> <u>Festival Park Shopping Centre, Victoria, Ebbw Vale NP23 8FP</u></p> |

Change of use of former shopping mall into a mixed use business centre comprising Use Classes A, B and D, including remodelling of the existing buildings (and some demolition) together with changes to the internal paths and yards and other associated works

Following a lengthy discussion, it was unanimously

RESOLVED that planning permission be **GRANTED**, subject to the conditions detailed in the report and delegated powers be granted to Planning Officers to amend the wording of conditions 4, 5, 6 and 11 detailed in the report.

Application No. C/2022/0123

Land at Cemetery Road, Ebbw Vale NP23 6YQ

Construction of 13 no. self-build houses, with associated external works

Following a discussion, it was unanimously

RESOLVED that planning permission be **GRANTED**, subject to the conditions detailed in the report.

Application No. C/2022/0301

Springfield Cottage, Queen Victoria Street, Tredegar NP22 3QA

Retain bungalow and parking area and modified access

Following a lengthy discussion, it was unanimously

RESOLVED that planning permission be **REFUSED** for the reason detailed in the report.

No. 6

LIST OF APPLICATIONS DECIDED UNDER DELEGATED POWERS BETWEEN 24TH OCTOBER 2022 AND 18TH DECEMBER 2022

Consideration was given to the report of the Senior Business Support Officer.

The Team Leader Development Management reported an error on the report. Application No. C/2022/0234 67 Marine Street, Cwm, Ebbw Vale - Conversion of existing dwelling to create 4 self-contained flats should read 'Refused'.

RESOLVED, subject to the foregoing, that the report be accepted and the information contained therein be noted.

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| <p>No. 7</p> | <p><u>APPEALS, CONSULTATIONS AND DNS UPDATE: JANUARY 2023</u></p> <p>Consideration was given to the report of the Service Manager – Development & Estates.</p> <p>RESOLVED that the report be accepted and the information contained therein be noted.</p> |
| <p>No. 8</p> | <p><u>DEVELOPMENTS OF NATIONAL SIGNIFICANCE (DNS)</u></p> <p>Consideration was given to the report of the Service Manager – Development & Estates.</p> <p>RESOLVED that the report be accepted and the information contained therein be noted.</p> |
| <p>No. 9</p> | <p><u>ENFORCEMENT CLOSED CASES BETWEEN 27TH OCTOBER 2022 AND 15TH DECEMBER 2022</u></p> <p>Having regard to the views expressed by the Proper Officer regarding the public interest test, that on balance the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighed the public interest in disclosing the information and that the report should be exempt.</p> <p>RESOLVED that the public be excluded whilst this item of business is transacted as it is likely there would be a disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 12, Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended).</p> <p>Consideration was given to the report of the Service Manager Development.</p> <p>RESOLVED that the report which contained information relating to a particular individual be accepted and the information contained therein be noted.</p> |

COUNTY BOROUGH OF BLAENAU GWENT

REPORT TO: THE PRESIDING MEMBER AND MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

SUBJECT GENERAL LICENSING COMMITTEE – 16TH JANUARY, 2023

REPORT OF: DEMOCRATIC & COMMITTEE SUPPORT OFFICER

PRESENT: COUNCILLOR LISA WINNETT (CHAIR)

Councillors D. Bevan (Vice-Chair)

S. Behr
M. Cross
G.A. Davies
J. Gardner
G. Humphreys
L. Parsons
D. Rowberry
G. Thomas

**WITH: Team Manager – Trading Standards and Licensing
Senior Licensing Officer
Solicitor**

DECISIONS UNDER DELEGATED POWERS

| <u>ITEM</u> | <u>SUBJECT</u> | <u>ACTION</u> |
|--------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------|
| No. 1 | <p><u>SIMULTANEOUS TRANSLATION</u></p> <p>It was noted that no requests had been received for the simultaneous translation service.</p> | |
| No. 2 | <p><u>APOLOGIES</u></p> <p>Apologies for absence were received from Councillor D. Woods.</p> | |
| No. 3 | <p><u>DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND DISPENSATIONS</u></p> | |

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| | <p>There were no declarations of interest and dispensations reported.</p> | |
| <p>No. 4</p> | <p><u>NON-STATUTORY LICENCE FEES 2023/24</u></p> <p>Consideration was given to the report of the Team Manager – Trading Standards and Licensing.</p> <p>Following discussion, it was unanimously</p> <p>RESOLVED that the report be accepted and that Members supported the content of the report and made comments as necessary for future consideration going forward (Option1).</p> | |

COUNTY BOROUGH OF BLAENAU GWENT

REPORT TO: THE PRESIDING MEMBER AND MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

SUBJECT STATUTORY LICENSING COMMITTEE – 16TH JANUARY, 2023

REPORT OF: DEMOCRATIC & COMMITTEE SUPPORT OFFICER

PRESENT: COUNCILLOR LISA WINNETT (CHAIR)

Councillors D. Bevan (Vice-Chair)

- S. Behr
- M. Cross
- G.A. Davies
- J. Gardner
- G. Humphreys
- L. Parsons
- D. Rowberry
- G. Thomas

**WITH: Team Manager – Trading Standards and Licensing
Senior Licensing Officer
Solicitor**

DECISIONS UNDER DELEGATED POWERS

| <u>ITEM</u> | <u>SUBJECT</u> | <u>ACTION</u> |
|--------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------|
| No. 1 | <p><u>SIMULTANEOUS TRANSLATION</u></p> <p>It was noted that no requests had been received for the simultaneous translation service.</p> | |
| No. 2 | <p><u>APOLOGIES</u></p> <p>Apologies for absence were received from Councillor D. Woods.</p> | |
| No. 3 | <p><u>DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND DISPENSATIONS</u></p> | |

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| | There were no declarations of interest and dispensations reported. | |
| No. 4 | <p><u>STATUTORY LICENSING SUB-COMMITTEE</u></p> <p>Consideration was given to the decisions of the Sub-Committee held on 27th October, 2022.</p> <p>RESOLVED that the decisions be accepted as a true record of proceedings.</p> | |
| No. 5 | <p><u>STATUTORY LICENCE FEES 2023/24</u></p> <p>Consideration was given to the report of the Team Manager – Trading Standards and Licensing.</p> <p>Following discussion, it was unanimously</p> <p>RESOLVED that the report be accepted and the proposed fees for Gambling Licences, Hypnosis and Films be agreed as detailed in Appendix 1 of the report (Option 1).</p> | |

COUNTY BOROUGH OF BLAENAU GWENT

REPORT TO: THE PRESIDING MEMBER AND MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

SUBJECT: CABINET – 7TH DECEMBER, 2022

REPORT OF: DEMOCRATIC & COMMITTEE SUPPORT OFFICER

**PRESENT: Leader/
Cabinet Member - Corporate Overview & Performance
Councillor S. Thomas (CHAIR)**

**Deputy Leader/
Cabinet Member – Place & Environment
Councillor H. Cunningham**

**Cabinet Member – Place & Regeneration
Councillor J.C. Morgan**

**Cabinet Member – People & Education
Councillor S. Edmunds**

**Cabinet Member – People & Social Services
Councillor H. Trollope**

WITH: Interim Chief Executive
Corporate Director Education
Corporate Director Regeneration and Community Services
Interim Corporate Director Social Services
Chief Officer Resources
Chief Officer Customer & Commercial
Head of Legal and Corporate Compliance
Head of Governance and Partnerships
Team Manager Development Plans

DECISIONS UNDER DELEGATED POWERS

| <u>ITEM</u> | <u>SUBJECT</u> |
|--------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| No. 1 | <u>SIMULTANEOUS TRANSLATION</u> It was noted that no requests had been received for the simultaneous translation service. |
| No. 2 | <u>APOLOGIES</u> No apologies for absence had been received. |
| No. 3 | <u>DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND DISPENSATIONS</u> No declarations of interest or dispensations were reported. |
| | <u>DECISIONS</u> |
| No. 4 | <u>CABINET</u> To consider the decisions of the Cabinet Meeting held on 26 th October, 2022. RESOLVED that the decisions be accepted as a true record of proceedings. |
| No. 5 | <u>SPECIAL CABINET</u> To consider the decisions of the Special Cabinet Meeting held on 15 th November, 2022. RESOLVED that the decisions be accepted as a true record of proceedings. |

CORPORATE AND PERFORMANCE PORTFOLIO

No. 6 **THE CALCULATION OF THE COUNCIL TAX BASE FOR THE YEAR 2023/24**

Consideration was given to the report of the Chief Officer Resources.

RESOLVED that the report be accepted and the Cabinet approved the Council Tax base calculation for 2023/24 as detailed in Appendix 1 tables 1 to 6, and that the council tax base for tax setting purposes be 20,806.70.

No. 7 **GRANTS TO ORGANISATIONS**

Consideration was given to the report of the Chief Officer Resources.

The following grants to organisation were received further to the publication of the report:-

ABERTILLERY

Abertillery & Six Bells Ward - Councillor K. Chaplin

| | | |
|----|---------|------|
| 1. | Chillax | £132 |
|----|---------|------|

Abertillery & Six Bells Ward – Councillor R. Leadbeater

| | | |
|-----|---------------------------------------|------|
| 1. | Old Tylerian RFC | £100 |
| 2. | Abertillery Excelsiors Junior FC | £100 |
| 3. | Abertillery Excelsiors AFC | £100 |
| 4. | Abertillery BG RFC | £100 |
| 5. | Six Bells Tennis Club | £100 |
| 6. | Abertillery Seniors Netball Club | £100 |
| 7. | Six Bells Bowls Club | £100 |
| 8. | Adam Street Allotments | £100 |
| 9. | Pant y Pwdyn Allotments | £100 |
| 10. | Bethan Copner (The Scout Association) | £100 |
| 11. | Ebenezer Baptist Church | £100 |
| 12. | Zion Miners Chapel | £100 |
| 13. | Abertillery Rock and Blues | £100 |

Abertillery & Six Bells Ward - Councillor J. Holt

- | | | |
|----|----------------------|-----|
| 1. | Six Bells Bowls Club | £50 |
|----|----------------------|-----|

Llanhilleth Ward - Councillor N. Parsons

- | | | |
|----|----------------------------|------|
| 1. | Brynithel Activities Group | £300 |
|----|----------------------------|------|

Llanhilleth Ward - Councillor H. Cunningham

- | | | |
|----|--------------------------------------|------|
| 1. | Soffryd Community Centre | £250 |
| 2. | Brynithel Welfare & Community Centre | £250 |

BRYNMAWR

Brynmawr Ward - Councillor J. Hill

- | | | |
|----|------------------------------------|------|
| 1. | Brynmawr Historical Society | £150 |
| 2. | Brynmawr & District Museum Society | £150 |
| 3. | Brynmawr Town Centre Partnership | £150 |

EBBW VALE

Beaufort Ward - Councillor C. Smith

- | | | |
|----|--------------------------|------|
| 1. | Glyncoed Community Group | £300 |
|----|--------------------------|------|

Beaufort Ward - Councillor G. Thomas

- | | | |
|----|---------------------------|------|
| 1. | Badminton OAP's | £100 |
| 2. | Beaufort Christmas Lights | £150 |
| 3. | Beaufort Hearts | £100 |
| 4. | Ffinn Dance | £100 |
| 5. | Beaufort Male Choir | £100 |

TREDEGAR

Georgetown & Central & West Ward – Councillor S. Thomas & H. Trollope & E. Jones & J. Thomas & J. Morgan

| | | |
|-----|-----------------------------------------------------|------|
| 1. | Cymru Creations | £200 |
| 2. | 2167 Air Force Cadets | £200 |
| 3. | Bedwellty Park Bowls Club | £200 |
| 4. | Chloe's Community Kitchen | £200 |
| 5. | Gymfinity | £200 |
| 6. | Kids r Us | £200 |
| 7. | Mother & Toddler Group Tredegar Central Baptist | £200 |
| 8. | St. Georges Church | £200 |
| 9. | Silurian Amateur Boxing Club | £200 |
| 10. | Tredegar Business Forum | £200 |
| 11. | Tredegar Central Baptist Church | £200 |
| 12. | Tredegar Methodist Church | £200 |
| 13. | Tredegar Netball | £200 |
| 14. | Tredegar Orpheus Choir | £200 |
| 15. | Tredegar Town AFC | £200 |
| 16. | Tredegar Women & Girls AFC | £200 |
| 17. | Tredvale Camera Club | £200 |
| 18. | Stocktonville Senior Citizens | £200 |
| 19. | Royal British Legion Tredegar Branch | £200 |
| 20. | Tredegar Angling Club | £200 |
| 21. | Blaenau Gwent Heritage Forum | £200 |
| 22. | St Johns Ambulance Tredegar | £200 |
| 23. | Tredegar Ironsides RFC | £200 |
| 24. | Southend Allotments | £200 |
| 25. | Southend Bee Keepers | £200 |
| 26. | Sirhowy Valley Woodlands | £200 |
| 27. | St Georges Court Tenants & Residents Association | £200 |

| | | |
|-----|--------------------------------|---------|
| 28. | Saron Church | £200 |
| 29. | Friends of Bedwellty Park | £200 |
| 30. | Tredegar Methodist Church | £200 |
| 31. | Planet Fitness | £200 |
| 32. | Tredegar Miners Memorial Gates | £200 |
| 33. | FC Tredegar Under 13's | £100 |
| 34. | FC Tredegar Under 14's | £100 |
| 35. | FC Tredegar Under 10 Tigers | £100 |
| 36. | Tredegar Ironsides Junior RFC | £200 |
| 37. | Tredegar Town AFC Juniors | £100 |
| 38. | Trinity Church | £200 |
| 39. | Moose International | £312.50 |
| 40. | Bethel Baptist Church | £200 |
| 41. | Georgetown Community Centre | £200 |

Sirhowy Ward –

Councillors M. Cross & T. Smith & D. Rowberry

| | | |
|----|----------------------------------------|--------|
| 1. | Royal British Legion – Tredegar Branch | £27.50 |
|----|----------------------------------------|--------|

RESOLVED accordingly.

FURTHER RESOLVED, subject to the foregoing that the report be accepted and the information contained therein be noted.

No. 8 GRANTS WORKING GROUP

Consideration was given to the Minutes of the Grants Working Group held on 10th November, 2022.

RESOLVED that the report be accepted and the information contained therein be noted.

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| <p>No. 9</p> | <p><u>POSITION STATEMENT SHARED RESOURCE SERVICE (SRS)</u></p> <p>Consideration was given to the joint report from the Chief Officer Commercial and Customer and the Chief Operating Officer, SRS Shared Resource Service.</p> <p>RESOLVED that the report be accepted and the position statement be approved against the objectives set out in the Business Case and annual updates as part of the ongoing partnership with SRS be received (Option 1).</p> |
| | <p><u>PLACE AND REGENERATION PORTFOLIO</u></p> |
| <p>No. 10</p> | <p><u>TREDEGAR PLACEMAKING PLAN</u></p> <p>Consideration was given to the report of the Corporate Director Regeneration and Community Services.</p> <p>RESOLVED that the report be accepted and agreed the Tredegar Placemaking Plan, its vision and core ambitions for the future. This would enable the Authority to finalise the draft of the delivery plan and steps towards implementation of the projects that would be contained within it (Option 2).</p> |
| <p>No. 11</p> | <p><u>LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN – ANNUAL MONITORING REPORT (AMR)</u></p> <p>Consideration was given to the report of the Corporate Director Regeneration and Community Services.</p> <p>RESOLVED that the report be accepted and the detail contained within the annual monitoring report and agreed the content before publication (Option 1).</p> |

PEOPLE AND EDUCATION PORTFOLIO

No. 12 ANEURIN LEISURE TRUST PERFORMANCE AND MONITORING

Consideration was given to the report of the Corporate Director Education.

The Leader advised that the Partnership Scrutiny Committee had considered the report on 22nd November 2022 and supported Option 2, namely Members are requested to consider the information detailed within the report and make appropriate recommendations prior to final approval. The Scrutiny Committee recommended that Cabinet consider the request that in future monitoring reports, as well as the 6 monthly monitoring information, an overview was provided of future financial planning.

This recommendation was supported by the Leader and Cabinet Members.

RESOLVED accordingly.

FURTHER RESOLVED, subject to the foregoing, that the report be accepted and Option 2 be endorsed, namely that the information detailed within the report together the Scrutiny Committee recommendation be approved.

COUNTY BOROUGH OF BLAENAU GWENT

REPORT TO: THE PRESIDING MEMBER AND MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

**SUBJECT: PEOPLE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
- 18TH OCTOBER, 2022**

REPORT OF: DEMOCRATIC & COMMITTEE SUPPORT OFFICER

PRESENT: Councillor T. Smith (Chair)

Councillors C. Bainton
D. Bevan
K. Chaplin
G.A. Davies
J. Holt
G. Thomas
D. Wilkshire

WITH: Corporate Director of Education
Interim Corporate Director of Social Services
Head of Children's Services
Head of Governance & Partnerships
Service Manager Education Transformation &
Business Change
Service Manager Children's Services
Safeguarding in Education Officer
Adults Service Manager for Development & Commissioning
Press & Publicity Officer
Communications & Policy Officer
Scrutiny & Democratic Officer

AND: Councillor J. Thomas (Vice-Chair of the Corporate &
Performance Scrutiny Committee – Item No. 6)

| <u>ITEM</u> | <u>SUBJECT</u> | <u>ACTION</u> |
|-------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------|
| No. 1 | <p><u>SIMULTANEOUS TRANSLATION</u></p> <p>It was noted that no requests had been received for the simultaneous translation service.</p> | |
| No. 2 | <p><u>APOLOGIES</u></p> <p>Apologies for absence were reported for Councillors Jen Morgan, Rhianna Lewis (Co-opted Member), the Head of School Improvement & Inclusion; and the Strategic Education Improvement Manager.</p> | |
| No. 3 | <p><u>DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND DISPENSATIONS</u></p> <p>No declarations of interest or dispensations were reported.</p> | |
| No. 4 | <p><u>PEOPLE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE</u></p> <p>The decisions of the Social Services Scrutiny Committee held on 6th September, 2022 were submitted.</p> <p>The Committee AGREED that the decisions be accepted as a true record of proceedings.</p> | |
| No. 5 | <p><u>ACTION SHEET – PEOPLE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – 6TH SEPTEMBER, 2022</u></p> <p>The Action sheet arising from the meeting held on 6th September, was submitted.</p> <p>The Committee AGREED that the action sheet be noted.</p> | |
| No. 6 | <p><u>CORPORATE SAFEGUARDING PERFORMANCE REPORT, INCLUDING INFORMATION FOR SOCIAL SERVICES 1ST APRIL TO 30TH JUNE 2022 AND EDUCATION SUMMER TERM-2022</u></p> <p>Consideration was given to the joint report of the Interim Corporate Director of Social Services and the Corporate</p> | |

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| | <p>Director of Education.</p> <p>The Committee AGREED to recommend that the report be accepted and considered the information provided and made recommendations on where improvements could be made to the current monitoring processes for approval by the Executive Committee. (Option 2)</p> | |
| No. 7 | <p><u>IMPROVING SCHOOLS PROGRAMME</u></p> <p>Consideration was given to report of the Corporate Director of Education.</p> <p>The Committee AGREED to recommend that the report be accepted as provided (Option 1).</p> | |
| No. 8 | <p><u>FINANCIAL LIABILITIES OF THE REGIONAL INTEGRATION FUND</u></p> <p>Consideration was given to report of the Interim Corporate Director of Social Services.</p> <p>The Committee AGREED to recommend that the report be accepted and recommend the Council <i>does not accept</i> the financial liabilities and implications of the new Regional Integration Fund and its tapered funding model. (Option 2)</p> | |
| No. 13 | <p><u>FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME – 29TH NOVEMBER, 2022</u></p> <p>Consideration was given to report of the Scrutiny & Democratic Officer.</p> <p>The Committee AGREED the Forward Programme for the meeting 29th November, 2022, as presented. (Option 2)</p> | |

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STANDARDS COMMITTEE

18TH OCTOBER, 2022

PRESENT: MR R. ALEXANDER (CHAIR)

Mr R. Lynch
Mr S. Williams
Councillor M. Cross
Councillor J. Thomas
Councillor L. Winnett

WITH: Councillor S. Thomas (Leader of the Council)
Councillor J. Wilkins (Leader of the Independent
Group)
Head of Legal and Corporate Compliance
(Monitoring Officer)
Data Protection & Governance Officer

1. **SIMULTANEOUS TRANSLATION**

No requests had been received for the simultaneous translation service.

2. **WELCOME AND APOLOGIES**

The Chair welcomed both Group Leaders to the meeting.

Apologies for absence were received for:-
Sarah Rosser and Roger Clark

3. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND DISPENSATIONS**

No declarations of interest or dispensations were reported.

4. **DISCUSSION WITH GROUP LEADERS**

The Leader of the Council and the Leader of the Independent Group outlined their approach to maintain and raise standards within the Council and their respective groups under the new legislation.

The Committee AGREED that Group Leaders receive a standard invite to attend future meetings of the Standards Committee.

5. STANDARDS COMMITTEE – 19TH JULY, 2022

The decisions of the Standards Committee held on the 19th July, 2022 were submitted.

Following a brief discussion,

The Standards Committee AGREED that the decisions be accepted as a true record of proceedings.

6. OUTCOME OF APPOINTMENTS PANEL 14TH OCTOBER, 2022

The Head of Legal & Corporate Compliance advised the Committee of the outcome of the Appointments Panel.

Following a brief discussion,

The Committee AGREED that the Independent member vacancy be readvertised before Christmas.

7. CONSIDERATION OF THE ANNUAL LETTER OF THE OMBUDSMAN (CONDUCT ELEMENT)

Consideration was given to the Annual Letter of the Ombudsman and following a brief discussion,

The Standards Committee AGREED that the contents of the Annual Letter of the Ombudsman be noted.

8. FUTURE WORK PLAN/TRAINING REQUIREMENTS

The following points were raised:-

Regular structured meetings
Refresher training (especially if new members appointed)
Review of Terms of Reference
Annual Report

9. AOB/DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Next meeting of the Standards Committee – January/February 2023
TBC.

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COUNTY BOROUGH OF BLAENAU GWENT

REPORT TO: THE PRESIDING MEMBER AND MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

**SUBJECT: CORPORATE AND PERFORMANCE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
19TH OCTOBER, 2022**

REPORT OF: DEMOCRATIC & COMMITTEE SUPPORT OFFICER

PRESENT: COUNCILLOR J. WILKINS (CHAIR)

Councillors J. Thomas (Vice-Chair)

- C. Bainton
- M. Day
- G. Humphreys
- E. Jones
- R. Leadbeater
- T. Smith
- C. Smith

WITH: Interim Chief Executive
Interim Corporate Director Social Services
Corporate Director Education
Chief Officer Resources
Chief Officer Commercial
Head of Governance and Partnerships
Service Manager – Performance and Democratic
Corporate Procurement Manager
Business Partner – Finance
Scrutiny and Democratic Officer
Press Officer

| ITEM | SUBJECT |
|--------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| No. 1 | <p><u>SIMULTANEOUS TRANSLATION</u></p> <p>It was noted that no requests had been received for the simultaneous translation service.</p> |
| No. 2 | <p><u>APOLOGIES</u></p> |

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| | <p>The following apologies for absence were received:-</p> <p>Corporate Director Regeneration and Community Services Head of Community Services Head of Legal and Corporate Compliance</p> |
| No. 3 | <p><u>DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS AND DISPENSATIONS</u></p> <p>No declarations of interest or dispensations were reported.</p> |
| No. 4 | <p><u>CORPORATE AND PERFORMANCE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE</u></p> <p>Consideration was given to the decisions of the meeting held on 20th September, 2022.</p> <p>The Committee AGREED that the decisions be accepted as a true record of proceedings.</p> |
| No. 5 | <p><u>CORPORATE AND PERFORMANCE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE</u></p> <p>Consideration was given to the decisions of the meeting held on 23rd September, 2022.</p> <p>The Committee AGREED that the decisions be accepted as a true record of proceedings.</p> |
| No. 6 | <p><u>ACTION SHEET</u></p> <p>Consideration was given to the Action Sheet and the Committee AGREED that the action sheet be noted.</p> |
| No. 7 | <p><u>TREASURY MANAGEMENT ANNUAL REVIEW REPORT 1ST APRIL, 2021 TO 31ST MARCH, 2022</u></p> <p>Consideration was given to the report of the Chief Officer Resources.</p> <p>The Committee AGREED that the report be accepted and Members scrutinised the treasury management activity undertaken during the 2021/22 financial year and provided comment prior to its submission to full Council. (Option 1).</p> |
| No. 8 | <p><u>BLAENAU GWENT COUNCIL SELF-ASSESSMENT 2021/22</u></p> |

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| | <p>Consideration was given to the report of the Interim Chief Executive.</p> <p>The Committee AGREED that the report be accepted and recommended approval to Council that the Council's Self-Assessment 2021/22 for publication on the Council's website and shared with key partners as outlined in paragraph 2.42 of the statutory guidance.(Option 1)</p> |
| <p>No. 9</p> | <p><u>COUNCIL'S CORPORATE PLAN 2022/27</u></p> <p>Consideration was given to the report of the Interim Chief Executive</p> <p>A Member proposed Option 2, there was no seconder for this proposal.</p> <p>A Member proposed Option 1, this proposal was seconded and</p> <p>The Committee thereupon AGREED that the report be accepted and supported the Content of the Draft Corporate Plan, prior to approval at Council for publication. (Option 1)</p> |

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COUNTY BOROUGH OF BLAENAU GWENT

REPORT TO: THE PRESIDING MEMBER AND MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

SUBJECT: PLACE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – 8TH NOVEMBER, 2022

REPORT OF: DEMOCRATIC & COMMITTEE SUPPORT OFFICER

PRESENT: COUNCILLOR M. CROSS (CHAIR)

Councillors P. Baldwin
 S. Behr
 J. Holt
 J. Hill
 J. Gardner
 J.P. Morgan
 D. Rowberry

WITH: Interim Chief Executive
 Corporate Director Regeneration and Community Services
 Interim Corporate Director Social Services
 Service Manager – Community Services
 Head of Public Protection
 Development Services Manager
 Project Officer
 Business and Regeneration Service Manager
 Scrutiny and Democratic Officer

| <u>ITEM</u> | <u>SUBJECT</u> |
|--------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| No. 1 | <p><u>SIMULTANEOUS TRANSLATION</u></p> <p>It was noted that no requests had been received for the simultaneous translation service.</p> |

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| <p>No. 2</p> | <p><u>APOLOGIES</u></p> <p>An apology for absence was received from Councillor R. Leadbeater (Vice-Chair).</p> |
| <p>No. 3</p> | <p><u>DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND DISPENSATIONS</u></p> <p>No declarations of interest or dispensations were reported.</p> |
| <p>No. 4</p> | <p><u>PLACE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE</u></p> <p>Consideration was given to the decisions of the meeting held on 20th September, 2022.</p> <p>The Committee AGREED that the decisions be accepted as a true record of proceedings.</p> |
| <p>No. 5</p> | <p><u>ACTION SHEET –</u></p> <p>Consideration was given to the actions arising from the meeting of the Regeneration Scrutiny Committee held on 9th February, 2022.</p> <p>The Committee AGREED that the action sheet be noted.</p> |
| <p>No. 6</p> | <p><u>TREDEGAR PLACEMAKING PLAN</u></p> <p>Consideration was given to the report of the Corporate Director Regeneration and Community Services.</p> <p>The Committee AGREED that the report be accepted and endorsed the Placemaking Plan, its vision and core ambitions for the future. This would enable the Council to finalise the draft of the delivery plan and steps towards implementation of the projects that would be contained within it (Option 2).</p> |

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| <p>No. 7</p> | <p><u>PUBLIC PROTECTION & ENVIRONMENTAL ENFORCEMENT SERVICES – REVISED ENFORCEMENT POLICY</u></p> <p>Consideration was given to the report of the Service Manager Public Protection.</p> <p>The Committee AGREED that the report be accepted and supported the adoption of the Public Protection and Environmental Enforcement Policy as outlined in Appendix 1, and make any recommendations, as necessary, for consideration by Council. The Policy would then be formally reviewed every five years for approval by Council, or earlier if deemed necessary (Option 1).</p> |
| <p>No. 8</p> | <p><u>FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME: 13TH DECEMBER, 2022</u></p> <p>Consideration was given to the Forward Work Programme.</p> <p>The Committee AGREED that the report be accepted agreed the Forward Programme for the meeting scheduled on the 13th December, 2022, as presented (Option 2).</p> |

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COUNTY BOROUGH OF BLAENAU GWENT

REPORT TO: THE PRESIDING MEMBER AND MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

**SUBJECT: CORPORATE AND PERFORMANCE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
21st NOVEMBER, 2022**

REPORT OF: DEMOCRATIC & COMMITTEE SUPPORT OFFICER

PRESENT: COUNCILLOR J. WILKINS (CHAIR)

Councillors J. Thomas (Vice-Chair)

- C. Bainton
- M. Day
- G. Humphreys
- E. Jones
- R. Leadbeater
- C. Smith
- T. Smith

WITH: Interim Corporate Director Social Services
Corporate Director Education
Chief Officer Resources
Chief Officer Commercial and Customer Services
Head of Organisational Development
Scrutiny and Democratic Officer
Press Officer

| ITEM | SUBJECT |
|--------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| No. 1 | <p><u>SIMULTANEOUS TRANSLATION</u></p> <p>It was noted that no requests had been received for the simultaneous translation service.</p> |
| No. 2 | <u>APOLOGIES</u> |

| | |
|--------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| | <p>The following apologies for absence were received:-</p> <p>Interim Chief Executive Head of Community Services Head of Legal and Corporate Compliance Service Manager – Performance and Democratic</p> |
| No. 3 | <p><u>DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS AND DISPENSATIONS</u></p> <p>No declarations of interest or dispensations were reported.</p> |
| No. 4 | <p><u>CORPORATE AND PERFORMANCE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE</u></p> <p>Consideration was given to the decisions of the meeting held on 19th October, 2022.</p> <p>The Committee AGREED that the decisions be accepted as a true record of proceedings.</p> |
| No. 5 | <p><u>CONSULTATION ON THE INDEPENDENT REMUNERATION PANEL FOR WALES DRAFT ANNUAL REPORT 2023</u></p> <p>Consideration was given to the report of the Service Manager Performance and Democratic.</p> <p>The Committee AGREED that the report be accepted and the determinations be supported as set out in the draft IRPW report in Appendix 1 for 2023/2024 (Option 1).</p> |
| No. 6 | <p><u>DRIVING AT WORK POLICY</u></p> <p>Consideration was given to the report of the Head of Organisational Development.</p> <p>The Committee AGREED that the report be accepted and the Health and Safety compliance was supported by recommending approval of the implementation of the Driving at Work Policy. (Option 1).</p> |

COUNTY BOROUGH OF BLAENAU GWENT

REPORT TO: THE PRESIDING MEMBER AND MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

SUBJECT: PLACE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE - 13TH DECEMBER, 2022

REPORT OF: DEMOCRATIC & COMMITTEE SUPPORT OFFICER

PRESENT: COUNCILLOR M. Cross (Chair)

Councillors R. Leadbeater (Vice-Chair)
 P. Baldwin
 S. Behr
 J. Hill
 J. Holt
 J.P. Morgan
 D. Rowberry

WITH: Corporate Director Regeneration and Community Services
 Head of Community Services
 Service Manager Neighbourhood Services
 Development Plans Team Manager
 Business Transformation Manager
 Team Leader – Environmental Protection
 Public Protection Services Manager
 Business and Regeneration Manager
 Team Leader Waste and Recycling
 Scrutiny and Democratic Officer

| <u>ITEM</u> | <u>SUBJECT</u> |
|--------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| No. 1 | <u>SIMULTANEOUS TRANSLATION</u> It was noted that no requests had been received for the simultaneous translation service. |
| No. 2 | <u>APOLOGIES</u> An apology for absence was received from Councillor J. Gardener. |

| | |
|---------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p>No. 3</p> | <p><u>DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND DISPENSATIONS</u></p> <p>No declarations of interest or dispensations were reported.</p> |
| <p>No. 4</p> | <p><u>PLACE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE</u></p> <p>Consideration was given to the decisions of the meeting held on 8th November, 2022.</p> <p>The Committee AGREED that the decisions be accepted as a true record of proceedings.</p> |
| <p>No. 5</p> | <p><u>ACTION SHEET</u></p> <p>Consideration was given to the action sheet.</p> <p>The Committee AGREED that the report be accepted and the action sheet be noted.</p> |
| <p>No. 6</p> | <p><u>WASTE MANAGEMENT AND RECYCLING STRATEGY REVIEW</u></p> <p>Consideration was given to the report of the Service Manager – Neighbourhood Services.</p> <p>The Committee AGREED that the report be accepted and the Places Scrutiny Committee considered the progress made to date and the reviewed Waste Management and Recycling Strategy and provides specific comments, suggestions before recommending it to Cabinet for approval (Option 2).</p> |
| <p>No. 7</p> | <p><u>REVISED LDP DELIVERY AGREEMENT TIMETABLE</u></p> <p>Consideration was given to the report of the Development Plans Team Manager.</p> <p>A Member noted that Tai Calon had been omitted as a consultee in the main document and the Committee AGREED that this should be included.</p> <p>The Committee AGREED, subject to the foregoing that the report be accepted and the Revised Delivery Agreement and timetable be supported, subject to aforementioned amendment (Option 2).</p> |

No. 8

FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME: 31ST JANUARY 2023

Consideration was given to the report of the Scrutiny and Democratic Officer.

The Committee AGREED that the report be accepted and the Forward Programme for the meeting scheduled to be held on 31st January 2023 be agreed, as presented (Option 2).

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COUNTY BOROUGH OF BLAENAU GWENT

REPORT TO: **THE PRESIDING MEMBER AND MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL**

SUBJECT: **CORPORATE AND PERFORMANCE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – 15TH DECEMBER, 2022**

REPORT OF: **DEMOCRATIC & COMMITTEE SUPPORT OFFICER**

PRESENT: COUNCILLOR J. WILKINS (CHAIR)

Councillors J. Thomas (Vice-Chair)

- C. Bainton
- M. Day
- G. Humprheys
- E. Jones
- R. Leadbeater
- C. Smith
- T. Smith

WITH: Interim Chief Executive
 Chief Officer Resources
 Corporate Director Education
 Interim Corporate Director Social Services
 Corporate Director Regeneration and Community Services
 Head of Organisational Development
 Head of Governance and Partnerships
 Head of Community Services
 Professional Lead for Engagement, Equalities and Welsh Language
 Service Manager Policy and Partnerships
 Scrutiny and Democratic Officer

| ITEM | SUBJECT |
|--------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| No. 1 | <p><u>SIMULTANEOUS TRANSLATION</u></p> <p>It was noted that no requests had been received for the simultaneous translation service.</p> |
| No. 2 | <p><u>APOLOGIES</u></p> |

| | |
|--------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| | No apologies for absence were received. |
| No. 3 | <u>DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS AND DISPENSATIONS</u> No declarations of interest or dispensations were reported. |
| No. 4 | <u>CORPORATE AND PERFORMANCE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE</u> Consideration was given to the decisions of the meeting held on 19 th October, 2022. The Committee AGREED that the decisions be accepted as a true record of proceedings. |
| No. 5 | <u>CORPORATE AND PERFORMANCE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE</u> Consideration was given to the decisions of the meeting held on 21 st November, 2022. The Committee AGREED that the decisions be accepted as a true record of proceedings. |
| No. 6 | <u>ACTION SHEET</u> Consideration was given to the Action Sheet. The Committee AGREED that the report be accepted and the information contained therein be noted. |
| No. 7 | <u>FORECAST OUTTURN TO 31ST MARCH 2023 (AS AT 30TH SEPTEMBER 2022)</u> Consideration was given to the report of the Chief Officer Resources. The Committee AGREED that the report be accepted and Members provided the appropriate challenge to the financial outcomes in the report and noted the forecast application of reserves (Option 1). |
| No. 8 | <u>CAPITAL BUDGET MONITORING,</u> |

| | |
|---------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| | <p><u>FORECAST FOR 2022/2023</u> <u>FINANCIAL YEAR (AS AT 30 SEPTEMBER 2022)</u></p> <p>Consideration was given to the report of the Chief Officer Resources.</p> <p>The Committee AGREED that the report be accepted and the appropriate challenge was provided to the financial outcomes in the report. The Scrutiny Committee continued to support appropriate financial control procedures agreed by Council and noted the budgetary control and monitoring procedures in place within the Capital Team, to safeguard Authority funding (Option 1).</p> |
| No. 9 | <p><u>WORKFORCE STRATEGY 2021-2026</u></p> <p>Consideration was given to the report of the Head of Organisational Development.</p> <p>The Committee AGREED that the report be accepted and the progress against the 2021/22 delivery plan was noted and endorsed the 2022/23 delivery plan (Option 1).</p> |
| No. 10 | <p><u>REVIEW OF THE FINANCE AND PERFORMANCE REPORT</u></p> <p>Consideration was given to the report of the Service Manager Performance and Democratic.</p> <p>A Member proposed that future Finance and Performance Reports be presented on a quarterly basis for a trial period. This proposal was seconded and AGREED by the Committee.</p> <p>The Committee AGREED, subject to the foregoing that the report be accepted and provided suggestions to the content of the Finance and Performance Report in order to make it more efficient and effective as a management tool, noting the inclusion of information as identified at 2.7 to 2.10, for approval at Cabinet (Option 1).</p> |
| No. 11 | <p><u>WELSH LANGUAGE PROMOTION STRATEGY 2022/27</u></p> |

| | |
|---------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| | <p>Consideration was given to the report of the Professional Lead for Engagement, Equality & Welsh Language.</p> <p>The Committee AGREED that the report be accepted and recommend to Cabinet to approve the Welsh Language Promotion Strategy 2022-27 prior to its publication (Option 1).</p> |
| No. 12 | <p><u>FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME: 2ND FEBRUARY 2023</u></p> <p>Consideration was given to the report of the Scrutiny and Democratic Officer.</p> <p>The Committee AGREED that the report be accepted and the Scrutiny Committee agreed the Forward Programme for the meeting 2nd February 2023, as presented (Option 2).</p> |

Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council

Action Sheet

Ordinary Meeting of the Council

| Meeting Date | Action to be Taken | By Whom | Action Taken |
|---------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 24.11.22 | <p>Driving at Work Policy Advice was in the process of being sought from colleagues in relation to the checking and monitoring of Members documentation.</p> <p>A corporate communication would be sent to all staff and managers would be requested to cascade the details of the policy to the workforce. It was noted that safety measures within vehicles would be included as part of this information.</p> | <p>Service Manager Performance & Democratic</p> <p>Head of Organisational Development</p> | <p>Following discussion at Council advice was sought with regards to the requirements to check Members car insurance documentation in relation to driving at work. Following discussion with the Monitoring Officer it was agreed for an email to be sent to all members requesting the following information:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Do you drive a car as part of your Elected Member role? Yes/No- Do you have valid car insurance which includes the use of your car for Elected Member duties? Yes/No <p>The email was sent to Members on 1st December 2022 and the Democratic Team is collating the information. A follow up email will be sent on an annual basis.</p> <p>A corporate communication has been sent out to all staff and managers.</p> |

| Meeting Date | Action to be Taken | By Whom | Action Taken |
|--------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 24.11.22 | <p>Public Protection & Environmental Enforcement Services – Revised Enforcement Policy</p> <p>Publication of prosecutions - investigations would take place into this information being communicated through the Council's social media platforms.</p> | Chief Officer Commercial & Customer | The Communications Team already work with Public Protection to ensure that all successful prosecutions are publicised by way of press release, website and social media. We are only permitted to name individuals where official court proceedings have taken place, however, we do publicise a round-up of the number of FPN's when we can, to demonstrate the action that is being taken. |

Agenda Item 22

Executive Committee and Council only

Date signed off by the Monitoring Officer: 09.01.2023

Date signed off by the Section 151 Officer: 10.01.2023

Committee: **Council**

Date of Meeting: **26th January, 2023**

Report Subject: **Revised LDP Delivery Agreement Timetable**

Portfolio Holder: **Councillor John C Morgan – Cabinet Member Place & Regeneration**

Report Submitted by: **John Raine – Development Plans Team Manager**

| Reporting Pathway | | | | | | | | |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------|---------|------------|----------------------|
| Directorate Management Team | Corporate Leadership Team | Portfolio Holder / Chair | Governance & Audit Committee | Democratic Services Committee | Scrutiny Committee | Cabinet | Council | Other (please state) |
| 08/11/2022 | 10/11/2022 | | | | 13/12/2022 | | 26/01/2023 | |

1. Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to seek Council approval for a revised Delivery Agreement (DA) timetable for preparing the Replacement Local Development Plan (RLDP).

2. Scope and Background

- 2.1 The Blaenau Gwent Local Development Plan (LDP) (2006-2021) was adopted in November 2012. To ensure the Plan is up to date, the Council was required by Welsh Government regulations to undertake a full review of the LDP at the end of 2016. Accordingly, a review of our LDP was undertaken which culminated in the LDP Review Report. Council considered the report on the 27th September 2017, agreeing to review the LDP through the full revision process.
- 2.2 As a result of Welsh Government requesting all councils to consider joint working and preparation of a Strategic Development Plan the Delivery Agreement for the RLDP was not approved by Council until the 6th September 2018. The Delivery Agreement was then submitted to Welsh Government who later approved it on the 19th September 2018.
- 2.3 Progress on the Plan commenced in line with the Delivery Agreement timetable. Pre-participation events were held with Members and stakeholders to agree the issues, vision and strategy for the Plan culminating in the preparation of the Preferred Strategy. The Preferred Strategy was subsequently agreed by Scrutiny on the 4th of November 2019 and Council on the 12th of December 2019. The Pre-Deposit (Preferred Strategy) Public Consultation commenced on the 16th January 2020 and ran for 6 weeks to the 27th of February 2020. A report on the comments received and changes to be made will be presented to Scrutiny and Council as part of the next stage of the plan making process which includes approval of the Draft Deposit Plan for public consultation purposes.

- 2.4 The Development Plans team was preparing to commence the Second Call for Candidate Sites and further site information when the Covid-19 pandemic hit in March 2020. On advice from Welsh Government, public consultations were put on hold to take account of the legal implications of undertaking public engagement during times of Covid-19 restrictions. Welsh Government guidance also required the Council to review the impact of the pandemic on the evidence gathering and plan preparation given the social and economic effects. This resulted in preparation of a revised DA timetable that was reported and approved by full Council on 24th September 2020.
- 2.5 Following this, work on the Plan proceeded in terms of developing the evidence base and considering the representations received during the Pre-Deposit (Preferred Strategy) public consultation and subsequent Second Call for Candidate Sites. Since approval of the revised Delivery Agreement there have been a number unforeseen delays related to sickness, retirement and recruitment that mean an updated Delivery Agreement timetable is now required. This review takes account of those delays and the outstanding evidence base work required to prepare the Deposit Plan. As part of the review officers have met with Welsh Government officials to seek their agreement on the approach and revised timescales.
- 2.6 This report is therefore seeking approval of the revised Delivery Agreement (January 2023) shown at Appendix 1. The revised timetable is summarised below.

Revised Delivery Agreement Timetable

- 2.7 The Revised DA timetable sets out that the Deposit Plan consultation will commence in Summer 2023 with an 8-week statutory public consultation provisionally taking place in July-August-September. The Development Plans team will analyse the consultation responses and prepare the Consultation Report by April 2024. Following approval by full Council, the Replacement LDP would then be submitted to Welsh Government for the independent ‘Examination in Public’ to commence. The submission of the Plan for Examination is scheduled for May/June 2024. Formal adoption of the Plan is then scheduled for Early 2025, following receipt of the Inspector’s report.
- 2.8 The Key Milestones for the Replacement LDP, including those achieved to date, are set out in the below:

| Stage | Timescale | |
|---------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------|
| Definitive | From | To |
| <i>Replacement LDP</i> | <i>May 2018</i> | <i>October 2018</i> |
| <i>Delivery Agreement</i> | <i>Council consideration October Submission to WG October</i> | |
| <i>Pre-Deposit</i> | <i>October 2018</i> | <i>October 2019</i> |
| <i>Participation</i> | <i>Update evidence base Hold participation events Prepare Reports Prepare Preferred Strategy</i> | |

| | | |
|--------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------|
| | <i>Political reporting on Preferred Strategy</i> | |
| <i>Pre-Deposit Public Consultation</i> | <i>November 2019</i> | <i>May 2021</i> |
| | <i>Consultation on Preferred Strategy – 6-week consultation Second Call for Candidate Sites and further site assessment information</i> | |
| <i>Pre-Deposit Public Consultation following Reviewed DA</i> | <i>May 2021</i> | <i>June 2023</i> |
| | <i>Prepare Report of Consultation Review and finalise evidence base Prepare Deposit Plan Political reporting of Draft Deposit Plan</i> | |
| <i>Statutory Deposit of Proposals</i> | <i>July 2023</i> | <i>April 2024</i> |
| | <i>Consultation on Deposit Plan – 8 weeks Prepare responses to comments (including preparation of further evidence where necessary) Political reporting of responses</i> | |
| Indicative | | |
| Submission of LDP for Examination | May/June 2024 | |
| Examination in Public | Summer 2024 | |
| Publication of Inspectors Report | Winter 2024 | |
| Adoption of Replacement LDP | Early 2025 | |

3. Options for Recommendation

3.1 **Option 1:** Approve the Revised Delivery Agreement and timetable for the preparation of the Replacement LDP.

Option 2: Approve the Revised Delivery Agreement and timetable subject to amendments.

3.2 The Preferred option is Option 1 – for Members to approve the Revised Delivery Agreement. This is to ensure that the statutory requirement to have an up-to-date Local Development Plan is met.

3.3 Option 2 would enable members to suggest amendments to the Delivery Agreement.

3.4 DMT and CLT approved the report on 8th November 2022 and 10th November 2022 respectively, both agreeing Option 1. The Place Scrutiny Committee approved the report on 13th December 2022 subject to including Tai Calon Community Housing which was omitted from the list of Consultees contained in the Delivery Agreement shown at Appendix 1 (page 27).

4. **Evidence how does this topic supports the achievement of the Corporate Plan / Statutory Responsibilities / BG Well-being Plan**

4.1 The Replacement LDP will support delivery of the Council's four priorities set out in the Corporate Plan (2022-27) as these are intrinsically linked to land use planning. The RLDP will update local planning policies and will help deliver the Council's regeneration and growth objectives. The Plan will ensure that there is sufficient provision made for future housing and employment needs as well as including policies for environmental protection and climate change mitigation. The Community Involvement Scheme of the Delivery Agreement also addresses the Council's Vision and Core Values of respect, inclusive, collaborative, accountable and supportive.

4.3 The RLDP will also deliver the land use requirements of the Blaenau Gwent Well-being Plan. The RLDP will influence how communities develop over the plan period to 2033 and will address the following Well-being objectives:

- The best start in life for everyone
- Safe and friendly communities
- To look after and protect the environment
- To forge new pathways to prosperity
- To encourage and enable people to make healthy lifestyle choices in the places that they live, learn, work and play.

4.4 There is a statutory responsibility in primary legislation (Planning Act 2015) for the local planning authorities to prepare a development plan within the framework set by national policy in Planning Policy Wales.

5. **Implications Against Each Option**

5.1 ***Impact on Budget (short and long term impact)***

5.2 *Option 1: Support the Revised Delivery Agreement and timetable for the preparation of the Replacement LDP.*

There are no additional costs as a result of this report. The cost of producing the Replacement LDP will be met through existing annual budgets and reserves identified for the Development Plans team. The remaining reserve for the Replacement LDP (£143,000) will be utilised by the anticipated adoption date in early 2025.

5.3 *Option 2: Support the Revised Delivery Agreement and timetable subject to amendments.*

Assuming any proposed changes would not have a significant financial cost the impact on budget would remain the same as above.

5.4 ***Risk including Mitigating Actions***

In relation to Option 1, the Delivery Agreement contains a Risk Assessment that identifies potential risks and mitigating actions in relation to the

preparation of the Replacement Local Development Plan (at Appendix 3 of the document). There is a risk of delay if Welsh Government does not agree the extension identified in the revised Delivery Agreement. However, we have minimised the delay as far as is possible given the limited capacity of the team and officers have sought the views of Welsh Government in preparing the revised timetable. In relation to Option 2, it is unlikely that revisions will significantly change the risks set out in the Delivery Agreement.

5.5 ***Legal***

There is a statutory requirement to prepare a Local Development Plan, regulations to follow, soundness tests to meet and guidance on how a Plan should be prepared. These requirements are reflected in the content of the RLDP Delivery Agreement.

5.6 ***Human Resources***

The Replacement LDP will be prepared by the Development Plans team which consists of the Development Plans Team Manager, Development Plans Team Leader and Planning Policy Assistant. Support from other teams and service areas of the Council will be necessary to prepare the Replacement LDP. The Council recognises that additional professional specialist services will also be required to establish a robust evidence base to inform the Plan.

6. ***Supporting Evidence***

6.1 ***Performance Information and Data***

Welsh Government measures the success of planning policy teams using the following criteria:

- Is there an adopted development plan in place that is within the plan period?;
- Deviation from the dates specified in the original Delivery Agreement in months;
- Annual Monitoring Reports produced annually;
- Time between triggering Regulation 41 and submission of a Delivery Agreement to review the plan, in months;
- Local Development Plan (LDP) revision deviation from dates specified in the original Delivery Agreement, in months;
- Current housing land supply (5-year requirement).

While annual performance reports have not been published regularly by Welsh Government since 2020, performance against the criteria is mixed. On the positive side there remains an LDP in place, although the adopted LDP is now beyond the original plan period that ran until 2021. We also regularly submit our LDP Annual Monitoring Reports. On the other hand, it took longer than a year to submit our original Delivery Agreement after triggering the review of the adopted LDP. This was delayed due to requests

from Welsh Government to consider proposals for joint plan preparation and joint working. While early preparation on the Pre-Deposit (Preferred Strategy) remained within the timetable and slippage allowance, delays resulting from the Covid-19 pandemic, and more recently retirement, recruitment and sickness, have required revised timetables. In terms of housing delivery, this is now measured against the adopted LDP housing requirement rather than housing land supply in years. This compares housing completions against the Average Annual Requirement of the adopted LDP (233 dwellings per annum). The adopted LDP consistently under delivered against this target during the Plan period. The Replacement LDP seeks to address this through reviewed site allocations, updated evidence and growth objectives.

6.2 ***Expected Outcome for the Public***

The Delivery Agreement sets how, when and where the public can expect to be involved in the preparation of the replacement LDP. The Plan will provide clear guidance on what developments will happen in the Borough over the 15-year plan period. The Plan is about ensuring people: live in decent homes; in clean safe neighbourhoods; with access to parks, countryside and other public spaces. It is also about securing enough sites for industry, offices, shops, community facilities, sports and leisure, to make sure there are enough job opportunities to help create a better Blaenau Gwent. Adoption of the Replacement LDP will enable regeneration objectives and future growth needs to be address.

6.3 ***Involvement (consultation, engagement, participation)***

Involvement is a key element of the Delivery Agreement. Part 3 of the document sets out the Community Involvement Scheme. This includes the Council's approach, who we will involve, how we will involve people, and what we expect from them. It also sets out the purpose, when, who, how and the reporting mechanism for each stage of plan preparation.

6.4 ***Thinking for the Long term (forward planning)***

The Delivery Agreement is only concerned with the period of Plan preparation. However, the Local Development Plan is all about forward planning and long term thinking for the development of Blaenau Gwent. The Plan covers the 15-year plan period 2018-2033.

6.5 ***Preventative focus***

The LDP Delivery Agreement is a project management tool that seeks to prevent delays in preparing the Plan and represents an agreement between the Council and Welsh Government. Preparation of the Replacement Local Development Plan seeks to prevent inappropriate development. This can vary from poor design to stopping development in flood risk areas or areas required for other uses. The Plan is also subject to a Sustainability Appraisal

which will assess the impact of the Plan on the environment, society and economy and will seek to minimise negative impacts.

6.6 ***Collaboration / partnership working***

Much of the work on the evidence base has been undertaken on a regional basis with the South East Wales Strategic Planning Group and Torfaen and Monmouthshire who were progressing plans along the same timeline as us (where savings can be made). This is to secure efficiencies and a consistency of approach as far as possible. Opportunities for joint evidence gathering will continue to be maximised. Adjoining local authorities are, however, currently reviewing their Replacement LDP Delivery Agreements and they are now likely to be preparing their plans along different timescales.

6.7 ***Integration (across service areas)***

The Local Development Plan will need to include the land use requirements of all service areas across the Council and other public service area requirements. It will require input from colleagues in housing, economic development, highways, ecology, education, environmental health, leisure and estates.

6.8 ***Decarbonisation and Reducing Carbon Emissions***

The Replacement LDP Preferred Strategy sets out a number of objectives for the Plan. This includes LDP Objective 4 on Climate Change, which is:

“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 This can be achieved by:

- *Maximising the use of previously developed land;*
- *Promoting the re-use and restoration of derelict land and buildings;*
- *Focussing development away from areas vulnerable to flooding;*
- *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”.*

The Replacement LDP will also be informed by an updated Renewable Energy Assessment and will include local planning policies to promote low and zero carbon energy e.g. through local areas of search.

6.9 ***Integrated Impact Assessment***

Integrated Impact Assessment Screening found that there were no impacts of 'high' significance that required further assessment. An initial integrated sustainability appraisal of the Preferred Strategy has been undertaken and an integrated sustainability appraisal will be undertaken for the deposit plan. This incorporates an equalities impact assessment.

7. **Monitoring Arrangements**

- 7.1 The Preparation of the Plan will be monitored through the Annual Performance Report on Planning and through the Business Planning reporting process. Once the Plan is adopted it will be monitored through the LDP Annual Monitoring Report (AMR).

Background Documents / Electronic Links

Appendix 1: Revised Delivery Agreement (January 2023)

Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council
Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol Blaenau Gwent

Revised Delivery Agreement Cytundeb Cyflenwi Diwygiedig

Page 75

**Replacement Local
Development Plan**
Cynllun Datblygu Lleol
Amnewid

January / Ionawr 2023

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PART 1: INTRODUCTION

Revised Delivery Agreement

- 1.1 The Blaenau Gwent Replacement Local Development Plan (RLDP) Delivery Agreement was approved by Welsh Government on the 19th September 2018. Work had subsequently commenced which included pre-deposit participation (identification of Issues, Vision and Objectives and Growth and Spatial options, Call for Candidate Sites, development of the evidence base) and pre-deposit consultation (consultation of the Preferred Strategy).
- 1.2 In September 2020, Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council agreed an amended timetable and Community Involvement Scheme to reflect delays resulting from the Covid-19 pandemic and national lockdown. This included necessary changes to the Community Involvement Scheme to ensure the effectiveness of public consultation and safety of staff and the general public.
- 1.3 A Second Call for Candidate Sites was undertaken from 30th March 2021 to 18th May 2021. While site assessments and evidence base work was progressed there were a number of unavoidable delays in publishing the Deposit Plan as a result of sickness, retirement and recruitment. A need for further evidence base work has also been identified, in particular, to provide a new Local Housing Market Assessment and to consider the implications of the latest population and household projections. This has that meant that a revised Delivery Agreement timetable is necessary.
- 1.4 Under the updated timetable the 8-week Deposit Plan public consultation will take place in Summer 2023 (July-August-September) with Submission to Welsh Government

taking place in May/June 2024. The independent Examination in Public is scheduled for Summer 2024 with publication of the Inspector's report anticipated for Winter 2024. Plan Adoption is anticipated to be in Early 2025. The amended timetable is set out in Part 2 and Appendix 2.

Local Development Plan Review

1.3 A full review of the Blaenau Gwent Local Development Plan 2006-2021 (adopted November 2012) has been undertaken, the findings of which are set out in the [LDP Review Report](#). The Review Report provides an overview of the issues that have been considered as part of the full review process and subsequently identifies changes that are likely to be needed to the LDP. It concludes by recommending that the LDP is replaced following the full revision process.

1.4 The adopted Blaenau Gwent Local Development Plan (November 2012) remains extant and will continue to provide the policy framework for the determination of planning applications while the RLDP is being prepared. This will remain in force until the adoption of a RLDP, in line with the provisions of the Planning (Wales) Act 2015.

Purpose of a Delivery Agreement

1.5 This document sets out how people will be given the opportunity to influence future development in Blaenau Gwent. It will explain how and when people will be involved and consulted in developing new planning policy for the area.

1.6 Planning is about ensuring people: live in decent homes; in clean and safe neighbourhoods; with access to parks, countryside and other public spaces. Planning is also about securing enough sites for industry, offices, shops, community facilities, sports and leisure, to make sure there are enough job opportunities and to help create a better Blaenau Gwent.

1.7 This Delivery Agreement is split into two parts:

The **Timetable** for producing the RLDP: This provides an indication of when different stages of plan preparation will take place. Definitive dates are provided up to the deposit stage and indicative dates for later stages. This section also covers how we intend to monitor the delivery agreement and the replacement plan.

The **Community Involvement Scheme** covers how we intend to involve the community in the preparation of the Local Development Plan. It outlines the Authority's principles of community engagement; its approach in relation to who, how and when we intend to engage with the community and stakeholders, how we will respond to representations and how these representations will inform later stages of plan preparation.

1.8 The Council is required to prepare a Draft Revised Delivery Agreement. In developing the Draft Revised Delivery Agreement the Council needs to:

- Revise and update the existing Delivery Agreement;
- Seek the views of selected key stakeholders on the draft document ;
- Secure full Council approval for the draft revised Delivery Agreement;
- Submit to the Welsh Government for agreement;

- Revise, where required, following response from Welsh Government;
- Publish on the Council website; and
- Review the Delivery Agreement on a regular basis.

Preparation of the RLDP

1.9 In preparing the RLDP the Council aim to achieve the following objectives:

- undertake an integrated sustainability appraisal into the plan making process in order to facilitate sustainable development where the seven well-being goals and 5 ways of working have been integral in the process;
- secure early and effective community involvement to enable the consideration of wide ranging views and the building of a broad consensus;
- deliver a fast and responsive approach to plan-making;
- produce a plan that is strategic, concise and distinctive in setting out how the County Borough will develop and change; and
- deliver sustainable development based on a clear understanding of infrastructure requirements, availability of resources, viability and market factors.

1.10 The preparation of the RLDP will have regard to relevant legislation policies and other initiatives at the European; national, regional and local level. The newly adopted Blaenau Gwent Local Well-being Plan (LWBP) will be of particular importance at the local level. The LWBP relates to the economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being of Blaenau Gwent and will have clear links with the LDP where it relates to land use planning.

The Sustainability Appraisal (SA) & Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA)

1.11 A Sustainability Appraisal (SA) incorporating Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) is a statutory requirement of LDP preparation, in order to assess the environmental, social and economic implications of the plan's strategy and policies. The SA/SEA process is utilised to ensure that policies in the LDP reflect sustainable development principles and take account of the significant effects of the plan on the environment. SA, incorporating SEA, was an iterative process throughout the preparation of the adopted LDP and is reflected in the Plan's proposals and policies.

1.12 The Council will undertake an integrated Sustainability Appraisal (ISA) of the RLDP where the seven well-being goals and 5 ways of working have been integral in the process. In doing so, the Council will work closely with the environmental consultation bodies – NRW and Cadw – as required under the SEA regulations.

1.13 There will be the opportunity for involvement at the various stages of the development of the ISA and this is shown in the tables on pages 17-23.

1.14 The ISA, incorporating the SEA will be undertaken as follows:

- A Sustainability Scoping Report – will identify the existing sustainability issues in Blaenau Gwent and provide baseline information along with a review of plans, policies, programmes and strategies. The existing SA indicators and objectives will be revised and updated as necessary. A revised Sustainability Framework will be produced.

- An Initial Integrated Sustainability Appraisal Report (ISAR) – will predict and evaluate the effects of the LDP options, spatial strategy and strategic policies on the social environmental and economic objectives as set out in the Scoping Report. The ISAR will be published at the same time as the Preferred Strategy and updated when the Replacement Deposit LDP is prepared.
- A Final Integrated Sustainability Appraisal Report (ISAR) – will bring together all elements of the SA and take into account the binding recommendations of the Planning Inspector. The Final SAR will be published following receipt of the Inspectors Report.
- A Sustainability Appraisal Adoption Statement – will be published to explain how the sustainability considerations and the Sustainability Assessment have been taken into consideration in the production of the RLDP.

Habitats Regulations Assessment

1.15 In accordance with the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC, the impacts of any land use Plan on the conservation objectives of a European Site are to be assessed by means of an Appropriate Assessment. Though there are no European Sites within the borough there are a number in the wider area that development may impact upon. It is intended that the process will run concurrently with the plan making process and form an iterative part of plan preparation.

1.16 There are two stages of Habitat Regulation Assessment:

- Screening
- Habitat Regulations Assessment

Evidence

1.17 As outlined in the Updated Background Papers there is a need to update and undertake various evidence base assessments throughout the preparation of the RLDP. At this stage it is envisaged that this will include:

- Housing Market Assessment
- Population and Household Projections
- Affordable Housing Viability Assessment
- Sustainable Settlement Hierarchy
- Settlement Boundary Review
- Retail Needs Assessment
- Employment Land Review
- Open Space Assessment
- Green Infrastructure Assessment
- Renewable Energy Assessment

This is not a definitive list and additional evidence base requirements may emerge as the plan revision progresses.

Well-being of Future Generations Act

1.18 The Well-being of Future Generation (Wales) Act (WBFG) gained Royal Assent in April 2015. The Act aims to make a difference to the lives of people in Wales in relation to the seven well-being goals and also sets out five ways of working. The seven well-being goals relate to: 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; and a globally responsible Wales. The five ways of working are long-term, integration, involvement, collaboration and prevention. As a requirement of the Act a Local Well-being Plan (LWBP) must be

produced. The Blaenau Gwent LWBP has been published and has clear links to the LDP. Both the WBFG Act and the LWBP will be considered fully throughout the preparation of the RLDP. The Well-being Assessment will form part of the evidence base of the RLDP.

Tests of Soundness

1.19 Soundness is an integral part of the Development Plan system and this will be important in demonstrating whether the Local Development Plan shows good judgement and whether it is appropriate. The Council must submit the RLDP to the Welsh Government for examination. An independent Inspector will be appointed by Welsh Government to undertake an examination to determine whether the Plan is fundamentally sound.

1.20 The Inspector will assess whether the preparation of the plan has been undertaken in accordance with legal and regulatory procedural requirements, and complies with the Community Involvement Scheme. The Inspector must also decide whether the Plan meets the three tests of soundness.

Test 1 – Does the plan fit? (i.e. is it clear that the LDP is consistent with other plans);

Test 2 – Is the plan appropriate? (i.e. is the plan appropriate for the area in light of evidence?); and

Test 3 – Will the plan deliver? (i.e. is it likely to be effective?).

1.21 The conclusions reached by the Inspector will be binding and, unless the Welsh Government intervenes, the Council must accept the changes required by the Inspector and adopt the RLDP.

Candidate Sites

1.22 The Development Plan system requires the authority to give early consideration to engagement with developers, landowners and the public on potential sites to be included within the Local Development Plan. The aim of this is to avoid substantial numbers of additional sites coming forward at the examination stage and also to ensure that the preferred strategy is deliverable.

1.23 The Authority intends to write to all those identified on the consultation list (See Appendix 1) to give them the opportunity to identify and promote any areas of land they consider suitable for housing, employment, retail, leisure and recreation, waste, transport, and community facilities.

2.0 PART 2: TIMETABLE

Timetable for Delivery

2.1 The Council has established a timetable summarising the key stage in plan preparation (Table 1), which while challenging, provides a realistic timeframe for preparation of the RLDP having regard to the resources available. In preparing the original timetable, regard was given to the Welsh Government's expectation that a replacement plan must be prepared within 3 years and 6 months. The revised timetable whilst taking into account the need for expediency also has to consider the delay caused by the Covid-19 lockdown and the implications of this for future consultation events.

2.2 Table 1 is split into definitive and indicative stages:

Definitive Stages - This part of the timetable is under the direct control of the Council and therefore target dates, whilst challenging are considered realistic. This part of the timetable is up to the statutory deposit stage

Indicative Stages - Beyond the statutory deposit stage, stages are increasingly dependent on extraneous factors (e.g. number of representations received, the number of hearing sessions required, time taken to receive the Inspector's Report) over which the Council has less control.

2.3 A detailed project plan outlining the timescale for each of the stages of plan preparation is included in Appendix 2.

Table 1: Summary of Timetable for the LDP Process

| Stage | Timescale | |
|-------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------|
| | From | To |
| Delivery Agreement | May 2018 | October 2018 |
| | Council Approval October 2018 Submission to WG October 2018 | |
| Revised Delivery Agreement | July 2020 | October 2020 |
| | Council Approval October 2018 Submission to WG September 2020 | |
| Pre-Deposit Participation | October 2018 | October 2019 |
| | Update evidence base Hold participation events Prepare Initial SA and HRA Reports Prepare Preferred Strategy Political Reporting on Preferred Strategy | |
| Pre-Deposit Public Consultation | November 2019 | May 2021 |
| | Consultation on Preferred Strategy – 6 weeks Second Call for Candidate Sites and further site assessment information | |
| Pre-Deposit Public Consultation following Reviewed DA | May 2021 | June 2023 |
| | Prepare Report of Consultation Review and finalise evidence base Prepare Deposit Plan Political reporting of Draft Deposit Plan | |
| Statutory Deposit of Proposals | July 2023 | April 2024 |
| | Consultation on Deposit Plan – 8 weeks Prepare responses to comments Political reporting of responses | |
| Indicative | | |
| Submission of LDP for Examination | May/June 2024 | |
| Examination in Public | Summer 2024 | |
| Publication of Inspectors Report | Winter 2024 | |

| | |
|-----------------------------|------------|
| Adoption of Replacement LDP | Early 2025 |
|-----------------------------|------------|

Management of the LDP Process

2.4 The Development Services Manager will be responsible for the overall delivery of the LDP and the Team Manager Development Plans will be responsible for the day-to-day management of the process. The Development Plans Team will lead in the preparation and delivery of the RLDP with Member engagement and political reporting at appropriate stages.

2.5 The existing staff resources are set out in Table 2 below, approximately 75% of officer time will be dedicated to the LDP to account for day to day involvement in liaison with development management, monitoring of the existing LDP and the need for regional working. Additional time will be dedicated by the Development Services Manager to the efficient delivery of the RLDP. It will also be necessary to call upon staff resources from other internal departments to assist in undertaking various evidence base updates/ assessments. This is likely to include officer support from Development Management, Housing, Highways, Economic Development, Green Infrastructure, Education, Estates and Democratic Services.

Table 2: Development Plans Team Staff Resources

| Officer Job Title | Number of Posts |
|---------------------------------|---------------------|
| Development Plans Team Manager | 1 |
| Team Leader – Development Plans | 0.8 (reduced hours) |
| Planning Policy Assistant | 1 |

2.6 The Delivery Agreement has been prepared on the basis of a RLDP. However it is considered that collaboration with neighbouring authorities will be fundamental to the preparation of the RLDP, particularly with regard to a joint evidence base.

2.7 The Council recognises that additional professional specialist services will also be required to progress and establish a robust evidence base to inform the RLDP. Whilst it is anticipated that a considerable amount of evidence base work will be undertaken by Blaenau Gwent officers the use of external consultants is likely to be necessary in relation to technical/specialist elements of the evidence base. An initial assessment has been carried out of the elements of plan preparation that are likely to require external consultant input and financial resources have been secured accordingly.

2.8 Blaenau Gwent, Torfaen and Monmouthshire Local Planning Authorities have identified a number of topic areas where studies could be commissioned jointly.

2.9 A sufficient budget will be made available to progress the RLDP to adoption within the prescribed timetable. This is anticipated to cover expenditure relating to all elements of preparation of the RLDP and the Independent Examination.

Risk Management and Analysis

2.10 While the timetable for preparation of the RLDP is realistic, it is acknowledged that it will also be challenging. It is recognised that there are a number of factors that could result in plan preparation deviating from the proposed timetable. The timetable

consequently allows for flexibility through a degree of tolerance of up to 3 months delay, before a formal revision to the Delivery Agreement is required. Appendix 3 sets out a risk assessment including a number of potential issues that could cause difficulties in keeping to the proposed timetable, together with the Council's proposed approach to managing them.

Supplementary Planning Guidance

2.11 The RLDP will contain sufficient policies to provide the basis for determining planning applications. However, SPG has an important supporting role in providing more detailed or site specific guidance on the way in which LDP policies will be applied. While SPG does not form part of a development plan it should be derived from and be consistent with the relevant LDP. The SPG should also be clearly cross referenced to the policies and proposals it supplements.

2.12 A total of 9 Supplementary Planning Guidance documents have been prepared and adopted to support existing LDP policies. The SPGs cover the following topic areas:

- Householder Design Guidance
- Model Design Guide for Wales Residential Development
- Access, Car Parking and Design
- Hot Food and Drink Uses in Town Centres
- Shopfronts and Advertisements
- Planning Obligations
- Heads of the Valleys - Smaller Scale Wind Turbine Development – Landscape and Sensitivity and Capacity Study

- Planning Guidance for Smaller Scale Wind Turbine Development - Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment Requirements
- Nature Conservation Planning Guidance for Small Scale Wind Energy

2.13 It is anticipated that the SPG topics listed above will continue to be necessary and relevant, and so will be carried forward with any amendments necessary to support the RLDP, and/or the updated evidence base.

2.14 It should nevertheless be noted that SPG to the LDP cannot be formally adopted until after the Inspector's Report has been received and it is clear that there are no changes to the policy approach set out in the replacement plan. It is anticipated that a Green Infrastructure SPG will be prepared and consulted on in parallel with the RLDP.

Monitoring and Review

2.15 The Council will monitor and review the effectiveness of the Delivery Agreement at each stage of the Local Development Plan preparation process. This will establish whether the Council is meeting its objectives in terms of public engagement in the process and whether or not timescales are being met.

2.16 The need for an updated timetable will be considered following the Deposit Plan consultation stage. This will consider the timescales for the remaining stages (i.e. whether it is necessary to review the 'indicative' timescales set out in the Delivery Agreement). The Council will consider the timescales of remaining stages within three months of the close of the formal deposit

consultation period and will submit any necessary revisions to Welsh Government for agreement.

2.17 Other stages when the contents of the Delivery Agreement will be reviewed are:

- If the process falls significantly behind schedule, i.e. 3 months or more;
- If any significant changes are required to the Community Involvement Scheme;
- Following the publication of any relevant new regulations/guidance from EU/UK/Welsh Government with a direct bearing on the Plan preparation process;
- If there are any major changes of circumstances that materially affect the assumptions, evidence, policies or proposals contained in the Plan; and
- If there are any significant changes in the resources which are available to undertake the Plan preparation.

2.18 The review of the Delivery Agreement will require further consultation with consultees, and a renewed Welsh Government agreement.

PART 3: COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT SCHEME (CIS)

The Council's Approach

3.1 The Community Involvement Scheme (CIS) sets out how the Council proposes to proactively involve the community and stakeholders in the preparation of the RLDP. One of the aims of the LDP system is that plan production is based on effective community involvement in order that a range of views can be considered as part of a process of building a wide consensus on the plan's strategies and policies.

3.2 The five ways of working prescribed by the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act are integral to the Community Involvement Scheme, namely long-term; integration; involvement; collaboration; and prevention. The CIS describes the ways in which the community can influence the LDP at different stages of the plan preparation process. The Council has also prepared a timetable for the production of a LDP (see Part 2, Table 1 and Appendix 2) which should be read in conjunction with the CIS.

3.3 Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council's core vision set out in the Corporate Improvement Plan "Proud Heritage, Stronger Communities, Brighter Future". This is intrinsically linked to land use planning and is therefore key to the delivery of the LDP. Accordingly the CIS is based on Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council's five core values of: Proud and Ambitious, Trust and Integrity, Working Together, Raising Aspirations and Fair and Equitable. The key priorities from the Council's Corporate Plan that support the development of the LDP are: Strong and Environmentally Smart Communities; and Economic Development and Regeneration.

3.4 Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council is also committed to ensuring the ten national principles for public engagement in Wales are utilised. Public engagement in the preparation of the RLDP will take place in accordance with the guidelines set out in this CIS. The Council recognise that community engagement must be designed to make a difference the main objectives for involving the community in the LDP preparation are based on the ten national principles and can be identified as:

- Engagement is effectively designed to make a difference to involve people at the earliest opportunity, in time to shape plan preparation work;
- To encourage and enable everyone affected to be involved, if they so choose;
- Engagement is planned and delivered in a timely and appropriate way to ensure that the process is easy to understand for everyone within a reasonable timescale and using the most suitable methods;
- Communicate and work with relevant partner organisations to ensure that people's time is used effectively and efficiently;
- The information provided is appropriate and understandable so that people are well placed to take part in the engagement process;
- To make it easier for people to take part because any barriers for different groups of people are identified and addressed;
- To enable people to take part effectively engagement processes should try to develop the skills, knowledge and confidence of all participants;
- To provide two way dialogue with participants by responding to comments received and publishing the Council's response in a report of consultation; and
- Learn and share lessons to improve the process of engagement throughout the process.

Who will we involve?

3.5 Effective involvement of people and communities and collaboration with other organisations are two of the five ways of working set out in the Well-being Future Generations Act and are key aspects of preparing the RLDP. Who we will seek to involve in the RLDP process is set out below:

Individuals who have registered an interest through the LDP database

3.6 Throughout the adopted LDP process, a database was maintained to include members of the public, interested persons and any individual organisations who requested to be kept informed at each stage of the LDP process. The Council will use the database for the RLDP as a starting point to involve and inform individuals throughout the LDP revision process. Anyone can request for their details to be included or removed from the database. Anyone who makes representations at any of the stages of the RLDP will be automatically added to the database in order for them to receive updates on progress and allow them to be adequately informed of further opportunities to participate at a later date. It should be noted that the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) came into force in May 2018. By commenting on the LDP, individuals and stakeholders give their consent for their details to be held by the Council throughout the LDP revision process and for a period of 6 years following adoption.

3.7 If you wish for your details to be added to the RLDP database, please contact the Planning Policy Team by email, phone or in writing using contact details set out at 3.31.

Elected Members

3.8 It is recognised that the involvement of Elected Members of Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council throughout the LDP revision process will be of key importance. Members have a unique position as not only do they represent the communities within their individual ward, they also represent public interest and are involved in decisions for the wider benefit of the County as a whole. Accordingly, Members will play an essential role in the RLDP process by providing information to local residents, informing us of issues/opportunities within their local area and more fundamentally making decisions on matters affecting the Blaenau Gwent area as a whole.

3.9 The Executive Member for Regeneration and Economic Development has responsibility for planning policy, including the RLDP. Engagement with Senior Management and Members will be undertaken as and when deemed necessary. Liaison with the Executive Member and all other Members is essential throughout the process. Member workshops and meetings will be undertaken as and when deemed necessary. Members will be fully informed throughout the process and notified of every participation / consultation stage.

Town and Community Councils

3.10 Town and Community Councils also play a key role in disseminating information to the residents within the area on matters of local importance and will be a key link to communities across Blaenau Gwent. Town and Community Councils will be consulted at every stage of the LDP revision process and through

their individual communication methods will help raise awareness of the RLDP to local communities.

Partnership Groups

3.11 Existing partnership groups are seen as important means of engaging the wider community in the preparation of the RLDP, particularly in early stages of public participation.

3.12 Liaison with Blaenau Gwent Public Service Board and partners will be of particular importance to ensure the RLDP aligns with the Local Well-being Plan. We will work closely with the Council's policy partnership engagement team who are central to the delivery of the Blaenau Gwent Local Well-being Plan.

Business, Landowners, Developers and Agents

3.13 Land and investment will be needed to implement proposals in the RLDP and efforts will be made to engage with the private sector business community at an early stage. We will engage with planning agents who are regular customers of Blaenau Gwent's planning service. Landowners, agents and prospective developers who wish to put land forward to be considered for development will therefore also be included on the RLDP database.

3.14 The Candidate site process will be the opportunity for those who have an interest in land to submit sites to be considered for development. A common methodology is being established across the south east region for local planning authorities to utilise for their respective RLDPs. A 'Call for Candidate Sites' will be undertaken and all candidate sites will need to be submitted via standard forms. There will be a second call for further candidate

sites and detailed information following consultation on the Preferred Strategy. Accordingly all submissions must be made at the appropriate times, the dates of which will be advertised.

Additional Consultation Bodies

3.15 Appendix 1 provides a list of the specific and general consultation bodies along with UK Government departments and other consultees. The specific consultees comprise of the Welsh Government and those bodies with specific functions that apply to the Plan area for example Aneurin Bevan Health Board and Dwr Cymru Welsh Water. The Authority must also consult UK Government Departments where aspects of the plan appear to affect their interests.

Hard to Reach Groups

3.16 Hard to reach groups and those that are seldom heard are those groups who have not taken part traditionally in the plan preparation process. Additional effort will therefore be required to ensure these groups are engaged in the RLDP process. A flexible approach will need to be undertaken in relation to the engagement with these groups, albeit within the parameters of the specified engagement / consultation periods. Engagement with these groups may be achieved by using existing forums and groups wherever possible. It is nevertheless recognised that the very principle of hard to reach groups is that they may not be involved in existing partnerships/groups and this may therefore not always be achievable.

Existing Local Forums

3.17 There are a number of local forums that exist in the County Borough. Engagement with these forums will be important to the LDP revision process in particular to engage with hard to reach groups. The forums that exist are as follows:

- Citizens Panel
- Grand Council
- Youth Forum
- 50+ Older Network
- Access for all Forum

Wales Planning Aid

3.18 Wales Planning Aid is an independent service providing planning advice to groups and individuals, particularly in disadvantaged areas, helping them to understand the planning system and influence what happens in their local area. Where appropriate we will work with Planning Aid on consultation/training activities.

Management and Working Groups

Executive Members and Corporate Leadership Team Group

3.19 In order to guide the formulation of the replacement plan, the Council will use the existing Executive Members and Corporate Leadership Team group. The group will allow for engagement to take place with senior officers and elected members through specific workshops and meetings, where appropriate.

SA/SEA Working Group

3.20 The Council has engaged independent consultants to undertake the integrated Sustainability Appraisal and Strategic Environmental Assessment of the Replacement LDP. The ISA Working Group will be an internal and external group of expert professionals and interested parties that can assist in the scoping of the SEA and the assessment of the likely significant effects of implementing the RLDP on the environment. Due to the iterative and integrated nature of Sustainability Appraisal, each stage of plan preparation will include consultation on the SA/SEA of the RLDP.

How will we involve you?

3.21 We will seek to publicise the LDP revision process at every stage and reach as much of the community as possible, as well as other stakeholders to advise people about the RLDP and how they can get involved. This will be done by:

- Direct contact via email unless there is a preference for a written letter.
- Social Media: Twitter by utilising the corporate account @BlaenauGwentCBC and via Facebook on the Blaenau Gwent County Borough council.
- Engagement with Senior Managers and Elected Members through specific workshops / virtual meetings, and within reports to appropriate Democratic Committee meetings.
- All LDP information and documents will be made available on the Council's website which will be updated regularly.
- Making documents available at the Council's main office buildings and local libraries in the County Borough if possible.
- Press releases for the local media, where appropriate.
- Regular email updates that describes progress on the RLDP.
- Public information exhibitions and drop in sessions will be held in accessible and neutral locations. Consultation venues with

increased capacity for social distancing will be used in line with applicable guidelines.

- Prearranged individual briefing session appointments will also be made available to avoid a high number of stakeholders at public information exhibitions.
- Site notices will be displayed regarding land allocations.

Availability of Documents

3.22 The RLDP documents will be made available at each of the relevant stages. All documents will be made available electronically on the [Planning Policy website](#). Electronic representation forms will also be made available during periods of consultation. An increased use of web based technologies such as short video clips and electronic presentations on key issues will be used, where appropriate. In addition to online availability the documents will also be made available in paper format at the Council's main office buildings and local libraries in the County Borough if possible.

3.23 If the documents cannot be accessed in the locations listed above, paper copies of documents will be sent out during the RLDP process.

Welsh Language and Bilingual Requirement

3.24 The Welsh Language Standards place a legal duty on Councils to make it easier for people to use services through the medium of Welsh. The Council has published a Welsh Language Promotion Strategy for 2017-2022, the requirements of both the Council's strategy and the Welsh Language Standards will be maintained at each stage of the RLDP.

3.25 Bilingual engagement will be carried out in the following ways:

- We welcome correspondence in both Welsh and English. Where correspondence is received in Welsh and a reply is necessary, this will be sent in Welsh.
- All comment forms, posters, public notices (including site notices) and newsletters will be bilingual.
- Any pages on the Local Development Plan website and posts published on social media will be bilingual.
- Any public meetings will be conducted bilingually where a request has been made ahead of time. Prior notification is required in order to provide a translation service.
- The adopted RLDP will be available in both Welsh and English format.
- Contact will be made with the consultees on the database at an early stage asking their language preference.

What we expect from you

3.26 In order to ensure any comments and representations on the RLDP are considered, they must be submitted within the prescribed timescales. The Delivery Agreement sets out the timetable of relevant stages and provides a guideline of when we seek your involvement. More detailed information is available at Table 1 and Appendix 2. This will ensure that individual views are considered and taken into account through the process.

3.27 It is also of importance that you notify the planning policy team should your contact details change during the RLDP process in order for us to keep you fully informed of progress. With regard to candidate sites, land ownership changes may also occur during the

process it is imperative that these are communicated to the Planning Policy team in order to ensure progress is not delayed.

Building Consensus

3.28 The Council will seek to build consensus through the various engagement and consultation methods set out within the CIS. Consensus building can only be achieved if the community and other interested parties are kept fully informed and effectively engaged throughout the preparation of the RLDP. This is of particular importance in the early stages of plan preparation. It is nevertheless recognised that there will be occasions where consensus cannot be achieved and a difference in opinion between certain parties occurs. A clear audit trail of decisions will be maintained in order to ensure that there is transparency in the decision making process, and to provide assurances to those that disagree that the decisions have been made in an informed and balanced way. However, decisions made will not be revisited via subsequent consultation opportunities, so participants are requested to focus their input on the matter being considered at that stage.

Late Representations

3.29 As noted in paragraph 3.25, responses are required by the specified deadline of the specific consultation period in order for them to be considered. Any late comments/representations will be logged as 'not duly made' as they were not made in accordance with the published timescales. The timescale to produce the RLDP is already challenging, the acceptance of late representations could result in further delay which would not be acceptable.

Petitions

3.30 Where petitions are received they will be logged as one body and the Council will ask for a lead person to be identified as a group representative. This will not take away the right of any individual to appear at the Examination but assists the Council in managing the process.

Contact Details

3.31 Details will be provided on how to contact the Council in relation to any consultation phase. Comments are welcome in English or Welsh and can be emailed to planningpolicy@blaenau-gwent.gov.uk or made in writing to:-

Planning Policy, Municipal Offices, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale, Blaenau Gwent NP23 6XB, alternatively contact the team on 01495 354740 or by email at planningpolicy@blaenau-gwent.gov.uk

Plan Preparation and Consultation Stage

3.32 The following pages provide a detailed breakdown of the plan making process up to and including the submission of the RLDP to the Planning Inspectorate for examination. It seeks to explain the purpose of the Plan stage, who will be engaged/consulted, how the Council intend to engage/consult and how the information will be reported. The subsequent stages in the process are not directly in the control of the Council and therefore may be subject to change. Whilst the following tables are an accurate record of the planned programme of consultation, it should be noted that the CIS might be subject to revision at appropriate stages in the process.

Stage 1: Pre-Deposit Participation (Regulation 14)

Aims and Objectives of this Stage

- To develop an evidence base for the preparation of the revised LDP;
- To identify suitable sites for inclusion in the revised Plan;
- To develop objectives, alternatives and the Preferred Strategy for the revised LDP (Strategy Options);
- Build consensus on the objectives, alternatives and Preferred Strategy of the revised LDP with key stakeholders with the intention of producing a sound revised Plan; and
- To ensure the Pre-Deposit documents are consistent with the Well-being Plan and the emerging LDP 'Vision' for Blaenau Gwent.

| Stage | Purpose | When? | Who? | How? | Reporting Mechanism |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|
| Review and update existing evidence base | To inform the development of the Spatial Strategy & Preferred Options | Oct 18 – Sep 19 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public Service Board • Internal Officers • Neighbouring LAs • Additional Consultation bodies | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meetings | Topic Papers and Study Reports |
| 'Call for Candidate Sites' | To identify potential development sites | Nov – Dec 18 | Consultation database including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local Landowners • Local Developers • Agents • Home Builders Federation • Registered Social Landlords • Internal Officers | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Email/letter • Website • Social media • Information gathering | Candidate Site Register |
| Identification and assessment of vision, objectives and options | To inform the development of the Preferred Strategy | Apr – Jul 19 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Members • Public Service Board • Existing Local Forums • Internal Officers • Other Consultees | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Various Workshops and Meetings • Email/letter | Reports of Engagement |
| SA/SEA | | | | | |
| Review /Update SA baseline and SA framework | To update the baseline information and framework | Oct 18 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Internal Officers • Statutory Consultees • SA/SEA Working Group • Neighbouring LAs | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Email/letter • Meetings | Report as part of the SA/SEA Scoping Report |
| SA/SEA Scoping Report | To comment on the scope of the SA/SEA and objectives | Oct – Nov 18 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Statutory Consultees • SA/SEA Working Group • Elected Members • Neighbouring LAs | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Email/letter • Working Steering Group Meeting • Website | Report of Consultation |

Stage 2: Pre-Deposit Public Consultation (Regulations 15 & 16)

Aims and objectives of this stage

- To undertake wider public consultation on the Preferred Strategy and Options;
- To make the various documents publicly available and widely accessible for inspection;
- To undertake public consultation over a statutory 6-week period;
- To consider the representations made to the public consultation and provide feedback;
- To consider whether any changes are needed to the Preferred Options and Strategy for the revised LDP; and
- To consult on the Sustainability Assessment of the Preferred Strategy.

| Stage | Purpose | When? | Who? | How? | Reporting Mechanism |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------|
| 6-week Public Consultation on Preferred Strategy and assessment of representations received | To enable anyone to make representations to the Council's Preferred Strategy | Nov-Dec 19 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consultation database and candidate site database • Elected Members • General Public • Existing Local Forums • Hard to Reach groups • Town and Community Councils | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Email/letter • Press Releases • Social Media • Website • Drop in sessions/ Exhibitions • Copies of the pre-deposit documents available in the Council offices and all public libraries | Report of Consultation and recommendations |
| Second call for further candidate sites and detailed site information | To identify potential development sites and obtain detailed site information | March-May 21 | Consultation database including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local Landowners • Local Developers • Agents • Home Builders Federation • Registered Social Landlords • Internal Officers Candidate site database | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Email/letter • Website • Social media • Information gathering • Prearranged individual briefing session appointments | Candidate Site Register |
| SA/SEA | | | | | |
| 6-week consultation on Initial Sustainability Appraisal Report | To demonstrate how Preferred Options have been derived having regard for SA/SEA and give opportunity for comment | Nov-Dec 19 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consultation database and candidate site database • Members • General Public • Existing Local Forums • Hard to Reach groups | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Email/letter • Press Releases • Social Media • Website • Drop in sessions/ Exhibitions • Copies of the pre-deposit documents available in the Council offices and all public libraries | Report of Consultation and recommendations to Executive |

Stage 3: Statutory Deposit of Proposals (Regulation 17)

Aims and Objectives of this Stage

- To undertake Statutory Consultation on the Deposit Plan over an 8-week period to meet the LDP regulations;
- To provide an opportunity for all stakeholders and the wider general public to consider the Plan in its entirety;
- To make the various documents publicly available and widely accessible for inspection;
- To consult on the Environmental and Sustainability Appraisal Reports and Habitat Regulation Assessment.

| Stage | Purpose | When? | Who? | How? | Reporting Mechanism |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 8-week Deposit Consultation exercise | To enable all interested persons and organisations to make representations in respect of any policies and proposals in the Deposit Plan | July-Sept 23 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consultation database and candidate site database • Members • General Public • Existing Local Forums • Hard to Reach groups | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Available on the website • Press Releases • Copies of the Deposit Plan available in the Council's main offices buildings and local libraries if possible • Drop in sessions/public information exhibitions • Prearranged individual briefing session appointments • Site Notices in respect of site-specific land allocations | <p>Hard copy of representations placed in Council offices and on website</p> <p>Representations and comments to be included in a report of consultation which will be available on the website</p> <p>Representations submitted to WG for consideration by the Inspector</p> |
| SA/SEA & HRA | | | | | |
| Sustainability Appraisal Report and Habitat Regulations Assessment | To consult on key outputs of the SA SEA process and HRA | July-Sept 23 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consultation database and candidate site database • Members • General Public • Existing Local Forums • Hard to Reach groups | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Available on the website • Press Releases • Copies of the documents available in the Council's main office buildings and local libraries if possible • Prearranged individual briefing session appointments | <p>Hard copy of representations placed in Council offices and on website</p> <p>Representations and comments to be included in a report of consultation which will be available on the Council's website</p> |

Stage 4: Submission of Local Development Plan to Inspectorate for independent Examination (Regulation 22)

Aims and Objectives of this Stage

- To consider the representations received during the statutory consultation period and provide a response to them that can be considered by the Inspector at the Examination; and
- Provide notice to all interested stakeholders of the submission of the LDP and associated documents to Welsh Government

| Stage | Purpose | When? | Who? | How? | Reporting Mechanism |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------|
| Undertake work necessary for formal submission to Welsh Government for Examination | To enable examination of the Plan | Indicative date May-June 24 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consultation database • Representors database • Candidate site database • Elected Members • Internal Officers | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social media • Email/letter • Publication of documents on Council's website • Provide copies of relevant supporting documents in the Council's main office buildings and local libraries if possible | |

Stage 5: Independent Examination (Regulation 23)

Aims and Objectives of this Stage

- To undertake an independent Examination of the revised LDP;
- To examine the LDP in its entirety and test its 'soundness';
- Consider representations seeking changes to deposit Plan;
- For the Planning Inspector to consider all relevant evidence and prepare recommendations in the form of the Inspector's Report; and
- To undertake any further work requested by the Inspector.

| Stage | Purpose | When? | Who? | How? | Reporting Mechanism |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|
| Notification of Independent Examination | To ensure that interested persons/ organisations are aware that an Independent Examination into the LDP is taking place | Indicative date May-June 24 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consultation database and candidate site database • Members • General Public | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Formal notification given by email • Notice placed on the website | |
| Pre-Examination meeting | To advise on Examination procedures and format | Indicative date May-June 24 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consultation database and candidate site database • Representors database | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Email to Representors • Notice on the website | Statements of Common Ground and Papers as necessary |
| Consideration of all representations to the Plan by the independent Planning Inspector appointed to consider the evidence | To provide an impartial planning view on the soundness of the Plan and the representations made in respect of it | Indicative date July-Nov 24 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Representors database (Please note not all representors will appear at the Examination) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Round Table discussions • Formal hearings (if requested and agreed by Inspector) • Written submissions | Inspectors Report |

Stage 6: Publication of the Planning Inspector's Recommendations (Regulation 24)

Aims and objectives of this stage

- To publish the recommendations of the Planning Inspector, and the reasons for those recommendations and make them generally available for inspection; and
- To give notice to all interested persons and organisations that the Inspector's Report is available.

| Stage | Purpose | When? | Who? | How? | Reporting Mechanism |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------|
| To formally adopt the LDP as the Development Plan for the County Borough within eight weeks of receipt of the Inspectors Report | To inform stakeholders of adoption | Indicative date Feb-March 25 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consultation database and Candidate site database • Representors database • Members • General Public | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LDP documents including the adoption statement and the Sustainability Appraisal Report made available on the website • Formal notification given by email to specific Consultation Bodies and Elected Members • Copies of all relevant documents available in the Council's main office buildings • Press Release • Notice on the Internet | Report to Full Council |
| SA/SEA | | | | | |
| Formal Publication of Environmental Statement (contained within the SA report) | Identify any adjustments arising from the Examination | Indicative date Feb-March 25 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consultation database and Candidate site database • Representors database • Members • General Public | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LDP documents including the adoption statement and the Sustainability Appraisal Report made available on the website • Formal notification given by email to specific Consultation Bodies and Elected Members • Copies of all relevant documents available in the Council's main office buildings • Press Release • Notice on the Internet | |

Stage 7: Adoption (Regulation 25)

Aims and Objectives of this stage

- To adopt the LDP within 8 weeks of the receipt of the Inspector's report

| Stage | Purpose | When? | Who? | How? | Reporting Mechanism |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------|
| Publish the Inspector's Report | To provide stakeholders with an opportunity to read the report in advance of any changes being made to the LDP in line with the Inspector's recommendations | Indicative Date Dec 24 - Jan 25 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consultation database and Candidate site database • Representors database • Members • General Public | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inspector's Report made available on the website • Copies of the report available in the Council's main office buildings and local libraries if possible • Formal notice to those persons who asked to be notified | |

List of Consultees

| Specific Consultation Bodies as defined in LDP Regulation 2 (including UK Government Departments): | |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Welsh Government (Planning division will co-ordinate consultations) • Natural Resources Wales • Network Rail • Office of Secretary of State for Wales • Telecommunication Operators – EE, Vodafone and O2, Openreach, Virgin Media • Aneurin Bevan Health Board • Gas and Electricity Licensees – National Grid, Wales & West Utilities • Sewerage and Water Undertakers – Dwr Cymru Welsh Water • Department for Transport (including Secretary of State for functions previously exercised by the Strategic Rail Authority) • UK Government Departments – Department of Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy • Home Office • Ministry of Defence <p>Neighbouring Local Authorities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brecon Beacons National Park • Caerphilly County Borough Council • Powys County Council • Torfaen County Borough Council • Monmouthshire County Council <p>Local Community Councils</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Abertillery & Llanhilleth Community Council | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nantyglo & Blaina Town Council • Brynmawr Town Council • Tredegar Town Council |

| General Consultation Bodies | |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p>The Council will consult with the following general consultation bodies, where appropriate, in accordance with the Delivery Agreement. This list is not exhaustive and may be added to as appropriate:</p> <p>Voluntary bodies whose activities benefit any part of the authority's area</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GAVO • Age Concern Gwent • Gwent Wildlife Trust • Royal Voluntary Service <p>Bodies representing the interests of different racial, ethnic or national groups in the authority's area</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Equality and Human Rights Commission • The Valleys Regional Equality Council • Citizens Advice Cymru • Ethnic Minority Foundation • Friends, Families and Travellers <p>Bodies which represent the interests in different religious groups in the authority's area</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Church in Wales • Catholic Church in Wales • Evangelical Movement of Wales • Kingdom Hall Jehovah's Witnesses • Muslim Council for Wales • South Wales Baptist Association • United Reform Church • Salvation Army | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cardiff Buddhist Centre • UK Islamic Mission <p>Bodies which represent the interests of disabled persons in the authority's area</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Downs Syndrome Association • Gwent Association for the Blind • Mencap Cymru • Mind Cymru • Royal National Institute for Deaf People • Wales Council for Deaf People • Wales Council for the Blind • Wales Council for the Disabled • Blaenau Gwent Access Forum • Disability Wales • Disability Rights Commission • Disabled Persons Transport Advisory Committee <p>Bodies which represent the interests of persons carrying out business in the authority's area</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Blaenau Gwent Business Forum • Business Wales (South Wales Regional Centre) • Federation of Small Businesses in Wales <p>Bodies which represent the interests of Welsh culture in the authority's area</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cadw • Glamorgan Gwent Archaeological Trust Ltd • Royal Commission on Ancient and Historic Monuments |

Other Consultees

The Council will consult with the following other consultees, where appropriate, in accordance with the Delivery Agreement. This list is not exhaustive and may be added to as appropriate:

- British Aggregates Association
- British Geological Survey
- Canal and River Trust
- Centre for Ecology & Hydrology
- Chambers of Commerce, Local CBI, Local Branches of Institute of Directors
- Coal Authority
- Country Landowners & Business Association (CLA)
- Crown Estate
- Design Commission for Wales
- Farmers Union Wales
- Fire & Rescue Services
- Health & Safety Executive
- The Home Builders Federation

Local Community, Conservation, Amenity Groups, Agenda 21 Groups/Civic Societies

- Wales Environment Link
- Welsh Environmental Services Association
- Campaign for the Protection of Rural Wales
- Friends of the Earth (Cymru)

Other Relevant Bodies**Community Planning Groups**

- Blaenau Gwent Public Service Board

- British Trust for Ornithology
- Welsh Historic Gardens Trust
- Wildlife and Wetlands Trust
- Local Biodiversity Action Plan Partnerships
- RSPB Cymru

Local Transport Operators

- Arriva Trains
- Bus Users Cymru
- Confederation of Passenger Transport
- Great Western Railway & Network Rail Western
- Freight Transport Association
- Road Haulage Association Ltd
- Stagecoach
- Sustrans
- Gwent Joint Passenger Transport Unit

- Fields in Trust
- One Voice Wales
- Planning Aid Wales
- Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors
- Royal Town Planning Institute (Wales)
- Chartered Institute of Housing (Cymru)
- Institute of Civil Engineers
- Chartered Management Institute (Cymru)
- Sports Wales
- Wales Council for Voluntary Action

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Blaenau Gwent Fair and Safe Partnership <p>Education</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coleg Gwent • National Library for Wales <p>Housing Associations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Melin • Linc Cymru • United Welsh • Tai Calon Community Housing <p>Elderly Persons Organisations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Age UK • National Old Age Pensioners Association for Wales <p>Ex Offenders Groups</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nacro • Apex Trust <p>Government Agencies</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Arts Council of Wales • Capital Region Tourism • Coed Cymru • Civic Trust Cymru • The National Trust <p>Local House Builders</p> <p>Local Estate Agents</p> | <p>Homeless Organisations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shelter Cymru • Crisis <p>Planning Consultants</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Arup • Arcadis • Asbri Planning • Atkins Global • BNP Paribas Real Estate • Boyer Planning • Capita Property • CDN Planning Ltd • CH2M • Cushman and Wakefield • DLP Planning • DPP Planning • GVA • James Barr Design • Jones Lang la Salle • Kevin Nield Associates • Leith Planning Ltd • Lichfield Planning and Development Consultancy • Louis Chicot Associates • LRM Planning Ltd • Pegasus Planning Group • RPS Group • Savills • White Young Green |
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| <p>Children and Young People</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NCH Action for Children • Tredegar Youth Café • Brownies and Guides • BG Youth Carers • Children in Wales • Clybiau Plant Cymru Kids Clubs • Prince’s Trust • Youth Hostel Association | <p>Local Planning Agents</p> <p>Political including Local Assembly Members and Members of Parliament</p> <p>Voluntary Public Bodies</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • British Horse Society • Ramblers Association Wales • Prince’s Trust • Welsh Consumer Council • Welsh Association of Motor Clubs |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

| Risk | Risk Score | Potential Impact | Mitigation |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------|--------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Council | | | |
| Change in staff resources to undertake preparation of replacement LDP. | Medium/High | Programme slippage | Ensure support at a corporate level |
| Staff turnover in small team | Medium | Programme slippage | Consider additional resources (including support from other sections within the Council) |
| Reduction and lack of financial resources | Medium/High | Programme slippage | Ensure plan preparation process is adequately costed with in-built capacity for unforeseen costs |
| Corporate reorganisation of structures | Low/Medium | Programme slippage | Ensure revised LDP process maintains highest level of corporate priority |
| Council decision making reporting cycle | Medium | Programme slippage | Streamline decision making procedures and ensure timetable is realistic |
| Political Change / Elections | High | Programme slippage | Early Member training |
| Lack of support from officers / other departments in production of the evidence base | Medium | Programme slippage | Ensure organisation wide support of plan process and timetable from outset |

| Risk | Risk Score | Potential Impact | Mitigation |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| National / Regional Issues | | | |
| Undertaking Consultation during Covid-19 | High | Safety of staff | Ensure that consultation events are risk assessed |
| 2 nd Wave of Covid-19 Infections leading to Lockdown | High | Programme slippage | No control at a local level – slippage is set by WG |
| Additional requirements arising from new legislation/national guidance e.g. revised Planning Policy Wales and LDP Manual | Medium/High | Programme slippage | Monitor emerging legislation/guidance and respond to changes as soon as possible |
| Need to amend emerging Plan to align with emerging National Development Framework (NDF) and Strategic Development Plan | High | Programme slippage | Ensure involvement in progress of regional work Keep up to date with progress on NDF |
| Involvement in preparation of Strategic Development Plan | Medium/High | Programme slippage Resource implications as extent of input to the SDP is currently unknown | Ensure sufficient resources are made available to support the SDP process |
| Planning Inspectorate unable to meet target dates | Low /Medium | Examination and/or report is delayed | Maintain close liaison with the Planning Inspectorate to ensure early warning of any potential problems |
| Local Issues | | | |

| Risk | Risk Score | Potential Impact | Mitigation |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------|-------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Printing and production delays | Low | Programme slippage | Consider additional resources to undertake process in house |
| Insufficient information to undertake ISA | Low | Programme slippage | Identify and manage expectation of consultation bodies |
| Large volume and/or highly significant levels of objections to proposals e.g. site allocations | Medium / High | Programme slippage | Ensure close liaison and early/continued involvement of community, statutory bodies & stakeholders throughout the plan preparation process |
| SA/SEA/HRA implications on plan strategy / proposals | Low | Programme Slippage | Ensure process is fully integrated with LDP preparation |
| Plan fails test of 'soundness' | Medium | Plan cannot be adopted without considerable additional work | Ensure Plan and Community Involvement are 'sound' Close liaison with WG Planning Division |
| Legal challenge | Low | Programme slippage Quashing of adopted LDP | Ensure good knowledge of statutory requirements to ensure compliance |

Profile and Characteristics of Local Population

| Population | | Economic Activity | | Economic Inactivity (Continued) | |
|----------------------------|--------|---------------------------------------|--------|----------------------------------------|--------|
| Total | 69,814 | Total Males | | % inactive females 16-74 years: | |
| Males | 34,325 | 16-74 years | 25,773 | Retired | 18.2% |
| Females | 35,489 | | | Student | 4.6% |
| <i>Source: Census 2011</i> | | Total Females | | Looking after home/family | 7.7% |
| | | 16-74 years | 26,036 | Permanantly sick/disabled | 9.2% |
| | | | | Other | 3.1% |
| | | | | <i>Source: Census 2011</i> | |
| Age Structure | | % Males 16-74 years who are: | | Marital Status (%) | |
| Aged 0 to 4 | 5.8% | Working full-time | 43.0% | All people aged 16+ (No) | 57,321 |
| Aged 5 to 15 | 10.9% | Working part-time | 5.8% | Single (never married) | 34.2% |
| Aged 16 to 19 | 13.3% | Self employed | 7.6% | Married | 44.3% |
| Aged 20 to 44 | 25.5% | Uemployed | 8.7% | Seperated but still married | 2.2% |
| Aged 45 to 64 | 26.6% | Full-time Student | 1.8% | Divorced | 10.60% |
| Aged 65 years and over | 17.9% | | | Widowed | 8.5% |
| <i>Source: Census 2011</i> | | % Females 16-74 years who are: | | <i>Source: Census 2011</i> | |
| | | Working full-time | 27.2% | Tenure (%) | |
| | | Working part-time | 20.2% | Owned Outright | 32.9% |
| | | Self employed | 2.5% | Mortgaged | 29.1% |
| | | Unemployed | 5.1% | Shared Ownership | 0.1% |
| | | Full-time Student | 2.3% | Council rented | 11.1% |
| | | <i>Source: Census 2011</i> | | Housing Assoc. rented | 12.9% |
| | | Economic Inactivity | | Private rented | 11.4% |
| | | % inactive males 16-74 years: | | Other rented | 1.4% |
| | | Retired | 16.8% | <i>Source: Census 2011</i> | |
| | | Student | 4.3% | | |
| | | Looking after home/family | 4.5% | | |
| | | Permenantly sick/disabled | 9.6% | | |
| | | Other | 2.7% | | |
| | | <i>Source: Census 2011</i> | | | |
| Welsh Speakers (%) | | | | | |
| Aged 3+ | 11.5% | | | | |
| <i>Source: Census 2011</i> | | | | | |

| | | | | | |
|-------------------------------------------|--------|---------------------------------------------------------|-------|-----------------------------------------|--------|
| No Car | 29.0% | % of people with a limiting long-term illness | 27.2% | All aged 16-74 in employment | 28,291 |
| 1 Car | 43.8% | | | Agriculture, Forestry & Fishing | 0.30% |
| 2+ Cars | 27.3% | | | Mining & Quarrying | 0.30% |
| Total Cars (No.) | 32,478 | % people of working age with limiting long-term illness | 13.9% | Manufacturing | 20.10% |
| <i>Source: Census 2011</i> | | % of people whose health was: | | Public Utilities | 2.10% |
| | | Good | 72.5% | Construction | 7.90% |
| | | Fairly good | 16.8% | Wholesale & Retail;repair motor vehicle | 15.20% |
| | | Not good | 10.7% | Hotels & Catering | 4.60% |
| Lone Parent Households (No) | | All people who provide unpaid care | 12.5% | Transport & Storage | 3.90% |
| With dependent children | 2,759 | | | Financial Intermediation | 1.70% |
| <i>Source:Census 2011</i> | | % of people who provide unpaid care: | | Real Estate | 1.10% |
| | | 1-19 hours a week | 6.2% | Public administration & defence | 7.00% |
| | | 20-49 hours a week | 2.3% | Education | 7.90% |
| | | 50 or more hours per week | 4.0% | Health & Social Work | 17.30% |
| Education & Qualifications (%) | | | | Other | 3.70% |
| All people aged 16 and over | 57,321 | <i>Source: Census 2011</i> | | | |
| No qualifications | 36.0% | Job Seekers Allowance: May 2020 | | | |
| Highest qualification (level 1) | 15.80% | Number of claimants | 3,135 | | |
| Highest qualification (level 2) | 15.50% | % of claimants | 7.20% | | |
| Highest qualification (level 3) | 9.80% | | | | |
| Highest qualification (level 4 and above) | 15.20% | <i>Source: Nomis</i> | | | |
| Other qualification/level unknown | 4.20% | | | | |
| <i>Source: Census 2011</i> | | | | | |
| Household Size | | | | | |
| Persons per household | 2.3 | | | | |
| <i>Source: Census 2011</i> | | | | | |



Glossary of Terms

| | |
|-----------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Adoption | Final stage of LDP preparation where the LDP becomes the statutory Development Plan for the purposes of the Act. |
| Annual Monitoring Report (AMR) | A yearly report to monitor the effectiveness of the LDP and ultimately determines whether any revisions to the Plan are necessary. It assesses the extent to which the LDP strategy and objectives are being achieved and whether the LDP policies are functioning effectively. |
| Baseline | A description of the present state of an area. |
| Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council (BGCBC) | This is the name of the Local Authority preparing the LDP. |
| Candidate Sites | A site nominated by an individual with an interest in land (i.e landowner, developer, agent or member of the public) to be considered for inclusion in the LDP. All Candidate sites will be assessed for suitability for inclusion as potential allocations. |
| Community | People living in a defined geographical area, or who share interests. |
| Community Involvement Scheme (CIS) | The Community Involvement Scheme forms part of the Delivery Agreement. It outlines the principles of engagement and provides detail on how the Local Planning Authority will involve communities and stakeholders (including businesses and developers) in the preparation of the Local Development Plan. |
| Consensus Building | A process of dialogue with the community and other interested parties to understand relevant viewpoints and to seek agreement where possible. |
| Consultation | A formal process in which comments are invited on a particular topic or draft document usually within a defined period of time. |
| Council | Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council (excluding for planning purposes the Brecon Beacons National Park administrative area that falls within the Blaenau Gwent area.) |
| Delivery Agreement (DA) | A document comprising Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council's (as Local Planning Authority) timetable for the preparation of the LDP together with its Community Involvement Scheme, submitted to the Welsh Government for Agreement. |
| Deposit | A formal six week stage in which individuals and organisations can make representations on the LDP. Representations that relate to whether the plan is 'Sound' are then examined by an Inspector. |
| Deposit LDP | This is a full draft of the LDP which undergoes a formal consultation period prior to it being submitted to the Welsh |

| | |
|---------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| | Government for public examination. |
| Duly Made | Representations to the LDP which are made in the correct way within the consultation period. |
| Engagement | A proactive process that seeks to encourage the involvement and participation of the community and other groups in the decision making process. |
| Evidence Base | Information and data that provides the basis for the preparation of the LDP vision, objectives, policies and proposals and justifies the soundness of the policy approach of the LDP. |
| Examination | The examination involves public examination of the Deposit LDP, the Deposit representations, the report of consultation, evidence base/background documents and the Sustainability Appraisal Report. This is carried out by the Planning Inspectorate on behalf of the Welsh Government. |
| Frontloading | Community involvement and consensus building at early stages of plan preparation. |
| Habitat Regulation Assessment | This is the assessment of the potential effects of a Development Plan on one or more European sites and comprising Special Areas for Conservation (SACs), candidate SACs and Special Protection Areas. The assessment should conclude whether or not a proposal or policy in a Development Plan would adversely affect the integrity of the site in question. |
| Indicator | A measure of variables, over time, often used to measure achievement of objectives. |
| Inspector's Report | The report prepared by an independent inspector who examines the LDP. The Inspector's Report contains recommendations on the content of the final LDP and is binding upon the Council. The Council must adopt the LDP in the manner directed by the Inspector. |
| Involvement | Generic term to include both participation and consultation techniques. |
| Local Development Plan (LDP) | A land use plan that is subject to independent examination, which will form the statutory Development Plan for a local authority area for the purposes of the Act. It should include a vision, strategy, area-wide policies for development types, land allocations, and where necessary policies and proposals for key areas of change and protection. Policies and allocations must be shown geographically on the Proposals Map forming part of the plan. |
| Local Planning Authority (LPA) | In the case of Blaenau Gwent County Borough, this is Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council excluding Brecon Beacons National Park. |
| National Development Framework (NDF) | The NDF will set out a 20 year land use framework for Wales and will replace the current Wales Spatial Plan. The Welsh Government Planning Directorate has begun work on the NDF. |
| Objective | A statement of what is intended, specifying the desired direction of change in trends. |
| Participation | A process rather than a single event that provides opportunity for direct engagement with the community and |

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| | stakeholders to input into decision making. |
| Planning Inspectorate | The Wales branch of the Planning Inspectorate is an independent body who will be responsible for the formal examination of the LDP. |
| Planning Policy Wales (PPW) | Planning policy guidance for Wales produced by the Welsh Government is set out in this document. |
| Pre-deposit | Stages of plan preparation and consultation before the Deposit LDP is finalised and approved by Council. |
| Preferred Strategy | This sets out the broad strategic direction for the LDP. This includes the preferred level of growth along with the spatial strategy for distributing growth. It also includes the vision, issues and objectives of the Plan. |
| Press Releases | Sent to Welsh media, including newspapers, radio and television news stations as appropriate. Media may choose not to print or broadcast an item. |
| Regulation | Regulations are set out in Welsh Statutory instruments. They provide the framework for the preparation of the LDP. |
| Report of Consultation | A Consultation Report is one of the documents required to be submitted for independent examination. An initial consultation report is also required for the pre-deposit stage. |
| Representations | Comments received in relation to the LDP, either in support of, or in opposition to. |
| Review Report | The Review Report provides an overview of the issues that have been considered as part of the full review process and identifies changes that are likely to be needed to the LDP, based on evidence. It also sets out the type of revision procedure to be followed in revising the LDP. |
| Scoping | The process of deciding the scope and level of detail of a Sustainability Appraisal, including the sustainability effects and options which need to be considered, the assessment methods to be used, and the structure and contents of the SA report. |
| Significant Effect | Effects which are significant in the context of the plan. (Annexe II of the SEA Directive give criteria for determining the likely environmental significance of effects). |
| Soundness Tests | In order to adopt a LDP it must be determined to be sound by the Planning Inspector. The Tests of Soundness are set out in PPW. There are three tests to make that judgement in relation to the plan as a whole. A framework for assessing the soundness of LDPs has been developed by the Planning Inspectorate. |
| Stakeholders | Interests directly affected by the LDP – involvement generally through representative bodies. |
| Strategic Development Plan (SDP) | A Strategic Development Plan is a tool for regional planning to cover cross-boundary issues such as housing and transport. It will be prepared by a Strategic Planning Panel across a region. LPAs must have regard to the SDP when developing their LDPs. |

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| Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) | Generic terms used internationally to describe environmental assessment as applied to policies, plans and programmes. The European SEA Directive (2001/42/EC) requires a formal “environmental assessment of certain plans and programmes, including those in the field of planning and land use”. |
| Submission | When the LDP, SAR and HRA are formally submitted to the Welsh Government for independent examination by a Welsh Government appointed Inspector. |
| Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPG) | Provides supplementary information in respect of the policies of the LDP. They do not (SPG) form part of the Development Plan and are not subject to independent examination but must be consistent with it and with national planning policy. |
| Sustainability Appraisal (SA) | Tool for appraising policies to ensure they reflect sustainable development objectives (i.e. social, environmental and economic factors). Each LPA is required by the SEA Regulations to undertake SA of the LDP. This form of SA fully incorporates the requirements of the SEA Directive. |
| Sustainability Appraisal Report (SAR) | A document required to be produced as part of the SA process to describe and appraise the likely significant effects on sustainability of implementing the Plan, which meets the requirements for the Environmental Report under the SEA Directive. The SEA Regulations requires each LPA to prepare a report of the findings of the SA of the LDP. |
| Timetable | Sets out the dates by which key stages and processes of LDP preparation are expected to be completed. These are definitive for stages up to the deposit of the LDP and indicative for the remaining stages after. |
| Well-being of the Future Generations (Wales) Act (2015) | The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 is legislation that requires public bodies, such as local authorities, to put long term sustainability at the forefront of their thinking to make a difference to lives of people in Wales. Local authorities must work towards the seven well-being goals and enact the five ways of working set out in the Act. |
| Workshop | Where members of the public have the opportunity to engage in group debates and practical exercises with written or drawn ‘output’. |

Planning Policy Team

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Agenda Item 23

Executive Committee and Council only

Date signed off by the Monitoring Officer: N/A

Date signed off by the Section 151 Officer: N/A

Committee: **Council**

Date of Meeting: **26th January, 2023**

Report Subject: **Standards Committee Appointment**

Portfolio Holder: **Councillor S. Thomas, Leader / Cabinet Member
Corporate Overview & Performance**

Report Submitted by: **Andrea Jones, Head of Legal & Corporate
Compliance (Monitoring Officer)**

| Reporting Pathway | | | | | | | | |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------|---------|---------|----------------------|
| Directorate Management Team | Corporate Leadership Team | Portfolio Holder / Chair | Governance & Audit Committee | Democratic Services Committee | Scrutiny Committee | Cabinet | Council | Other (please state) |
| Yes | Yes for information | | | | | | Yes | Standards Committee |

1. Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 The purpose of the report is to seek Council approval of a new appointment to the Blaenau Gwent Standards Committee.

2. Scope and Background

- 2.1 In order to comply with legislative requirements, Council is required to approve all new appointments to the Standards Committee.

In July 2022, an Independent (see definition explained below) Member namely Miss Helen Roberts, served her first term permitted under regulations and made the decision to not remain for a second term so stood down as a member of the Standards Committee. Therefore, a vacancy was advertised in August 2022 which was initially unsuccessful and resulted in a second advertisement in October 2022.

The vacancy must be filled in order to comply with the composition requirements for a Standards Committee.

The vacancy in question can only be filled by an 'Independent Member'. For clarity, in terms of a Standards Committee, an independent member means a member who is not –

- (a) an Elected Member of the County Borough Council,
- (b) an officer, or
- (c) the spouse of a member or an officer of the relevant authority concerned, any other relevant authority, or a community council.

- 2.2 Of the candidates interviewed, one candidate met the minimum criteria for appointment, namely Miss Jennifer White.

- 2.3 It is therefore recommended that Miss White be appointed as a member of the Standards Committee, as from 26th January 2023.

The term of office will initially be for 6 years; however, the relevant Regulations enable members to sit for a further consecutive term of up to 4 years. A report will be brought before Council prior to the end of the initial term, in order for the re-appointment to be considered.

- 2.4 In addition a second candidate also met the minimum criteria, namely Ms Sarah Manuel. It is recommended that Ms Manuel be approved as a reserve appointee should a vacancy become available in the future.

3. **Options for Recommendation**

3.1 **Option 1:** (Preferred option)

Approve the appointment outlined above to the Standards Committee, and in addition approve the reserve candidate to provide cover should a vacancy become available.

Option 2: Approve the appointment outlined above to the Standards Committee but choose to not appoint a reserve appointee at this time.

Option 3: Do not appoint and re-advertise both positions.

4. **Evidence of how does this topic supports the achievement of the Corporate Plan / Statutory Responsibilities / Blaenau Gwent Well-being Plan**

Establishment and maintenance of a Standards Committee is a statutory responsibility.

5. **Implications and risks against Each Option**

Option 1 is preferred as the Council is then taking positive steps to comply with legislative requirements.

Option 2 would mean that the Council is compliant but would mean incurring further recruitment costs should another vacancy become available in the near future.

Option 3 would mean that the Council is non-compliant until further steps are taken to recruit.

There are no financial implications associated with the report other than the costs of future recruitment.

5.3 **Legal**

The appointment aims to prevent the risk of non-compliance with statutory obligations. The appointment will ensure the Council complies with statutory requirements and guidance on Standards Committee membership.

5.4 **Human Resources**

N/A

6. **Supporting Evidence**

6.1 **Performance Information and Data**

The changes are necessary to maintain an effective Standards Committee that promotes and upholds the high standards of conduct required of members.

6.2 **Expected outcome for the public**

An effective Standards Committee that conforms with the requirements of the Standards Committee (Wales) Regulations 2001 and the Standards Committees (Wales) (Amendment) Regulations 2006, and promotes confidence in effective democracy and accountability.

6.3 **Involvement (consultation, engagement, participation)**

The Standards Committee supports involvement as it provides an opportunity for challenge.

6.4 **Thinking for the long term (forward planning)**

This will ensure the Council meets its current statutory obligations and plans for the longer term, providing stakeholders with assurance around its governance arrangements

6.5 **Preventative focus**

The appointment will assist to prevent the risk of operating ultra vires (outside the law).

6.6 **Collaboration / partnership working**

N/A

6.7 **Integration(across service areas)**

N/A

6.8 **EqIA(screening and identifying if full impact assessment is needed)**

N/A

7. **Monitoring Arrangements**

The Standards Committee is kept under review to ensure it complies with any changes in legislation and codes of practice. Any further amendments will be put before full Council for formal approval.

Background Documents /Electronic Links

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Agenda Item 25

Council only

Date signed off by the Monitoring Officer: N/A

Date signed off by the Section 151 Officer: N/A

Committee: **Council**

Date of Meeting: **26th January, 2023**

Report Subject: **Memberships Report**

Portfolio Holder: **Councillor S. Thomas – Leader/
Cabinet Member – Corporate Overview
& Performance**

Report Submitted by: **Democratic Services**

Report Written by: **Democratic Services**

| Reporting Pathway | | | | | | | | |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------|---------|----------|----------------------|
| Directorate Management Team | Corporate Leadership Team | Portfolio Holder / Chair | Governance & Audit Committee | Democratic Services Committee | Scrutiny Committee | Cabinet | Council | Other (please state) |
| | | | | | | | 26/01/23 | |

1. Purpose of the Report

1.1 To present a list of Memberships for consideration and determination by Members of the Council.

2. Scope

2.1 ADVISORY PANEL FOR LOCAL AUTHORITY GOVERNORS

To ratify the appointments made at the panel meeting held on 19th January, 2023.

A verbal update will be provided at Council.

2.2 COMMUNITY HEALTH COUNCILS

To note that under the Health and Social Care (Quality & Engagement) (Wales) Act 2020 (“the 2020 Act”) Community Health Councils will be replaced by the Citizen Voice Body (CVB) which is due to launch on 1st April, 2023. Therefore, Members’ appointments will cease when the CHCs are abolished, which is anticipated to be on the 1st of April 2023 and Members will be offered the opportunity to become a volunteer for the CVB (although they will not form part of the composition of the CVB Board).

2.3 **WLGA RURAL FORUM**

To appoint a representative to the above-named Forum.

2.4 **WELLBEING CHAMPION**

To appoint a Wellbeing Champion for the Council.

3. **Options for Recommendation**

3.1 To consider the above.