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Blaenau Gwent

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

THIS IS A MEETING WHICH THE PUBLIC ARE ENTITLED TO ATTEND

6th December 2022

Dear Sir/Madam

PLACE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

A meeting of the Place Scrutiny Committee will be held in via MS Teams on Tuesday, 13th December, 2022 at 10.00 a.m. *(If you wish to view this meeting please contact michelle.hicks@blaenau-gwent.gov.uk).*

Yours faithfully

Damien McCann
Interim Chief Executive

AGENDA

Pages

1. SIMULTANEOUS TRANSLATION

You are welcome to use Welsh at the meeting, a minimum notice period of 3 working days is required should you wish to do so. A simultaneous translation will be provided if requested.

2. APOLOGIES

To receive.

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. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST & DISPENSATIONS**
- To receive.
4. **PLACE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE** 3 - 6
- To consider the decisions of the meeting held on 8th November, 2022.
- (N.B. The decisions are submitted for accuracy only).*
5. **ACTION SHEET** 7 - 10
- To receive
6. **WASTE MANAGEMENT AND RECYCLING STRATEGY REVIEW** 11 - 40
- To consider the report of the Corporate Director Regeneration and Community Services.
7. **REVISED LDP DELIVERY AGREEMENT TIMETABLE** 41 - 90
- To consider the report of the Corporate Director Regeneration and Community Services.
8. **FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME:
31ST JANUARY 2023** 91 - 94
- To receive.

To: Councillor M. Cross (Chair)
 Councillor R. Leadbeater (Vice-Chair)
 Councillor P. Baldwin
 Councillor S. Behr
 Councillor J. Gardner
 Councillor J. Hill
 Councillor J. Holt
 Councillor J. P. Morgan
 Councillor D. Rowberry

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

COUNTY BOROUGH OF BLAENAU GWENT

REPORT TO: THE CHAIR AND MEMBERS OF THE PLACE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

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> |

| | |
|---------------------|---|
| <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> |

| | |
|---------------------|---|
| <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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Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council

Action Sheet

Place Scrutiny Committee

| Date of Meeting | Action to be Taken | By Whom | Action Taken |
|------------------------|--|---|--|
| 08.11.22 | Item 5 - Action Sheet – Review of Highways Capital Works Programme Members to be provided with the Highway Assessment Matrix prior to any future discussions being held with Members. | Darren Richards, Senior Engineer Design and Construction | High Assessment Matrix attached. Action complete: 14.11.22 |
| 08.11.22 | Item 8 – Forward Work Programme Members requested the following Member Briefing Sessions / site visits to be arranged: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Site visit – Bocs Works• Site visit – Silent Valley• Member Briefing Session – Public Transport | Relevant officers / Democratic Team | Visit arranged for 21 st April 2023 Visits arranged for 9 th and 15 th February 2023 Member briefing session arranged for 8 th February 2023 Action complete: 17.11.22 |

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Appendix B: Highway Assessment Matrix – Residential Roads

| 1A Highway Condition (50%) - FRONT / MAIN LANES | | |
|---|---------------------|-----------------|
| Category / Score | Square Area / Score | Total Score / % |
| 4 (5) | Plus 2000 (5) | 10 (50%) |
| 4 (5) | 1000 - 2000 (4) | 9 (45%) |
| 4 (5) | 1000 - 500 (3) | 8 (40%) |
| 4 (5) | less than 500 (2) | 7 (35%) |
| 3 (4) | Plus 2000 (5) | 9 (45%) |
| 3 (4) | 1000 - 2000 (4) | 8 (40%) |
| 3 (4) | 1000 - 500 (3) | 7 (35%) |
| 3 (4) | less than 500 (2) | 6 (30%) |

| 1B Highway Condition (50%) - REAR LANES x 0.5 = (25%) | | |
|---|-------------------|-----------|
| 4 (5) | Plus 2000 (5) | 10 (25%) |
| 4 (5) | 1000 - 2000 (4) | 9 (22.5%) |
| 4 (5) | 1000 - 500 (3) | 8 (20%) |
| 4 (5) | less than 500 (2) | 7 (17.5%) |
| 3 (4) | Plus 2000 (5) | 9 (22.5%) |
| 3 (4) | 1000 - 2000 (4) | 8 (20%) |
| 3 (4) | 1000 - 500 (3) | 7 (17.5%) |
| 3 (4) | less than 500 (2) | 6 (15%) |

| Example: Location A Street | |
|---|------------|
| 1A - very poor condition | 45% |
| 2 - High Maintenance cost | 24% |
| 3 - 3 insurance claims in last 10 years | 3% |
| 4 - serves 50 - 99 properties | 10% |
| TOTAL | 82% |

| 2 Maintenance Costs (30%) | |
|---------------------------|-----------|
| Costs over 5 years | Score / % |
| Plus £10,000 | 10 (30%) |
| £9,999 - £5,000 | 8 (24%) |
| £4,999 - £3,000 | 5 (15%) |
| £2,999 - £1,000 | 3 (9%) |
| Less than £1,000 | 1 (3%) |
| £0.00 | 0 (0%) |

| 3 Insurance Claims (10%) | |
|--------------------------|-----------|
| No. in last 10 years | Score / % |
| plus 5 | 10 (10%) |
| 4 | 8 (8%) |
| 3 | 5 (5%) |
| 2 | 3 (3%) |
| 1 | 1 (1%) |
| 0 | 0 (0%) |

| 4 Property Location (10%) | |
|---------------------------|-----------|
| No. of Houses | Score / % |
| *150 + | 10 (10%) |
| * 100 - 150 | 8 (8%) |
| 50 TO 99 | 5 (5%) |
| 20 TO 49 | 3 (3%) |
| 1 TO 19 | 1 (1%) |
| 0 / rear access | 0 (0%) |

* Also linked with other highways and can be combined in to one scheme

Appendix C: Highway Assessment Matrix – Residential Roads: Worked Example

| PRUDENTIAL BORROWING SCHEME | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|-----------------------------|--|-----|-----|-----|-----|---|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----------------------------|-----|-----|----|----|--------------------------------|-----|----|----|----|-----------------------------|----|-----|----|----|----|----|----|---|-------|-----|--|--|--|----|-----|
| | (1A) HIGHWAY CONDITION FRONT LANE (50%) | | | | | (1B) HIGHWAY CONDITION REAR LANE (25%) | | | | | (2) MAINTENANCE COSTS (30%) | | | | | (3) No. INSURANCE CLAIMS (10%) | | | | | (4) PROPERTY LOCATION (10%) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | SCORES | 10 | 9 | 8 | 7 | 6 | 9 | 8 | 7 | 6 | 5 | 10 | 8 | 5 | 3 | 1 | 0 | 10 | 8 | 5 | 3 | 1 | 0 | 10 | 8 | 5 | 3 | 1 | 0 | TOTAL | F % | | | | | |
| PERCENTAGE % | 50% | 45% | 40% | 35% | 30% | 25% | 23% | 20% | 18% | 15% | 30% | 24% | 15% | 9% | 3% | 0% | 10% | 8% | 5% | 3% | 1% | 0% | 10% | 8% | 5% | 3% | 1% | 0% | | | | | | | | |
| STREET / ROUTE | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| EXAMPLE STREET | X | | | | | | | | | | X | | | | | | | | | | | | X | | | | | | X | | | | | | 30 | 82% |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
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Agenda Item 6

Cabinet and Council only

Date signed off by the Monitoring Officer:

Date signed off by the Section 151 Officer:

Committee: **Places Scrutiny Committee**

Date of meeting: **13th December 2022**

Report Subject: **Waste Management and Recycling Strategy Review**

Portfolio Holder: **Cllr H. Cunningham, Deputy Leader / Cabinet Member, Place and Environment**

Report Submitted by: **Matthew Stent, Service Manager, Neighbourhood Services**

| Reporting Pathway | | | | | | | | |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------|----------|---------|----------------------|
| Directorate Management Team | Corporate Leadership Team | Portfolio Holder / Chair | Governance and Audit Committee | Democratic Services Committee | Scrutiny Committee | Cabinet | Council | Other (please state) |
| 15.11.22 | 23.11.22 | 07.12.22 | | | 13.12.22 | 18.01.23 | | |

1. **Purpose of the Report**
 - 1.1 To provide Members of the Places Scrutiny Committee with an update of the progress made to date and the three-year review of the Waste Management and Recycling Strategy 2018-25, and for Members to provide comments, suggestions and/or improvements.

2. **Scope and Background**
 - 2.1 The production of a Waste Management and Recycling Strategy has been undertaken to ensure the Council achieves the 70% recycling target set for 2024/2025. Blaenau Gwent has made great improvements in its recycling rate and recently released data from Welsh Government shows an achievement of 64.9% in 2021/22.
 - 2.2 The Waste Management and Recycling Strategy was adopted in 2019. As the strategy covers such a significant time period and as external factors such as changes in the financial markets, developments in technology and developments within Blaenau Gwent itself, it was agreed that it would be sensible to undertake a more significant review every three years.

3. **Options for Recommendation**
 - 3.1 Option 1: The Places Scrutiny Committee considers the progress made to date and the reviewed Waste Management and Recycling Strategy and recommends it to Cabinet for approval.
 - 3.2 Option 2: The Places Scrutiny Committee considers 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.

4. **Evidence of how this topic supports the achievement of the Corporate Plan / Statutory Responsibilities / Blaenau Gwent Well-being Plan**
 - 4.1 The Waste Management and Recycling Strategy contributes to the key priority in the Corporate Plan 'Respond to the nature and climate crisis and enable connected communities.'

5. Implications Against Each Option

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

There are financial implications if the authority does not achieve the statutory recycling target of 70% in 2024/25 it could face financial penalties from Welsh Government of £200 per tonne for every tonne under the target. The following table details the approximate fines based on the current 2021/22 Municipal Waste Arisings of 30,866.41 tonnes:

| Performance | Tonnes below target of 70% | Potential fine 2024/25 |
|-------------|----------------------------|------------------------|
| 65% | 1543.32 | £308,664.10 |
| 66% | 1234.66 | £246,931.28 |
| 67% | 925.99 | £185,198.46 |
| 68% | 617.33 | £123,465.64 |
| 69% | 308.66 | £61,732.82 |

There are potential capital and revenue funding requirements associated with some of the actions as outlined in the activity plan and as such these will be evaluated prior to their implementation. It is the expectation that some actions will need to be delivered within agreed budgets and some actions may be subject to the award of relevant grant funding.

5.2 **Risk including Mitigating Actions**

There is a risk that if the authority does not achieve the statutory recycling target of 70% in 2024/25 it could face financial penalties from Welsh Government of £200 per tonne for every tonne under the target. This strategy sets out how Blaenau Gwent aims to meet challenging Welsh Government targets, to avoid possible fines, whilst delivering improved services within existing revenue budgets.

5.3 **Legal**

Local Authorities in Wales have been set statutory recycling targets through the Wales Waste Measure 2010, and failure to meet the targets will result in a financial penalty from Welsh Government.

5.4 **Human Resources**

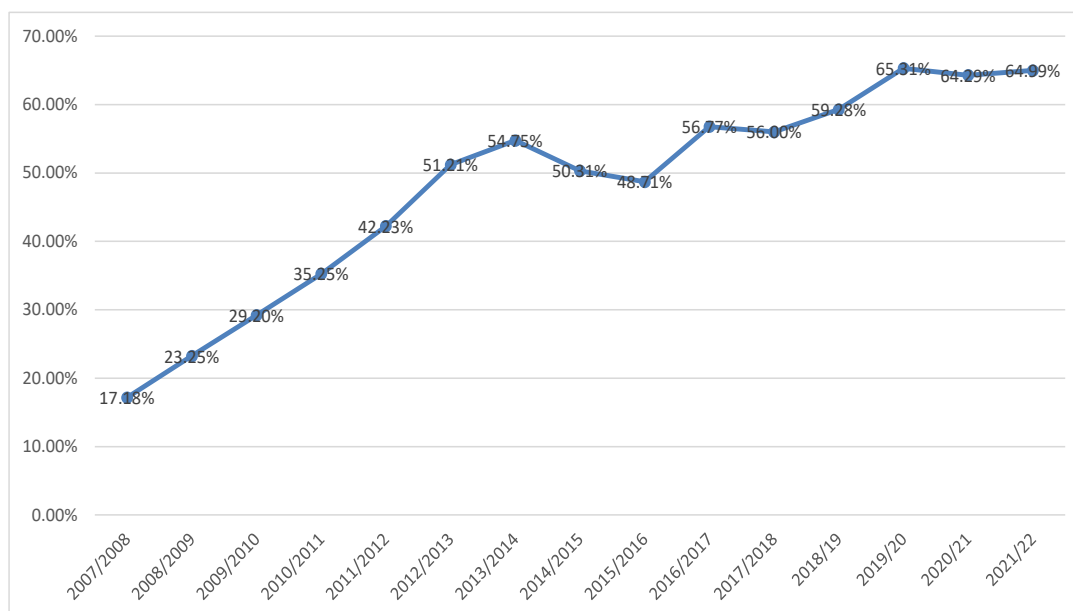
There are no human resource implications associated with the development of this strategy. However, there may be human resource implications associated with some of the actions as outlined in the activity plan and as such these will be evaluated prior to their implementation.

6. Supporting Evidence

6.1 **Performance Information and Data**

Annual performance is shown below. Performance has increased since the introduction of the Strategy in 2018/19 but has plateaued since then. This

review sets the direction of travel for the next three years as we work towards 70%.



Performance in relation to all Welsh Local Authorities 2021-22 (Stats Wales)

| | LA | Total (%) |
|----|--------------------------------|-----------|
| 1 | Pembrokeshire County Council | 74.3% |
| 2 | Bridgend CBC | 72.6% |
| 3 | Vale of Glamorgan Council | 70.2% |
| 4 | Conwy CBC | 70.2% |
| 5 | Ceredigion County Council | 69.6% |
| 6 | Monmouthshire CC | 69.5% |
| 7 | Wrexham CBC | 67.9% |
| 8 | Rhondda Cynon Taff CBC | 67.2% |
| 9 | Newport City Council | 67.1% |
| 10 | Merthyr Tydfil CBC | 66.8% |
| 11 | Powys County Council | 66.8% |
| 12 | Neath Port Talbot CBC | 66.0% |
| 13 | City and County of Swansea | 65.1% |
| 14 | Blaenau Gwent CBC | 64.9% |
| 15 | Denbighshire County Council | 64.8% |
| 16 | Gwynedd Council | 64.2% |
| 17 | Torfaen CBC | 62.6% |
| 18 | Isle of Anglesey CC | 62.3% |
| 19 | Carmarthenshire County Council | 61.8% |
| 20 | Flintshire County Council | 60.1% |
| 21 | Caerphilly CBC | 59.7% |
| 22 | Cardiff County Council | 58.2% |

- 6.2 ***Expected outcome for the public***
Through the strategy, service users and stakeholders will have a clear understanding of the Council's future plans to meet its aspirations and statutory requirements and how it will work together with residents, partners and neighbours to meet wider goals and agendas.
- 6.3 ***Involvement (consultation, engagement, participation)***
Blaenau Gwent will be part of a programme of public engagement and invest in communications and resources to support this Waste Strategy.
- 6.4 ***Thinking for the Long term (forward planning)***
This strategy reflects Blaenau Gwent's commitment to protect and sustain the environment and provide all Blaenau Gwent residents, local businesses and visitors with an efficient, smart and modern waste management and recycling service for now and into the future.
- 6.5 ***Preventative focus***
Blaenau Gwent will explore opportunities to divert waste from disposal by increasing the levels of re-use, recycling and composting. Ensure that all households have either a regular collection service or a convenient alternative arrangement available to them.
- 6.6 ***Collaboration / partnership working***
Blaenau Gwent will work together with its residents, contractors, community groups and the third sector to increase the range of materials able to be recycled, maximise recycling and value, and increase the opportunity for re-use.
- 6.7 ***Integration (across service areas)***
The consolidation of the enforcement activities into one team in Community Services has changed the way we deliver our services in this area with a more joined up and coordinated response.
- 6.8 ***Decarbonisation and Reducing Carbon Emissions***
Two of the transition pathways identified within the Decarbonisation plan directly relate to waste:
- Transport direct – transition to ultra-low emission vehicles and the related infrastructure;
 - Waste – working towards zero waste and a circular economy.
- Ultra-low emission vehicles have been trialled with front line services and will be considered with the fleet replacement programme. However, the new Centre of Operations is integral to Blaenau Gwent achieving a low carbon fleet as we cannot transition to a low emission fleet without the appropriate infrastructure in place to support it. Significant funding will, however, be required in order to deliver the transition to ultra-low emission vehicles.
- 6.9 ***Integrated Impact Assessment***
An EqIA has been undertaken on the Waste and Recycling Strategy and no negative impacts against the protected characteristics have been identified

7. **Monitoring Arrangements**

7.1 **Annual Review** - Blaenau Gwent Waste Team regularly review the outputs of the strategy and action plan. Officers and members monitor costs and also progress against waste and recycling targets. Officers will work within Blaenau Gwent's scrutiny process to ensure that members are aware and have the opportunity to examine progress against the Strategy.

Background Documents /Electronic Links

- Appendix 1 – Waste Management and Recycling Strategy for Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council 2018 -25, Interim Review

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V1 INTERIM REVIEW

BLAENAU GWENT COUNCIL: WASTE MANAGEMENT AND RECYCLING STRATEGY 2018-2025

An inclusive waste management and recycling strategy for Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council.

Publication Date: June 2022



a better place to live and work

This document sets out an interim review of the waste management strategy and recycling strategy for Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council.

Document reference:

Interim Review Strategy 2018-2025

Written by: Waste Team Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council

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1.0 Executive Summary

The strategy sets out how Blaenau Gwent will provide residents, local businesses and visitors with an efficient, smart and modern waste management and recycling service for now and into the future. The strategy reflects Blaenau Gwent’s commitment to protect and sustain the environment through its well-being objectives. It also sets out how Blaenau Gwent aims to meet challenging Welsh Government targets, to avoid possible fines, whilst delivering improved services within a revenue budget which is increasingly stretched.

Blaenau Gwent’s vision for its waste and recycling service is

Working together to build strong and environmentally smart communities.

Five key objectives, aligned to the Corporate Plan, have been identified to ensure the Council continues to improve services for all stakeholders.

Objective 1 – Working Together

Objective 2 – Engagement First

Objective 3 – Ambitious Targets to Maximise Recycling

Objective 4 – Strong Community

Objective 5 – Fair and Equitable Enforcement

In developing the actions, and changes needed to the service, Blaenau Gwent has considered what its service should look like.

| Welsh Government Strategic Target Areas | 2024/25 Targets | What Does Good Look Like for Blaenau Gwent Stakeholders |
|--|-----------------|---|
| Min. levels of reuse & recycling/composting | 70% | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 100% of residents have collections services enabling them to recycle Residents have access to information allowing them to participate in maximising recycling Any waste that is produced is placed in correct recycling containers Council provides collections in the right container at the right place and on time |
| Min. proportion of reuse /recycling /composting from source separation (incl. bring banks and HWRCs) | 80% | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Council sources economic and environmental solutions for an increased range of materials Residents are informed on the range of materials and bring minimal non-recyclable waste to the HWRCs Residents have places to go where experts can repair broken goods and extend their life Residents have advice on how to upcycle their own goods and textiles |

| | | |
|---|------|--|
| Max. level of landfill | 5% | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maximum sorting and capture of materials at kerbside and HWRCs • Minimum food waste and information freely available to all residents • Minimum textiles discarded in residual waste – advice freely available to residents |
| Max. level of energy from waste | 30% | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council has in place policies that promote engagement first and fair and equitable enforcement last, giving every resident the opportunity to participate in services in the correct manner to maximise recycling |
| Min. levels of preparing for reuse (excluding Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE)) | 1.0% | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Residents have access to and use reuse shops and reuse networks where they can pass on goods to others • Re-use services generate an income for re-investing into the service and into the community • Council works closely with the third sector to create work programmes to improve employability and opportunity for unemployed residents |

The strategy reflects Blaenau Gwent’s commitment to protect and sustain the environment and provide all Blaenau Gwent residents and local businesses with a first-class waste management and recycling service.

As the strategy covers such a significant time period it was determined that it would be sensible to undertake a more significant review every three years. This interim review is the scheduled review three years on from the adoption of the strategy.

2.0 Introduction

2.1 National Context

The waste and recycling strategy was aligned to the latest Welsh Government Strategy 'Towards Zero Waste' which was launched in 2010 and the subsequent targets which are highlighted below:

Table 1: Headline targets for Municipal Waste from WG – Towards Zero Waste

| Target Year | 2010/11 | 12/13 | 15/16 | 19/20 | 24/25 |
|---|---------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| Min. levels of reuse & recycling/composting (or AD) | 40% | 52% | 58% | 64% | 70% |
| Min. proportion of reuse /recycling /composting from source separation * | 80% | 80% | 80% | 80% | 80% |
| Max. level of landfill | - | - | - | 10% | 5% |
| Max. level of energy from waste | - | - | 42% | 36% | 30% |
| Min. levels of preparing for reuse (excluding Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE)) | - | 0.4% | 0.6% | 0.8% | 1.0% |

*kerbside, bring and/or civic amenity (CA) site

The Welsh Government has since reviewed its Waste Strategy and published 'Beyond Recycling – A strategy to make the circular economy in Wales a reality' in 2021. The Welsh Governments aim is to keep resources in use for as long as possible and avoid waste. They aim to achieve this by:

- Supporting businesses in Wales to reduce their carbon footprint by becoming more resource efficient;
- Providing the tools to enable community action;
- Phasing out unnecessary single-use items, especially plastic;
- Eradicating avoidable food waste;
- Procuring on a basis which prioritises goods and products which are made from remanufactured, refurbished and recycled materials or come from low carbon and sustainable materials like wood;
- Striving to achieve the highest rates of recycling in the world;
- Reducing the environmental impact of the waste collection from our homes and businesses; and
- Taking full responsibility for our waste.

Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) and Deposit Return Schemes (DRS) are being phased in 2024 and these schemes will need to be considered in terms of how they may affect the objectives

of this strategy. Welsh Government have also commissioned a national Waste Composition Analysis exercise in the Spring and Autumn of 2022, the results of which will indicate what materials are still in resident's black bag waste and could be targeted in future campaigns.

2.2 Local Context

The global pandemic has certainly affected the delivery of the strategy and in particular has affected the team's ability to engage with the public and other stakeholders. The roll out of the Trade Waste service was disrupted by the many lockdowns and closure of local businesses and also impacted on the planned development of a network of Repair cafes.

Since the adoption of the strategy, Blaenau Gwent has pledged its support to Welsh Government's ambition for the Welsh public sector to be carbon neutral by 2030, and have developed a Decarbonisation plan which sets out how we intend to deliver on this ambition over the next ten years. The plan will also help to ensure that decarbonisation is built into long term plans, including this strategy, to improve well-being in Blaenau Gwent. Two of the transition pathways identified within the Decarbonisation plan directly relate to waste:

- Transport direct – transition to ultra-low emission vehicles and the related infrastructure;
- Waste – working towards zero waste and a circular economy.

Ultra-low emission vehicles have been trialled with front line services and will be considered with the fleet replacement programme. However, the new Centre of Operations is integral to Blaenau Gwent achieving a low carbon fleet as we cannot transition to a low emission fleet without the appropriate infrastructure in place to support it.

The consolidation of the enforcement activities into one team in Community Services has changed the way we deliver our services in this area with a more joined up and coordinated response.

3.0 Our Vision and Strategic Objectives

3.1 Vision

Working together to build strong and environmentally smart communities.

3.2 Key Objectives

Five key Objectives have been identified to ensure Blaenau Gwent continues to improve services for customers and other stakeholders.

Objective 1 – Working Together - Blaenau Gwent will work together with its residents, contractors, community groups and the third sector to increase the range of materials able to be recycled, maximise recycling and value, and increase the opportunity for re-use.

Objective 2 – Engagement First - Blaenau Gwent will be part of a programme of public engagement and invest in communications and resources to support this Waste Strategy.

Objective 3 – Ambitious Targets to Maximise Recycling - Blaenau Gwent will explore opportunities to divert waste from disposal by increasing the levels of re-use, recycling and composting. Ensure that all households have either a regular collection service or a convenient alternative arrangement available to them.

Objective 4 – Strong Community - Blaenau Gwent will continually review its services and seek new ways to work with residents and communities to ensure best practice is implemented and services are retained locally where possible.

Objective 5 – Fair and Equitable Enforcement - Blaenau Gwent will implement a programme of Enforcement that is both fair and consistent to enable those residents who are not participating in the recycling schemes to participate.

The strategy reflects Blaenau Gwent's commitment to protect and sustain the environment and provide all Blaenau Gwent residents, local businesses and visitors with an efficient, smart and modern waste management and recycling service for now and into the future.

In future we must prevent waste from being generated, where we cannot prevent, we must reduce, repair, re-use, recycle and compost more. Waste must be considered a resource from which as much value as possible should be recovered. Disposal should only ever be the last resort

4.0 Delivering the Strategy

4.1 Working Together

Blaenau Gwent will work together with its residents, contractors, community groups and the third sector to increase the range of materials able to be recycled, maximise recycling and value, and increase the opportunity for re-use.

Since 2018 we have:

- Constructed and opened a second Recycling Centre at Roseheyworth;
- Worked with Welsh Government to develop an Outline Business Case for a Regional Wood Facility at Silent Valley;
- Successfully secured funding to support the rollout of a Repair Café network across the Borough;
- Developed a regional online Repair Directory for residents to access the nearest repair outlets;
- Constructed our first Reuse Shop at Roseheyworth Recycling Centre which is operated by our contracted partner Wastesavers;
- Successfully secured funding to construct an Education Centre at Roseheyworth Recycling Centre;
- Successfully secured funding to convert a barn at New Vale Recycling Centre to a Reuse shop;
- Appraised options for a new Centre of Operations and selected a preferred site;
- Developed initial designs for the Centre of Operations;
- Trialled an ultra-low emission vehicle for recycling;
- Through our partners Wrap Cymru, participated in a bulk density exercise to inform future fleet development and infrastructure requirements;
- Started to work on the transition of Silent Valley Waste Services coming in house.

4.2 Engagement First

Blaenau Gwent will be part of a programme of public engagement and invest in communications and resources to support this Waste Strategy.

Since 2018 we have:

- Delivered a series of roadshows across the Borough to engage with residents about the side waste enforcement policy;
- Delivered the 'Keeping up with the Joneses' campaign through a consistent message and approach;
- Introduced a new Trade Waste service to all customers which is compliant with the latest Welsh Government legislation through a consistent message and approach;
- Developed online communications for reuse shop at Roseheyworth;

4.3 Ambitious Targets to Maximise Recycling

Blaenau Gwent will explore opportunities to divert waste from disposal by increasing the levels of re-use, recycling and composting. Ensure that all households have either a regular collection service or a convenient alternative arrangement available to them.

Since 2018 we have:

- Introduced black bag sorting policy at New Vale recycling centre;
- Introduced a 'No side waste policy' at kerbside for residual waste;
- Maintained all kerbside collections throughout the course of the pandemic and subsequent lockdowns;
- Through our partners Wrap Cymru, participated in a plastic film trial;
- Introduced a new larger, weighted reusable cardboard sack for all residents;
- Changed the way we collect tetrapak cartons so these can be processed for recycling;

4.4 Strong Community

Blaenau Gwent will continually review its services and seek new ways to work with residents and communities to ensure best practice is implemented and services are retained locally where possible.

Since 2018 we have:

- Introduced a new Trade Waste service to all customers which is compliant with the latest Welsh Government legislation. Bespoke multi-stream collections vehicles have been purchased and a new pricing structure has been developed to ensure the service is sustainable going forward;
- Carried out a route optimisation exercise on all our recycling rounds;
- Introduced in-cab technology across the recycling fleet;
- Reinstated a number of rear lane collections utilising bespoke vehicles

4.5 Fair and Equitable Enforcement

Blaenau Gwent will implement a programme of Enforcement that is both fair and consistent to enable those residents who are not participating in the recycling schemes to participate.

Since 2018 we have:

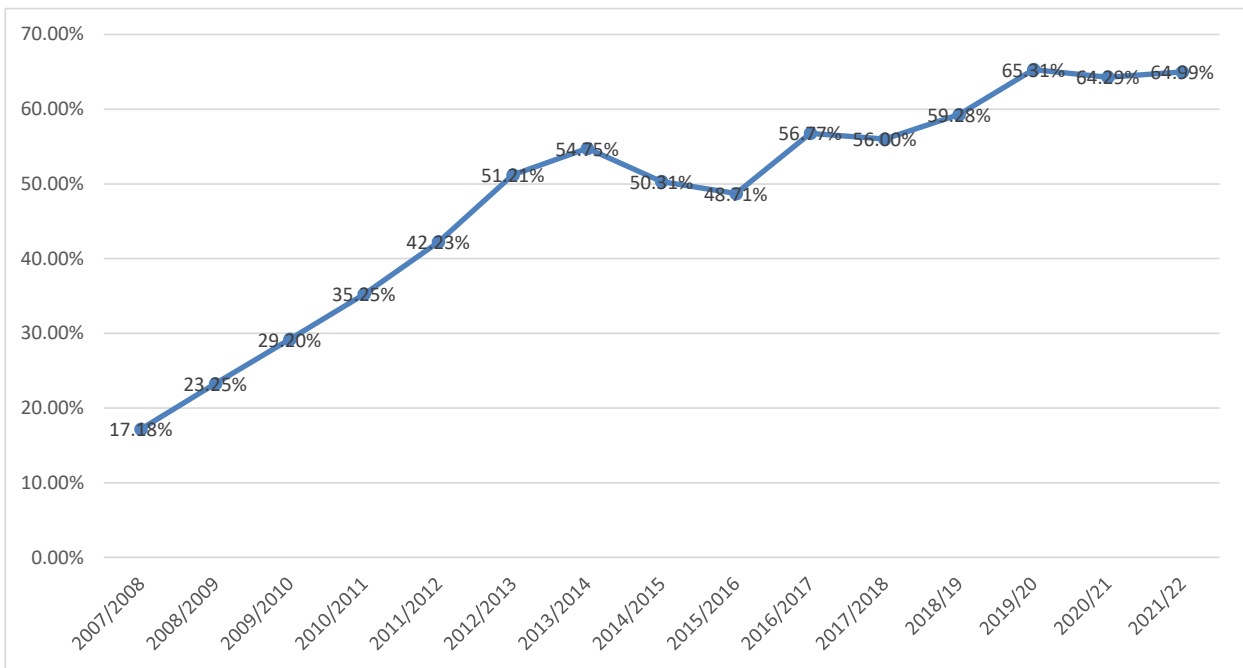
- Introduced a consolidated Enforcement Team in Community Services;
- Introduced a 'No side waste policy' at kerbside for residual waste;
- Delivered the 'Keeping up with the Joneses' campaign;
- Utilised powers under Section 46 of the the Environmental Protection Act 1990 to take enforcement action against residents who are not following Blaenau Gwent policies for recycling;
- Developed a process for the misplacement of waste;
- Worked with residents to phase out communal collection points where this is possible;
- Carried out Commercial Duty of Care checks in Town Centres;

5.0 Monitoring

5.1 Performance

Annual performance is shown below. Performance has increased since the introduction of the Strategy in 2018/19 but has plateaued since then. This review sets the direction of travel for the next three years as we work towards 70%.

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| 2007/2008 | 2008/2009 | 2009/2010 | 2010/2011 | 2011/2012 | 2012/2013 | 2013/2014 | 2014/2015 | 2015/2016 | 2016/2017 | 2017/2018 | 2018/19 | 2019/20 | 2020/21 | 2021/22 |
| 17.18% | 23.25% | 29.20% | 35.25% | 42.23% | 51.21% | 54.75% | 50.31% | 48.71% | 56.77% | 56.00% | 59.28% | 65.31% | 64.29% | 64.99% |



Assuming the total municipal waste remains constant over the next few years, to achieve 70% we would need to reduce our residual and increase our recycling by 1562.44 tonnes. This means that for every 1% increase in our recycling rate would require a swing of 308.66 tonnes

5.2 Timeline

Appendix 1 identifies the key actions to deliver Blaenau Gwent’s Objectives. They outline Blaenau Gwent’s commitment to continuous improvement, the delivery of statutory objectives and engagement with its stakeholders throughout the process. The dates indicated are the dates at which Blaenau Gwent will start work on the evaluation and delivery of any specific action.

6.0 Investment

There are number of actions, included in Appendix 1 that will require capital investment. For capital spend that continues to move the Council towards a Circular Economy, Blaenau Gwent will prepare capital grant applications justifying how the investment would assist in meeting or exceeding of statutory targets through the identified service change or enhancement.

Other actions will require revenue investment from within a revenue budget which is increasingly stretched. In these circumstances a case by case cost benefit analysis will be carried out to identify how the actions can be delivered though invest to save means.

Appendix 1: Summary Action Plan and Timeline

These are the proposed key actions – how they will be tactically delivered will be determined at the point each project / change is to be implemented.

| | Strategic Objective | 2022/23 | 2023/24 | 2024/25 |
|---------------------------|---|--|--|--|
| | | | | 70% |
| HWRC | Strong Community Working Together | Open re-use furniture and large items shop at New Vale. Establish contacts for Repair cafes | Develop network of Repair cafés | |
| Kerbside Recycling | Engagement First Ambitious Targets to Maximise Recycling | On-going ‘Keeping up with the Joneses’ campaign Promotion of kerbside collected household batteries | On-going ‘Keeping up with the Joneses’ campaign | On-going ‘Keeping up with the Joneses’ campaign |
| | Ambitious Targets to Maximise Recycling | Market review to identify further opportunities for extending recycling materials including plastic film | Introduce financially viable new materials for recycling | Consolidate extended service to maximise recycling |
| | Strong Community | | Plan for fleet replacement and future proof fleet for new / additional materials and the latest technology | Procure new fleet |
| Kerbside Residual | Fair and Equitable Enforcement Ambitious Targets to Maximise Recycling | Continue with side waste enforcement | Continue with side waste enforcement | Continue with side waste enforcement |

| | Strategic Objective | 2022/23 | 2023/24 | 2024/25 |
|--|---|---|--|--|
| | Ambitious Targets to Maximise Recycling | Review residual collection frequency and containment | Trial reduced residual frequency and/ or reduced containment or number of bags | 70% Introduce reduced residual frequency or reduced containment |
| Waste Transfer Station | Working Together Ambitious Targets to Maximise Recycling | Ensure transfer station is compliant and future proofed to incorporate further developments Investigate options available for baling | Investigate options and procure for replacement baling solution | Introduce baling solution |
| | Working Together | Work with other local authorities to develop a partnership for Regional Wood Facility. Secure funding | Construct Regional Wood Facility | Commission Regional Wood Facility |
| Trade Waste | Strong Community Ambitious Targets to Maximise Recycling | Survey commercial premises to identify any gaps in the market. Trial trade waste recycling service at Roseheyworth Recycling Centre | Grow service - review service to provide access to all local businesses. | Create network of Community Recycling Ambassadors in local businesses |
| Engagement and Education | Engagement First | Opening of Education Centre. Develop an education programme to be delivered at the centre | Carry out participation and set out study and deliver focussed and targeted communications to maximise recycling | Survey residents to ensure we are delivering what we said we would Create network of Community Recycling Ambassadors in schools and Council Buildings |
| Communications supporting service changes | Engagement First Ambitious Targets to Maximise Recycling | Promote textiles, domestic batteries and small WEEE collections at kerbside | Social media communications for reuse HWRC site shop and bulky items outlet. Communications for any | Communications for reduced frequency or reduced containment of residual |

| | Strategic Objective | 2022/23 | 2023/24 | 2024/25 |
|-----------------------------|--|--|--|--|
| | | Analyse results of Waste Composition Analysis | additional kerbside collected materials. Targeted communications campaign based on Waste Composition Analysis results. | 70% collections and enhanced recycling |
| Centre of Operations | Working Together Strong Community | Financial options for new Centre of Operations. Planning permission sought | Construct new Centre of Operations | Transition to new Centre of Operations |

Appendix 2: Current Service

| Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council | |
|--------------------------------------|--|
| Residual Waste | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Collected 3 weekly using 240 litre bins or 4 black bags per household, with no side waste accepted. |
| Recyclate | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Weekly collection of recyclate for all households in either a Troliboc, 55-litre black boxes with different coloured lids, to distinguish the materials, and hessian reusable sacks. Recyclate collected weekly include food tins and drink cans, empty aerosols, newspapers, magazines and junk mail, catalogues and telephone directories, glass jars and bottles, plastic bottles, mixed plastics, clothes, textiles and paired shoes, small WEEE and domestic batteries. A weekly AHP and nappy collection service is open to all household which provides extra capacity where needed. Provision of two HWRCs - with black bag sorting required. |
| Organics | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A weekly collection of green waste is operated from March to November each year collected in green hessian sacks. Food Waste is collected source segregated on a weekly basis in 23 litre green caddies. The Authority supplies food liners to residents for this service. |
| Trade Waste | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Weekly Residual Waste collections to approximately 300 trade customers. All customers have residual and recycling collection contracts. |
| Disposal | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Residual Waste is treated at Viridor's Energy from Waste Facility at Trident Park in Cardiff. |
| Contractual Arrangements | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Silent Valley Waste Services Ltd are currently contracted to operate the New Vale and Roseheyworth HWRCs and the Waste Transfer Station on behalf of BG and are the permit holders for all sites. |

Appendix 3: Integrated Communication Package – a practical approach

Communications that underpins the strategy to achieve Blaenau Gwent's goals

- There will be a **focus** on – and prioritisation of – those behaviours/actions which will make the greatest contribution to the waste and recycling strategy's overarching objectives.
- Communications and engagement **activity must align with and complement the wider waste strategy**. In particular this means linking with any future service changes as identified in the Action Plan in Appendix 1. The focus will be on delivering excellent service change communications, with additional communications, engagement and behaviour change activity scheduled in around this.
- Adopting a **project-focused** rather than 'always on' communications approach, with two types of communications project: those linked to service change (time-specific and delivered as an integral element of the wider service change), and those not linked to service change (non time-specific and delivered as discrete projects), all of which will have clear objectives and timelines. This means that at any one time there may be **one key communications focus**; it also means that there will be short periods between projects during which there will remain only a low level of communications outputs e.g. the Council's social media accounts.
- Developing communications activities and materials from scratch can be expensive and time-consuming. Where possible, the Council will **make use of existing materials/templates** etc, amending them as necessary to meet its own specific needs. This does not mean that 'one size fits all', only that where possible, the Council will continue to make use of existing materials/templates etc as a starting point, with additional bespoke materials and activities to be developed at a later stage as needed. This approach is **low-cost and low-risk** compared to developing materials from scratch.
- Investigating opportunities to **benefit from the Welsh Government's Behaviour Change Programme** and other national initiatives as they are developed. This is likely to provide multiple opportunities for participation and collaboration.
- Continuing to make the most of **existing networks and partnerships**.
- Using findings from planned trials **target specific audience segments** using the channels and messages that will best work for them. The focus will remain on targeting those segments which will have the **greatest impact – which will also deliver the best value for money**.

Appendix 4: Well Being Goals

| How Blaenau Gwent's Strategic Waste Objectives and Action Plan will result in multiple benefits for our communities and contribute to the national well-being goals. | | | |
|--|---|---|---|
| Well-being goals | 5 ways of working and how we will deliver | Blaenau Gwent's Strategic Waste Objectives that deliver against well-being goals | How actions beneficially contribute to the national well-being goals |
| <p>A prosperous Wales An innovative, productive and low carbon society which recognises the limits of the global environment and therefore uses resources efficiently and proportionately (including acting on climate change); and which develops a skilled and well-educated population in an economy which generates wealth and provides employment opportunities, allowing people to take advantage of the wealth generated through securing decent work.</p> | Long-term | <p>Strong Community</p> <p>Ambitious Targets to Maximise Recycling</p> <p>Working Together</p> | <p>Services designed so that everyone can participate.</p> <p>Maximise benefits of emerging technologies to recycle more and introduce additional materials.</p> <p>Providing residents with a more suitable HWRC and re-use facilities for the future to achieve 70% recycling rate by 2025.</p> <p>As new materials are included in the recycling services Blaenau Gwent will first seek reprocessing outlets in Wales.</p> |
| <p>A more equal Wales A society that enables people to fulfil their potential no matter what their background or circumstances (including their socio-economic background and circumstances).</p> | Integration and Collaboration | Strong Community | <p>Services that are accessible to all residents, local businesses and visitors to Blaenau Gwent.</p> <p>Improvements to HWRC will</p> |

| | | | |
|--|-----------------------------|--|---|
| | | | as training in NVQs, to increase re-use and the wider social benefits. |
| <p>A healthier Wales A society in which people’s physical and mental well-being is maximised and in which choices and behaviours that benefit future health are understood.</p> | Integration and Involvement | <p>Engagement First</p> <p>Strong Community</p> | <p>Waste Wardens will work with schools, in conjunctions with our Biodiversity Team, so our children understand how they can make a difference from an early age.</p> <p>Targeted education - encouraging people to do the right thing by appealing to their sense of belonging. Focusing messages with emphasis on the positive and appealing to residents’ sense of identity and community.</p> <p>Blaenau Gwent will make its services accessible to all new residents, to ensure they have both the information and equipment to participate.</p> |
| <p>A resilient Wales A nation which maintains and enhances a biodiverse natural environment with healthy functioning ecosystems that support social, economic and ecological resilience and the</p> | Long-term | <p>Strong Community</p> <p>Ambitious Targets to Maximise Recycling</p> | <p>An inclusive strategy that is aligned to the waste hierarchy and supports its Corporate plan for Strong & Environmentally</p> |

| | | | |
|--|-------------------------------|---|--|
| capacity to adapt to change (for example climate change). | | | Smart Communities |
| A globally responsible Wales A nation which, when doing anything to improve the economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales, takes account of whether doing such a thing may make a positive contribution to global well-being. | Prevention | Strong Community Ambitious Targets to Maximise Recycling | A strategy that is aligned to the waste hierarchy through providing opportunities to recycle what is produced and reducing the amount of waste disposed. |
| A Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language A society that promotes and protects culture, heritage and the Welsh language, and which encourages people to participate in the arts, and sports and recreation. | Involvement and Collaboration | Engagement First Working Together | Engagement - all communications with our community will be provided in English and Welsh. |

The Five Ways of Working

Long-term - The importance of balancing short-term needs with the needs to safeguard the ability to also meet long-term needs.

Integration - Considering how the public body’s well-being objectives may impact upon each of the well-being goals, on their objectives, or on the objectives of other public bodies.

Involvement - The importance of involving people with an interest in achieving the well-being goals, and ensuring that those people reflect the diversity of the area which the body serves.

Collaboration - Acting in collaboration with any other person (or different parts of the body itself) that could help the body to meet its well-being objectives.

Prevention - How acting to prevent problems occurring or getting worse may help public bodies meet their objectives.

WRAP's vision is a world in which resources are used sustainably.

Our mission is to accelerate the move to a sustainable resource-efficient economy through re-inventing how we design, produce and sell products; re-thinking how we use and consume products; and re-defining what is possible through re-use and recycling.

Find out more at www.wrapcymru.org.uk



Agenda Item 7

Cabinet and Council only

Date signed off by the Monitoring Officer:

Date signed off by the Section 151 Officer:

Committee: **Place Scrutiny Committee**

Date of meeting: **13th December 2022**

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

Portfolio Holder: **Cllr John Morgan – Cabinet Member Place and Regeneration**

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

| Reporting Pathway | | | | | | | | |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------|---------|------------|----------------------|
| Directorate Management Team | Corporate Leadership Team | Portfolio Holder / Chair | Governance and Audit Committee | Democratic Services Committee | Scrutiny Committee | Cabinet | Council | Other (please state) |
| 08/11/2022 | 10/11/2022 | 07.12.22 | | | 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 Participation</i> | <i>October 2018</i> | <i>October 2019</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:** Support the Revised Delivery Agreement and timetable for the preparation of the Replacement LDP.

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

3.2 The Preferred option is Option 1 – for Members to support 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.

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 consistently of approach as far as possible. Opportunities for joint evidence gathering will continue to 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

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Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council
Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol Blaenau Gwent

Revised Delivery Agreement Cytundeb Cyflenwi Diwygiedig

Page 49

**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

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:

Voluntary bodies whose activities benefit any part of the authority's area:

- GAVO
- Age Concern Gwent
- Gwent Wildlife Trust
- Royal Voluntary Service

Bodies representing the interests of different racial, ethnic or national groups in the authority's area:

- The Equality and Human Rights Commission
- The Valleys Regional Equality Council
- Citizens Advice Cymru
- Ethnic Minority Foundation
- Friends, Families and Travellers

Bodies which represent the interests in different religious groups in the authority's area

- 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

- Cardiff Buddhist Centre
- UK Islamic Mission

Bodies which represent the interests of disabled persons in the authority's area:

- 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

Bodies which represent the interests of persons carrying out business in the authority's area:

- Blaenau Gwent Business Forum
- Business Wales (South Wales Regional Centre)
- Federation of Small Businesses in Wales

Bodies which represent the interests of Welsh culture in the authority's area:

- 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

- Blaenau Gwent Fair and Safe Partnership

Education

- Coleg Gwent
- National Library for Wales

Housing Associations

- Melin
- Linc Cymru
- United Welsh

Elderly Persons Organisations

- Age UK
- National Old Age Pensioners Association for Wales

Ex Offenders Groups

- Nacro
- Apex Trust

Government Agencies

- Arts Council of Wales
- Capital Region Tourism
- Coed Cymru
- Civic Trust Cymru
- The National Trust

Local House Builders

Local Estate Agents

Homeless Organisations

- Shelter Cymru
- Crisis

Planning Consultants

- 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

| | |
|---|--|
| <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% |
| | | | | Private rented | 11.4% |
| | | | | Other rented | 1.4% |
| | | | | <i>Source: Census 2011</i> | |
| Ethnic Group | | Economic Inactivity | | | |
| White | 98.4% | % inactive males 16-74 years: | | | |
| Asian or Asian British | 0.5% | Retired | 16.8% | | |
| Black or Black British | 0.1% | Student | 4.3% | | |
| Chinese or Other | 0.2% | Looking after home/family | 4.5% | | |
| Mixed Ethnicity | 0.6% | Permenantly sick/disabled | 9.6% | | |
| Other Ethnicity | 0.1% | Other | 2.7% | | |
| Identifying themselves as Welsh | 72.4% | | | | |
| <i>Source: Census 2011</i> | | <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% | % people of working age with limiting long-term illness | 13.9% | Mining & Quarrying | 0.30% |
| Total Cars (No.) | 32,478 | | | Manufacturing | 20.10% |
| <i>Source: Census 2011</i> | | % of people whose health was: | | Public Utilities | 2.10% |
| Lone Parent Households (No) | | Good | 72.5% | Construction | 7.90% |
| With dependent children | 2,759 | Fairly good | 16.8% | Wholesale & Retail; repair motor vehicle | 15.20% |
| <i>Source: Census 2011</i> | | Not good | 10.7% | Hotels & Catering | 4.60% |
| Education & Qualifications (%) | | All people who provide unpaid care | 12.5% | Transport & Storage | 3.90% |
| All people aged 16 and over | 57,321 | % of people who provide unpaid care: | | Financial Intermediation | 1.70% |
| No qualifications | 36.0% | 1-19 hours a week | 6.2% | Real Estate | 1.10% |
| Highest qualification (level 1) | 15.80% | 20-49 hours a week | 2.3% | Public administration & defence | 7.00% |
| Highest qualification (level 2) | 15.50% | 50 or more hours per week | 4.0% | Education | 7.90% |
| Highest qualification (level 3) | 9.80% | <i>Source: Census 2011</i> | | Health & Social Work | 17.30% |
| Highest qualification (level 4 and above) | 15.20% | Job Seekers Allowance: May 2020 | | | |
| Other qualification/level unknown | 4.20% | Number of claimants | 3,135 | Other | 3.70% |
| <i>Source: Census 2011</i> | | % of claimants | 7.20% | <i>Source: Census 2011</i> | |
| Household Size | | <i>Source: Nomis</i> | | | |
| Persons per household | 2.3 | | | | |
| <i>Source: Census 2011</i> | | | | | |
|  <p>Cyngor Bwrdeisdref Sirol Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council</p> | | | | | |

Glossary of Terms

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| 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 |

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| | 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’. |

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Agenda Item 8

Cabinet and Council only

Date signed off by the Monitoring Officer: N/A

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

Committee: **Place Scrutiny Committee**
Date of meeting: **13th December 2022**
Report Subject: **Forward Work Programme: 31st January 2023**
Portfolio Holder: **Cllr Helen Cunningham, Deputy Leader / Cabinet Member Place and Environment**
Cllr John C Morgan, Cabinet Member Place and Regeneration
Report Submitted by: **Scrutiny and Democratic Officer**

| Reporting Pathway | | | | | | | | |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------|-------------------------------|--------------------|---------|---------|----------------------|
| Directorate Management Team | Corporate Leadership Team | Portfolio Holder / Chair | Audit Committee | Democratic Services Committee | Scrutiny Committee | Cabinet | Council | Other (please state) |
| x | x | 07.12.22 | | | | | | |

1. **Purpose of the Report**
 - 1.1 To present to Members the Place Scrutiny Committee Forward Work Programme for the Meeting on 31st January 2023 for discussion and agreement.
2. **Scope and Background**
 - 2.1 The Scrutiny Work Programmes are key aspects of the Council's planning and governance arrangements and support the requirements of the Constitution.
 - 2.2 The topics set out in the Forward Work Programme link to the strategic work of the Council as identified by the Council's revised Corporate Plan, corporate documents and supporting business plans.
 - 2.3 Effective work programmes are essential to ensure that the work of scrutiny makes a positive impact upon the Council's delivery of services.
 - 2.4 The Committee's Forward Work Programme was agreed in September 2022, recognising the fluidity of the document to enable the Committee to respond to urgent and emerging issues, and included timescales when reports will be considered by the Committee. The work programme is managed and implemented by the Scrutiny and Democratic Officer under the direction of the Chair and Committee.
 - 2.5 The forward work programme for the forthcoming meeting will be presented to Committee on a 6 weekly cycle in order that Members can consider the programme of work; request information is included within the reports, as appropriate and / or make amendments to the work programme.

3. **Options for Recommendation**

3.1 **Option 1:** The Scrutiny Committee consider the Forward Work Programme for the meeting 31st January 2023, and

- Make any amendments to the topics scheduled for the meetings;
- Suggest any additional invitees that the committee requires to fully consider the reports; and
- Request any additional information to be included with regards to the topics to be discussed.

3.2 **Option 2:** The Scrutiny Committee agree the Forward Programme for the meeting 31st January 2023, as presented.

Background Documents /Electronic Links

- Appendix 1 – Forward Work Programme – Meeting on 31st January 2023

Place Scrutiny Committee Forward Work Programme

| Dates | Scrutiny Topic | Purpose | Lead Officer | Cabinet / Council |
|---|--|---|--|--------------------|
| Tuesday 31st January 2023 | Brynmawr Placemaking Plan | Pre-Decision To endorse the proposals for placemaking in Brynmawr. | Amy Taylor | Cabinet – 01.03.23 |
| | Community Services and Regeneration Directorate Performance report | Performance Monitoring Members to monitor the performance of the Directorate. | Clive Rogers Ellie Fry Dave Thompson <i>(with Performance Team support)</i> | Cabinet – 01.03.23 |

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