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

THIS IS A MEETING WHICH THE PUBLIC ARE ENTITLED TO ATTEND

30th November 2022

Dear Sir/Madam

CABINET

A meeting of the Cabinet will be held in Virtually via MS Teams (if you would like to view this meeting please contact michelle.hicks@blaenau-gwent.gov.uk) on **Wednesday, 7th December, 2022 at 10.00 am.**

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 any apologies for absence.

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 AND DISPENSATIONS

To receive any declarations of interest or dispensations.

DECISIONS

4. CABINET 5 - 10

To consider the decisions of the Cabinet meeting held on 26th October, 2022.

5. SPECIAL CABINET MEETING 11 - 12

To consider the decisions of the Special Cabinet meeting held on 15th November, 2022.

CORPORATE AND PERFORMANCE PORTFOLIO

6. THE CALCULATION OF THE COUNCIL TAX BASE FOR THE YEAR 2023/24 13 - 22

To consider the report of the Chief Officer Resources.

7. GRANTS TO ORGANISATIONS 23 - 26

To consider the report of the Chief Officer Resources.

8. GRANTS WORKING GROUP – 10TH NOVEMBER 2022 27 - 30

To consider the report of the Chief Officer Resources.

9. POSITION STATEMENT SHARED RESOURCE SERVICE (SRS) 31 - 38

To consider the report of the Chief Officer Commercial and Customer.

PLACE AND REGENERATION PORTFOLIO

10. TREDEGAR PLACEMAKING PLAN 39 - 190

To consider the report of the Corporate Director Regeneration and Community Services.

11. **LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN – ANNUAL MONITORING REPORT (AMR)** 191 - 344

To consider the report of the Corporate Director Regeneration and Community Services.

PEOPLE AND EDUCATION PORTFOLIO

12. **ANEURIN LEISURE TRUST PERFORMANCE AND MONITORING** 345 - 386

To consider the report of the Corporate Director Education.

To: Councillor S. Thomas
Councillor H. Cunningham
Councillor J. C. Morgan
Councillor H. Trollope
Councillor S. Edmunds

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

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COUNTY BOROUGH OF BLAENAU GWENT

REPORT TO: THE LEADER AND MEMBERS OF THE CABINET
SUBJECT: CABINET – 26TH OCTOBER, 2022
REPORT OF: DEMOCRATIC & COMMITTEE SUPPORT OFFICER

PRESENT: Leader/
Cabinet Member - Corporate Overview & Performance
Councillor S. Thomas

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

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

Cabinet Member – People & Education
Councillor S. Edmunds

WITH: Interim Chief Executive
Corporate Director Education
Interim Corporate Director Social Services
Corporate Director Regeneration & Community Services
Chief Officer Resources
Chief Officer Customer & Commercial
Head of Organisational Development
Head of Legal and Corporate Compliance
Service Manager Infrastructure
Communications, Marketing and Customer
Access Manager
Marketing & Communications Projects Officer

DECISIONS UNDER DELEGATED POWERS

<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>
No. 2	<p><u>APOLOGIES</u></p> <p>Apologies for absence were received for Councillor H. Trollope, Cabinet Member People & Social Services.</p>
No. 3	<p><u>DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND DISPENSATIONS</u></p> <p>No declarations of interest or dispensations were reported.</p>
	<p><u>GENERAL MATTERS</u></p>
No. 4	<p><u>CONFERENCES, COURSES, EVENTS AND INVITATIONS</u></p> <p>Consideration was given to the following:</p> <p><u>Wales and the Battle of Britain Historical Exhibition - Monday, 10th October, 2022</u></p> <p>RESOLVED that Councillor D. Bevan, Armed Forces Champion be approved to attend.</p> <p><u>Annual Briefing, HMS CAMBRIA – Thursday, 20th October, 2022.</u></p> <p>RESOLVED that Councillor D. Bevan, Armed Forces Champion be approved attend.</p> <p><u>GAVO Awards - 25th October, 2022</u></p> <p>RESOLVED that Councillor C. Smith, Presiding Member be approved to attend.</p>

	<u>MINUTES</u>
No. 5	<p><u>EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE</u></p> <p>Consideration was given to the Decisions of the Executive Committee held on 21st September, 2022.</p> <p>RESOLVED that the Decisions be accepted as a true record of proceedings.</p>
	<u>CORPORATE AND PERFORMANCE PORTFOLIO</u>
No. 6	<p><u>FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME – 7TH DECEMBER, 2022</u></p> <p>Consideration was given to report of the Democratic & Scrutiny Officer.</p> <p>RESOLVED that the report be accepted and the Forward Work Programme for the Meeting on 7th December 2022 be approved as presented.</p>
No. 7	<p><u>SICKNESS ABSENCE PERFORMANCE 2021/22</u></p> <p>Consideration was given to the report of the Head of Organisational Development.</p> <p>RESOLVED that the report be accepted and the Cabinet agree the ongoing actions to support improvement in attendance. (Option 2)</p>
No. 8	<p><u>THE ANNUAL LETTER OF THE PUBLIC SERVICES OMBUDSMAN FOR WALES 2021/2022</u></p> <p>Consideration was given to the report of the Head of Legal & Corporate Compliance.</p> <p>RESOVLED that the report be accepted and the Cabinet was informed of the Council’s performance with regard to complaints made to the Public Services Ombudsman for Wales, and that the report has been referred to the Governance and Audit Committee for assurance that the</p>

	<p>process for the monitoring of complaints is robust and the performance information provided reflects these practices. (Option 1)</p>
	<p><u>PEOPLE AND EDUCATION PORTFOLIO</u></p>
No. 9	<p><u>STATUTORY MAINTAINED SCHOOLS PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT</u></p> <p>Consideration was given to the report of the Corporate Director of Education.</p> <p>RESOLVED that the report be accepted and the information in the report and appendices be noted. (Option 1)</p>
No. 10	<p><u>REVIEW OF INCLUSION/ALN STRATEGIES, POLICIES AND PRACTICES</u></p> <p>Consideration was given to the joint report of the Corporate Director of Education and the Head of School Improvement & Inclusion.</p> <p>RESOLVED that the report and attached strategies/policies be accepted as presented. (Option 1)</p>
No. 11	<p><u>IMPROVING SCHOOLS PROGRAMME</u></p> <p>Consideration was given to report of the Corporate Director of Education.</p> <p>RESOLVED that the report be accepted as provided. (Option 1)</p>
	<p><u>PLACE AND ENVIRONMENT PORTFOLIO</u></p>
No. 12	<p><u>REVIEW OF HIGHWAY CAPITAL WORKS PROGRAMME 2017 – 2022</u></p> <p>Consideration was given to report of the Head of Community Services.</p> <p>RESOLVED that the report be accepted and Option 2b be approved, namely that in the event that funding does become available the following options be proposed: -</p> <p>Option 2a: Highest Priority Classified Roads (ranked in order of priority) Estimated Total Cost £500,000</p>

	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A467 Warm Turn Carriageway Resurfacing £75k 2. Tafarnaubach Ind Est (Top Road) Resurfacing £175k 3. Blaenant Ind Est Roundabout Resurfacing £75k 4. Big Arch / Steelworks Road / GO Resurfacing £50k 5. A4046 - Waun-Y-Pound Road, Ebbw Vale £25k 6. College Road, Ebbw Vale £100k <p>Option 2b - as Option 2a plus 5 worst Residential Roads & Other Highway Related Works – Estimated Total Cost £1,000,000</p> <p>Residential Roads: 5no priority residential roads £350k Other Highway Related Works: -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Crash Barriers £50k • Road Markings, signs and bollards £35k • Speed Humps £50k • Traffic Order Reviews £15k <p>Options 2a & 2b may vary subject to the level of available funding that may be made available.</p>
	<p><u>JOINT PORTFOLIO - PEOPLE & SOCIAL SERVICES/PEOPLE & EDUCATION</u></p>
<p>No. 13</p>	<p><u>CORPORATE SAFEGUARDING PERFORMANCE REPORT, INCLUDING INFORMATION FOR SOCIAL SERVICES 1ST APRIL TO 30TH JUNE 2022 AND EDUCATION SUMMER TERM–2022</u></p> <p>Consideration was given to joint report of the Interim Corporate Director of Social Services and Corporate Director of Education.</p> <p>RESOLVED that the approach and information detailed in the report be accepted. (Option 1)</p>

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COUNTY BOROUGH OF BLAENAU GWENT

REPORT TO: THE LEADER AND MEMBERS OF THE CABINET
SUBJECT: SPECIAL CABINET – 15TH NOVEMBER, 2022
REPORT OF: DEMOCRATIC & COMMITTEE SUPPORT OFFICER

PRESENT: Leader/
Cabinet Member - Corporate Overview & Performance
Councillor S. Thomas

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

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

Cabinet Member – People & Education
Councillor S. Edmunds

Cabinet Member – People & Social Services
Councillor H. Trollope

WITH: Interim Chief Executive
Corporate Director Education
Corporate Director Regeneration and Community Services
Chief Officer Resources
Chief Officer Customer & Commercial
Head of Legal and Corporate Compliance
Service Manager – Performance and Democratic

DECISIONS UNDER DELEGATED POWERS

<u>ITEM</u>	<u>SUBJECT</u>
No. 1	<u>SIMULTANEOUS TRANSLATION</u> It was noted that no requests had been received for the simultaneous translation service.
No. 2	<u>APOLOGIES</u> No apologies for absence were reported.
No. 3	<u>DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND DISPENSATIONS</u> No declarations of interest or dispensations were reported.
	<u>PEOPLE AND EDUCATION PORTFOLIO</u>
No. 4	<u>LOCAL GOVERNMENT EDUCATION SERVICES SAFEGUARDING POLICY</u> Consideration was given to the report of the Corporate Director Education. RESOLVED that the report be accepted and the Education Directorate Safeguarding Policy prior to its distribution to schools be approved.

Agenda Item 6

Cabinet and Council only

Date signed off by the Monitoring Officer: 22.11.22

Date signed off by the Section 151 Officer: 24.11.22

Committee: **Cabinet**

Date of meeting: **7th December 2022**

Report Subject: **The Calculation of the Council Tax Base for the year 2023/24**

Portfolio Holder: **Cllr Steve Thomas – Leader / Cabinet Member
Corporate Overview and Performance**

Report Submitted by: **Rhian Hayden, Chief Officer - Resources**

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)
9 th Nov 22	10 th Nov 22	22.11.22				07.12.22		

1. Purpose of the Report

1.1 To set the Council Tax Base for the financial year 2023/24.

2. Scope and Background

2.1 The Council is statutorily required to calculate the Council Tax Base for each financial year.

2.2 The Council Tax Base is a measure of the Authority's tax-raising capacity. It is expressed in terms of the number of Band D equivalent dwellings taking account of exemptions, reductions for disabilities and discounts.

2.3 The Council's Tax Base is calculated by applying the formula **A x B**, where

A is the total of the "relevant amounts" for 2023/2024 for each of the valuation bands contained in the Council's valuation list and Band A*, and

B is the Council's estimated collection rate for the year.

The "relevant amounts" for the financial year beginning on 1st April, 2023, for a valuation band, are based on the dwellings shown in the valuation list for the Authority as at 31st October, 2022, and is found by applying the formula,

$$(H-(I \times E)+J) \times \frac{E}{G}$$

Where

H Is the number of chargeable dwellings in the valuation band and Band A*;

I Is the number of estimated discounts payable in respect of such dwellings;

E Is the appropriate percentage (25% in 2023/2024);

J Is the amount of adjustments in respect of the chargeable dwellings or discounts;

F Is the proportionate number of dwellings in that band:
and

G Is the proportionate number applicable in respect of the Band D dwellings

2.4 The Council Tax Base for the current year, 2022/2023, was set at 20,876.86.

3. **Options for Recommendation**

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

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

4.1 The report is linked to, and instrumental in the budget strategy for the financial year 2023/24.

5. **Implications Against Each Option**

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

5.1.1 The Council Tax base determines the Council's ability to raise revenue through Council Tax.

5.2 ***Risk including Mitigating Actions***

5.2.1 Failure to set the Council Tax base correctly can restrict the Council's ability to enforce the collection of Council Tax

5.3 ***Legal***

5.3.1 The calculation must comply with: -

- a) The Local Government Finance Act , 1992,
- b) The Local Authorities (Calculation of Council Tax Base) (Wales) Regulations, 1995,

- c) The Local Authorities (Calculation of Council Tax Base) and Council Tax (Prescribed Classes of Dwellings) (Wales) (Amendment) Regulation 2004.

5.4 ***Human Resources***

- 5.4.1 There are no direct staff implications to this report.

6. **Supporting Evidence**

6.1 ***Performance Information and Data***

- 6.1.1 The coronavirus pandemic had a significant effect on council tax collection rates across Wales, and this has now been compounded by the cost of living crisis. Section 151 officers throughout Wales along with the Welsh Government, are acutely aware of the volatility of household incomes and are monitoring collection rates. Whilst we did see a slight improvement in 2021/22, it is considered prudent to estimate the in-year collection for 2023/2024 at 95%.

6.2 ***Expected outcome for the public***

- 6.2.1 That the Council will be able to set a budget and council tax for the financial year 2023/24.

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

- 6.3.1 The Community Councils within the Blaenau Gwent area will be informed of their appropriate council tax base for 2023/24.

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

- 6.4.1 The council tax base calculation is an annual calculation based on reference to the dwellings within a local authority area on the 31st October of the preceding year.

6.5 ***Preventative focus***

N/A for this report

6.6 ***Collaboration / partnership working***

- 6.6.1 Each individual local authority must calculate their relevant council tax base.

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

- 6.7.1 The Revenue budget covers all service areas within the Council.

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

N/A for this report

6.9 ***Integrated Impact Assessment***

N/A for this report

7. **Monitoring Arrangements**

7.1 The Revenue section will continue monitoring collection performance to inform future years calculations.

Background Documents /Electronic Links

- *Appendix 1 – Community Council and Blaenau Gwent CB Council tax base calculation 2023/24*

DE - 7th Nov 22

TABLE 1 ABERTILLERY & LLANHILLETH

Band	H	I	E	(IxE)	Net of Discount H-(IxE)	J	(F/G)	Relevant Amounts
A*	8	3	25.00%	0.75	7.25	0	5/9 = 0.555556	4.03
A	5,454	2,495	25.00%	623.75	4830.25	0	6/9 = 0.666667	3220.17
B	1,581	507	25.00%	126.75	1454.25	0	7/9 = 0.777778	1131.08
C	246	66	25.00%	16.50	229.50	0	8/9 = 0.888889	204.00
D	177	49	25.00%	12.25	164.75	0	9/9 = 1.000000	164.75
E	78	19	25.00%	4.75	73.25	0	11/9 = 1.222222	89.53
F	27	4	25.00%	1.00	26.00	0	13/9 = 1.444444	37.56
G	5	2	25.00%	0.50	4.50	0	15/9 = 1.666667	7.50
H	1	2	25.00%	0.50	0.50	0	18/9 = 2.000000	1.00
I	1	2	25.00%	0.50	0.50	0	21/9 = 2.333333	1.17
Total =	7,578	3,149		787.25	6,790.75	0		4,860.79

A = 4,860.79
 B = 95.00%
 A X B = 4,617.75

TABLE 2

BRYNMAWR

Band	H	I	E	(IxE)	Net of Discount H-(IxE)	J	(F/G)	Relevant Amounts
A*	2	2	25.00%	0.50	1.50	0	5/9 = 0.555556	0.83
A	1,131	619	25.00%	154.75	976.25	0	6/9 = 0.666667	650.83
B	884	337	25.00%	84.25	799.75	0	7/9 = 0.777778	622.03
C	301	88	25.00%	22.00	279.00	0	8/9 = 0.888889	248.00
D	171	39	25.00%	9.75	161.25	0	9/9 = 1.000000	161.25
E	53	9	25.00%	2.25	50.75	0	11/9 = 1.222222	62.03
F	21	5	25.00%	1.25	19.75	0	13/9 = 1.444444	28.53
G	2	0	25.00%	0.00	2.00	0	15/9 = 1.666667	3.33
H	5	10	25.00%	2.50	2.50	0	18/9 = 2.000000	5.00
I	0	0	25.00%	0.00	0.00	0	21/9 = 2.333333	0.00
Total =	2,570	1,109		277.25	2,292.75	0		1781.83

A = 1,781.83
 B = 95.00%
 A X B = 1,692.74

TABLE 3

EBBW VALE , BEAUFORT & CWM

Band	H	I	E	(IxE)	Net of Discount H-(IxE)	J	(F/G)	Relevant Amounts
A*	18	11	25.00%	2.75	15.25	0	5/9 = 0.555556	8.47
A	5,903	2,705	25.00%	676.25	5226.75	0	6/9 = 0.666667	3484.50
B	2,509	860	25.00%	215.00	2294.00	0	7/9 = 0.777778	1784.22
C	1,045	305	25.00%	76.25	968.75	0	8/9 = 0.888889	861.11
D	735	172	25.00%	43.00	692.00	0	9/9 = 1.000000	692.00
E	328	75	25.00%	18.75	309.25	0	11/9 = 1.222222	377.97
F	132	23	25.00%	5.75	126.25	0	13/9 = 1.444444	182.36
G	16	2	25.00%	0.50	15.50	0	15/9 = 1.666667	25.83
H	3	2	25.00%	0.50	2.50	0	18/9 = 2.000000	5.00
I	5	2	25.00%	0.50	4.50	0	21/9 = 2.333333	10.50
Total =	10,694	4,157		1039.25	9,654.75	0		7,431.96

A = 7,431.96
 B = 95.00%
 A X B = 7,060.36

TABLE 4

NANTYGLO & BLAINA

Band	H	I	E	(IxE)	Net of Discount H-(IxE)	J	(F/G)	Relevant Amounts
A*	9	3	25.00%	0.75	8.25	0	5/9 = 0.555556	4.58
A	2,420	1,083	25.00%	270.75	2149.25	0	6/9 = 0.666667	1432.83
B	1,103	380	25.00%	95.00	1008.00	0	7/9 = 0.777778	784.00
C	249	77	25.00%	19.25	229.75	0	8/9 = 0.888889	204.22
D	209	49	25.00%	12.25	196.75	0	9/9 = 1.000000	196.75
E	154	27	25.00%	6.75	147.25	0	11/9 = 1.222222	179.97
F	16	2	25.00%	0.50	15.50	0	13/9 = 1.444444	22.39
G	8	1	25.00%	0.25	7.75	0	15/9 = 1.666667	12.92
H	2	2	25.00%	0.50	1.50	0	18/9 = 2.000000	3.00
I	0	0	25.00%	0.00	0.00	0	21/9 = 2.333333	0.00
Total =	4,170	1,624		406.00	3,764.00	0		2,840.66

A = 2,840.66
 B = 95.00%
 A X B = 2,698.63

TABLE 5

TREDEGAR

Band	H	I	E	(IxE)	Net of Discount H-(IxE)	J	(F/G)	Relevant Amounts
A*	18	14	25.00%	3.50	14.50	0	5/9 = 0.555556	8.06
A	3,737	1,859	25.00%	464.75	3272.25	0	6/9 = 0.666667	2181.50
B	1,818	663	25.00%	165.75	1652.25	0	7/9 = 0.777778	1285.08
C	782	247	25.00%	61.75	720.25	0	8/9 = 0.888889	640.22
D	388	86	25.00%	21.50	366.50	0	9/9 = 1.000000	366.50
E	238	49	25.00%	12.25	225.75	0	11/9 = 1.222222	275.92
F	128	17	25.00%	4.25	123.75	0	13/9 = 1.444444	178.75
G	28	4	25.00%	1.00	27.00	0	15/9 = 1.666667	45.00
H	2	4	25.00%	1.00	1.00	0	18/9 = 2.000000	2.00
I	2	2	25.00%	0.50	1.50	0	21/9 = 2.333333	3.50
Total =	7,141	2,945		736.25	6,404.75	0		4,986.53

A = 4,986.53
 B = 95.00%
 A X B = 4,737.20

TABLE 6

AUTHORITY TOTALS

Band	H	I	E	(IxE)	Net of Discount H-(IxE)	J	(F/G)	Relevant Amounts
A*	55	33	25.00%	8.25	46.75	0	5/9 = 0.555556	25.97
A	18,645	8,761	25.00%	2190.25	16454.75	0	6/9 = 0.666667	10969.84
B	7,895	2747	25.00%	686.75	7208.25	0	7/9 = 0.777778	5606.42
C	2,623	783	25.00%	195.75	2427.25	0	8/9 = 0.888889	2157.56
D	1,680	395	25.00%	98.75	1581.25	0	9/9 = 1.000000	1581.25
E	851	179	25.00%	44.75	806.25	0	11/9 = 1.222222	985.42
F	324	51	25.00%	12.75	311.25	0	13/9 = 1.444444	449.58
G	59	9	25.00%	2.25	56.75	0	15/9 = 1.666667	94.58
H	13	20	25.00%	5.00	8.00	0	18/9 = 2.000000	16.00
I	8	6	25.00%	1.50	6.50	0	21/9 = 2.333333	15.17
Total =	32,153	12,984		3246.00	28,907.00	0		21,901.79

A = 21,901.79
 B = 95.00%
 A X B = 20,806.70

COUNTY BOROUGH OF BLAENAU GWENT

REPORT TO: THE LEADER AND MEMBERS OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

REPORT SUBJECT: GRANTS TO ORGANISATIONS – 7th Dec 2022

REPORT AUTHOR: RHIAN HAYDEN

**LEAD OFFICER/
DEPARTMENT CHIEF OFFICER RESOURCES,
RESOURCES**

ABERTILLERY

Abertillery & Six Bells Ward – Councillor K. Chaplin

1.	Remembrance Sunday	£38
2.	Chloe Salter Hendry	£100
3.	Adam Street Allotments	£100
4.	Friends of Six Bells Park	£100
5.	Abertillery Senior Netball Club	£100

Abertillery & Six Bells Ward – Councillor R. Leadbeater

1.	Remembrance Sunday	£38
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Abertillery & Six Bells Ward – Councillor J. Holt

1.	Remembrance Sunday	£38
2.	Abertillery Senior Netball Club	£100

Cwmtillery Ward – Councillor M. Day & J. Wilkins

1.	Remembrance Sunday	£76
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Llanhilleth Ward – Councillor H. Cunningham

1.	Remembrance Sunday	£38
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Llanhilleth Ward – Councillor L. Parsons

- | | | |
|----|--------------------|-----|
| 1. | Remembrance Sunday | £38 |
|----|--------------------|-----|

BRYNWAWR

Brynmawr Ward – Councillor J. Hill

- | | | |
|----|--------------------------|------|
| 1. | Remembrance Sunday | £62 |
| 2. | Calvary Christian Centre | £200 |

Brynmawr Ward – Councillor J. Gardner

- | | | |
|----|--------------------|-----|
| 1. | Remembrance Sunday | £62 |
|----|--------------------|-----|

Brynmawr Ward – Councillor W. Hodgins

- | | | |
|----|--------------------|-----|
| 1. | Remembrance Sunday | £62 |
|----|--------------------|-----|

EBBW VALE

Beaufort Ward – Councillor C. Smith

- | | | |
|----|--------------------|-----|
| 1. | Remembrance Sunday | £90 |
|----|--------------------|-----|

Beaufort Ward – Councillor G. Thomas

- | | | |
|----|--------------------|-----|
| 1. | Remembrance Sunday | £90 |
|----|--------------------|-----|

Beaufort Ward – Councillor D. Woods

- | | | |
|----|--------------------|------|
| 1. | Remembrance Sunday | £90 |
| 2. | One Life Autism | £100 |

Rassau & Garnlydan Ward – Councillor D. Wilkshire

- | | | |
|----|--------------------|-----|
| 1. | Remembrance Sunday | £90 |
|----|--------------------|-----|

Rassau & Garnlydan Ward – Councillor G. Davies

1.	Remembrance Sunday	£90
2.	Rassau AFC	£100

Ebbw Vale North Ward – Councillor D. Davies

1.	Remembrance Sunday	£140
2.	Gwent Valleys Integrated Activities Club	£200
3.	Ebbw Vale Children's Contact Centre	£200
4.	Ebbw Vale Works Museum	£200
5.	RTB Ebbw Vale Bowls Club	£200
6.	Ebbw Vale Christmas Lights Appeal	£150
7.	Ebbw Vale Business Forum	£150
8.	Ebbw Vale Male Voice Choir	£100
9.	One Life Autism	£100
10.	West End Select Pigeon Club	£80

Ebbw Vale North Ward – Councillor J. Morgan

1.	Remembrance Sunday	£140
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Ebbw Vale South Ward – Councillor C. Bainton

1.	Remembrance Sunday	£140
2.	One Life Autism	£100

Ebbw Vale South Ward – Councillor S. Edmunds

1.	Remembrance Sunday	£140
2.	One Life Autism	£100

NANTYGLO & BLAINA

Blaina Ward – Councillor J.P. Morgan

1.	Remembrance Sunday	£40
2.	Royal British Legion Blaina Branch	£100
3.	275 Squadron ATC	£100

Blaina Ward – Councillor L. Winnett

- | | | |
|----|------------------------------------|------|
| 1. | Remembrance Sunday | £40 |
| 2. | Royal British Legion Blaina Branch | £100 |
| 3. | 275 Squadron ATC | £100 |

Nantyglo Ward – Councillor P. Baldwin

- | | | |
|----|--------------------|-----|
| 1. | Remembrance Sunday | £40 |
|----|--------------------|-----|

Nantyglo Ward – Councillor S. Behr

- | | | |
|----|-------------------------------------|------|
| 1. | Remembrance Sunday | £40 |
| 2. | Friends of Coed Cae Community House | £300 |

CHIEF OFFICER RESOURCES

EXECUTIVE – FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT & STRATEGY

Report of Meeting held 10th November 2022 (Executive 7th December 2022)

PRESENT : **Executive Member – Resources**
Councillor S Thomas (CHAIR)

Councillors L. Winnett
G. Davies
C. Smith
G. Humphreys
K. Chaplin
J. Gardner
P. Baldwin
C. Bainton
D. Rowberry

WITH : Louise Rice – Business Partner - Finance
John Griffin – Senior Finance Officer

WELCOME

The Chair welcomed Members and Officers to the meeting of the Grants Working Group.

Declarations of interest were received from the following:

P. Baldwin, Hermon Cemetery Trust
K. Chaplin, Ebenezer Baptist Church, Abertillery
D. Rowberry, Horeb Chapel, Trefil

The Group agreed a consistent approach, (and grant amount) be undertaken across the various applicant groups unless a lower amount had been requested by an organisation.

The working group were informed that the Welsh Church Fund is advertised on Social Media and in the Gwent Gazette. It was agreed that the application form and guidance for 2023/2024 be forwarded to each individual Councillor.

WELSH CHURCH FUND

Details of the applications received were submitted, whereupon it was

RESOLVED to recommend that the following Grants be made:-

Bethel Methodist Church, Beaufort	£911.75
Blaenau Gwent Methodist Church, Abertillery	£911.75
Cwm Celyn Methodist Church, Blaina	£500.00
Ebenezer Baptist Church, Abertillery	£911.75
Friends of Bethany Baptist Church	£911.75
Garnlydan Presbyterian Church, Ebbw Vale	£911.75
Hermon Cemetery Trust	£911.75
Holy Trinity and St. Anne's Church, Nantyglo	£750.00
Horeb Chapel Trefil	£911.75
Libanus Presbyterian Church, Brynmawr	£911.75
Providence Baptist Church, Ebbw Vale	£911.75
Sardis Chapel Trefil	£911.75
St David's Church, Beaufort	£911.75
Tirzah Baptist Church, Ebbw Vale	£600.00
Trinity Spiritualist Church, Tredegar	£750.00
Zion Miners Chapel, Llanhilleth	£250.00
Brynithel Senior Citizens	£250.00
Winchestown OAP Association	£250.00
Aberbeeg Tenants & Residents	£250.00
Brynithel Welfare and Community Centre	£250.00
Llanhilleth Tenants & Residents Association	£250.00
Sirhowy Community Centre Ltd	£250.00
Wanllwyd Youth & Community Centre	£250.00
Ystrad Deri Community Centre	£250.00
Abertillery & District Museum Society	£350.00
Blaenau Gwent Heritage Forum	£400.00
Brynmawr & District Museum Society	£911.75
Ebbw Vale Works Museum	£600.00
Llanhilleth Heritage Society	£259.00
Cefn Golau Together Association	£250.00
Ebbw Fach Community Group	£250.00
Nantyglo Community Shop	£250.00
Tredegar Christians Together	£250.00
Friends of St Illtyds, Llanhilleth	£250.00
Friends of Parc Nant y Waun	£250.00
TK's and Community Group, Ebbw Vale	£250.00
Wanllwyd and Victoria Events Committee	£250.00

1 st Abertillery Scout Group	£250.00
Crochet Kindness Cafe	£250.00
Gwent Valleys Evangelism	£250.00
Heads of the Valleys Astronomical Society	£250.00
Knit and Natter, Llanhilleth	£250.00
Llanhilleth Miners Institute	£250.00
Love Wales	£250.00
Rassau & Beaufort Royal British Legion	£250.00
Sirhowy Hill Woodlands	£250.00
Tower Tots	£200.00
Tredegar Twinning Association	£250.00
TredegArt Kids	£200.00
Kidz R Us, Tredegar	£250.00
Toppers School of Dance and Drama	£250.00

The following applications were declined, as it was felt that they should be supported via the Members Special Levy Grants:

FC Tredegar Seniors
FC Tredegar Juniors

The following application was also declined as it is registered as a private company:

Session Recall

The Chair thereupon thanked Members and Officers for attending and declared the meeting closed.

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Agenda Item 9

Cabinet and Council only

Date signed off by the Monitoring Officer: 22.11.22

Date signed off by the Section 151 Officer: 24.11.22

Committee: **Cabinet**

Date of meeting: **7th December 2022**

Report Subject: **Position Statement Shared Resource Service (SRS)**

Portfolio Holder: **Councillor Steve Thomas, Leader of the Council /
Cabinet Member Corporate Overview and Performance**

Report Submitted by: **Bernadette Elias – Chief Officer Commercial and
Customer
Matt Lewis – Chief Operating Officer – SRS Shared
Resource Service**

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)
WC 07/11/22	10/11/22	22.11.22			22/11/22	07.12.22		

1. Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide a position statement against the objectives set out in the Business Case on the Shared Resource Service (SRS) Wales provision of ICT services for Blaenau Gwent.

2. Scope and Background

- 2.1 In May 2016 the Council approved the Business Case for Blaenau Gwent ICT services to become part of the SRS following a review of the internal provision.
- 2.2 The business case set out 3 main objectives over an initial 5-year period for delivery based on what was considered important for Blaenau Gwent.
- 2.3 The impact of the COVID19 pandemic has resulted in some work continuing into 2022.
- 2.4 The objectives were:
- 2.4.1 **Objective 1: People**
To integrate Blaenau Gwent ICT workforce into a collaborative business model to improve the quality of service through the creation of resilience and synergies.
- 2.4.2 **Objective 2: Organisational**
To meet and deliver existing and future service and organisational needs whilst addressing previously identified gaps.
- 2.4.3 **Objective 3: Infrastructure and systems**
To integrate Blaenau Gwent's ICT infrastructure and systems into shared services to ensure value for money through economies of scale.

2.8 A briefing session for elected members on the work of the SRS was delivered on 8th November 2022.

3. **Options for Recommendation**

3.1 The Partnership Scrutiny Committee considered the report on 22nd November 2022, any supported Option 1.

3.2 **Option One**

The Cabinet to:

- (a) Consider and approve the position statement against the objectives set out in the Business Case; and
- (b) Receive annual updates as part of the ongoing partnership with SRS.

Option Two

The Cabinet to:

- (a) Consider the position statement against the objectives set out in the Business Case and make recommendations on where improvements can be made prior to approval; and
- (b) Receive annual updates as part of the ongoing partnership with SRS.

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

The SRS as a strategic partner supports delivery of the Corporate Plan:

- An ambitious and innovative council delivering quality services at the right time and in the right place;
- Supports the council in its delivery of services against key policy directives such as the Digital Strategy for Wales.

5. **Implications**

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

5.1.1 The Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council budget for 2022/23 is £2m which is 10% less than the target set by the Council in the 2016 business case.

5.1.2 In addition, the School Service Level Agreements with the SRS total £327,000.

5.1.3 The budget covers staff, accommodation costs and a number of contracts with third party suppliers (approximately £652,000) which the SRS manage on behalf of the Council.

5.2 ***Risk including Mitigating Actions***

The SRS has a comprehensive risk register. The current key risks highlighted to the Strategic Board as those of concern with accompanying mitigations, are:

- global supply chain;
- cyber security load and awareness; and
- recruitment, reward and retention of SRS staff.

5.3 **Legal**

The SRS is underpinned by a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) that all partners agreed to when joining the SRS through a Deed of Adherence. The original MoU is being reviewed and updated to include all partners. Torfaen County Borough Council is leading this work.

5.4 **Human Resources**

There are no direct human resource implications associated with this report.

The governance arrangements supporting the SRS model includes representation on the following boards:

- Strategic Board (Chief Executive and nominated Councillor Board Member.)
- Finance and Governance Board (Chief Officer Resources or delegated representative)
- Business and collaboration Board (Chief Officer Commercial and Customer, Service Manager Customer Experience & Transformation or delegated representative).

6. **Supporting Evidence**

6.1 **Performance Information and Data**

A summary of key activity against each objective is set out below:

6.1.1 **Improvement Objective 1: People**

All resources were integrated into a single operating model and this has been working successfully for a number of years.

6.1.2 **Improvement Objective 2: Organisational**

The identified gaps in provision have been addressed through the partnership with the SRS and this continues to plan and meet future organisational needs and ambitions, and key projects include:

- *Migration of all local authority Partners to the single instance of System Centre Configuration Manager (SCCM)*

SCCM is a tool for building laptop images and rolling out Windows devices. All local authority partners have been migrated to a single solution removing the need and complexities of having multiple instances per partner organisation and allows the SRS to utilise the same base build. Through doing so it has broken down barriers in terms

of technological complexities when rolling out patches for software and now provides a central solution for builds packages and patching which is of benefit to the local authority partners.

- *Software Asset Management*

There were discussions throughout 2021-22 around the implementation of Software Asset Management within the SRS. With agreement from all partners and the appointment of a Licence Officer, the SRS is now in a good position to start the Licence Management journey in 2022-23. By 16th August 2022 the license management tools will be available to drive efficiencies from the current Microsoft contract, as an example.

- *Microsoft 365 implementation & Always on VPN connection (AOVPN), enabling the Councils new operating model*

The use of the M365 apps and tools will support and sustain the future of the new operating model. This is an ongoing programme of work, however much of the planning and development has happened over the last year. The SRS has developed the AOVPN capability and has migrated approximately 90% of the workforce away from Pulse and onto AOVPN. The initiation of the development of OneDrive was completed, which will enable agile working by supporting data access across devices. The planning for OneNote being set to follow after OneDrive is implemented and there are projects in train around Sharepoint websites and Teams telephony.

- *Migrated to a new content management system for the website.*

This was an essential piece of work to support the Public Services Network (PSN) accreditation and ensure that BGCBC's website is updated and patched as part of the compliance programme. It also enables users to have a richer set of features from the Content Management System to improve the services that can be offered via the website.

6.1.3 **Improvement objective 3: Infrastructure and systems**

The entire Blaenau Gwent infrastructure has been removed and moved onto a shared infrastructure procured with three other local authorities. The following has been undertaken to support this objective:

- *Partner Infrastructure refresh plans*

After a prolonged period of running with older equipment, SRS engineers alongside Senior Management costed, planned, ordered, and began implementing an entire Network equipment refresh across all SRS Partners. As equipment is delivered, rollout plans will be continued on a rolling basis to ensure we keep up to date with the latest, supportable infrastructure moving forward.

- *Creation of the One Wales Structured Query Language (SQL) Database cluster at Vantage data and the ongoing successful migration of partner applications*

The implementation of the new One Wales SQL cluster at Vantage data, ties in with the ongoing migration work taking place to move partner organisations from their pre-existing data centres to the new provision in Newport. This will place all partners onto one database environment with the potential of reducing licensing costs.

- *Migration of TCBC/MCC and BGCBC to a OneWales platform*

The removal of 100+ physical servers from corporate infrastructures (physical and virtual machines) in both Blaenavon, Newport and Ebbw Vale datacentres. An implementation of a single platform providing access to multiple applications from a single supportable platform. Servers have been decommissioned which will reduce the footprint of servers required at the new Vantage Data Centre moving forward.

- *Education*

The SRS has rolled out over 5,500 devices across the four local authorities in the financial year 2021-22. The full breakdown is shown below for Blaenau Gwent specifically and this has been based on putting schools needs at the heart of the work.

	<u>BGCBC</u>
Laptop	172
Desktop	294
Monitors	4
Chromebooks	112
iPads	287
MacMini	28
Charging Trolley	38
	935

- *Planning for the decommission of the Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale*

The Ebbw Vale computer room facility was recognised as a high risk in the due diligence of the business case.

The move from the Civic Centre to the Vantage Data Centre was a complex, business critical project. With careful planning and strong partnership working the project was delivered successfully with minimal

impact to the organisation. SRS re-prioritised Blaenau Gwent to move first, to support the decommissioning of the civic centre timeframe.

- *Relocation of Democratic Services Hub to the General Offices*

Work to support the move from the Civic Centre was undertaken in line with the move to hybrid working.

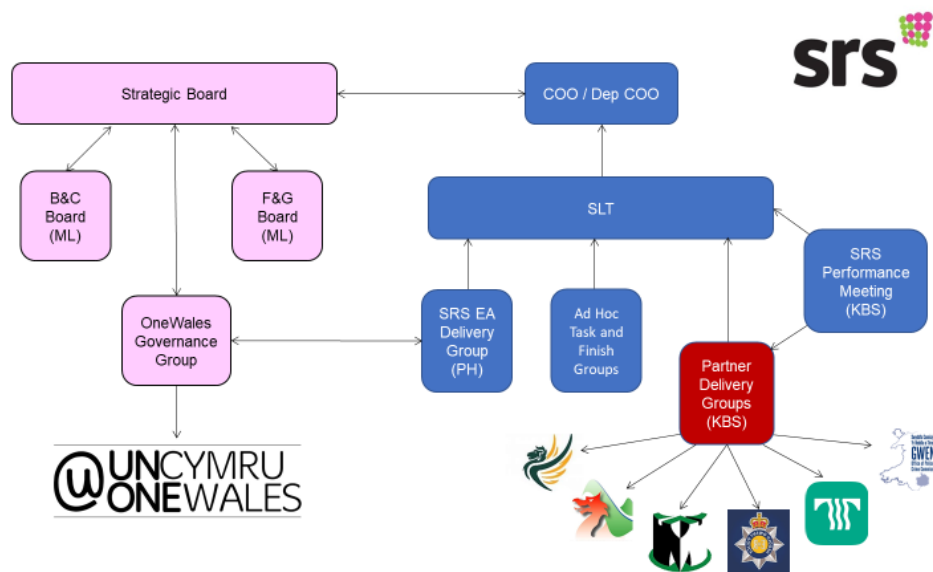
6.2 Expected outcome for the public

A number of the projects implemented with the SRS have improved effectiveness of service delivery to benefit residents.

6.3 Involvement (consultation, engagement, participation)

A variety of Blaenau Gwent staff are involved and regularly engage with the SRS on its activities. Projects also include involvement of users of the service so their views can shape the design and delivery.

This governance diagram shows the Boards and Blaenau Gwent has a place in all of these meetings.



6.4 Thinking for the Long term (forward planning)

Net zero is a key consideration at the SRS and supports the Council’s commitment. Examples include:

- Data Centre Footprint - the extensive work involved in moving from multiple provisions across all Local Government partners into one footprint in the new Vantage data centre has reduced the environmental impact of four separate implementations into one single environment.
- Data Centre Energy - the four separate provisions all used energy in different ways. Even the well specified Blaenavon facility is less efficient than the new Vantage provision due to improvements in technology.

When the migrations are complete towards the end of 2022, the SRS will be able to compare the previous energy usage to the total consumption in the new location and provide an estimate of the energy reduction impact. In addition to this, the Vantage data centre uses 100% certified renewable energy.

- Moving to Sharepoint Online - by moving large amounts of on premise Sharepoint functionality into Office 365, the SRS has been able to remove large amounts of infrastructure across the organisations. This reduces energy consumption and physical footprint.
- Disposals contract – embedded a new disposals policy which reduces the carbon footprint and saves money, devices are now recycled into the community instead of being destroyed and still meets all security requirements.

6.5 ***Preventative focus***

The work of the SRS supports service areas who are delivering preventative functions and explores the use of digital solutions to support preventative work.

6.6 ***Collaboration / partnership working***

The SRS is an entirely collaborative provision to multiple partners.

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

The SRS projects support services across the organisation.

6.8 **Monitoring Arrangements**

An annual monitoring report will be included on the forward work programme of the relevant scrutiny committee.

The Boards set out in the governance arrangements receive performance monitoring information and progress updates. Monthly meetings between SRS and officers review the programme progress.

The SRS is monitored by the Chief Operating Officer; additional assurance is provided from Torfaen internal audit as the chosen auditor of the partners for the SRS.

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Agenda Item 10

Cabinet and Council only

Date signed off by the Monitoring Officer: 22.11.22

Date signed off by the Section 151 Officer: 24.11.22

Committee: **Cabinet**
Date of meeting: **7th December 2022**
Report Subject: **Tredegar Placemaking Plan**
Portfolio Holder: **Cllr J. Morgan, Cabinet Member for Environment and Place**
Report Submitted by: **Ellie Fry, Corporate Director Regeneration and Community 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)
X	X	22.11.22			08.11.22	07.12.22		

1. Purpose of the Report

- 1.1. To present and seek Cabinet approval for the Tredegar Placemaking Plan.

2. Scope and Background

- 2.1. As one of five towns across Blaenau Gwent, Tredegar like all towns faces significant challenges as a result of the shift to online retailing and the ongoing coronavirus pandemic. Many of our regeneration focus on the town in the past has looked at how the town could be refurbished and updated.
- 2.2. Whilst we still seek to carry out refurbishment of properties in need of attention we must also take a step back and reconsider the spaces and properties in and around our town centre. In Wales placemaking is a statutory requirement of the planning system. We will therefore take a placemaking approach to deliver sustainable development and provide solutions and investment that addresses the needs of Tredegar.
- 2.3. In 2014, the Council successfully bid for a Heritage Lottery funded Townscape Heritage Initiative (THI) Programme which focused on the restoration of historic buildings located in the Southern Conservation Area around The Circle, Morgan Street and Castle Street.
- 2.4. In addition to the HLF funds, the Council were also able to take advantage of funding from the Welsh Government's Targeted Regeneration Initiative programme which offered loans and grants to refurbish and bring key buildings in the town back into use. These funds were available between 2019-2021.
- 2.5. In 2020, the Council were awarded funding by Welsh Government from the Transforming Towns programme to engage consultants to undertake development of a Placemaking Plan for Tredegar. This commission falls in line with other Placemaking plans currently being developed in Ebbw Vale, Brynmawr and Abertillery, with a further study also being considered for Blaina within the coming months.

- 2.6. After a competitive tendering exercise the Contract to deliver the Placemaking Plan was awarded to Austin-Smith Lord Ltd.
- 2.7. The work undertaken by Austin-Smith Lord will be delivered in two parts:
- i. **Deliverable 1: Placemaking Plan**
A public facing, overarching strategic vision that identifies priority areas for action within the study area.
 - ii. **Deliverable 2: Delivery Plan**
An internally focused, 'detailed delivery plan' that utilises an appropriate methodology for the detailed analysis of the study area sites and puts forward 'evidenced based' recommendations on the preferred development/redevelopment options for the Council to take forward.
- 2.8. This report presents the first of their deliverables the Placemaking Plan and overall strategic vision that identifies our core ambitions for the town. This will then be followed in early 2023 with the proposed Delivery Plan.
- 2.9. The aims of placemaking are outlined within the Placemaking Guide (Placemaking Wales 2020). The way places are planned, designed, developed and managed has the potential to positively shape where and how people live, works, socialise, move about and engage. Placemaking is ensuring that each new development or intervention contributes positively to creating or enhancing environments. It places people at the heart of the process and results in places that are vibrant, have a clear identity and where people can develop a sense of belonging.
- 2.10. The primary focus of the Placemaking Plan for Tredegar is to inform and influence strategic decision making for regeneration activity within the town and act as an evidence base to support the Council with future external funding options and support development of the replacement Local Development Plan (LDP). All place making plans will be used to form the town centre policies that will be used to support future planning decisions within the towns. It is the intention that placemaking plans will all be complete or substantially complete in advance of the finalisation of the deposit Local Development Plan.
- 2.11. The Placemaking Plan study area includes the town centre comprising of Lidl and Gwent Shopping Centre in the north along Commercial to Castle Street and down to Tredegar Town Clock at the heart of The Circle, Coronation Street, Iron Row and Tredegar Business Park. The plan aims to provide a new vision for Tredegar and identifies the type of projects and investments we want to attract to the town centre. All the proposals within the plan are 'people centred' with a focus on improving the experiences of the town. A plan of the study area is shown on page 8 of the Placemaking Plan (**Appendix One**).
- 2.12. Tredegar like many towns across the UK has faced extremely challenging times as a result of the increase in online shopping and the economic challenges from the Covid-19 pandemic. This has intensified challenges already being faced as

a result of town centre decline and we need to look at how we can refocus and reinvent the town centre spaces.

2.13. The overall vision of Tredegar Placemaking Plan is:

“Maintain and improve Tredegar as a Convenience and Community Centre, serving its local communities well, but overlay this by developing a Speciality Town signature where the anchor is not just retail”.

The vision seeks to enhance and protect characteristics of the town whilst creating a place that meets the ambition of ‘building sustainable places that supports active and healthy lives’. This is supported by the goal of the 20-minute neighbourhood concept ‘creating healthier, happier communities fit for a zero-carbon future’.

2.14. Delivery of our vision shall be done by:

- i. Delivering a sustainable mix of different uses to create a vibrant town, which is welcoming and inclusive to resident and visitors.
- ii. Improve access and movement around the town centre
- iii. Build on heritage of the town being the birthplace of the NHS to attract tourism.
- iv. Providing the building blocks for additional employment opportunities.
- v. Creation of additional housing.
- vi. Improved transportation linkages.
- vii. A healthier environment.

2.15. Within the draft Tredegar Placemaking Plan ambitions have been identified to support us in transforming the town and delivering upon the vision which are:

- Transition the town to meet the 20-minute neighbourhood concept to better align what is in the town with transport infrastructure to make it easier for people to walk, cycle and use public transport.
- Improve gateways into the town that open up the high street, enhance the retail environment, green the centre and create new homes, work spaces and leisure uses.
- Revitalise connections between the town centre and local and regional areas.
- Transform Gwent Shopping Centre to meet the current and future needs of the town and remove the underpass to open up the area and road infrastructure.
- Transform vacant pockets of land on Coronation Street and Iron Row into exemplary modern homes.

2.16. Taking forward these ambitions, the plan identified a series of intervention areas and high level actions. These are:

1. **Gateway Enhancements to the Northern and Southern Entrances to Tredegar** - new entrance space from the north, redesign of the junction prioritising pedestrians and cyclists, new green space and redevelopment

of key buildings to create an attractive and engaging townscape. Creation of a new southern entrance to Tredegar Business Park.

2. **Gwent Shopping Centre** – Removal of the underpass to allow for the creation of a new bus interchange between local and regional services. Building restoration and shopfronts that include a diverse mix of uses that include retail, business, workspaces, leisure, homes and live/work spaces. Introduction of green spaces and re-use of underutilised land to create outdoor events space.
 3. **Commercial Street and Castle Street** – improve the street scene, enhance buildings and create synergies between the historic and modern buildings in the town. Add wayfinding, stopping and leisure points and improve active travel routes for walking and cycling.
 4. **Church Square** – the ‘knuckle’ between Commercial Street and Castle Street. Highway redesign to provide more public realm space and establish a central public space at the heart of the town.
 5. **Coronation Street/Iron Row** – new site entrance to the southern area of Tredegar Town Centre with improved access to Tredegar Business Park which opens up new gateways to Coronation Street and Iron Row. New housing proposals and improvements to public realm.
 6. **New Bus Interchange Development** – removal of underpass through Gwent Shopping Centre to allow for the creation of a new bus interchange for local and regional bus services.
 7. **Enhance Connectivity between the Town Centre and Tredegar Business Park** – improved cycling and pedestrian infrastructure including National Cycle Routes 467 and 411 and active travel routes between the town centre and Tredegar Business Park.
 8. **Sirhowy River Embankment** – improvements to river corridor and embankment connecting Tredegar Business Park and the town centre. New green leisure and recreational facilities.
- 2.17. The projects listed above are predominantly physical regeneration projects. Non-physical projects are not included in the intervention areas, but they are pivotal for the success of the town centre and are also included within the Placemaking Plan.
- 2.18. Each intervention area is considered in the Placemaking Plan in **Appendix One** with details on the potential opportunities/projects to address these issues.

Transport and Movement Strategy

- 2.19. A movement and access appraisal has been undertaken by Asbri Transport as part of the commission (**Appendix Two**).

- 2.20. The Movement and Access Appraisal proposed transport improvements which could improve accessibility to Tredegar town centre for pedestrian, cyclists and road users and enhance the viability of the town centre and support economic development.
- 2.21. The potential transport improvements identified are by no means exhaustive and a WelTAG Assessment will be commissioned subject to funding.

Stakeholder Engagement

- 2.22. As a result of Covid-19 engagement has been undertaken with key stakeholders via online workshops. Engagement with business stakeholders has been undertaken via telephone calls. Stakeholder engagement is being undertaken in three stages:



- 2.23. Stakeholders that have formed part of the engagement to date include:

- The Council (Officers and Elected Members)
- Welsh Government
- Tredegar Advisory Board
- Gwent Police
- Coalfields Regeneration Trust
- Local businesses
- Bryn Bach Primary School
- Design Commission for Wales

- 2.24. The initial engagement has supported the assessment of issues and opportunities that face Tredegar. Pages 19 - 23 of **Appendix One** provide details of the issues and opportunities that were identified by Austin-Smith: Lord along with stakeholder feedback on these and any other issues / opportunities that were identified.
- 2.25. Wider public engagement is also to be undertaken and will be used to support development of the delivery plan which will support this placemaking plan.
- 2.26. The Council's Regeneration Department intend to undertake public consultation as the next stage of work. This will help us to ascertain public perception on proposals identified with the Placemaking Plan.

Decarbonisation

- 2.27. The Council has set a target for the Local Authority to become net zero by 2030. Mirroring this ambition there is a commitment towards supporting the borough

of Blaenau Gwent to become net zero. The projects that emerge from the Placemaking Plan offer an opportunity to support further decarbonisation across Blaenau Gwent.

- 2.28. Green urban areas can be used to offset carbon emissions of businesses that operate within the town. They can also help improve air quality.
- 2.29. New build and refurbishment projects can be used to deliver buildings that have a lower carbon impact. This can include using local supply chains to reduce travel of materials, energy efficient lighting and appliances.
- 2.30. Transport and movement projects can also support decarbonisation. Improved active travel routes alongside multi-modal transport systems and wayfinding can assist with reducing dependence upon car travel within the Town Centre.

3. **Options for Recommendation**

3.1 The Place Scrutiny Committee supported Option 2 at its meeting on 8th November 2022.

3.2 The options contained within this report relate only to the approval of the overall vision and series of core ambitions contained within the Placemaking Plan in **Appendix One**. Future reports will be submitted in relation to the delivery plan and details of potential projects to be developed and implemented in order for us to achieve our overall vision.

3.3 Option 1 – Do Nothing

Note the contents of the Placemaking Plan and take no further action. Without Council endorsement of the projects contained within the plan it is unlikely that we would be successful in securing Welsh Government Transforming Towns money for redevelopment/refurbishment of the Town.

3.4 Option 2 – Endorse the Placemaking Plan

Agree the Tredegar Placemaking Plan, its vision and core ambitions for the future. This will enable us to finalise the draft of the delivery plan and steps towards implementation of the projects that will be contained within it.

3.5 Preferred Option

The preferred option is Option Two. This will enable the projects that will support achievement of the core ambitions to be brought forward as part of the Delivery Plan. Such projects are likely to be eligible to apply for Transforming Towns funding.

3.6 Projects which show a strategic vision and delivery approach that are supported by Placemaking Plans will be more positively received by potential funders such as the Welsh Government than ad-hoc projects which don't consider overall impact upon the area.

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

Future Wales – The National Plan 2040

- 4.1. Future Wales - The National Plan 2040 is the national development framework, setting the direction for development in Wales to 2040. It is a development plan with a strategy for addressing national priorities through the planning system. As the national development framework, Future Wales is the highest tier of development plan and focused on challenges at a national scale.
- 4.2. Policy 2 of the plan is Shaping Urban Growth and Regeneration – Strategic Placemaking. The aspirations of Future Wales are an opportunity to regenerate our towns. The plan sets out the policy for a strategic placemaking approach and principles to help shape urban growth and regeneration.
- 4.3. Policy 3 of the plan is Supporting Urban Growth and Regeneration – Public Sector Leadership. This policy highlights the role the public sector can play in assembling land and enabling development to realise aspirations.
- 4.4. It also supports delivery of the Blaenau Gwent Well-being Plan:
- Safe and friendly communities;
 - To look after and protect the environment;
 - To forge new pathways to prosperity and;
 - To encourage and enable people to make healthy lifestyle choices in the places they live, learn, work and play.
- 4.5. The Town Centre Strategy will seek to ensure that our town centres are safe and friendly communities for our residents and visitors to shop within. This will include projects to maintain and enhance the local environment, increase business occupancy and create an environment in our town centres that encourages our residents to spend time there for work, learning and leisure.

Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council Corporate Plan 2020-2027

- 4.6. The report supports the following Corporate Plan priorities:

Respond to the nature and climate crises and enable connected communities;
An ambitious and innovative council delivering the quality services we know matter to our communities; and
Empowering and supporting communities to be safe, independent and resilient.

- 4.7. Town Centres is one of the key themes identifies for the Regeneration and Community Services which support delivery of the priority areas identified in the Council's Corporate Plan 2018/22

5. Implications Against Each Option

Impact on Budget (short and long term impact)

- 5.1. Option 1 – there would be no financial implications association with option one of this report.
- 5.2. Option 2 – there would be no immediate budgetary implications as a result of endorsing the Tredegar Placemaking Plan. There would however be medium and long term capital and revenue implications associated with taking forward the emerging projects that will form the Delivery Plan.
- 5.3. In the medium to long term taking forward Option 2 will result in future development and implementation costs. It is likely that development costs such as surveys, feasibility studies would be eligible under the Transforming Towns programme (subject to a successful application) but this would only be for up to 50% of the eligible costs and there would be a need for the Council to identify suitable revenue match funding for the remaining 50%.
- 5.4. Implementation costs are also likely to be eligible for capital funding under the Transforming Towns programme (subject to successful application) but this would only be able to cover up to 70% of these costs and the Council would need to identify capital match funding for the remaining 30%.
- 5.5. Further detail on development and implementation costs will be included within the Delivery Plan which will be presented for approval in early 2023.
- 5.6. The future maintenance cost implications will be incorporated into the project proposals when they are presented for approval. All project proposals will be developed to limit maintenance liabilities for the Council and this will be included in the proposals along with proposals to establish a maintenance budget.

Risk including Mitigating Actions

- 5.7. Option 1 – if no further action is taken there is risk that sites will remain undeveloped or fall into disrepair.
- 5.8. Option 1 – footfall within the town centre associated with retail has been severely hit with the increase in online shopping and enforced lockdowns as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. Key to recovery will be intervention that supports repurposing and reinventing our town centres. This would not happen if option 1 is chosen and then we would have a further risk of deterioration in footfall.
- 5.9. Option 2 – further work to develop / implement projects that will achieve the core ambitions would require revenue and capital funding. Such funding is likely to be eligible for application under the Transforming Towns programme but there is a requirement to identify a suitable source of match funding to fully meet the costs.

Legal

- 5.10. There are no direct legal implications for any of the options considered within this report. The report seeks endorsement of a Vision and set of ambitions that set out our approach to future regeneration of Tredegar Town Centre
- 5.11. Legal implications associated with project delivery will be explored as part of the delivery plan.

Human Resources

- 5.12. Staff within Regeneration and Development are leading the preparatory work and working across other service areas within the Council where required.

6. Supporting Evidence

Performance Information and Data

- 6.1. A health check of the study area was undertaken in November 2021. The health check identified key issues within the town:
- Retail is suffering with increasing numbers of empty units in the high street and of particular concern, Gwent Shopping Centre at the heart of the primary retail area is in significant decline.
 - Tredegar Town Centre has a vacancy rate of 25% compared to a national vacancy rate of circa. 15% across Wales and 12% across the UK (Q1,2020).
 - In April 2021, 40 properties within the town centre were considered in poor condition with significant defects and damage to the property noticeable from the high street e.g. cracks to render, peeling paint, broken windows, visible build-up of dirt and mould growth. In addition, 52 buildings had visible damage to the shop-front fascia / signage at street level.
 - 65% of customers surveyed stated the quality of shops was poor or very poor but 75% of customers said they use the town centre on at least a weekly basis.
 - There are a higher than UK average number of A1 retail premises - hair and beauty and tattoo parlours and a higher than average A3 - fast food and takeaway premises.
 - Half of customers surveyed thought that the attractiveness and experience of food and drink establishments around the town were poor or very poor.
 - Car parking is well catered for in the northern area of the town but Commercial Street is car dominated.
 - The interchange between local and regional bus services is impeded by the restricted vehicular access created by the underpass within Gwent Shopping Centre, preventing access for regional buses.

Expected outcome for the public

- 6.2. Some of the sites included within the study area are no longer fit for purpose or underutilised. The Placemaking Plan seeks to identify these sites and identify alternative uses or opportunities for refurbishment or redevelopment.
- 6.3. Active travel routes between the town and sites such as Tredegar Business Park need improvement. Improved active travel will provide greater accessibility for residents and visitors to move within the area.

Involvement (consultation, engagement, participation)

- 6.4. Initial engagement was undertaken with the stakeholders to understand how the town works currently and what ambitions there are for the future. The initial phase of engagement included fact finding and this was used to identify the issues and opportunities discussed within the Place Making Plan (**Appendix One**).
- 6.5. Engagement has also taken place with the Tredegar Advisory Group consisting of key public, 3rd sector and business stakeholders. The Tredegar Ward Members have also been part of the overall engagement process.
- 6.6. As a result of COVID-19 much of the engagement has been undertaken with stakeholders via online workshops or by one-to-one telephone discussions.

Thinking for the Long term (forward planning)

- 6.7. The Placemaking Plan sets a vision and series of core ambitions that are aimed at planning for the long term future of the Town Centre.

Preventative focus

- 6.8. Taking forward the outcomes of the placemaking plan will ensure that areas of the town that are in need of attention are protected and enhanced in the future.

Collaboration / partnership working

- 6.9. Many of the projects that will be identified to deliver on our core ambitions for Tredegar Town Centre will require collaborative approaches to delivery. This will be developed further alongside stakeholders subject to endorsement of this report and the delivery plan.
- 6.10. The Tredegar Advisory Group was formed in 2015 to support delivery of the Tredegar Townscape Heritage Initiative project. It consists of officers, elected members, business representatives, third sector and members of the Community. The purpose of the board is to oversee the delivery of projects for Tredegar.
- 6.11. Since its inception, the Advisory Board has worked alongside Council Officers and Elected Members to deliver projects in Tredegar and this approach has received positive feedback from all stakeholders involved. The advisory board

have been involved in the stakeholder engagement for the placemaking plan process.

Integration(across service areas)

- 6.12. As outlined above, initial consultation has been undertaken across service areas within the Council. This includes service areas such as highways, housing, planning and education.

Decarbonisation and Reducing Carbon Emissions

- 6.13. Blaenau Gwent declared a Climate Emergency in 2020 and as a Council we have committed towards achievement of net zero carbon emissions by 2030. Creating high quality green spaces in the town centre will help with decarbonisation and offsetting carbon emissions. It will also help improve air quality.

7. Monitoring Arrangements

- 7.1. Progress will be reported through the Regeneration and Development business plan.

Background Documents /Electronic Links

- *Appendix One – Tredgar Town Centre Placemaking Plan – Please note this is currently in draft format but the final version will be available for Scrutiny Committee*
- *Appendix Two – Movement and access appraisal*

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6. TIMEFRAMES & MEASURES OF SUCCESS

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01 INTRODUCTION

WHY A PLACEMAKING PLAN?

Tredegar town centre and the Tredegar Business Park are pivotal to Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council's planned regeneration and investment within Tredegar under the Transforming Towns Fund programme. Responding to this focused approach, this placemaking plan has been prepared for the County Council and Welsh Government to identify issues and target activity where maximum benefit can be achieved. The plan sets out the vision and ambition for the town to meet the challenges of The Future Wales - National Plan 2040, in particular, the implementation of the 'Town Centres First' Policy.

Tredegar sits towards the eastern end of the string of upper Valley towns that run west - east along the southern foothills of the Brecon Beacons, some 26 miles north of Cardiff.

Within each of the valley towns within Blaenau Gwent the centres suffer high vacancy rates and low presence of national retailers compared to other valley towns. The covid pandemic has only accelerated this trend. Most suffer as a result of the dominance of out of town food retail stores and a key issue is that the town centres compete against each other with no clear roles. The challenge expressed in the Local Development Plan, is to provide a new retail hierarchy, identify clear roles and limit damage from out of town retail development.

Within the context of the Capital City Region, the neighbouring town of Ebbw Vale sits at the top of the local hierarchy with a Sub-Regional Role, followed by Tredegar, Abertillery and Brynmawr (District Town Centres), with Blaina a Local Town Centre and then Neighbourhood Centres.

Connectivity is key and the South Wales Valleys Local Transport Plan describes a modern, accessible, integrated and sustainable transport system for the SE Wales Valleys and beyond which increases opportunity, promotes prosperity for all and protects the environment; where walking, cycling and public transport provide real and sustainable travel alternatives.

South Wales Metro is an integrated public transport network that will make it easier for people travel across the Cardiff Capital Region, made up of 10 local authorities including Blaenau Gwent. Tredegar, which is currently disconnected from the railway line, will benefit from Bus Rapid Transit through connecting the town to rail links in Ebbw Vale, Rhymney and Merthyr.

Investment in necessary infrastructure will be a focus of the plan to make interchange between regional and local services seamless and attractive to the passenger.

Similarly, the plan outlines how Tredegar can transition towards and meet the aims of the Welsh Government's 'Future Generations Report 2020', which promotes a placemaking approach to community programmes and commits to "introducing the 20 minute neighbourhood concept for all towns and cities in Wales; creating healthier, happier communities fit for a zero-carbon future"

This will be achieved by prioritising mix-type development which combines town centre retail with housing, transport links, public services, workplaces and recreational facilities.

Central to the placemaking plan and underpinning each initiative is the importance of embracing the town's rich history in all aspects of the plan and design, to engender pride amongst the community and further an appreciation of what is 'their place'; and importantly, to relate Tredegar's heritage to the current context and drive the economy.

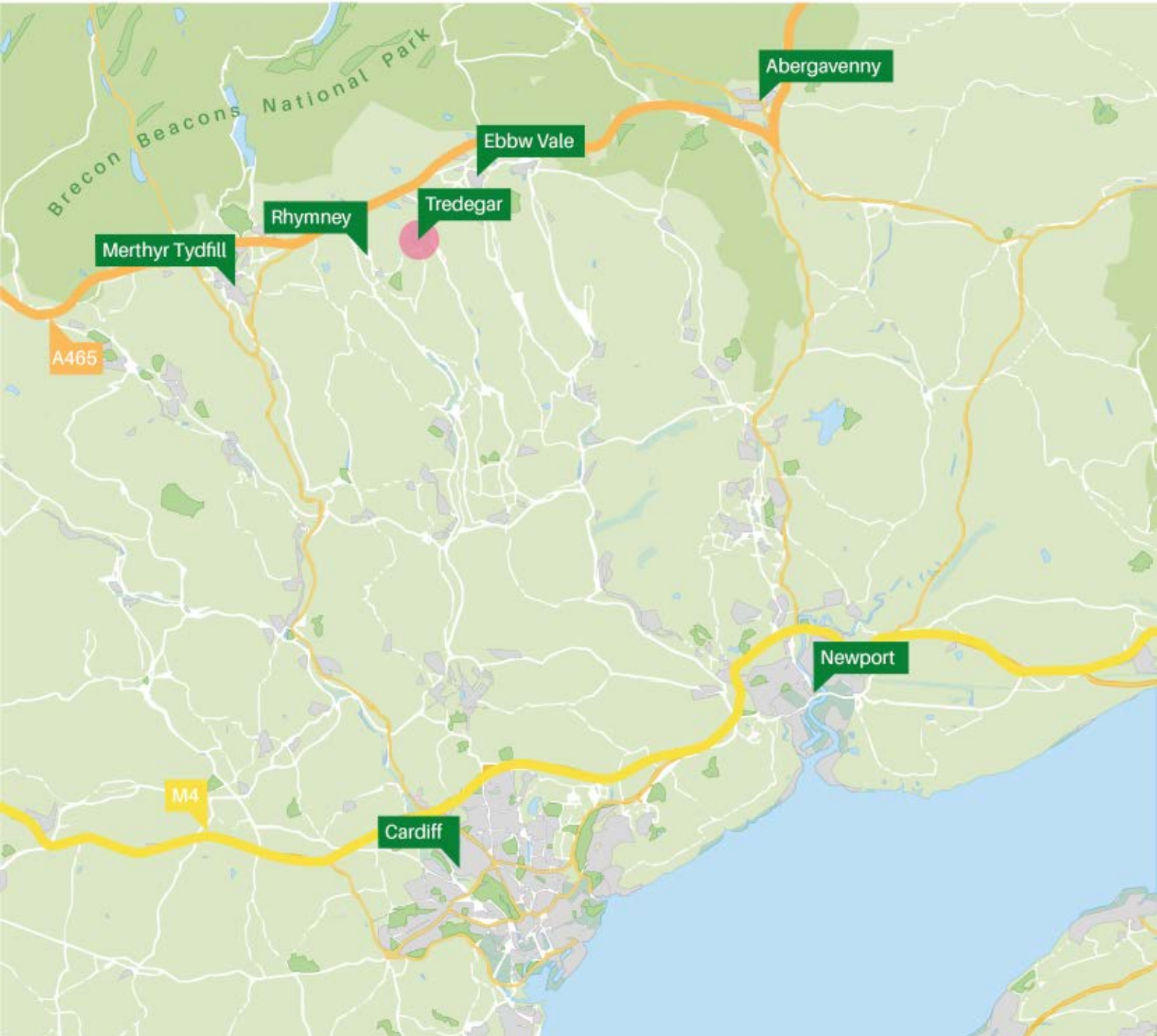


FIG. 1 TREDEGAR - THE WIDER CONTEXT

THE STUDY AREA

The study area initially consisted of the town centre as defined within the Local Plan and the Tredegar Business Park. This leaves a corridor of land between the two, around Coronation Street and Iron Row, that must be considered as part of the Placemaking Plan. Effectively, the town centre extends from Lidl and Gwent Shopping Centre in the north along Commercial Street to Castle Street Church and then southward along Castle Street to include the clock tower at the heart of The Circle.

This area has been subject to a number of masterplanning exercises over the years, and recently, was subject to an RIBA ideas competition that sought visionary concepts to unlock longstanding issues and trigger the imagining of the possible. In terms of recent physical interventions, the properties around The Circle have benefitted from substantial investment through the Townscape Heritage Initiative, which must become a touchstone for further growth and confidence in the town. However, the COVID pandemic, pre-existing pressures for change on the High Street and the production of Future Wales: the National Plan 2040 responding to climate change and sustainable, resilient communities, has collectively redrawn or refocused the landscape and points towards new measures for success for towns in Wales.

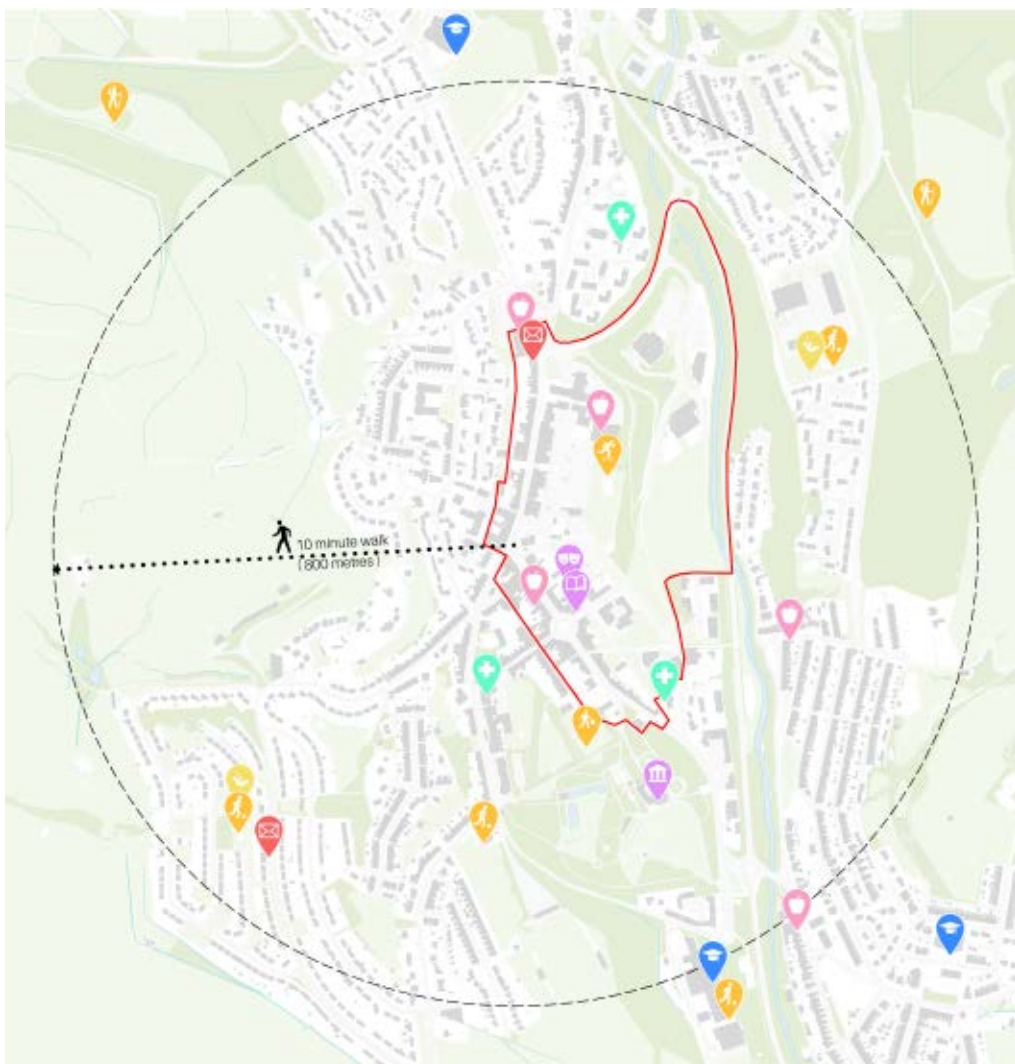














FIG. 2 THE STUDY AREA

LAND USE AND FACILITIES

The relative compactness of the town resulting from its historic, pre-car development, and with most of the town centre facilities and amenities within 10 minutes' walk from the surrounding residential areas, has the potential to achieve the goal of a 20-Minute Neighbourhood.

FIG. 3 LOCAL FACILITIES KEY



-  Leisure - Walking/hiking area
-  Leisure - Sports pitch / court
-  Leisure - Bowls
-  Leisure - Skate Park
-  Leisure - Equiped play area
-  Healthcentre/Doctors surgery
-  Education - School
-  Civic - Beddwelty House
-  Civic - Library
-  Civic - Theatre
-  Convenience Store / Groceries
-  Post Office

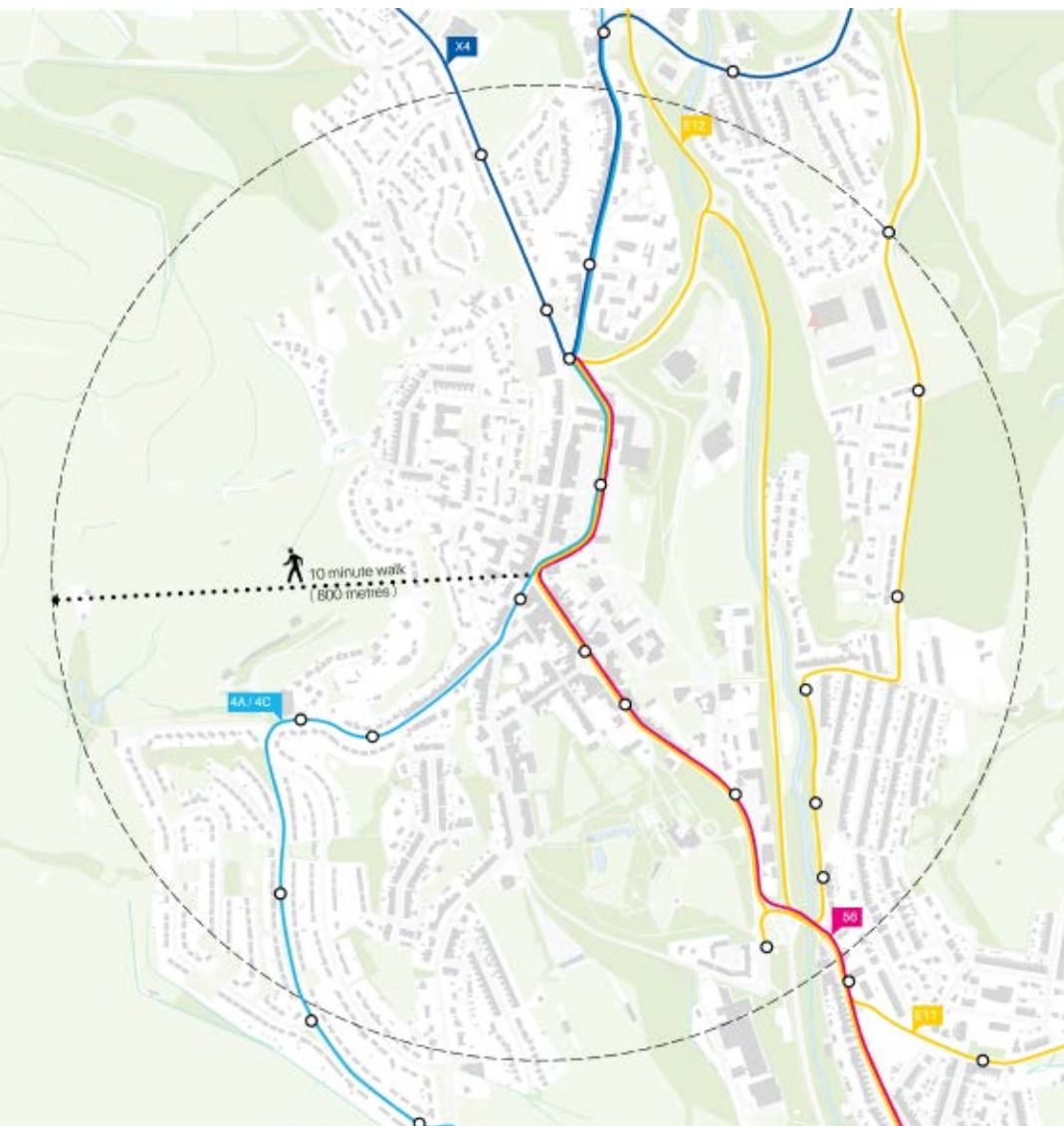
MOVEMENT

Tredegar is well served by road and poorly by rail. Both Rhymney to the west and Ebbw Vale to the east have rail connections, whilst Tredegar relies on the local and regional bus services. The Heads of the Valleys Road, the A465, runs immediately to the north of the town connection to Merthyr to the west and Abergavenny and onto England to the east.

As shown on Figure 4, the X4 regional bus accessing and departing Tredegar from the A465, is unable to interchange with the local services 4A/C, 56 and E11 within the town centre, as the buses are too long to

pass beneath the Gwent Shopping Centre underpass and enter the town. This is a severe hindrance to effective connectivity between local and regional services, which ideally would be brought together in a single hub.

Active travel routes are currently limited with National Cycle Routes 467 and 411 running to the north and east of the town centre. Connected to this, there is little by way of cycle or pedestrian infrastructure within the town, despite cycling (and mountain biking in particular) being a major draw within the region.








▼ FIG. 4 EXISTING BUS NETWORK

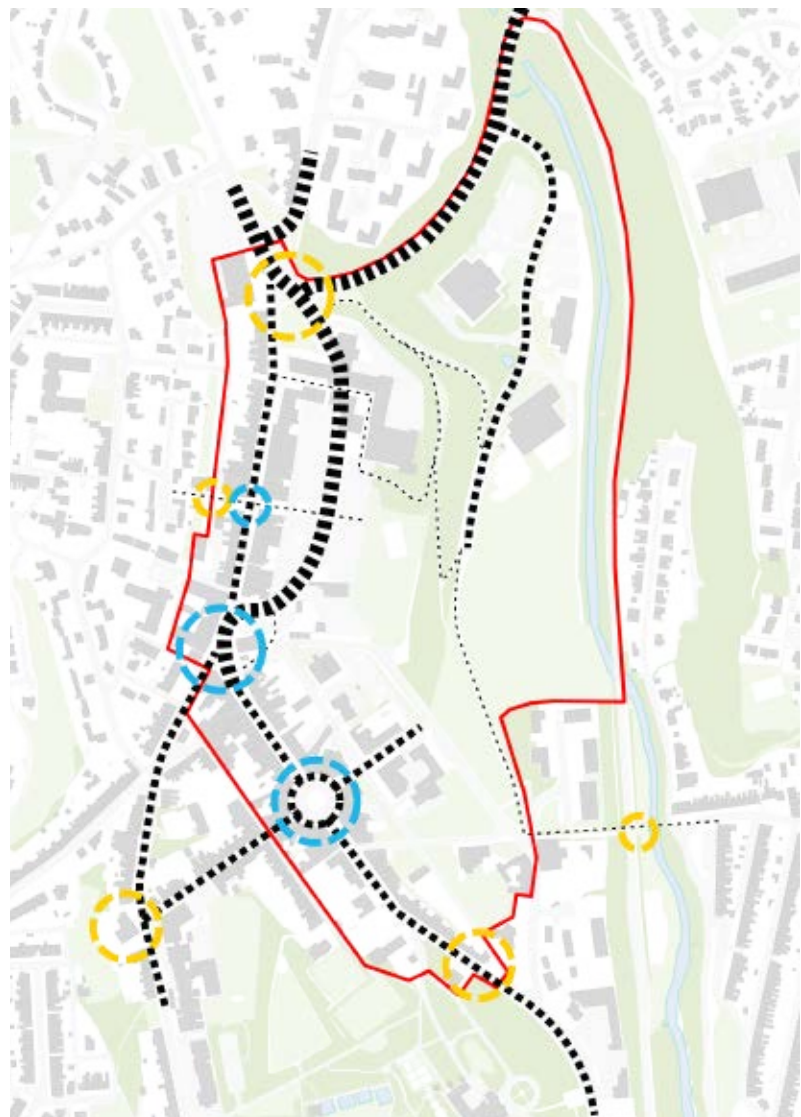
A pedestrian connection cuts across the grain running west - east through the retail core, from the residential area of Ty Bryn, crossing Commercial Street, linking to the bus stands on Stockton Way and the Gwent Shopping Centre Car Park.

Similarly, what was historically a strong west - east axis through the town runs down Market Street, across The Circle and down Iron Street. However, with the erosion of the housing area either side of Iron Street and the lack of connection with the business park, this route has lost its prominence.

The third west - east link, which again is evident on the Victorian maps, is the pedestrian connection linking the town centre with Georgetown, via Bridge Street, the pedestrian underpass beneath the A4048 and across the Sirhowy River.

FIG. 5 EXISTING MOVEMENT PATTERNS

-  Primary vehicular movement
-  Secondary vehicular movement
-  Pedestrian movement
-  Primary Gateway
-  Secondary Gateway

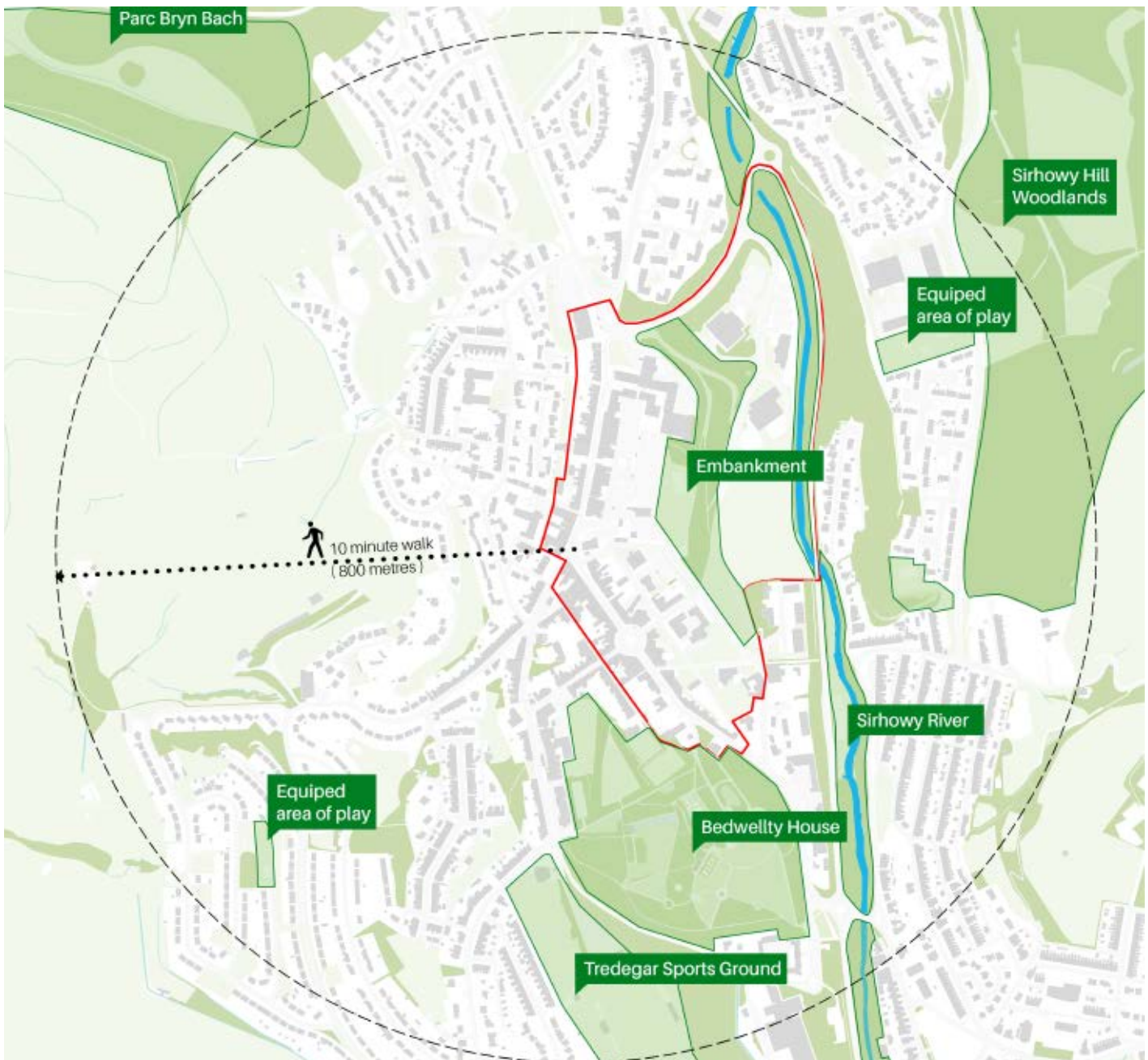


GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE

There is little by way of civic green space within the town centre, a legacy of the hard, civic nature of the town plan. A pocket park exists to the west of Commercial Street at the junction with the pedestrian route to the housing area above the town. Bedwellty Gardens, the town park, lies to the immediate south of the town centre. There are a number of street trees throughout the town centre - on Commercial Street, either side of Stockton Way and around The Circle.

The linear nature of the settlement within the valley, however, means that access to green space is readily available on the hills above the town, on the embankment east of the town and along the river corridor. A walking route runs along the west bank of the river through the business park, but needs connectivity to a wider network.

FIG. 6 EXISTING GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE

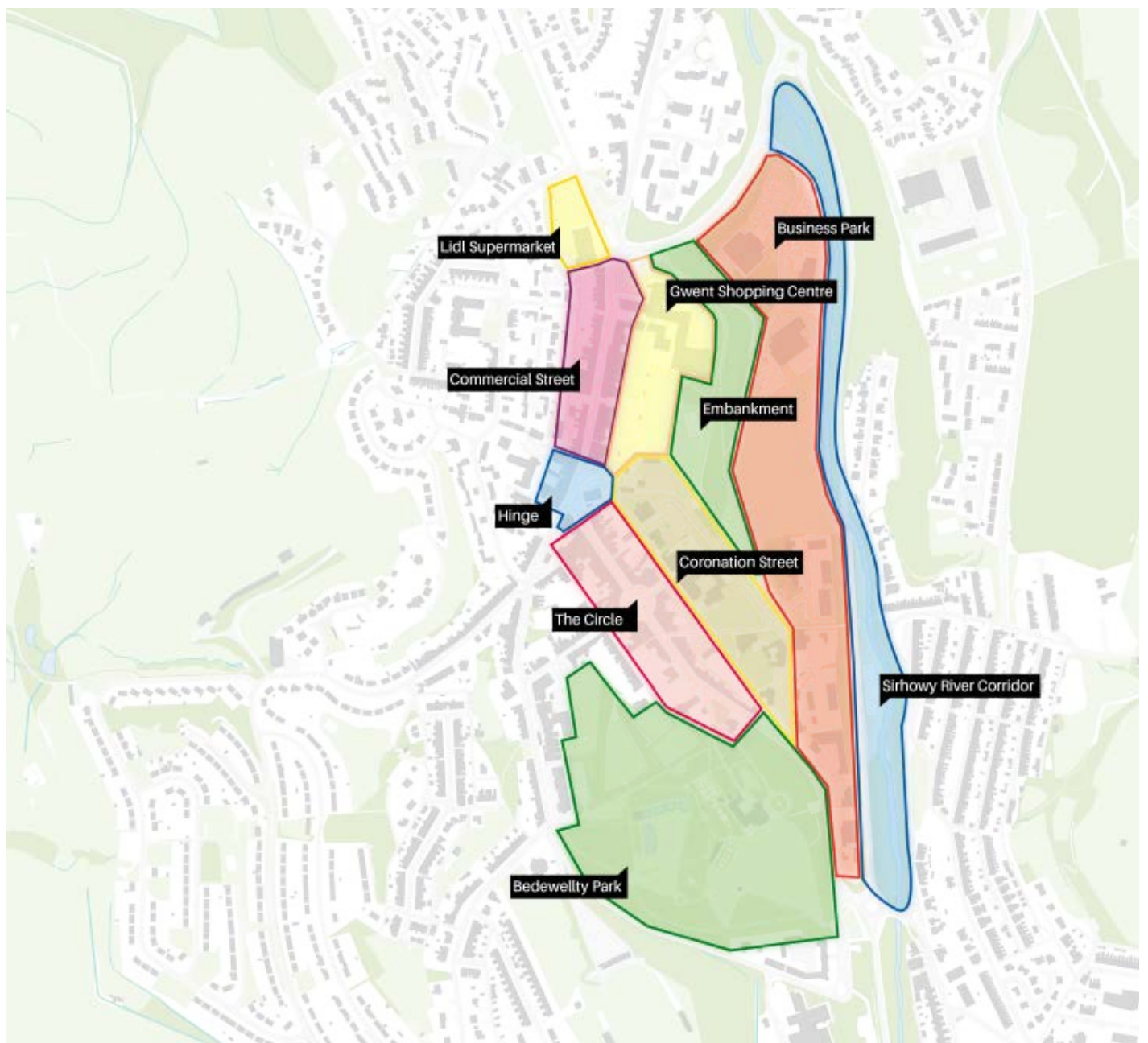


CHARACTER AREAS

The study area and its adjacent surroundings are made up of clearly defined character areas, each distinct from its neighbour and immediately apparent in moving through the town.

the detailed appraisal of these character areas is described in Appendix 1.

FIG. 7 CHARACTER AREAS



VIEWS AND GATEWAYS

Views generally within the study area are contained to the west by the rising ground and residential development, whereas to the south, they extend over the business park from the elevated position of the town centre, to the wooded western slopes of the Sirhowy valley.

Within the town centre, the views are linear along the two arms of the high street - Commercial Street and Castle Street. The joint in these two arms, around Castle Street Church, contains the internal views with the purple façade of the nightclub, DJ Loft, terminating the view northward from Castle Street.

Southward from the top of Castle Street, the iconic feature of the clock tower set in the middle of The Circle dominates the vista, with the wooded edges to Bedwellty Park beyond. The clock tower also

highlights in a secondary view from Harcourt Terrace, down Market Street and over Iron Row to the distant valley side. Here, a subtle piece of townscape has the main façade of the Saron Congregational Church on Harcourt Terrace angled to turn the view down Market Street, whilst terminating the view westward from the clock tower.

Recognisable gateways are formed at either end of the town, at the Morgan Road, Shop Row, Lower Coronation Street junction to the south; and the northern façade of the Gwent Shopping Centre to the north. The approach to the town, passed the park to the south, is an attractive and slowly revealing experience (accepting that more could be done to reinforce the actual gateway); whereas the shopping centre is a brutal and uninviting point of entry to the north.

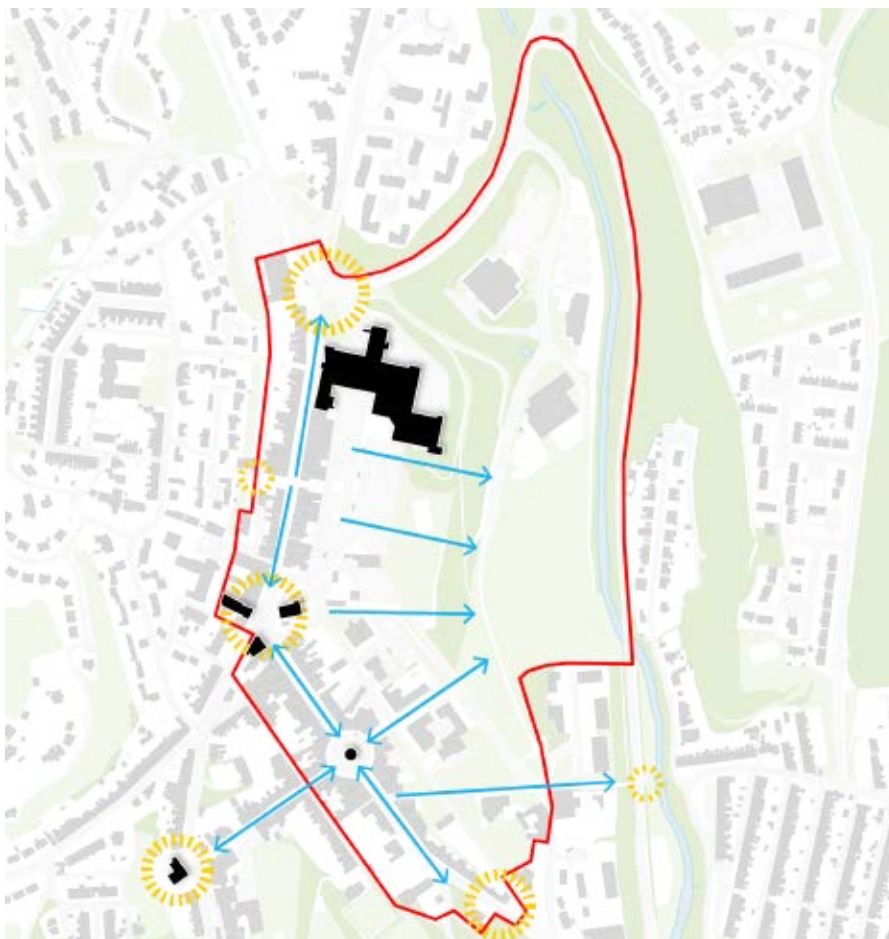


FIG. 8 VIEWS AND GATEWAYS

- Key view
- ☀ Gateway

URBAN QUALITIES

Figure 9 describes the areas exhibiting strong and weak urban qualities and frontages; primarily associated with the structure of the townscape and completeness of the facades, but also the quality and cohesiveness of the urban realm and landscape.

As can be seen, the two arms of the town centre - Commercial Street and Castle Street, have a consistency and continuity to their urban structure and

a quality to the urban realm, whereas the areas to the east of the main high street are fractured, ill-defined and lacking in urban character.

The wooded topography to the setting of the business park is attractive and complete, complemented by the landscape works within the park itself. Although little used and in need of some attention, the river corridor landscape is also of a quality.



FIG. 9 EXISTING URBAN QUALITY

- Good Quality Urban Environment
- Poor Quality Urban Environment
- Good Urban frontage
- Poor Urban frontage

TREDEGAR HEALTHCHECK

The Tredegar Town Centre Healthcheck has regard to the extent of the boundary defined by this study, which closely follows the current Town Centre boundary as defined in the Local Plan. It therefore extends from Lidl and the Gwent Centre in the north along the spine of Commercial Street (the primary retail area) and Castle Street to The Circle in the south.

The Placemaking Plan also encapsulates the Business Park to the east of the town centre. The purpose of the healthcheck is to assess the current state and vitality of the town centre, forming part of a robust, primarily retail evidence base to aid in the preparation of the Placemaking Plan for the town.

The full Healthcheck is to be found in Appendix 2, and covers:

- Diversity of uses
- Proportion of vacant street level properties
- Commercial Rents
- Access and Accessibility
- Customer views and behaviour
- Perceptions of safety and occurrence of crime
- Environmental quality

To summarise, the town is fulfilling its intended role within the Local Development Plan as a District Hub, serving the needs of its local communities and to this extent, subordinate in its role to Ebbw Vale as the Principal Hub. There are increasing rates of vacancy within the town centre, with particular concern with the level of vacant properties within the Gwent Shopping Centre, at the heart of the Primary Retail Area.

Whilst there are gaps and imbalances within the diversity of uses, the mix is basically solid and along with the underlying attraction and robustness of the urban structure, provides a good base for development of a unique and compelling vision for the town and offer within the Valleys.

TREDEGAR AT A GLANCE

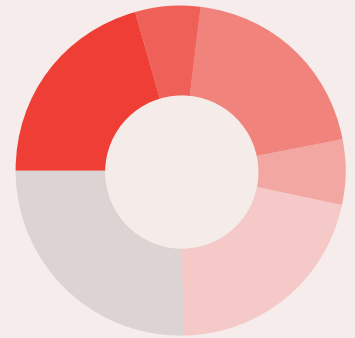
Town Centre Turnover



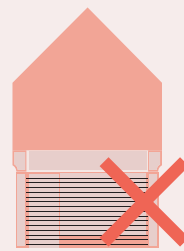
- Identified within the LDP as a district shopping centre to serve the needs of the local catchment area.
- Tredegar's population is circa 15,000 people
- Contains the second largest Town Centre in Blaenau Gwent, (The largest when based on the number of retail units. Ebbw Vale has a Town Centre Turnover 3x larger than that of Tredegar.
- Southern end of the Town Centre designated a Conservation Area linked with industrial heritage of the Town and links to Aneurin Bevan and the formation of the NHS

DIVERSITY OF USES

- Higher than the UK national average for A1 service uses reflects a large number of Hair and Beauty and Tattoo parlours.
- The Leisure Use class in Tredegar is slightly below the UK national average and has very high levels of fast food & takeaway provision, accounting for most of the A3-A5 use in the town centre.



PROPORTION OF VACANT SHOPS



25%

Shops vacant in Tredegar Town Centre

12%

Experian GOAD UK National Average February 2020

ACCESS & ACCESSIBILITY

- Car Parking in northern part of the Town Centre is well catered for but street parking dominates Commercial Street.
- Interchange between local and regional bus services is limited as the Gwent Shopping Centre underpass impedes access for regional busses.
- 76% of those surveyed thought that there was a good or very good ease of pedestrian movement around the town centre.



CUSTOMER VIEWS & BEHAVIOUR



- High local usage of the Town Centre with 75% of those surveyed within the Tredegar catchment areas said they visited Town Centre at least once a week.
- Poor perception of quality of the Town Centre shopping offer with 65% of customers surveyed suggesting that the quality of shops was poor or very poor.
- Almost half of all customers surveyed thought that the attractiveness and experience of food and drink establishments around the town centre was poor or very poor.

FIG. 10 BUILDING CONDITION SURVEY



02 COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

CREATIVE CONVERSATIONS: STAKEHOLDERS CONSULTED

The Tredegar Placemaking Plan has been prepared in collaboration with a wide array of stakeholders and consultees. Ideas and opinions have been shared locally by those who live and work in the town with the major stakeholders who operate within the Heads of the Valleys region and local borough council. Due to the Covid pandemic, the placemaking team has had little opportunity to consult widely with town centre communities, and stakeholder and schools' events and workshops have been restricted to online events, with comments and guidance gathered.

These conversations have helped set the agenda and identify priorities for change in the short, medium and long term. The team has facilitated countless meetings and workshops, often with one to one follow up conversations, with the following groups;

- Tredegar Advisory Board
- Welsh Government
- Welsh Government Metro Team
- Council Members
- Council Officer and teams:
 - Transport
 - Housing
 - Health
 - Destination Management
 - Police and Crime Prevention
 - Green Infrastructure
 - Active Travel
- Coalfields Regeneration Trust
- Sectors (Creative Industries, Pharmaceutical, High Street businesses, Gwent Shopping Centre, Chamber)
- Bryn Bach Primary School

WHAT WE WERE TOLD

OPEN SPACE

- Bedwellty House and Gardens and the heritage townscape
- Lack of connectivity with the Business Park
- Proximity to National Park and open countryside
- Skateboard Park is little used and general positive spaces for young people
- Too much open space that does not add anything, is poorly maintained and uninviting

GETTING AROUND (MOVEMENT + CONNECTIVITY)

- Sense of Tredegar being isolated - poor public transport connectivity and infrastructure
- Bring back the railway!
- Little active transport opportunities or infrastructure
- Tredegar doesn't strongly feature in the Regional Metro proposals
- Disconnection between the town and the business park
- Streets dominated by the car and traffic - little enforcement of parking restrictions
- The short section of Queen Victoria Street between Commercial Street and Castle Street, acts as a hinge for the main thoroughfare and is traffic dominated and lacking in active frontages, splitting the two halves of the town;
- Entry into Tredegar significantly impacted by the Gwent Shopping Centre underpass
- The bus station is also split by the underpass with regional buses operating from outside Lidl
- No entry into the business park from the south.

BUILDINGS

- Housing quality inadequate with poor quality of service
- Significant heritage and buildings at risk should be brought back into use
- Gwent Shopping Centre an eyesore and an obstacle as a northern town gateway

COMMUNITY/SOCIAL (ACTIVITY)

- Regeneration initiatives must not displace the existing communities, but enhance and support them
- Access to local amenities seriously lacking (convenience stores, GP, local school etc); Tredegar has the physical make up and proximities, but still fails as a 20 Minute Neighbourhood
- Concern that regeneration initiatives should not displace the existing communities but enhance and support them;
- recognition that change is needed though residents want to be included in the process of making change
- Desire to improve communication / collaboration between key institutions and the local communities

RETAIL/ECONOMIC (ACTIVITY)

- Activity on the high street benefited hugely from the series of events and festivals that used to occur - sadly missed and should be re-introduced.
- Overall retail activity very much dependent on the shopping centre vitality and success.
- Covid has been an enormous set back at a time of existing vulnerability.
- Long-term businesses remain with a commitment and willingness to 'carry on', but need support and grateful for any assistance

IDEAS SUGGESTED - KEY DRIVERS FOR CHANGE

The quality of the surrounding **natural environment** and the existing **architecture and heritage** of the town were sources of immense pride, but also considered to be key defining characteristics of Tredegar. There is a strong desire for this quality and character to be retained, as much as a springboard to growth and retention. Many people commented on the need for any new development to be sensitive to, and build on the existing fabric of the town and its context.

Linked to its heritage, the strong connections to Nye Bevan and the **founding of the NHS** based on the Tredegar model were mentioned as a source of visitor interest and also a touchstone and draw to future inward investment in health industries (research/ pharmaceuticals) and business tourism.

Arts and Culture are clearly seen as emerging components of the town's identity, and indeed of the Valleys as a whole. References to arts/culture and creativity were repeatedly mentioned in relation to the town's existing assets and future development. Enhancing the arts and cultural offer of Tredegar is clearly seen as fundamental to future success.

The opportunity to **invest in local businesses and create jobs** is seen as a real opportunity for the town, with a particular emphasis on health, innovative, creative industries and the digital economy. Which hopefully would lead to the local organisation of supply chains, which in turn would contribute to circularity; driving entrepreneurship and experiment.

With the changing characteristics of retail and the high street, the need for **mixed-use development** is also seen as a key driver for a successful town centre. People would like to see a mix of uses with an emphasis on firstly retaining existing businesses, then attracting new independent businesses and retailers, rather than a targeted focus on purely the large chains.

Support for the principles of the 20 Minute Neighbourhood were widely expressed, with better connectivity to facilities and services, open space and regional travel modes. It was noted that the **response to Covid** was supercharging certain potential interventions (eg active travel).

Green space and eco-friendly design principles are important to the people of Tredegar, with frequent mention made of the quality of Bedwellty Park. That said, the river corridor is an underused asset, seen as a part of the business park and not of the town. Sustainable design principles and features such as Sustainable Urban Drainage, permeable paving and green energy were frequently mentioned, along with the importance of encouraging sustainable modes of travel. In this area it was seen that policy and governance structures need to catch up with the Welsh Government **low carbon agenda** ambition. Ensure all strategies are turned into action!

Car parking and traffic were mentioned time and again as one of the biggest issues facing what can be considered the high street - Commercial Street/Castle Street. Resolving these issues, particularly around the hinge formed by Queen Victoria Street, will be key to improving the high street experience and better connecting the two parts of the town spine. Linked to this is the need to resolve **pedestrian connectivity and permeability** issues into and within the high street, including better integration of the housing to the west and the car park/bus hub and onward to the business park to the east. The stakeholders recognise the importance of creating a pedestrian-friendly, safe and attractive walking and cycling environment in order to successfully integrate the town centre with its residential context and thereby encourage sustainable modes of travel.

Young people were concerned about countering the impacts of climate change and ensuring that any new development should be **accessible and inclusive to all**. They were particularly concerned about safety and ensuring that the area is welcoming for young people. They were also worried about the aging population and the need to cater for them within the new development. Population growth in this part of the Valleys seems to be essentially about growing existing communities sustainably, with **better access to services and opportunity**.

Viability and sustainability were seen as fundamental to the success of the town centre. There was a consensus that these should be top priorities for the project, and should be embedded across all decisions that follow. There was a recognition that viability needs to be considered with the long-term aspirations of the project in mind, as early investments may be needed up-front in order to grow the value and achieve the longer-term objectives of the place. To this end, **meanwhile uses and projects**, of potential low value but immediate and of high impact would be useful to change perceptions and signal change.

Fundamentally, a **community-empowering engagement strategy** is needed to ensure successful delivery of the plan. However, what came over from a number of workshops was the need to **join the dots between policies, strategies and action**, accepting that investment was paramount to successful delivery of meaningful change. To achieve this, two things needed to happen; firstly, key institutions within the town and region must take the lead in change-making and be seen to **work with the communities**; and secondly, there was a need to **build alliances and coalitions between key stakeholders** - must improve existing coordination and collaboration.

03 THE VISION

THE VISION

Maintain and improve Tredegar as a Convenience and Community Centre, serving its local communities well, but overlay this by developing a Speciality Town signature, unique within the sub-region.

Of all the Valley towns, Tredegar is perhaps best endowed with a unique set of cultural and spatial assets. A rich tapestry of historic layers, retained within a singular, simple yet striking townscape structure; the town immediately creates a lasting impression.

These characteristics are immensely valuable, and Tredegar is the only town within its sub-region that has the potential to be defined as a Speciality town, where the anchor is not (just) retail. These attributes and characteristics must, therefore, be protected and the potential monopolised. Importantly, one of the key characteristics of Speciality towns is that footfall, dwell time and spend is balanced out across the year.

The vision for the town therefore seeks to enhance these inherent qualities, whilst creating a place that meets the ambition of ‘building sustainable places that support active and healthy lives, within urban neighbourhoods that are compact and walkable, organised around mixed-use centres and public transport, and integrated with green infrastructure’.

Delivering a sustainable mix of different uses will be key to generating a vibrant town centre, which is relevant, welcoming and inclusive to resident and visitor alike, throughout the day and across the year. A place that is loved, used and cherished by all its community, will become one that is immediately attractive to the guest.

The challenge will be to balance these new development with the town’s existing assets in a way that supports existing uses whilst also allowing new ones to flourish. Both policy and mindsets must remain sufficiently flexible to allow new uses to emerge, to improve viability and vitality, as technologies and markets evolve.

It is vital that new development creates high quality, sustainable architecture, be that new build or repurposed, complemented by habitable streets and spaces which extend life and activity into the public realm.

A sensitive, phased approach to delivery will encourage incremental growth over time, a growth that must be driven by local communities and stakeholders, empowered and supported by the public sector, ensuring that Tredegar leads in committing to the goal of realising the 20 minute neighbourhood concept - ‘creating healthier, happier communities fit for a zero-carbon future’.





04 THEMES & STRATEGIES



A ROUTE TO SUCCESS

APPROACH

In order to move from an understanding of the existing context, and the current condition and performance of the town centre as a district hub, to identifying projects that would support the vision and “improve [the] functionality, attractiveness, liveability and vibrancy” of the town centre, a series of themes and strategies were developed. In combination, these would set out a model and criteria for success, and are derived from national, regional and local policy.

Particularly, the strategies emerge from the Welsh Government ‘Future Wales: The National Plan 2040’ and ‘Future Generations Report 2020’ for the adoption of a placemaking approach to community programmes and fully endorses the concept of the 20 minute neighbourhood for all towns and cities in Wales; driving towards “healthier, happier communities fit for a zero-carbon future.”

A stated aim for Welsh Government in its spatial strategy is “building sustainable places that support active and healthy lives, with urban neighbourhoods that are compact and walkable, organised around mixed-use centres and public transport, and integrated with green infrastructure”.

Responding to the particular circumstances and opportunities in Tredeggar, the themes and strategies, as described more fully in Appendix 3, centre on:

- Sustainability
- Land Use
- Movement and Connectivity
- The Public Realm
- Culture and Heritage

The Key principles of each of these themes is:

SUSTAINABILITY

- 20 minute neighbourhood concepts
- Buildings: Adaptive Reuse
- Transport
- Energy
- Green Infrastructure
- Lifestyle: Health & Well-being

LAND USE

- Retail
- Commercial
- Residential
- Hotel
- Arts, Culture & Leisure
- Transport & Parking

MOVEMENT AND CONNECTIVITY

- Retail historic street patterns
- Safe and Accessible Streets for all
- Resolve the underpass
- Improve connections between housing, town centre, business park and river
- Promote active travel routes

THE PUBLIC REALM

- Sequence and hierarchy of public spaces
- Safe, active spaces
- Incorporate blue/green infrastructure

CULTURE AND HERITAGE

- Reveal and inform
- Engender pride and appreciation of their ‘place’ within the community
- Relate Tredeggar’s rich history to the current context and drive the economy
- Embrace Heritage in all aspects of design

05 THE FRAMEWORK PLAN

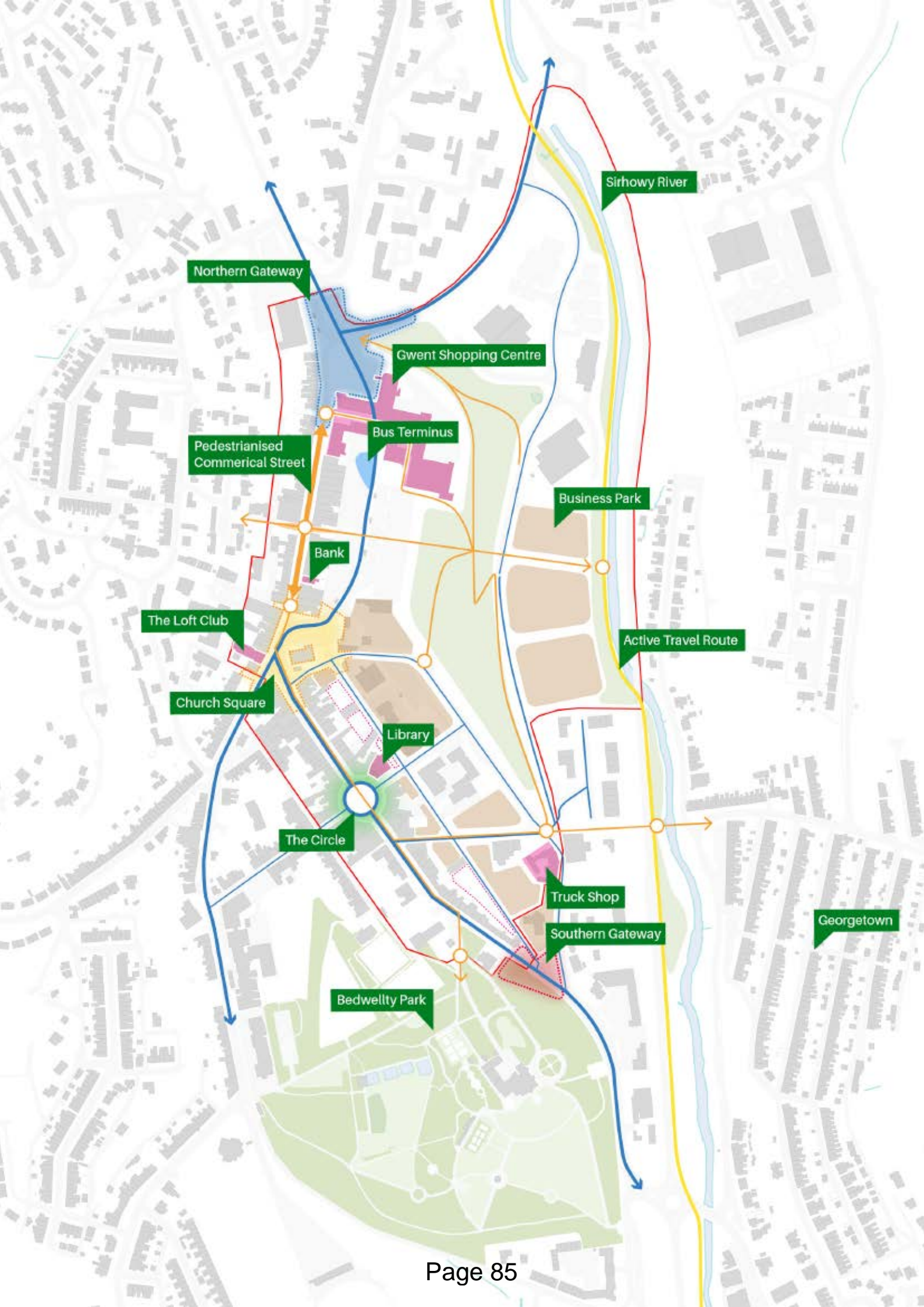
THE FRAMEWORK PLAN

The Placemaking Plan provides the physical manifestation of the Vision by way of defined spatial and movement objectives to which any potential schemes should conform and contribute. The plan addresses structural deficiencies within the built fabric and also issues of connectivity around the town, with the overarching aim of progressing the 20 Minute Neighbourhood concept.

The Placemaking Plan accepts that over the duration of the realisation of the plan, change is inevitable; instigated by political, social, economic or environmental forces. The plan needs to be sufficiently robust and flexible to accommodate such change without jeopardising the underlying and fundamental development principles.

**FIG. 21
PROPOSED FRAMEWORK PLAN KEY**





Northern Gateway

Sirhowy River

Gwent Shopping Centre

Bus Terminus

Pedestrianised
Commerical Street

Business Park

Bank

The Loft Club

Active Travel Route

Church Square

Library

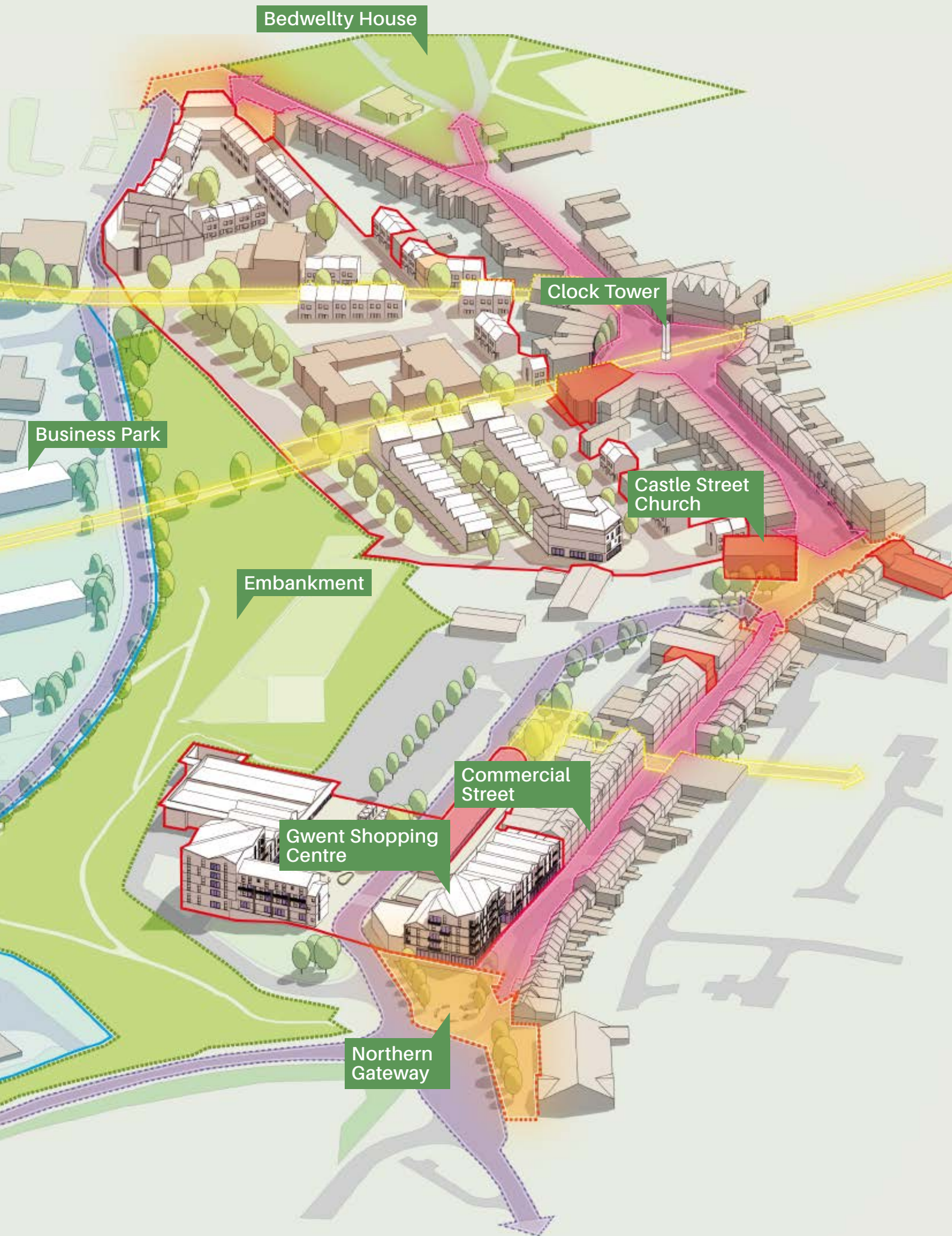
The Circle

Truck Shop

Southern Gateway

Bedwellty Park

Georgetown



Bedwelty House

Clock Tower

Business Park

Castle Street Church

Embankment

Commercial Street

Gwent Shopping Centre

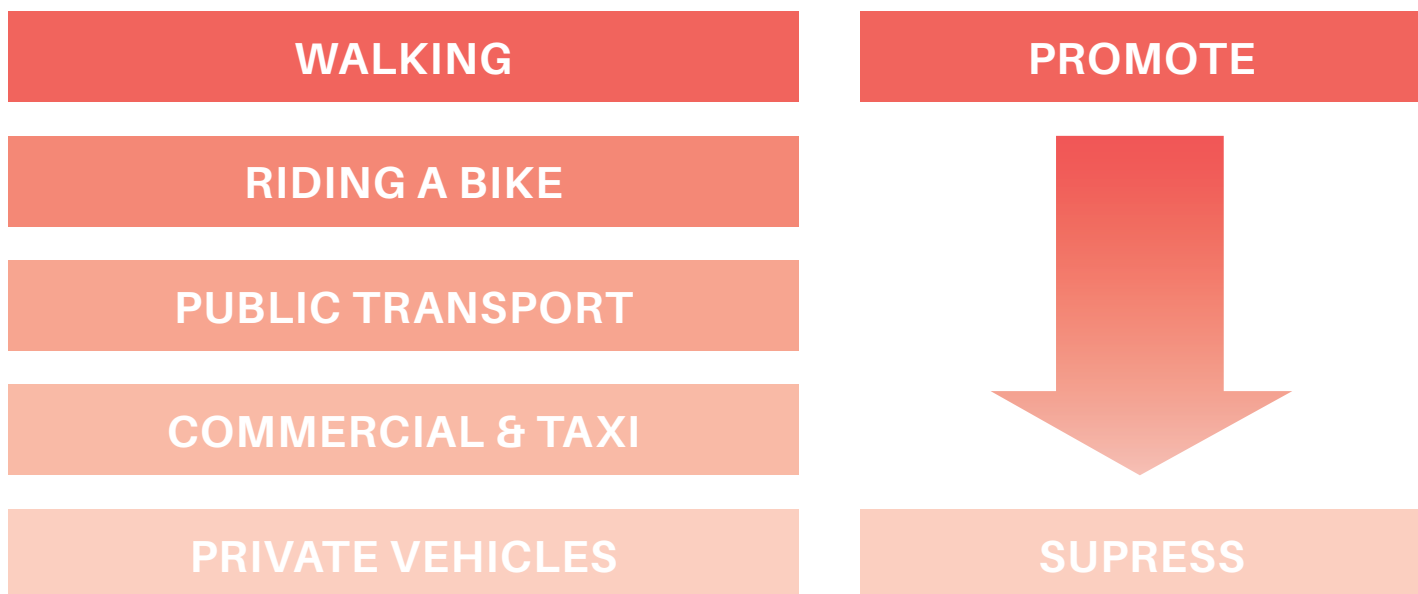
Northern Gateway

ACCESS & MOVEMENT

The plan establishes the principal pedestrian, cycle and vehicle movement patterns and points of access to enable ease of movement around the town based on active travel principles, whilst satisfying the need to service and supply town centre businesses and facilities.

Effectively, national, regional and local policy creates a hierarchy of travel modes, prioritising space within the public realm to promoting green, active means of travel - walking, wheeling and cycling. This hierarchy is illustrated in the diagram below.

However, it must be applied sensibly to recognise the needs of the broader transport and highway network and it is increasingly important to consider the movement of services and goods, not just people. Nevertheless, this hierarchy is a clear statement of the Council's priorities for movement within the region, and this must be reflected in the design of all streets and spaces.



THE PUBLIC REALM

Delivering a variety of public streets and spaces that respond to their location and function is a key aspiration of the Placemaking Plan. As stated above, the key principle in designing the public realm is prioritising the attractiveness and therefore the invitation to the cyclist and pedestrian, with the ambition to increase footfall, dwell-time and civic activity within the urban realm. This in turn feeds back into economic activity and the attractiveness of Tredegar as a place to live and visit. The Placemaking Plan clearly defines a strategy for the public realm around the character and typology of the public spaces, which seeks to achieve these goals.

HERITAGE

The strong historic urban model of the street pattern, key buildings, views and vistas all contribute to the town's identity and sense of place. Repair is required, but the fundamentals of this urban structure must not be lost and are essential to the success of the town going forward.

NEW INTERVENTIONS AND POTENTIAL DEVELOPMENT SITES

The Placemaking Plan identifies new development plots that would be brought forward over time. These key developments might consist of renewal, re-purposing or repair, but with the intention of building on the strong bones of the town to retain and increase critical growth within the community, effectively building in resilience for the economy, culture and well-being. The Placemaking Plan provides the starting point to assembling and bringing forward development.

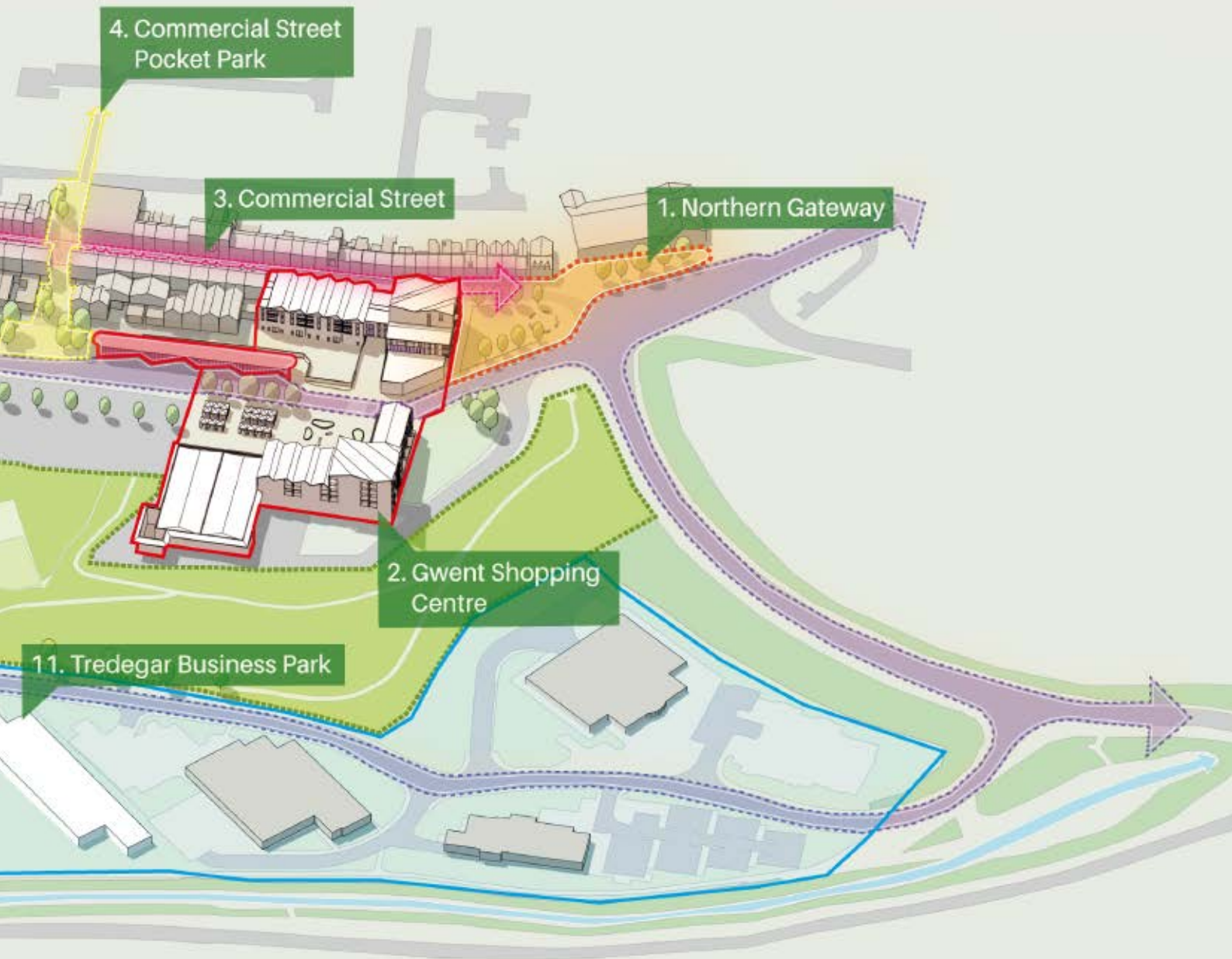
ACHIEVING QUALITY DESIGN

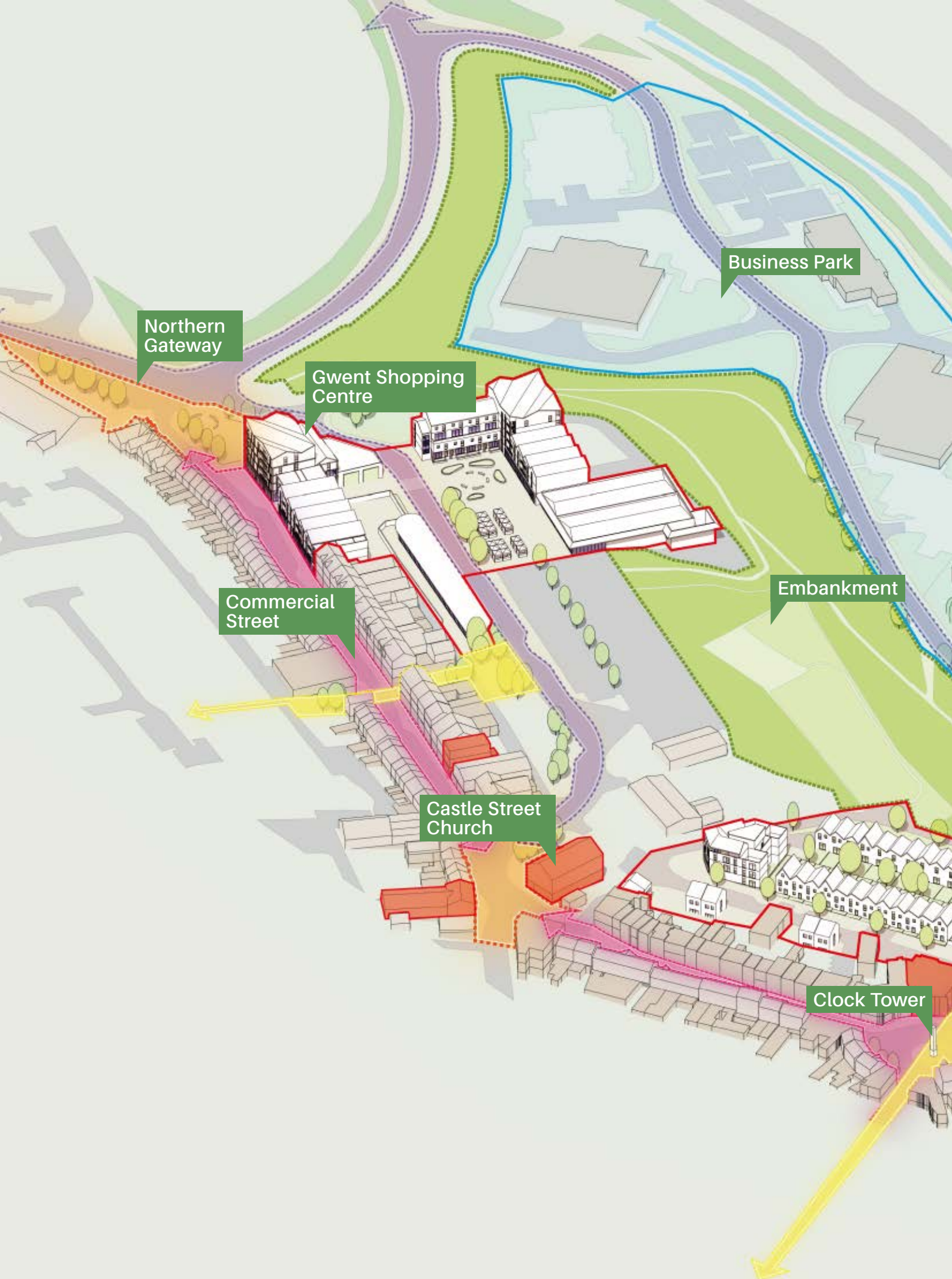
This should not be confused with the cost of development, but the quality of the designs brought forward within Tredegar should be measured by the developments ability to meet the aspirations set out in this document for sustainability, respect for the town's heritage, creating life between buildings and the scale, massing and density to support a 20 minute neighbourhood.

ACTION AREAS









Northern Gateway

Gwent Shopping Centre

Business Park

Commercial Street

Embankment

Castle Street Church

Clock Tower



1. NORTHERN GATEWAY

The northern gateway into the town is formed by the controlled junction outside the Lidl and north of the Gwent Shopping Centre. The junction is heavily traffic dominated and a sense of disconnection from, and lack of welcome to the town results. This is reinforced by the blank façade of the shopping centre and the oppressive nature of the highways underpass that passes beneath it.

Initial traffic modelling would suggest that the junction can be simplified, permitting active travel modes to better cross and enter the town, and the proposed regeneration of the Gwent Shopping Centre and reconfiguration and renewal of Commercial Street would also change the context of the gateway. The landscape works around the junction are of a quality and should be extended to follow the realigned Stockton Way into the town. Similarly, the urban treatment of Commercial Street should be expanded in front of the western street façade, where the remodelled shopping centre return eastward, to create a small public space running up to the Post Office and drawing Lidl onto the 'High Street'.

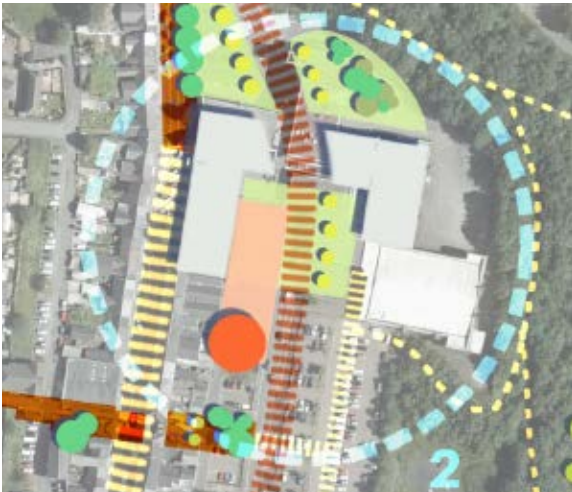


2. GWENT SHOPPING CENTRE

Effectively, this development currently forms the northern gateway into the town as all movement patterns are funnelled through the underpass on Stockton Way, under the shopping centre. The current shopping centre still fulfils an important retail function for the town, forming the majority of the Primary Retail Area. However, the quality of the environment and issues of access into the town centre for pedestrians, cyclists, cars and public transport are critically detrimental to the town centre and substantial reconfiguration and repurposing is required.

The programme needs to reflect the current realities of retail and to remain a key component of the town centre attraction, the centre needs to be re-envisioned as a mixed use development, potentially underpinned by a residential component, but containing retail, leisure and community facilities.

The underpass should be removed to allow the creation of a new bus interchange between local services and regional Metro services. Taking advantage of the consolidation of public transport the links to the active travel network would be strengthened by the provision of a cycle hub adjacent to the bus interchange.

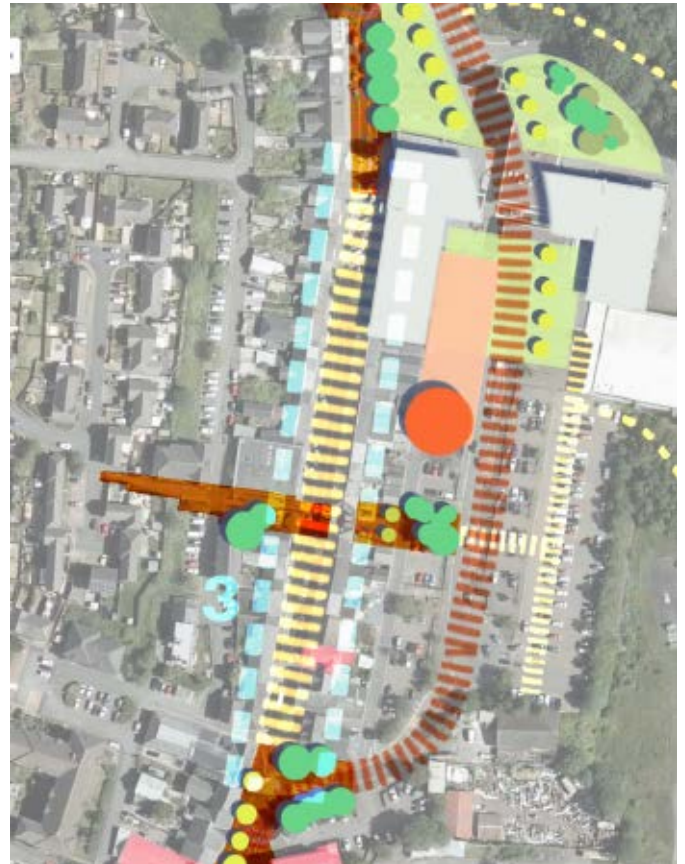




3. COMMERCIAL STREET

The issues on Commercial Street are intertwined. We need to generate more footfall and increase activity and dwell time to stimulate retail spend. This will assist with the property take up and investment in the street, addressing problems of vacancy, poorly maintained frontages and anti-social behaviour.

The streets needs to offer an invitation to the resident and visitor to meet, walk and spend time, through the provision of an attractive and pleasant environment. We need, therefore, to switch the emphasis from the immediacy and ease of vehicular access to promoting pedestrian and cycle activity. The proposal is to restrict vehicular access at certain times of the day, permitting service and deliveries, but in a predominantly pedestrian environment. The change over could be gradual, where the street is initially closed to vehicles to facilitate key events or festivals, but the transition needs to happen.



4. COMMERCIAL STREET POCKET PARK

With the exception of the two points of entry into Commercial Street to north and south, this is the only pedestrian intersection with the street, but provides access from the extensive housing area to the west and connection to the Gwent Shopping Centre and bus stands to the east. Recognising its importance and potential, a small pocket park already marks this midway point along the street, but is suffering from neglect, underuse and a lack of active frontages.

The reduced impact of vehicles through restrictions along Commercial Street, in combination with a renewed shopping centre and re-energised urban realm, would really enable this space to come alive.



5. CHURCH SQUARE

The 'knuckle' between Commercial Street and Castle Street has been lost as a civic space and is now a traffic junction that needs to be negotiated in moving between the two arms of the town - the high street spine. The majority of this space falls under the Town Centre Conservation Area, and should create a public space that addresses the Castle Street Church and provides spill out space for the buildings that terminate the two internal axial views along the streets clustered around the church. The highways function of this space will need to remain, but initial highways design suggests the land take for traffic purposes can be reduced, enabling suitable public realm to establish a central public space at the heart of the town.

6. CASTLE STREET

It is crucial that Castle Street is not overlooked in this plan. Recent works around the Circle have had a marked, but immediate effect, dramatically improving the attractiveness and offer around the Circle. However, to really make a difference to the wider town, the connections back to the retail area and onto Bedwellty Park, need to present a consistent quality and facilitate ease of movement.

Frontage improvements to the properties in combination with a sympathetic lighting scheme would draw the pedestrian along the street.



7. CORONATION STREET/IRON ROW

With strong reference to the Victorian street plan of Tredegar, the zone between Castle Street/Morgan Street and the business park should be repaired through phased residential-led development. As indicated on this early plan and following good urban design practice, these blocks should be designed as perimeter blocks, thereby accommodating density with lower building heights and a diversity of building types and uses. Importantly, when these blocks are grouped together to form a neighbourhood, it is the buildings themselves that define the public realm, as well as providing internal, sheltered semi-private spaces.

The redevelopment and repair of this eastern quarter of the town will take time, not only in terms of land assembly, with a number of uses still existing on the site, but also to build out in line with market demand. It is proposed therefore to establish a series of meanwhile spaces and uses, which could include allotments and other community growing areas, play areas and local open spaces.





8. MARKET STREET/IRON STREET

The strong axis of Iron Street and Bridge Street would regain its original importance and contribution to west - east movement patterns and the area would once again be worthy of inclusion within the Conservation Area.

The balance of the town would also be reinstated with the restoration of the urban form away from the current north-south linear nature to a more rounded community centred on The Circle. The town would regain depth.

Centred on the Circle, the urban realm of the two streets should be upgraded, focussing on the Saron Chapel to the west and a new point of entry into the business park to the south.



9. BRIDGE STREET/GEORGETOWN LINK

A linear pedestrian route connecting the Circle and the town centre to Georgetown to the east of the A4048. The route was strongly depicted in the early maps of the town and is still popular today. Some of the structure and directness has been lost, but could relatively easily be retrieved, with a continuity of paving material and lighting. This would be especially important at the underpass, which is somewhat daunting due to the restrictive headroom.

The western extent of the vista along the route terminates at the fine facade of The Olympia (now Weatherspoons), immediately below the Circle on Morgan Street.





BRIDGE STREET/GEORGETOWN LINK LOOKING EAST

10. SOUTHERN GATEWAY

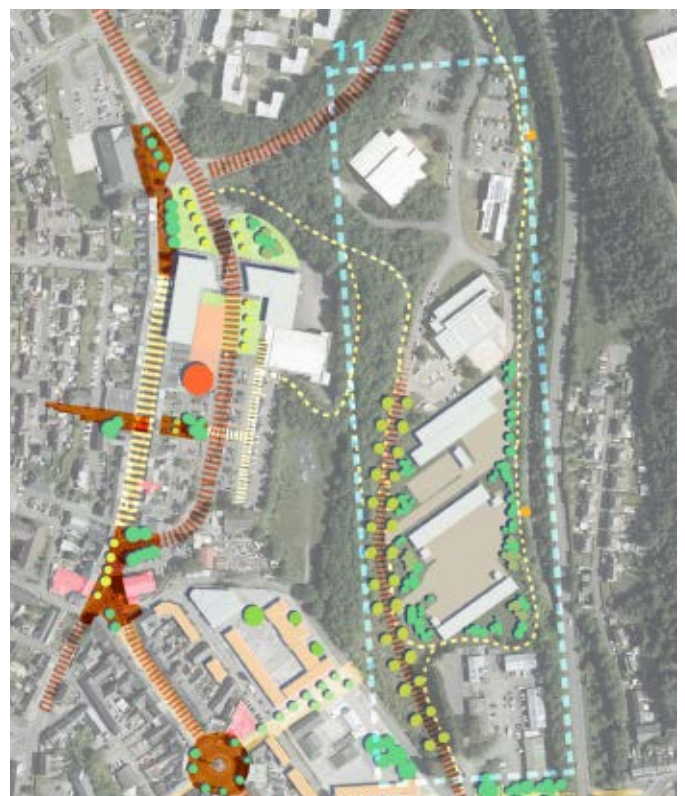
Continuing the theme of marking entrances to the town centre, place-marking principles should be applied to the area at the foot of Morgan Street, at the junction with Shop Row and Lower Coronation Street, to set the southern entrance point into the town centre. The development of a southern access into the business park along Shop Row would reinforce the importance of this entrance. The space is already there, and could be enhanced by tree planting and relatively minor public realm works to create this new space. There would effectively be a sequence of public space, each of differing character, along the town spine and between the two gateways at The Circle and Church Square.



11. TREDEGAR BUSINESS PARK

The business park is well located in terms of the road network and within the established, wooded river valley. All of the three existing premises are now let, completing the northern half of the site, however the southern half is undeveloped with no road infrastructure. The proposal would be to create a southern access into the site via Shop Row. This would be made possible by the partial demolition of the Truck Shop, retaining the areas of the listed building of greatest heritage interest (and retrievable condition), and widening the road corridor. The southern entrance would not only facilitate more local traffic movements from the south, but would encourage local bus operators to service the business park.

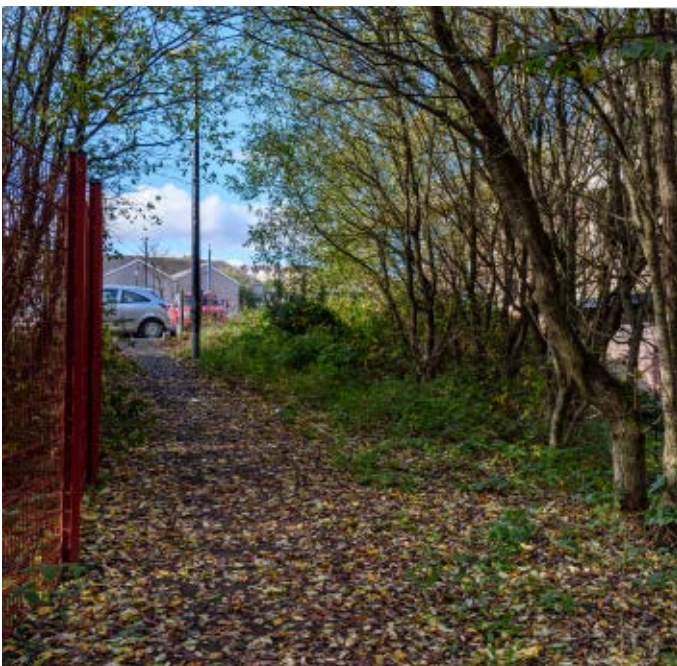
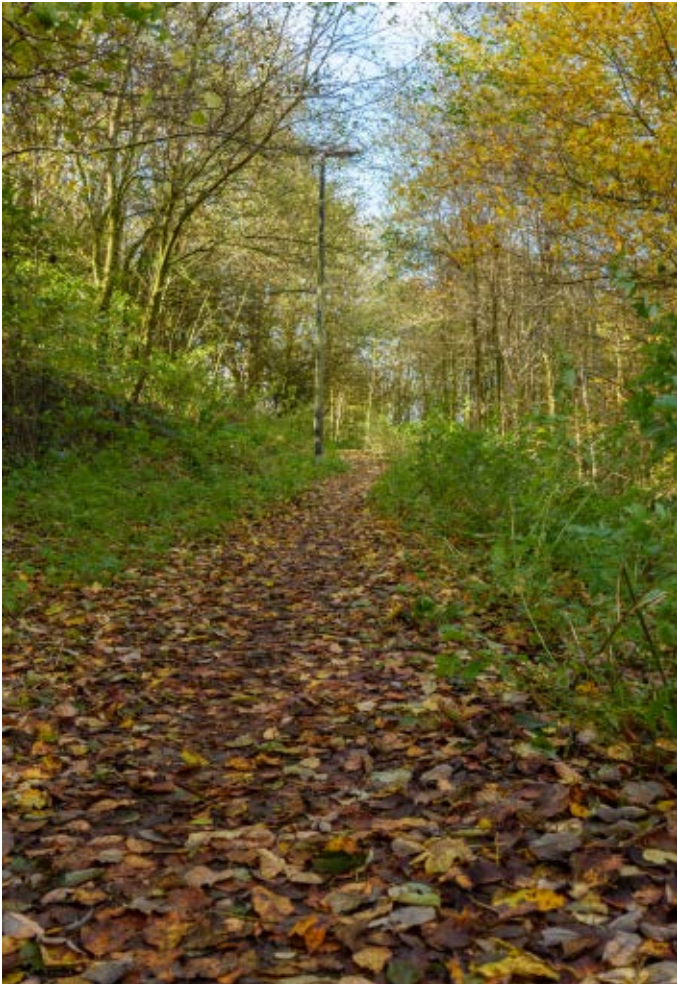
Connections back into the town centre would also be (re)created extending the west - east axial routes to Commercial Street and along Iron Street and Bridge Street. The improvements to the river corridor and associated increase in use as an active travel and ecological corridor, would further stimulate connectivity and attractiveness to potential investors in the park.



12. THE EMBANKMENT

The steep wooded embankment connecting the town to the business park is a great asset in terms of green structure to the town and business park and providing a wooded recreational environment, but the existing footpath system is neglected, with the limited lighting vandalised. In its current state it acts as a deterrent to movement between the two areas.

With increased activity on the business park and residential uses being located at the shopping centre, the footpath system should be upgraded and lighting restored, to encourage safe active movement between the town, business park and the river.



13. THE PROGRAMME

In creating these new town centre and high street environments, it is not just about highway restrictions and physical urban renewal, the programme of activities is key - the stage may be set, but it requires activity to create the draw. Farmer's markets, craft fairs, music, film, food, seasonal and heritage festivals would establish a regular programme of events throughout the year. These programmes should be cross-pollinated with the hospitality and the food offer to build a critical mass of visitor, resident and tourist engagement with the town.

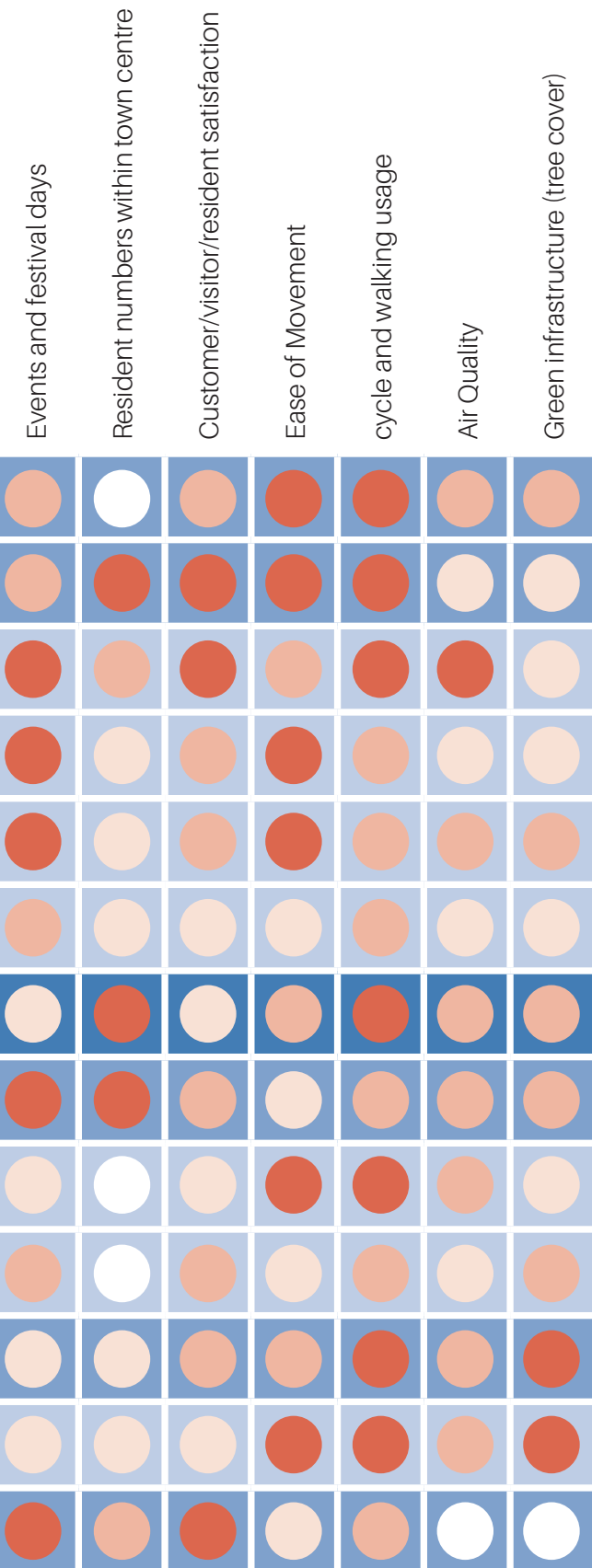


06
TIMEFRAMES &
MEASURES OF SUCCESS








Action Areas

Measures of Success

	Town centre vacancy numbers	Footfall	Retail spend/turnover/sales	Nighttime economy	Gross Value Added (GVA)	Retail diversity	Hotel bed nights	Place attractiveness
1 Northern Gateway	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low	High	High	Low
2 Gwent Shopping Centre	High	High	High	Low	High	High	Low	High
3 Commercial Street	High	High	High	High	High	High	Low	High
4 Commercial Street Pocket Park	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low	High
5 Church Square	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low	High
6 Castle Street	Low	Low	Low	High	High	Low	High	Low
7 Coronation Street/Iron Row	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low	High	Low
8 Market Street/Iron Street	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low	High
9 Bridge Street/Georgetown Link	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low	High	High	Low
10 Southern Gateway	Low	High	High	High	High	High	Low	Low
11 Tredegar Business Park	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low	High
12 The Embankment	Low	Low	High	High	High	High	High	Low
13 The Programme	Low	High	Low	High	Low	Low	High	Low



Key

-  Little / No Impact
 -  Low Impact
 -  Medium Impact
 -  High Impact
-
-  Short term (3 years)
 -  Medium term (5 years)
 -  Long term (5+ years)

APPENDIX 1

ANALYSIS: CHARACTER AREAS

CHARACTER AREAS

The study area and its adjacent surroundings are made up of clearly defined character areas, each distinct from its neighbour and immediately apparent in moving through the town.

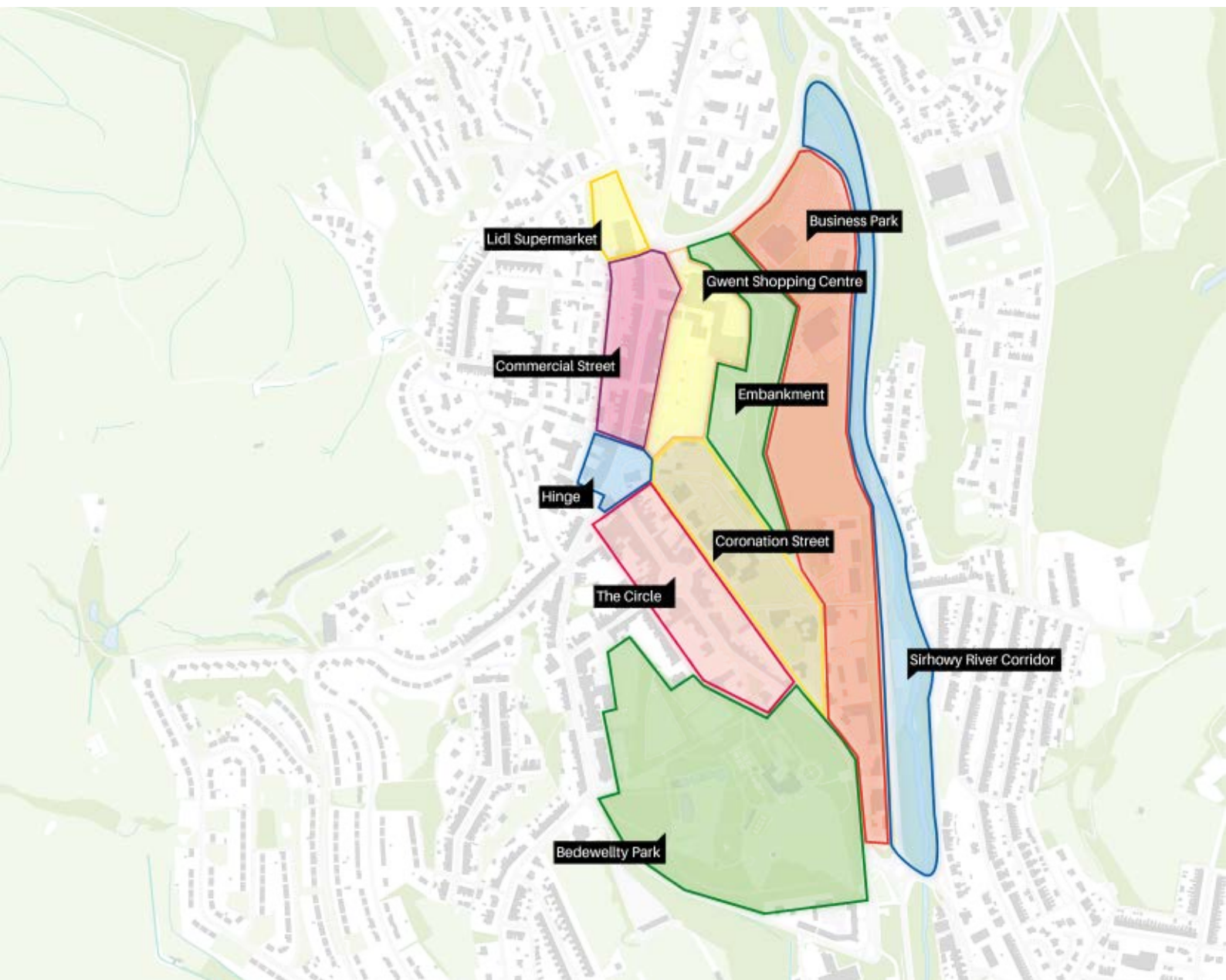


FIG. 9 CHARACTER AREAS

COMMERCIAL STREET

AREA 1

- The northern arm of what can be considered the high street.
- Hard, narrow, linear and contained shopping street, with only a few breakouts to east and west
- Dramatic views northwards to the Brecon Beacons
- Busy (but mainly with cars!)
- Vacancies, shuttered shop fronts and unsympathetic signage are all visually detrimental to the strong and consistent underlying structure.



CASTLE STREET

AREA 2

- Slightly more generous and expansive streetscape with long views southwards over and along the valley
- Steeply sloping to the south towards The Circle, where the clock tower is neatly and centrally framed by the street frontages.
- The topography lends interest with raised stepped platform entrance areas
- Intermittent views along connecting streets to the west up into residential areas and to the east long-range views over the business park to Georgetown and the wooded eastern side of the valley



QUEEN VICTORIA STREET

AREA 3

- A short section of Victoria Street that forms a knuckle between the two arms of the high street
- Open views eastwards either side of the solid mass of Castle Street Church
- An area dominated by the highway and traffic, disconnecting the flow of the high street
- Lack of animation from adjacent properties



STOCKTON WAY AND GWENT SHOPPING CENTRE

AREA 4

- A busy open area of predominantly car parking and highway
- The solid bulk of the Gwent Shopping Centre encloses the view to the north
- The backs of Commercial Street properties frame the western edge, with car parking areas and the pocket park connection to Commercial Street.
- To the east, striking, open views over the old skateboard park, wooded embankment, business park and river to the woodland beyond.



LIDL AND NORTHERN JUNCTION

AREA 5

- Modern superstore set above busy (and confusing!) traffic signalled junction
- Surroundings are wooded, green and enclosed
- Housing is visible along the roads to the north
- The main vehicular gateway to the town centre is beneath the shopping centre - daunting and uninviting



TREDEGAR BUSINESS PARK

AREA 6

- A flat low-lying landscape alongside the river, historically the ironworks, but with the exception of the ruined Truck Shop to the south, no vestiges of this remain.
- Modern business units surround the entrance and estate road to the north, set within landscaped grounds
- The southern area is vacant, open, rough pasture, awaiting development
- The wooded river corridor screens the A4048 8n embankment and with the wooded embankment to the west creates an attractive setting for the business park
- A series of industrial units are situated to the south accessed off Shop Row, cut through by the pedestrian connection between Georgetown and the town centre beneath the A4048 and over the river.



CORONATION STREET/ IRON ROW

AREA 7

- Two secondary streets running parallel to Castle Street with gapped-toothed commercial and residential development
- The Little theatre is one of only few community facilities within the town centre
- Strong views over the valley to the east and south
- Vacant plots create small, often unkempt landscapes, with little structure to the streets



THE EMBANKMENT

AREA 8

- A heavily wooded embankment separating the business park from the town
- A footpath connection zig-zags down the slope connecting the business park with the shopping centre car park
- A little used skateboard park resides on a plateau area immediately beneath the car park and accessed from Iron Row
- The wooded embankment mirrors the wooded slopes of Georgetown to the east of the river



SIRHOWY RIVER CORRIDOR

AREA 9

- Attractive wooded corridor, but with little opportunities to view the river!
- A pedestrian route with sitting areas and artwork has been created along the stretch within the business park, but seems little used.
- A great asset that needs revealing and brought into use.
- Potential for onward active travel connections to north and south



HOUSING AREA

AREA 10

- Dense residential area on the hillside above Commercial Street
- Although immediately adjacent to the retail core, seems separate and disconnected
- Poor planning has left only one narrow point of connections between the town centre and housing area, which needs strengthening and reinforcing



APPENDIX 2

THE HEALTHCHECK

TREDEGAR TOWN CENTRE HEALTHCHECK

This town centre healthcheck provides a snapshot of the current state of Tredegar town centre. *Future Wales: The National Plan 2040* sets the context for the appraisal and suggests the indicators, promoting a new vision of environmentally responsible, spatial development around compact centred towns with active travel and local facilities. It argues that the way forward, as set out in the *Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015*, should be to place a much greater emphasis on environmental sustainability and social justice, mitigating against the current norm of low-density developments where the car is a default necessity for work, retail and leisure.

A further point of reference is the emerging Replacement Local Development Plan, which establishes policies governing retail and town centre development and growth.

Tredegar is defined as a District Hub within the Local Development Plan, whose role, whilst acknowledging its subordinate status to neighbouring Ebbw Vale as the principal hub within the borough, is to meet the 'culture, leisure and tourism needs of' its 'local communities' (SP1 Northern Strategy Area). Similarly, with respect to the retail hierarchy proposed within the Local Plan (SP3), Tredegar will act as a district shopping centre, principally to serve the needs of the immediate catchment, with Ebbw Vale providing the sub-regional retail role.

Given that the Healthcheck exercise was undertaken during the Covid pandemic, realistic and relevant primary data was difficult if not impossible to source, with many properties closed for the duration of the pandemic difficult to distinguish from those already or planning on permanent closure. Similarly, footfall was very low and not indicative of 'normal' trading conditions. Much use was made, therefore, of recent pre-pandemic reports and figures. The *Blaenau Gwent Retail and Leisure Study - April 2021*, (where again, the survey and healthcheck work was also undertaken during the period of the pandemic) also undertook a household survey in Tredegar to establish shopping behaviour, and resident and visitor views on the town centre, which provides useful insights.

A sense of the condition and appearance of the town centre was gleaned from site visits to the town through April and May this year.

The purpose of the health check is to form part of a robust, primarily retail evidence base to aid in the preparation of the Placemaking Plan for Tredegar. The Tredegar Town Centre Healthcheck was undertaken having regard to the extent of the boundary defined by this study, which closely follows the current Town Centre boundary as defined in the Local Plan. It therefore extends from Lidl and the Gwent Centre in the north along the spine of Commercial Street (the primary retail area) and Castle Street to The Circle in the south. The Placemaking Plan also encapsulates the Business Park to the east of the town centre.

TREDEGAR OVERVIEW

Tredegar is comfortably the second largest town centre within Blaenau Gwent behind Ebbw Vale, based on retail floorspace and would be the largest were it based on the actual number of retail outlets. However, a truer indication of the role of Ebbw Vale as the Principal Hub is gleaned from town centre turnover, which is three times greater than Tredegar, and reflects the relative number of national multiples.

The population of Tredegar (which includes Waundeg, Sirhowy and Georgetown) is slightly over 15,000 (2019). It is located 20 miles north of Cardiff along the Sirhowy Valley and lies immediately to the south of the A465, the Heads of the Valleys Road. It is, therefore, on the southern edge of (but outside) the Brecon Beacons National Park. The larger town of Ebbw Vale, the Principal Hub town within the Northern Strategy Area of Blaenau Gwent, is to the east of Tredegar.

The southern part of the town centre, around the Circle, is designated a Conservation Area and the town caters for a number of tourists and visitors, interested in the industrial heritage. A further source of interest in the town is the political and historic interest of the role of Aneurin Bevan and his links and references to Tredegar in the formation of the National Health Service.

Many of the Valleys are served by a railway; unfortunately, Tredegar is not one, with the rail line closing under the Beeching Cuts in 1963. Although proposals were mooted to re-open the line in the Welsh Metro proposals this is not the current proposal and the service along the valley currently extends as far as Blackwood. Bus is, therefore, the means of public transport, with other nearby rail stations at Ebbw Vale and Rhumney.

The current large employment site at the Tredegar Business Park is located immediately east of the town centre alongside the Sirhowy River, with good access to the town and the A465. Approximately half of the site is currently developed.

TREDEGAR AT A GLANCE

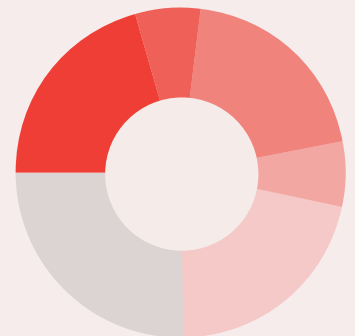
Town Centre Turnover



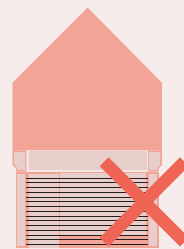
- Identified within the LDP as a district shopping centre to serve the needs of the local catchment area.
- Tredegar's population is circa 15,000 people
- Contains the second largest Town Centre in Blaenau Gwent, (The largest when based on the number of retail units. Ebbw Vale has a Town Centre Turnover 3x larger than that of Tredegar.
- Southern end of the Town Centre designated a Conservation Area linked with industrial heritage of the Town and links to Aneurin Bevan and the formation of the NHS

DIVERSITY OF USES

- Higher than the UK national average for A1 service uses reflects a large number of Hair and Beauty and Tattoo parlours.
- The Leisure Use class in Tredegar is slightly below the UK national average and has very high levels of fast food & takeaway provision, accounting for most of the A3-A5 use in the town centre.



PROPORTION OF VACANT SHOPS



25%

Shops vacant in Tredegar Town Centre

12%

Experian GOAD UK National Average February 2020

ACCESS & ACCESSIBILITY

- Car Parking in northern part of the Town Centre is well catered for but street parking dominates Commercial Street.
- Interchange between local and regional bus services is limited as the Gwent Shopping Centre underpass impedes access for regional busses.
- 76% of those surveyed thought that there was a good or very good ease of pedestrian movement around the town centre.



CUSTOMER VIEWS & BEHAVIOUR



- High local usage of the Town Centre with 75% of those surveyed within the Tredegar catchment areas said they visited Town Centre at least once a week.
- Poor perception of quality of the Town Centre shopping offer with 65% of customers surveyed suggesting that the quality of shops was poor or very poor.
- Almost half of all customers surveyed thought that the attractiveness and experience of food and drink establishments around the town centre was poor or very poor.

DIVERSITY OF USES AND PROPORTION OF VACANT STREET LEVEL PROPERTY

DIVERSITY OF USES:

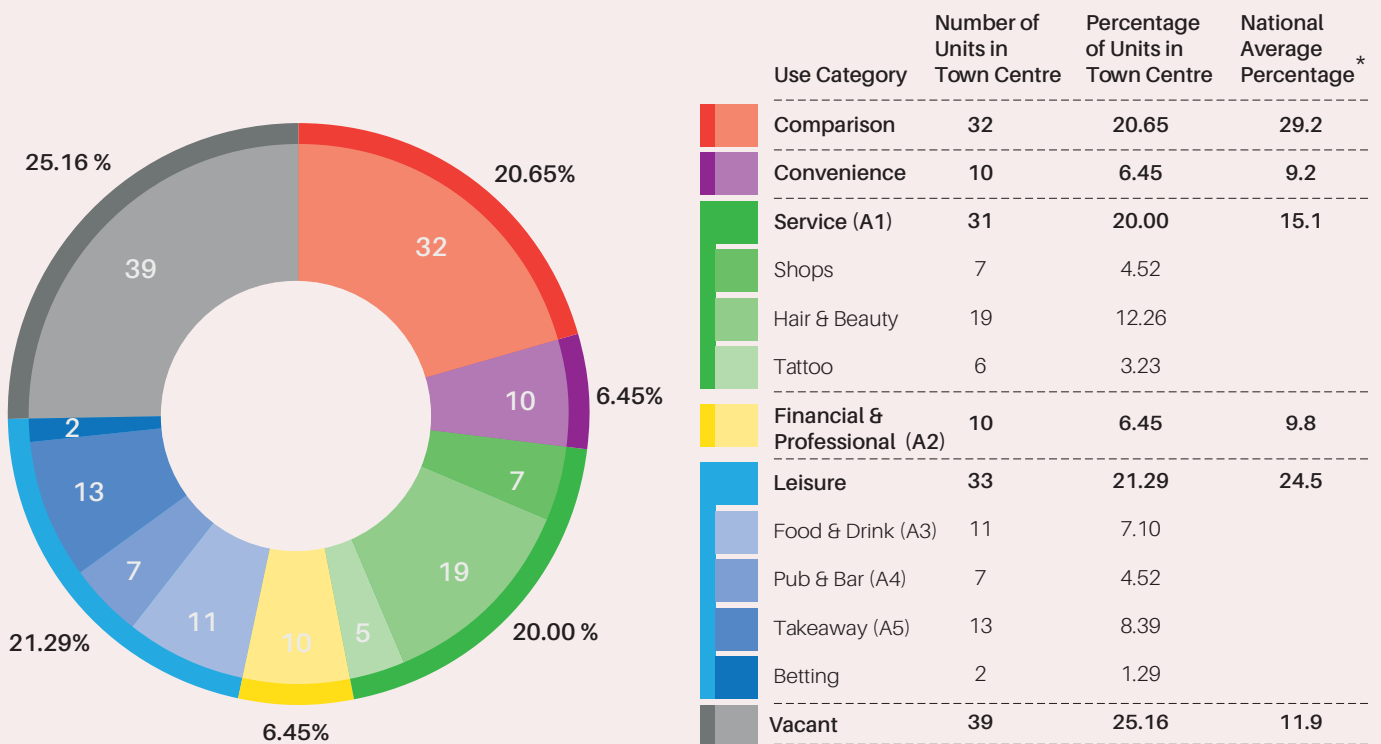
The Principal Retail Area (PRA) lies to the northern end of Commercial Street and includes the Gwent Shopping Centre, which straddles Stockton Way. The diversity of uses within Tredegar Town Centre closely matches the national average for Wales in most use classes with the exception of A1 services, which at 20% is 4.9% above the UK national average and the proportion of comparison goods stores, which is 8.55% under the national average. (Figure 1)

The comparative surplus of A1 service uses reflects a large number of Hair and Beauty and Tattoo parlours located in the Town Centre.

The Leisure Use class in Tredegar is slightly below the UK national average by 3.21%. Tredegar has very high levels of fast food & takeaway provision, accounting for most of the A3-A5 use in the town centre. But what is marked even from a walking survey, is that whilst there is a higher provision of takeaways and cafes, there is no 'restaurant' provision.

There would, therefore, appear to be a qualitative need to improve the mix of A3 uses within Tredegar, to better reflect the expenditure available to spend on eating out in cafes and restaurants compared with fast food and takeaways. The former uses would also support the vitality of the town centre to a greater extent than fast food and takeaway uses as they are more likely to be open at the same time as the retail uses, that is, during

FIG.1 DIVERSITY OF USES IN TREDEGAR



*Experian GOAD UK National Average February 2020

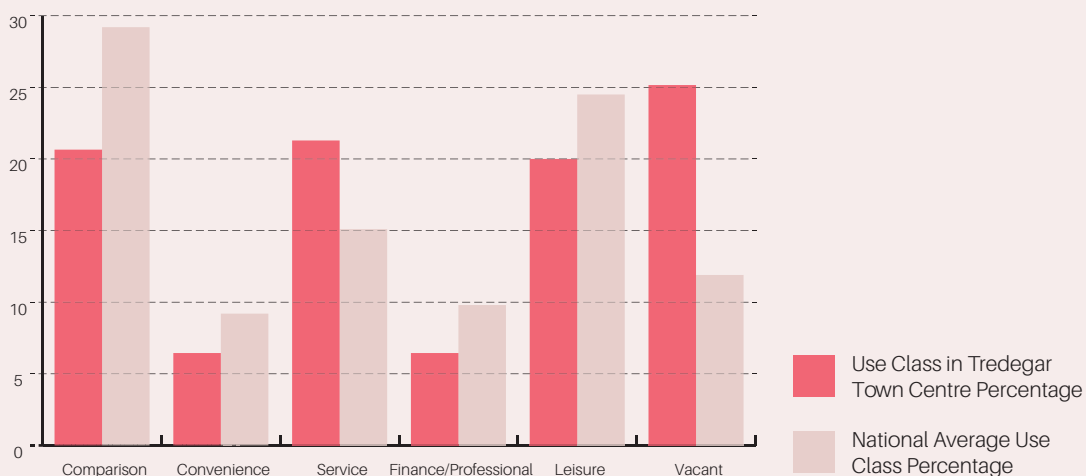
the daytime trading hours, respond to the ambition to attract and retain both tourists and regional residents to the town and have greater potential to increase the dwell-time of visitors.

Tredegar was used as a case study for developing a benchmarking tool for assessing town centre performance in Wales*, published in August 2021, but based on evidence gathered pre-pandemic. This study provides a good basis to compare with our findings. The case study classified Tredegar as a Medium Market Town based on its retail mix. Reflecting this assessment, the study indicated that it is performing poorly compared to its peers, with vacancy rates in 2016 around 12 pp higher than the category benchmark.

However, a closer examination of its catchment area suggests that Tredegar is situated in more urban, deprived communities than other towns of this type, and that a Medium Market Town’s diverse mix of businesses, focused on comparison goods and independents, is normally associated with more affluent, rural catchments and is, perhaps, not appropriate for a town centre such as Tredegar. The case study suggested that whilst independent businesses can be used to anchor a town, their lack of resilience can leave poorly performing towns fragile. Given the correlation between service businesses and improvements in town centre performance in deprived areas, their recommendation was that Tredegar’s stakeholders focus on attracting more service businesses to the town.

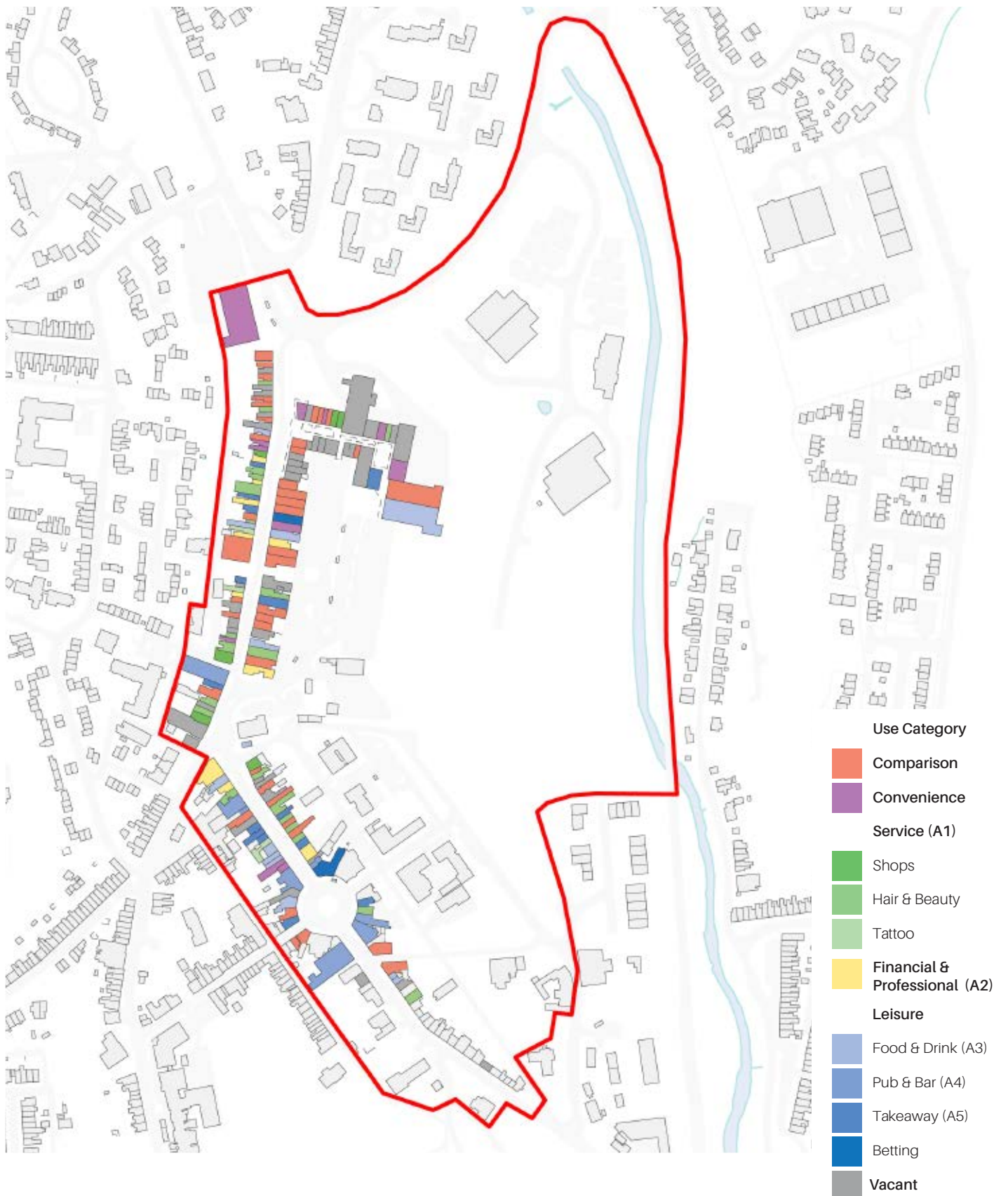
* Jones, S., Newing, A. & Orford, S. Understanding Town Centre Performance in Wales: Using GIS to Develop a Tool for Benchmarking. Appl. Spatial Analysis (2021).

FIG.2 COMPARISON OF USES WITH THE UK NATIONAL AVERAGE



* Experian GOAD UK National Average February 2020

FIG.3 GROUND FLOOR USE PLAN



PROPORTION OF VACANT STREET LEVEL PROPERTY

The proportion of vacant street level property in Tredegar is just over 25%, more than double the UK national average. There has been an increase in the number of vacant units over the past seven years, but with many of these coming in the period 2013-16, with the loss of numerous national multiples, particularly from the Shopping Centre. During the undertaking of the health check, it was difficult to be definitive about the status of properties in this regard, as a number had been closed for a long period due to the pandemic, with plans to reopen as restrictions were lifted.

However, it was observed that the vacant units comprised a variety of building types and floor plates, and whilst the units were dispersed across the town centre, the vast majority were situated on Commercial Street and within the Shopping Centre. The majority of vacant units appeared to be well maintained, but a number were showing signs of neglect (figure 6) The increasing level, and long-term nature of vacancies within the Gwent Shopping Centre is a concern in terms of sustaining viability of the Primary Retail Area in its current form.



Vacant units to Gwent Shopping Centre Facing Commercial Street

COMMERCIAL RENTS

Commercial rents in the town vary significantly dependant on property sector.

RETAIL:

Nationally the decline of High Street retail has been much publicised. The primary retail area in Tredegar is dominated by The Gwent Shopping Centre and Commercial Street, with a vacancy rate double the national average asking rents range between £8.27 and £11.70 psf which is significantly lower than the nearby town of Merthyr Tydfil. The volume of vacant space provides an occupiers market creating favourable lease terms for occupiers.

OFFICE:

Regional Office markets have demonstrated a steady recovery through Q1 2022. Occupiers are demonstrating a flight to quality with 54% of take-up being for the highest quality space. In Q1 2022 the largest proportion of regional office take-up (28%) was from the Public Services, Education & Health sectors, demonstrating the importance of public sector occupiers to a regional office market. The office market in Tredegar is limited, with space provided within Welsh Governments Enterprise Zone of Tredegar Business Park with rents between £6.50 and £7.50 psf

INDUSTRIAL:

The industrial market in south Wales has shown resilience throughout the last 24 months. The IAS Stats highlighted that in Q1 2022 the largest number of deals was for smaller units up to 5,000 sq ft at an average of £6.00 psf for lettings and an average capital value of £74 psf for sales. For units between 5,000 and 10,000 sq ft the average rent was £5.41 psf and lettings of 10,000 to 20,000 sq ft showed the lowest average rent at £3.88 psf. The lettings of 20,000 to 50,000 sq ft averaged £4.07 psf and for units over 50,000 sq ft the average rent was £4.32 psf. For Q2 2022 the Stats again show that the largest number of deals was for units up to 5,000 sq ft with lettings at an average of £6.50 psf. Industrial space in the area is dominated by the Business Improvement District of the Rassau and Tafarnaubach Industrial Estates. Welsh Governments' 2018 Tech Valleys Strategy includes Tredegar Business Park which has recently seen the successful relocation of Frontier Medical to a 30,000 sqft building at £4.00 psf.

ACCESS & ACCESSIBILITY

VEHICULAR ACCESSIBILITY

Road access to the town is good, with nearby access to the A465, Heads of the Valley Road. Car parking for the northern area of the town centre is well provided for with all day, free parking at the extensive surface car park serving the Gwent Shopping Centre and ancillary car parking areas to the rear of Commercial Street off Bank Lane. A further car park is centrally located to the north of Castle Street Church. Time-limited parking restrictions are in place along Commercial Street with on-street parking permitted along the wider Castle Street. Other than the on-street parking however, there are no designated car parks serving the southern section of the town centre.

Tredegar is served by regular bus services to the bus hub along Stockton Way, with regional bus services calling at the stops outside Lidl. Regional buses are not able to access the Stockton Way stands, as they are too long to manoeuvre through the shopping centre underpass. This prevents ease of interchange between the regional and all of the local bus services.

Over half of those surveyed were of the view that the availability of car parking was either good or very good.

PEDESTRIAN MOVEMENT

Pedestrian movement is also well catered for within the town centre, with good connections between bus station, car parking and the shops. Not surprisingly, therefore, almost 76% of those surveyed thought that there was a good or very good ease of movement around the town centre.

The pedestrian experience on Commercial Street suffers in the balance with the vehicular, with the ease and accommodation of car parking, often parking herringbone so requiring reversing movements and unenforced in terms of the duration, taking precedence over pedestrian comfort and facility. The abundance of heavy steel bollards to protect the already narrow pavement zone is testament to the problem.

The knuckle between Commercial Street and Castle Street is a perceptual divide, splitting the town centre in two. Reconnecting the two parts of the town and giving each part a clearer and more defined role should be a primary goal.

CUSTOMER VIEWS AND BEHAVIOUR, PERCEPTIONS OF SAFETY AND OCCURRENCE OF CRIME

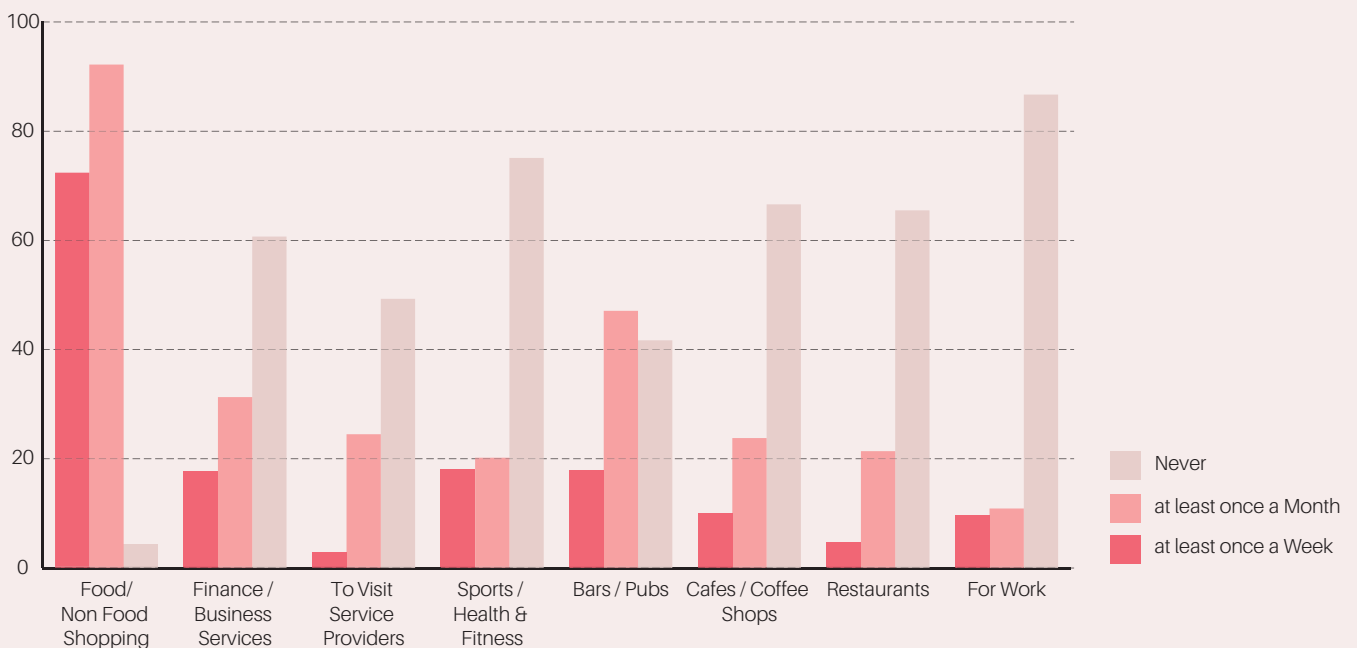
CUSTOMER'S VIEWS AND BEHAVIOUR

As part of the *Blaenau Gwent Retail and Leisure Study - April 2021*, local household were surveyed to establish shopping behaviour and visitors and residents asked about their perceptions of the town centre. Three quarters of those surveyed within the Tredegar catchment area said they visited the town centre at least once a week, with by far the most popular reason being to shop. 90% of all visitors indicated that they shop in Tredegar at least once a month. The bars and pubs were well-used on a monthly basis by both residents and visitors alike, with financial and business services also acting as a draw.

However, it would appear that usage of the town centre does not reflect the perceived quality of the offer, with almost 65% of customers suggesting that the quality of the shops was poor or very poor.

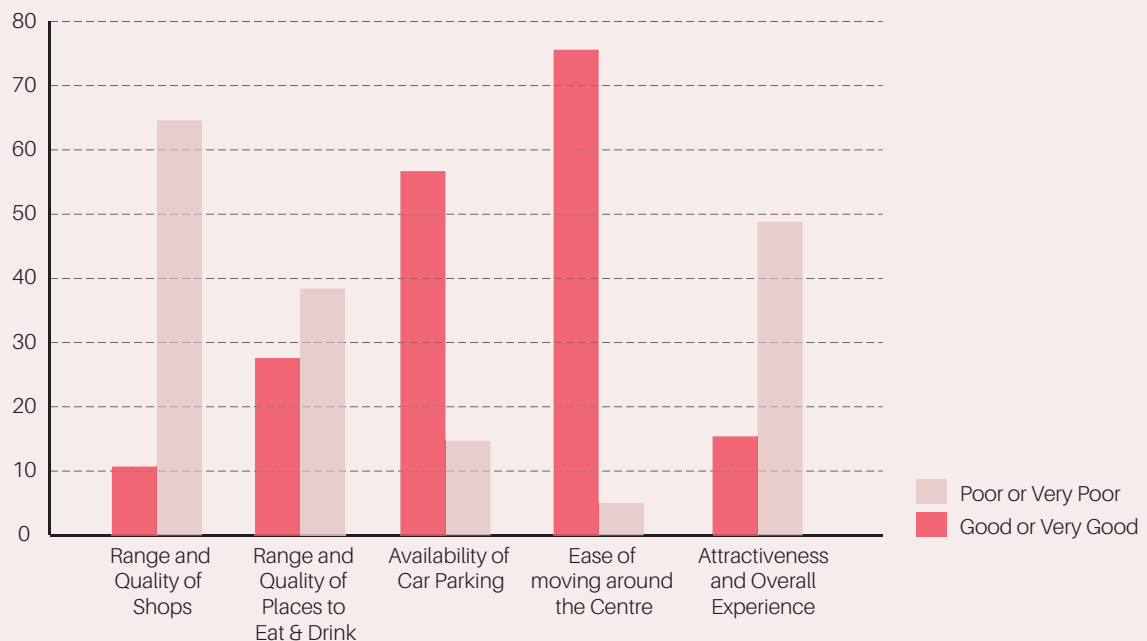
Similarly, far more customers thought that the quality and range of the food and drink establishments was poor and in terms of the overall attractiveness and experience almost half of those questioned thought the offer was poor or very poor, whilst only 15% were of the view it was good or very good. What was liked was the availability of parking and, particularly, the ease of moving around the town centre.

FIG.4 FREQUENCY AND PURPOSE OF VISITS TO TREDEGAR



The disparity between the high local level of usage of the town centre and the poor appreciation of the experience, suggests that there is great potential to improve the mix and the quality of the offer, increasing the number of visits, particularly from wider afield and extend dwell time.

FIG.5 PERCEPTION OF TREDEGAR TOWN CENTRE



TOWN CENTRE ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

The linear, elongated town centre of Tredegar runs north/south and is split into two sections. Commercial Street forms the northern section and Castle Street, down to The Circle, forms the southern. The two sections hinge around a busy, highway dominated stretch of Queen Victoria Street, which is a major thoroughfare and junction at the heart of the town. The lack of activity from the buildings around this knuckle, combined with the predominance of traffic, effectively splits the town centre in two.



The major anchor to the northern section of the town centre is the Gwent Shopping Centre, a solid, almost brutal, 1970 construction that straddles Stockton Way, forcing traffic coming into the town into a dark, constrained underpass. This creates a poor, unattractive gateway into the town from the north.



By contrast, the area around The Circle, which pins the southern end of the town centre, forms an attractive townscape, recognised by Conservation Area status and benefitting from substantial recent and on-going investment in properties surrounding The Circle and the lower sections of Castle Street.

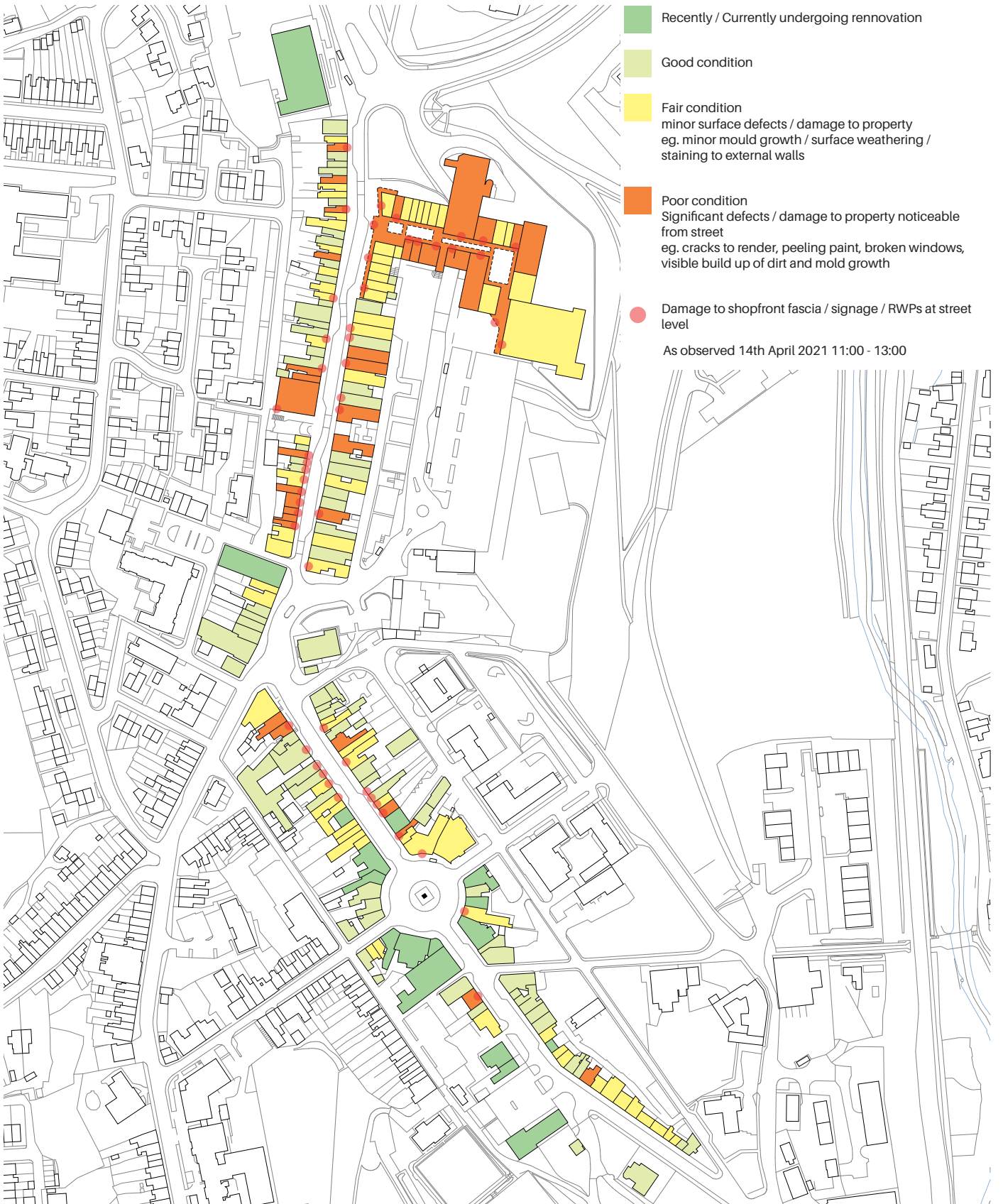


With the exception of the central hinge area, the quality and consistency of the streetscape is generally high and both Commercial Street and Castle Street have a strong scale and completeness. Natural stone materials have been used for pavements and crossing, however the street furniture and signage is now looking somewhat heavy and dated.



The qualities and character of Commercial Street are marred by the preponderance of cars and delivery vans. Parking restrictions are in place, but are not adequately enforced. The infrastructure required to restrict the vehicle within the street is in itself a obstruction to ease of movement for the cyclist and pedestrian.

FIG. 6 BUILDING CONDITION SURVEY



APPENDIX 3

THEMES & STRATEGIES

SUSTAINABILITY

THE EXISTING CONTEXT

In September 2020, Blaenau Gwent declared a 'Climate Emergency' after councillors voted unanimously to work towards making the borough council carbon neutral by 2030. With a focus on addressing the carbon footprint of the council as an organisation, measures would include:

- Systematically reviewing the climate change impact of each area of the Council's activities;
- increasing local resilience to climate impacts already in the system;
- Maximising local benefits of these actions in other sectors such as health, agriculture, transport and the economy;
- Supporting, and with all other relevant agencies, moving towards making the borough Zero Carbon over the next decade.

Beyond looking at the immediate corporate impacts, other actions for consideration, that support the Welsh Government's ambitions captured in their plan 'Prosperity for All: A Low Carbon Wales', could include:

- increasing the efficiency of buildings;
- prioritising these measures for council housing and private sector housing;
- addressing fuel poverty;
- building solar, hydro and other renewable energy generating and storage plant;
- requiring all new housing and commercial developments to be low carbon;
- replacing the vehicle fleet with electric and/or hydrogen powered vehicles;
- switching to 100% fossil-fuel-free energy and adapting the council's purchasing policy;
- commissioning consultations with the borough's young citizens, who will be most affected by the effects of climate change.

Bold actions are required to achieve this ambition. As a town, through its existing potentialities and with the opportunities and capacity to effect change, Tredegar has a clear role to play in reaching this goal and in setting a precedent for future sustainable development within the borough and Valleys region.

THE 20 MINUTE NEIGHBOURHOOD - AN HOLISTIC APPROACH

Neighbourhood is state of mind, it is not a physical place.

In order to shape the future of Tredegar and ensure it evolves in a sustainable way, it is necessary to think of it in the round, avoiding cherry-picking and imposing individual green actions and initiatives. As with any town, city or community, it is the special and unique circumstances of Tredegar’s social and physical evolution that must play their part in building its future.

The concept of the 20 Minute Neighbourhood, grounded in an understanding of the forces that have formed the community, provides an outline of the principles and approaches that should be taken to ensure sustainability is fundamental to the transformation of Tredegar. Commitment to the concept of the 20 Minute Neighbourhood is becoming firmly established in national planning thinking, although not yet embedded in policy. The Commissioner for Wales recommended in Chapter 3 of the Future Generations 2020 report that in order to support and encourage cohesive communities, the Welsh Government should “commit to introducing the 20 minute neighbourhood concept for all towns and cities in Wales; creating healthier, happier communities fit for a zero carbon future. This means strong, well-connected neighbourhoods where people live within a 20 minute walking distance of key everyday services, and prioritising mix-type development which combines housing, transport links, public services, workplaces and recreational facilities.”



Tredegar is ideally suited to this approach and the key tenets that underpin the 20 Minute Neighbourhood concept and outlined within the Future Generations report, effectively underpin this Placemaking Plan. The compactness of the town, proximities of residential areas to shops, facilities and services, the location of transport facilities and access to open space would all fit within the parameters of the 20 Minute Neighbourhood. However, this doesn’t mean that Tredegar is currently functioning as a 20 minute neighbourhood and it is through adopting an holistic approach around these principles and then achieving the quality and culture that is required that drives change. Neighbourhood is a state of mind, it is not a physical place, so to achieve this requires the plan to be people-centred and developed with and for the stakeholders within the community.

Any development proposals, therefore, will be expected to incorporate sustainable approaches with regard to the following topics:

- Buildings
- Energy
- Transport
- Green and blue infrastructure
- Lifestyle, health and well-being

SUSTAINABILITY

BUILDINGS - ADAPTIVE REUSE

- First look to reuse and retrofitting of existing building stock
- Build in adaptability and longevity to any new development
- Reduced energy need
- Adopt modern methods of construction - eg offsite/modular
- Incorporate smart technology
- Improve biodiversity - green walls, green roofs
- Enhanced access to open space (lessons from pandemic in terms of private and semi-private outdoor space within residential development)



Adaptive reuse to create coworking spaces, Palermo

TRANSPORT

- Proposals must adopt Council Active Travel policy, providing well-designed streets and secure cycle parking, building in improved cycle and pedestrian routes and furthering 20 Minute Neighbourhood principles
- Tie into and develop Regional Metro plans, including an improved bus station provision
- Develop a cycle hub adjacent to bus station and as a node on the active travel network.
- Development must address and respond to the Council's Climate Emergency goals
- Rationalise surface car parking to promote active travel whilst accommodating necessary car users of the town centre
- Make provision for increased use of electric vehicles through the locating of electric charging points



Edmonton Green Cycle Hub

ENERGY

- River Sirhowy hydro scheme
- Use of PVs on shopping centre
- Use of PVs around bus/cycle hub
- Encourage sustainable procurement, targeting low or zero carbon energy generating technologies



Energy Positive Housing at Active Homes, Neath

SUSTAINABILITY

GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE

- This refers to the use of trees and vegetation in combination with permeable hard surfaces to capture, infiltrate, and clean stormwater. Beyond stormwater management, green infrastructure also provides significant additional benefits including air cooling and cleaning, reduced building energy use through shading, air cooling through evapotranspiration, enhanced aesthetics, and public health benefits.
- The key design and planning elements of this nature-based approach should include the following:
 - Accepting the need for hard surfaces and footpaths, plant more and pave less! Then support by healthy soils, and include bio-swales and rain gardens.
 - Maximise use of green (vegetated) roofs for stormwater capture and air cooling/cleaning benefits.
 - Maximise use of porous pavement technologies to support natural hydrology.
 - Use attenuation for capturing and enabling reuse of excess stormwater for irrigation, etc.
- Preserve and enhance the tree canopy. Tree canopy cover directly correlates to reduced urban heat island effects, creating a much more comfortable outdoor living environment and reducing emissions from internal cooling. Tree cover is also strongly linked with air quality improvements that improve public health outcomes. For example, create meanwhile woodland planting on the business park. This would be cut into as necessary, as development is brought forward, but a setting is created.
- Develop wetland and riparian planting to Sirhowy river corridor
- Rainwater management - incorporate swales, rain gardens, tree planting, green roofs, ponds and permeable paving
- Improve biodiversity - green roofs, living walls, allotments, communal gardens, meanwhile open spaces
- Explore opportunities for new street trees provision



Planted green wall, humanising a tall narrow space



Raingarden and swale

LIFESTYLE - HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

- Promote and improve access to Tredegar Sports Centre, Aneurin Leisure.
- Encourage/develop regular Farmer's Market
- Expanded opportunity to grow your own - develop allotments and communal growing areas to west of town centre, and within longer term residential sites and within area of skateboard park.
- Connection to open spaces, cycle and walking routes
- Encourage healthy environments for all ages, particularly encouraging children to establish and develop healthy and sustainable habits



Active Travel

LAND USE

THE EXISTING CONTEXT

Across the UK the impact of Covid-19 has been to accelerate long-standing trends in most markets, this has included the:

- accelerated decline of retail in our town centres, most noticeably for discretionary retailers;
- demand for more flexible employment space including co-working (which potentially increases demand in peripheral town centres as hubs for enterprise and start ups); and
- demand for home working, with higher quality, larger, but town centre focused residential properties with access to a range of amenities (further promoting strategies embodied in the 20 Minute Neighbourhood).

KEY PRINCIPLES

RETAIL

Concentrate on measures within the shopping environment of Commercial Street and Gwent Shopping Centre to generate footfall and improve dwell time. Retain and support existing retailers, including during periods of construction or refurbishment.

COMMERCIAL

Further examination of the potential to develop new and existing industries (pharma in particular) on the business park, links to visitor and leisure economy, heritage/ business tourism.

RESIDENTIAL

Need to understand and apply the potential for residential, both private and social, to become a component of the Gwent Shopping Centre site, but also the repair of the area between Castle Street and the business park. Increasingly, gaps are appearing within this area and the key to supporting 20 minute neighbourhoods is maintaining size and density. Compact settlement patterns of sufficient size can reduce the distances between home, jobs, facilities and amenities and make more effective use of transport infrastructure. They also provide sufficient critical mass of population to support local services, reduce landtake to provide space for blue/green infrastructure lead to reduced transport emissions, better public health and greater social interaction.

HOTEL

Of the Valley towns, Tredegar is possibly the most well-served in terms of accommodation, but does it cater for and enable the ambitions of the Visitor Management Plan to be realised?

ARTS, CULTURE AND LEISURE

Culture and heritage underpins much of the destination and tourism proposals, based on Tredegar's unique legacy of heritage and cultural assets, which are, perhaps, best embedded and presented of the towns within the region. These activities are a special driver of character which typifies Tredegar and offers potential for further concentration of cultural, artistic and recreational uses that will bring a daytime and evening presence into the town. By clustering these uses, there is an opportunity to create an environment where existing and new cultural assets can collaborate on activities and projects. The programme should facilitate this greater alignment within the cultural, artistic and recreational sectors, and land uses that accord with this principle will be supported.

TRANSPORT AND PARKING

A balance is required as the move to active travel modes is pursued, to ensure that there is adequate parking provision and access for the car to support the various economies in the town. This balance point should continue to shift, as public transport facilities and active travel infrastructure and culture increases. Our view is that this balance is too far skewed towards the vehicle at the moment, with streets dominated by car movements and parking. Areas of car parking should also be treated as flexible, to permit temporary uses and functions and attractions to flourish, for example, markets, fairs and festivals.

LAND USE

THE STRATEGY

The fundamental disposition of land uses within the town is historically grounded, well-established and fits nicely with the market demand, and the existing qualities and characteristics of each area - the urban grain, topography, heritage assets and building footprints. It is the finer grain that needs examining, where the proposed richer, mixed use approach is essential, with the overall aim of creating active and attractive ground floors - retail, commercial, food and drink, with residential above, and/or a mix of education, community, mixed with commercial. This generates footfall and passive surveillance with an improved sense of personal security.

To support this finer grain mix of uses, and potential for increased footfall, the streets and public realm need to respond providing greater space and invitation for cycling, walking, social interaction and flexible activities such as markets, fairs, festivals and events.

Certain areas of the town have been identified for particular attention:

GWENT SHOPPING CENTRE

The shopping centre forms to core of the Primary Retail Area and anchors the northern end of the town centre. The healthcheck has identified the struggling nature of the retail offer and the area needs a new lease of life and energy, in keeping with the overall strategy. Opportunities exist to create a new mix of uses, retaining retail, but permitting residential, community uses and workspaces to enhance the appeal and attraction of this key element.

CHURCH SQUARE

The area in front of Castle Street Church is a key connecting space between the two main areas of the high Street (Commercial Street and Castle Street) and needs uses that bring life and activity, whilst accepting it will continue to enable traffic to move through the town from north to south and east to west. The existing buildings would be retained, but need charging with uses that contribute to activity within new civic spaces.

CORONATION STREET/IRON ROW

The gap-toothed, neglected nature of this area, immediately to the rear of Castle Street, needs addressing either through strategic retreat or, preferably, residential-based mixed use. The relocation and potential redevelopment of the Glan yr Afon Surgery and restoration of elements of the adjacent historic Truck Shop, present opportunities to pin the southern end of this redevelopment strip. Development in this area could take time and meanwhile uses, for example, allotments and temporary open spaces, should be considered.

TREDEGAR BUSINESS PARK

With current post-pandemic demand for industrial, warehouse and distribution space, the temptation is to increase the use classes permitted on the business park. However, the opportunities to build on the recent arrival of a pharmaceutical business onto the park in terms of growth and employment opportunity, combined with the alignment of such uses with the destination and tourism plan for health-based conferencing and business tourism, should firstly be developed. The creation of a new access to the south of the business park would hopefully open up this area and build on the momentum.

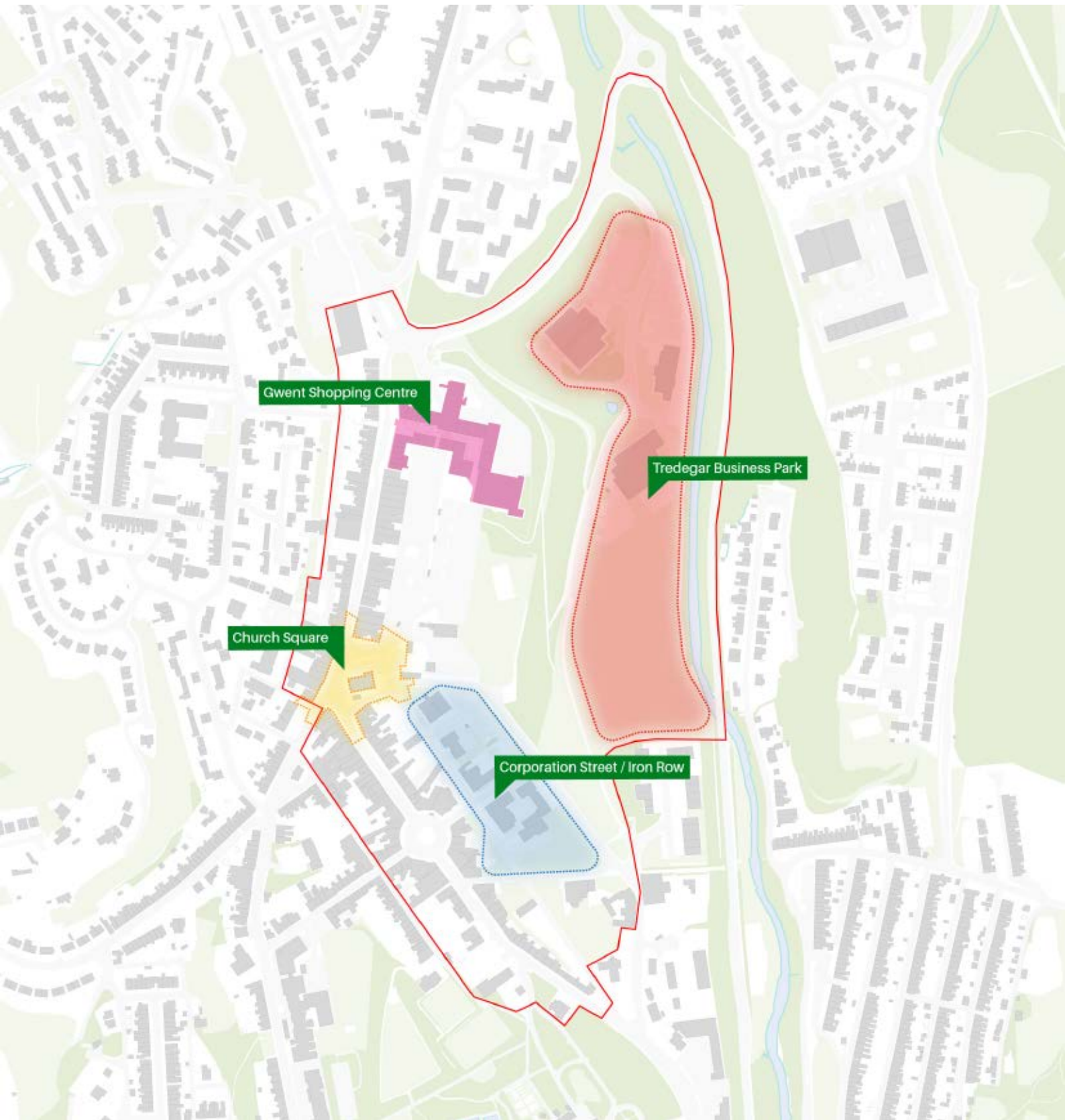


FIG. 17 LAND USE KEY AREAS

MOVEMENT AND CONNECTIVITY

THE EXISTING CONTEXT

The car, and the perceived need for an immediacy of parking to the front of shops and premises, currently drives the movement patterns and vehicular dominance around the town. The historic street pattern is still fit for purpose, but the balance of space allocated for pedestrians, cyclist and vehicles need overhauling and turning on its head.

The underpass at the Gwent Shopping Centre prevents regional buses from accessing the town centre and interchanging with the local services, and also presents an uninviting entrance to the town for the pedestrian, cyclist and motorist.

Apart from access at either end and the connection to the Gwent Shopping Centre, Commercial Street has only one other point of connection and access. This is a crossing point centrally along the street providing access eastward to Stockton Way and the car park and westward to the residential estate. A small public seating area is located at this intersection.

The central hinge between Commercial Street and Castle Street, where Queen Victoria Street cuts through to Stockton Way, is traffic dominated and stifles continuity along the main spine of the town.

There is currently no easy, or sense of, connection between the town centre and the river and the business park also seems remote and disconnected from the town.

KEY PRINCIPLES

RETAIN THE HISTORIC STREET PATTERN

The primacy and strong spine of the historic route through the town centre from Commercial Street onto Castle Street, through The Circle and onto Bedwellty Park would be reinforced and form the basis of the movement patterns within the town.

SAFE AND ACCESSIBLE STREETS FOR ALL

We will promote footfall, activity and dwell time within the streets for all groups within the community. Encouraging Promoting the night time economy should retain a sense of safe streets.

OVERCOME THE CHOKE OF THE UNDERPASS AT THE GWENT SHOPPING CENTRE

Future development of the Gwent Shopping Centre must address the visual and physical issues around the underpass, permitting successful regional and local bus interchange within the town and a welcoming entry for the visitor to the town.

IMPROVE CONNECTIONS BETWEEN THE TOWN CENTRE, BUSINESS PARK AND RIVER

The disconnections between the town centre, the business park and the river need repairing, to foster movement between the various areas and a sense of communality. These connections would be active travel modes with improved and safe pedestrian and cycle routes. As well as providing amenity for the resident, this would also bring further visitors into the town, with enhancements to the river corridor as a regional cycle and pedestrian route,

PROMOTE ACTIVE TRAVEL ROUTES INTO AND AROUND THE TOWN CENTRE

A key component of a move to a 20 Minute Neighbourhood is the establishment and encouragement of active travel on safe and secure pedestrian and cycle routes. These should look to connect to the regional network of trails and thereby extend local, amenity routes around the town, to feed into longer recreational travel around the county.

MOVEMENT AND CONNECTIVITY

MOVEMENT STRATEGY

VEHICULAR

- Building on the opportunities presented by the Metro Scheme, promote and improve local bus connections, visitor and leisure use. Creating a consolidated bus interchange on Stockton Way.
- In the longer term, Commercial Street becomes closed to vehicular traffic (excepting servicing and access). Initially, this would most probably be trialled to coincide with the regeneration of the shopping centre and markets/events/festivals to promote footfall.
- New traffic arrangements to Lidl northern gateway junction; Commercial Street/Queen Victoria Street junction allowing improved pedestrian and cycle connection between Commercial Street and Castle Street.
- Once space is created by the regeneration and repurposing of the Truck Shop, create a new southern entrance to the business park.

PEDESTRIAN AND CYCLIST

- Create an integrated network of safe cycle and pedestrian routes
 - Strengthen the link to Georgetown via A4048 underpass/Bridge Street to the town centre
 - River Corridor including seating/rest areas with river overview with connections to the wider network
 - Ty Bryn to bus station and onto the business park and river, via Commercial Street open space
 - Market Street/The Circle/Iron Street and on into the business park and river corridor
 - National Cycle Route 467 - create river corridor and town centre options.
- Establish an Active Travel hub at the new bus interchange, with cycle storage, hire and repair facilities.
- Provide and designate space for the cyclist and pedestrian along road and street corridors.
- Provide information online, at bus station/cycle hub, civic buildings and tourist destinations on the cycle and pedestrian network.

FIG. 18
PROPOSED MOVEMENT KEY



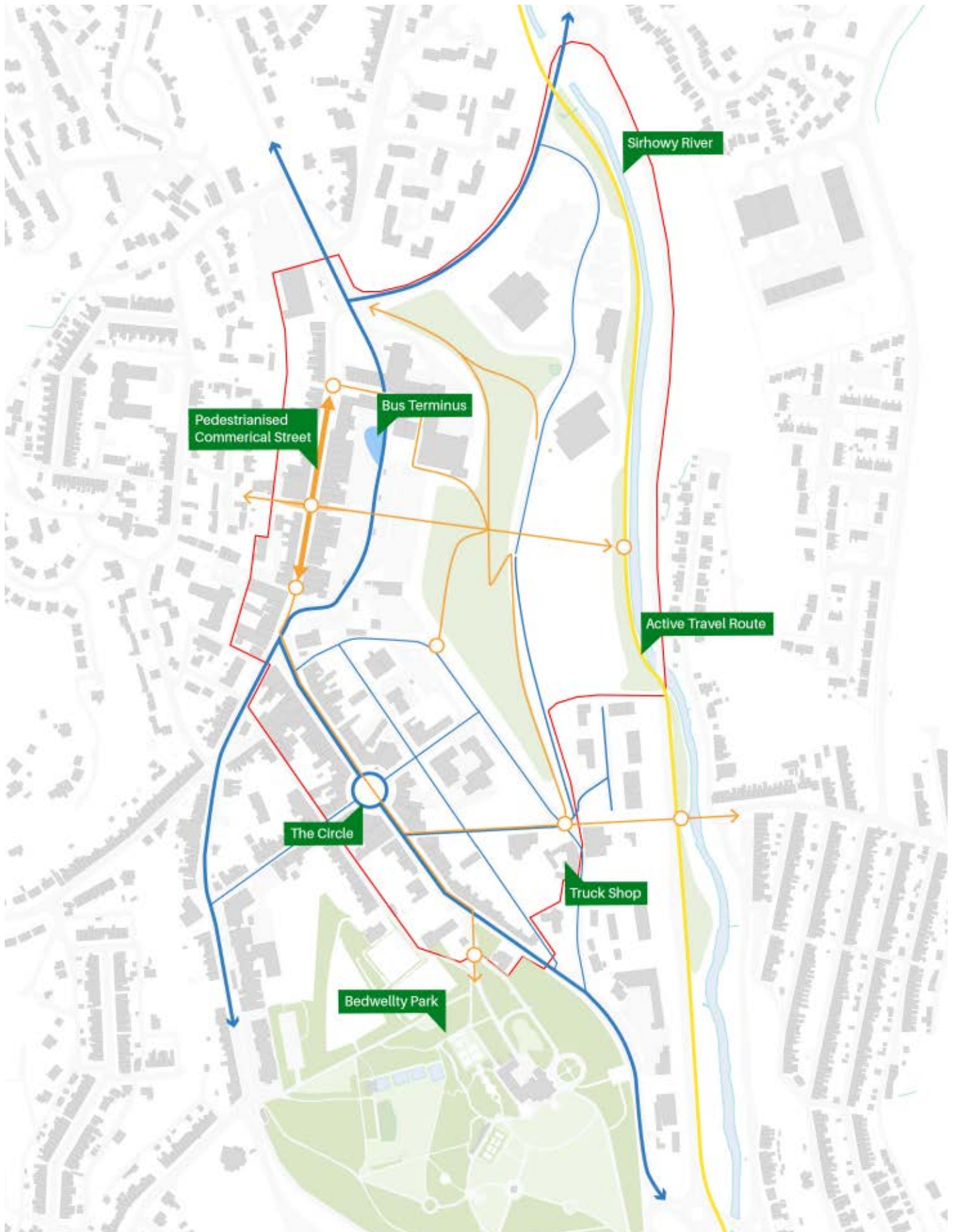


FIG. 18 PROPOSED MOVEMENT

THE PUBLIC REALM

THE EXISTING CONTEXT

Bedwellty Park is a wonderful amenity for the town, but is peripheral to the town centre and does not function as a civic space as such. There is little real successful civic space within the town, where people can gather, celebrate or casually meet. Most areas of hard open space are given over to car parking.

There is public open space within the courtyards within the shopping centre. However, this is tired and neglected and being enclosed by vacant properties with no outlook, of little invitation to the pedestrian to linger. Similarly, the two small open spaces either side of Commercial Street, where the footpath between Ty Bryn and the car park cuts through, are ideally located, but again, suffer from neglect, a lack of pedestrian activity on Commercial Street and no interaction or active frontages from and with the enclosing properties. Particularly to the east of Commercial Street the small pocket park is slightly daunting.

KEY PRINCIPLES

IMPROVE THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE TWO SECTIONS OF THE MAIN TOWN SPINE

The pedestrian realm has a key role to play in reuniting the two arms of the town centre spine - Commercial Street and Castle Street, bridging the disconnect currently caused by the highway dominance.

CREATE A SEQUENCE AND HIERARCHY OF PUBLIC SPACES

The overall aim is to dramatically improve the invitation to the pedestrian and cyclist to populate, tarry and enjoy the experience of being within the public realm of the town centre. A sequence and hierarchy of public spaces would provide connectivity and legibility, from small courtyard spaces and pocket parks spilling out from cafes and retail, to play parks and green spaces. They should be sequences on the active travel routes.



Light installation for safety and interest

CREATE SAFE, ACTIVE SPACES

Public spaces need to feel and be safe places to stay. They should be overlooked by adjoining properties and streets and preferable adjacent to active frontages that provide a positive interaction with the space. Lighting is important to provide a sense of personal security, whilst retaining the welcome and attraction.

INCORPORATE BLUE/GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE

Well designed and engineered drainage and planting infrastructure can become a positive component of the public realm, with planted raingardens, swales and open channels enlivening the experience of the outdoor spaces and extending knowledge of natural systems.

COMMUNITY AND MEANWHILE SPACES

Community spaces provide valuable opportunities for new and existing residents and visitors to the town to meet and mingle. Development proposals on particularly the Gwent Shopping Centre and Coronation Street/Iron Row area will be expected to provide for the provision of open spaces for community use to encourage interaction and neighbourliness.

These spaces should be designed to incorporate and encourage play for all ages, as well as facilitate pop-up community events. They must be safe, overlooked and activated by surrounding land uses. Some of these spaces might be temporary in nature, awaiting the later phases of development.

Proposals must also incorporate sustainable urban drainage features as an integral design component. Community Spaces have the potential for allotments and community growing (for example community orchards).

THE PUBLIC REALM

THE STRATEGY

The strategy for the public realm open spaces is to work in conjunction with the streets, cycle and pedestrian routes to create a continuity within the public realm that allows and ease of movement around the town, with a variety of open spaces of differing scales, character and uses. Public spaces would be located where people would naturally seek to gather and in relationship with key buildings and functions within the town, namely:

- Gateways
- Intersections
- Open Spaces
- River Corridor



Pedestrianisation of Waltham Forest

CULTURE & HERITAGE

THE EXISTING CONTEXT

The area of the town centred on The Circle falls within the Tredegar Southern Town Centre Conservation Area. It is contiguous with the Bedwellty Park and Gardens Conservation Area to the south, and extends northward to include the Castle Street Church and properties opposite. The two Conservation Areas in Tredegar are the only such designated areas in Blaenau Gwent and indicate the richness of the historic evolution of the town and the importance of heritage to the offer and attraction of Tredegar.

The urban grain, the planned arrangement of streets and spaces of Tredegar, are as much a defining element of the town as are the buildings themselves. The central spine is still relatively complete, although there are a number of vacant buildings and buildings in disrepair. However, away from the central spine the enclosure of the streets is somewhat haphazard, with numerous gap sites diluting the strength of the built structure. The topography of the town lends some exciting views over the valley and the business park and down Castle Street from Castle Street Church to The Circle.

The UK Government report *People, Place, Culture* explores the relationship between people and their environment, highlighting the important role regeneration can play in nurturing and growing the level of cultural engagement communities have with their space. 'Cultural identity is strongly tied in with a person's sense of engagement, belonging, understanding and appreciation of their 'place' ... What is local and unique has a special value and should be supported and encouraged'.

This is, in simple terms, what placemaking is all about: 'capitalising on a community's unique assets, inspiration and potential with the intention of creating public spaces, places, events and activities that promote people's health, happiness and wellbeing.'

Telling the story of Tredegar is improving with numerous printed and online descriptions of the heritage assets of the town and its evolution, with Heritage Trails available to follow and OCR locations around the town.

The stories are important, as there is tremendous interest in the industrial heritage of the Valleys and the spreading of the technologies and products worldwide. There is also great interest and potential in the role of the town and Aneurin Bevan in the founding of the National Health Service, with health and pharmaceutical companies seeing a link with the location that could result in business tourism.

KEY PRINCIPLES

REVEAL AND INFORM

Take every opportunity to tell the story, through the retention and restoration of historic buildings and spaces and in their detail. But importantly, enable engaging interaction of heritage with the community, through repurposing buildings and information.

Digital placemaking can help transform regeneration projects into more than the sum of their parts: environments rich in historical meaning, but also in economic and social opportunity. So continue to develop digital placemaking experiences that truly engage the visitor and stakeholder communities.

RELATE TREDEGAR'S HISTORY TO THE CURRENT CONTEXT AND DRIVE THE ECONOMY

Heritage-focused placemaking schemes express and serve the needs of a wide range of stakeholder communities, by helping those communities forge a deeper connection to their shared past, and a greater sense of belonging in the present. Placemaking, therefore, creates social value, by building spaces where people want to live, work and play. This, in turn, creates economic value, by creating a need for local services and businesses. Placemaking and heritage are therefore key strategic assets we should bind together in our regeneration projects.

EMBRACE HERITAGE IN ALL ASPECTS OF DESIGN

Tredegar needs to move forward, exhibiting the best of contemporary design in its public spaces and buildings. However, these should be respectful of the scale, textures and detail of its heritage - rooted, but not stuck in the past.

THE STRATEGY

INFORMING THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

The proposal to wrap the heritage of the town into the Placemaking Plan is based on the layering of the various heritage components, which collectively form the distinctive identity and spirit of the town. These components can be broadly categorised as:

- Heritage buildings
- The urban form
- The topography
- Details and materiality

HERITAGE BUILDINGS

There are a variety of listed heritage structures and buildings within the town, mainly emerging from the industrial heritage of the 19th century, with many associated with Bedwelly Park and Gardens. The buildings and structures are of varying heritage significance, but collectively add to the character and distinctiveness of the town and are a strong, visible reminder of the past, whilst assisting in telling the story going forward.

The Clock Tower in the centre of The Circle, for example, is the iconic landmark of the town and a ready and distinct symbol.

Listed Buildings:

01. Bedwelly House
02. Ice House to NW of Bedwelly House
03. Great Exhibition Lump of Coal at Bedwelly Park
04. Bandstand at Bedwelly Park
05. War Memorial at Bedwelly Park
06. Former Tredegar Company Shop
07. Saron Congregational Chapel, including attached schoolroom
08. Wesleyan Methodist Chapel, including schoolroom
09. N.C.B. Club
10. The Town Clock
11. Christina Louise Nursing Home
12. St George's Church

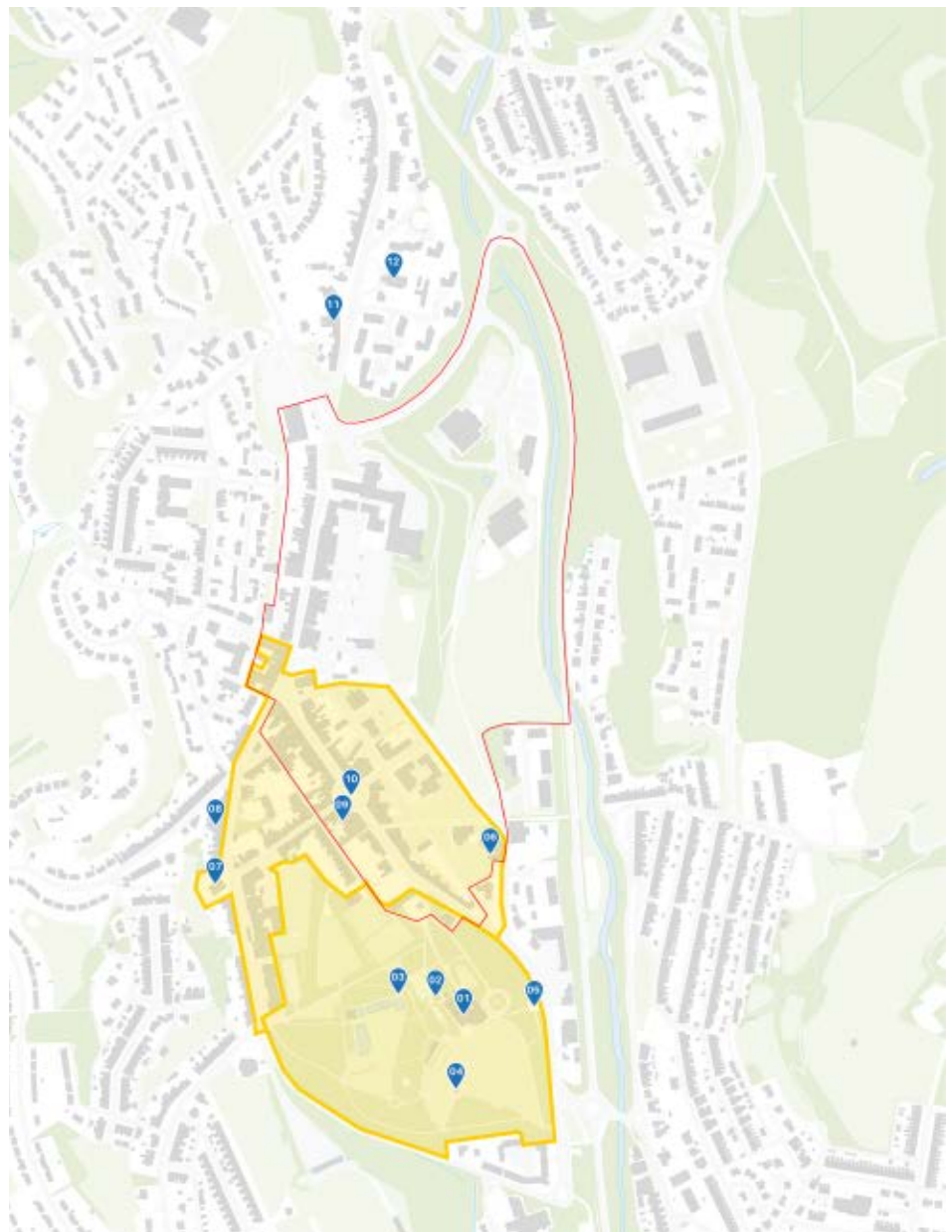


FIG. 19 CONSERVATION AREAS AND LISTED BUILDINGS

THE URBAN FORM

The historic, planned urban form would be preserved and repaired, with particular attention strengthening the west/east town axis between Saron Chapel, along Market Street, through The Circle and along Iron Street to the business park. Linked to this, the built structure evident in the 1888-1913 OS plan around the eastern side of the town bounded by Iron Row would also be renewed. Interestingly, this area, although now totally devoid of heritage buildings or historic urban quality is still within the Conservation Area.

Also evident from the Victorian plan is the public space around Castle Street Church, which should be rediscovered and freed from the constraints of the highway and the car, and the importance of the pedestrian route between Georgetown and the town centre running along Bridge Street. The framed views of the listed Olympia cinema (now a Wetherspoon) terminate the view within the town centre and turn the viewer towards the Clock Tower.



THE TOPOGRAPHY

The town was structured around the works area, which in turn, was dictated by the topography of the River Sirhowy valley. In following the existing grain, new development should maximise the potential for views over the valley and the interest that can be achieved within the townscape through carefully articulating changes in level, to move the point of interest and perspective of the observer as they navigate the town.



DETAILS AND MATERIALITY

Not only is there great joy to be had from quality materials and carefully crafted detailing within the public realm, their use can also reinforce local distinctiveness and help to keep local suppliers and crafts alive. The underlying materiality of Tredegar strongly reflects its solid and robust industrial heritage, however, this solidity was often offset and overlaid by a simplicity and lightness of detailing within street furnishing, for example. To a certain extent this contrast and clarity has been lost, with the accretion of 20th century highway infrastructure and signage, and an exercise needs to be undertaken to strip away all superfluous elements and rationalise street signage and furniture.

New street furniture should be kept to a minimum, contemporary, simple, elegant, yet appropriate to context. The last refresh of the urban realm made use of robust, quality natural paving materials, but this would benefit from a visual lift through incorporating detail into drainage channels and changes in paving unit size and textures, and contrasting the weight and mass of the paving and kerbs with a considered use of modern street furniture components. The existing faux historic furnishings result in a heavy, sombre, cluttered appearance.



DRIVING THE VISITOR ECONOMY

Heritage, and building on the tremendous legacy of the historic assets of the town is not only crucial in fostering the sense of identity and pride within the community, but has rightly been identified as a key driver of the visitor economy. The Destination Management and Tourism Plan identifies a number of themes for development as an attractor for the visitor economy:

INDUSTRIAL HERITAGE

Every aspect of Tredegar in its current form, from its physicality to its social structures and community has been founded, influenced or touched by its industrial heritage. This is important not just for the Valleys, but the influence of Welsh industry and production is global and the story is of interest internationally.

NHS AND HEALTHCARE

The role of the town and the influence of the health care facilities provided to the ironworks families on Aneurin Bevan and the formation of the National Health Service are well-known and of tremendous interest to visitors as well as a source of pride and inspiration for local communities. There is also an attraction to pharmaceutical and medical companies proud of their association with the NHS or provision of health-related products or services in creating a link with Tredegar. Stories resonate and even a recently borrowed or acquired history has value and can help foster a shared culture.

The opportunity exists, therefore, not just to attract potential investors in these medical fields, but to take advantage of the other qualities and facilities of the town and the region to establish a business tourism market based on health, well-being and the medical industry.



BEDWELLY HOUSE

Central to both the above strategies, Bedwellty House is not only a fantastic facility and location to contribute to developing and serving the themes, it is redolent with a history of both the industrial heritage and the formation of the NHS, being originally the Ironmaster House and then the council chambers where Aneurin Bevan cut his political teeth.



NATURE AND WELL-BEING

Tredegar sits immediately south of the Brecon Beacons National Park with great access to nature and the myriad opportunities for walking and cycling. The extension and expansion of the active travel routes around the Heads of the Valley region, connecting into the national park, will improve this access network. Similarly, the development of the Metro system will enhance public transport connections around the region, which is a key consideration in planning routes for walking and cycling from a fixed base. Cycle hire and repair facilities developed as part of the regeneration of the Gwent Shopping Centre and linked to a new bus hub, would further reinforce the attraction of Tredegar as a base for outdoor activity and cycling and walking in particular.



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Tredegar Town Centre
Place Making Plan
Movement and access appraisal

DRAFT

Transport Vision

October 2022

Applicant: Austin Smith Lord

Project no: T21.118

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Project name: Tredegar Town Centre Regeneration Scheme

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

1.1.1 Asbri Transport Limited have been instructed by Austin Smith Lord to produce a supporting document for the regeneration place making plan for Tredegar. The Plan will identify and facilitate future regeneration activity within the study area that focuses in and around Tredegar Town Centre, Blaenau Gwent, South Wales. Tredegar Town Centre is located on the banks of the Sirhowy River in the county borough of Blaenau Gwent, in the south-east of Wales.

1.1.2 The Place Making Plan is intended to inform and influence future strategic decision making for regeneration activity within the study area and to act as an evidence base to support Blaenau Gwent CBC with external funding applications.

1.1.3 Sites covered by the study will include the Commercial Street and Castle Street conservation area, Gwent Shopping Centre, Tredegar Business Park, and key transport hubs.

1.1.4 The extent of the study area is indicated in **Figure 1.1**.



Figure 1.1: Tredegar Town Centre Study Area

- 1.1.5 This report will explore how current transport modes including pedestrian, cyclists, car, bus, taxi and integrated regional on-demand transport interact with Tredegar town centre and its strategic sites and how these can be improved.
- 1.1.6 The 2011 Census identified a significant percentage of households in Blaenau Gwent do not own a car or van at 29% which is above the Wales average of 22.9%. Having a multi-modal transport system which does not depend on personal car travel will provide all residents with access to travel enabling them to access employment, education and other key services.
- 1.1.7 The current Local Development Plan refers to the town centre as a District transport hub within Blaenau Gwent. A key element of the LDP strategy is to improve connectivity between Ebbw Vale and the district hubs of Tredegar, Brynmawr and Abertillery.
- 1.1.8 This report explores how all current transport modes interact with Tredegar town centre. In addition, it references the South Wales Metro and how this major transport infrastructure project will benefit the town.

1.2 National Transport Priorities

Llwybr Newydd: The Wales Transport Strategy 2021

- 1.2.1 Llwybr Newydd sets out a vision for how our transport system can deliver priorities for Wales, helping to put us on a pathway to creating a more prosperous, green and equal society.
- 1.2.2 The Transport Strategy aims to bring services to people in order to reduce the need to travel and notes that 'if more people can walk and cycle for everyday trips, we will reduce our dependency on cars.'
- 1.2.3 It sets a long-term direction and three urgent and immediate priorities:
- **Priority 1** – Bring services to people in order to reduce the need to travel;

- **Priority 2:** Allow people and goods to move easily from door to door by accessible, sustainable and efficient transport services and infrastructure; and,
- **Priority 3:** Encourage people to make the change to more sustainable transport

1.2.4 The thrust of Llwybr Newydd is to achieve a shift away from private car use to more sustainable transport modes for the majority of journeys. Investment will be promoted into low-carbon, accessible, efficient and sustainable transport services and infrastructure that enable more people to walk, cycle and use public transport, and low-emissions vehicles.

1.2.5 Where there is a need for new transport infrastructure, the sustainable transport hierarchy should be considered to give priority to meeting the demand for travel by walking, cycling and public transport ahead of private motor vehicles.

1.2.6 The transport planning recommendation detailed in this report have been informed by the content of Llwybr Newydd and in particular the three headline priorities of the Wales National Transport Strategy.

Future Wales: The National Plan 2040

1.2.7 Future Wales – the National Plan 2040 is a national development framework, setting the direction for development in Wales to 2040. It is a development plan with a strategy for addressing key national priorities through the planning system, including sustaining and developing a vibrant economy, achieving decarbonisation and climate-resilience, developing strong ecosystems and improving the health and well-being of our communities.

1.2.8 To breathe new life into town centres, the Welsh Government has adopted a ‘Town Centre First’ approach. This puts the health and vibrancy of town centres as the starting point of locational decision-making. It also directs facilities and services to where intended users can easily walk, cycle and/or use public transport to access them.

- 1.2.9 It is important that developments serving a town, city or region-wide catchment are well served by active travel infrastructure and public transport. Ideally this will be utilising existing public transport facilities, but can be achieved through improvements to services or the creation of a new bus route or train station.

Policy 11 – National Connectivity

- 1.2.10 Policy 11 of the National Plan sets out to support the delivery of the following measures to improve national connectivity:

- “Rail Network – Transform the rail network and improve the quality of rail services for passengers.
- Bus Network – Invest in the development of the national bus network, fully integrated with regional and local bus networks, to increase modal share of bus travel and improve access by bus to a wider range of trip destinations.
- Strategic Road Network – Invest in road improvements to reduce journey times, deliver a safer and more resilient road network, and improve air and noise quality.
- Create a network of rapid-charging points to enable longer distance travel by electric vehicles throughout Wales.
- National Cycle Network – Revitalise the National Cycle Network to create a network of traffic-free paths connecting cities, towns and countryside across Wales.
- Planning authorities should support developments associated with improvements to national connectivity and, where appropriate, maximise the opportunities that arise from them.”

Policy 12 – Regional Connectivity

1.2.11 In rural areas, the Welsh Government’s priorities are supporting the uptake of ultra-low emission vehicles and diversifying and sustaining local bus services.

1.2.12 The Welsh Government will work with Transport for Wales, local authorities, operators and partners to deliver the following measures to improve regional connectivity:

- Active Travel – Prioritising walking and cycling for all local travel. We will support the implementation of the Active Travel Act to create comprehensive networks of local walking and cycling routes that connect places that people need to get to for everyday purposes.
- Bus – Improve the legislative framework for how local bus services are planned and delivered. We will invest in the development of integrated regional and local bus networks to increase modal share of bus travel and improve access by bus to a wider range of trip destinations.
- Metros – Develop the South East Metro, South West Metro and North Wales Metro. We will create new integrated transport systems that provide faster, more frequent and joined-up services using trains, buses and light rail.
- Ultra-Low Emission Vehicles – Support the roll-out of suitable fuelling infrastructure to facilitate the adoption of ultra-low emission vehicles, particularly in rural areas.

Bus Emergency Scheme 2

1.2.13 The ‘Bus Emergency Scheme (BES) 2’ is an agreement between bus operators, local authorities, Transport for Wales and the Welsh Government and provides the basis of partnership working to deliver better services.

1.2.14 BES2 will ensure the support provided to bus operators is more closely aligned with Llwybr Newydd, the Welsh Government’s new transport strategy. It will set the foundation for the more detailed National Bus Strategy which will be prepared to support Llwybr Newydd and will set out the Welsh Government’s plans for further reform of the bus industry.

1.3 Local Transport Priorities

South Wales Valleys Local Transport Plan 2015-2020

1.3.1 The five South East Wales Valleys local authorities of Blaenau Gwent, Caerphilly, Merthyr Tydfil, Rhondda Cynon Taf and Torfaen have jointly developed this Local Transport Plan (LTP).

1.3.2 The vision of the South Wales Valleys LTP is to provide “A modern, accessible, integrated and sustainable transport system for the SE Wales Valleys and beyond which increases opportunity, promotes prosperity for all and protects the environment; where walking, cycling, public transport and sustainable freight provide real travel alternatives.”

Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council Local Development Plan up to 2021

1.3.3 Bleanau Gwent CBC adopted their Local Development Plan (LDP) in November 2012.

2.0 EXISTING SITUATION

2.1 Introduction

2.1.1 This section of the report describes the existing transport network and conditions within Tredegar Town centre and outlined study area.

2.2 Highway Network

Commercial Street

2.2.1 Commercial Street comprises of the main retail area of Tredegar Town Centre. Commercial Street provides pedestrian access to Gwent Shopping Centre along with other retail and commercial uses along its length.

2.2.2 It is a one-way single carriageway street with traffic travelling north-bound from Queen Victoria Street to the south. Parking restrictions are in place along its length in the form of double yellow lines and speed calming measures are in place in the form of speed tables.

2.2.3 Loading only bays are located at several points along Commercial Street along with allocated disabled parking bays.

2.2.4 Footways are provided along both sides of the carriageway ranging in width from between 2m to 3m. The street is lit and public seating in the form of benches are dotted along the length of Commercial Street.

2.2.5 Commercial Street is lined with metal bollards preventing any parking on the footway, aside from the footway located at designated loading bays and disabled bays.

Castle Street

2.2.6 Castle Street, formally known as the B4526 is a two-way single carriageway road which forms a roundabout junction with The Circ to the south. To the north, Castel Street merges with Queen Victoria Street.

2.2.7 The retail core of Commercial Street extends down Castle Street which is lined with retail and commercial units, some of which are vacant. On street car parking is provided along both sides of the carriageway and is restricted between Monday – Saturday, 8am – 6pm for 1 hour, no return within 2 hours. Double yellow lines are also in place outside of the designated parking areas.

2.2.8 Footways and street lighting are provided along both sides of Castle Street and a designated signalised pedestrian crossing is located mid-way up the street, approximately 50m to the north of The Circ.

Upper Salisbury Street

2.2.9 Upper Salisbury Street forms a narrow two-way single carriageway which forms a simple priority junction with Queen Victoria Street to the north east and Market Street and Lower Salisbury Street to the south. The street is lined with some residential properties and also provides rear access to car parking for the properties which front onto Castle Street.

2.2.10 Parking is restricted along the length of Upper Salisbury Street. Narrow footways are provided along both sides of the carriageway and street lighting is present. No crossing provision is provided.

2.3 Active Travel Routes

2.4 Walking

2.4.1 The CIHT guidance ‘Providing for Journeys on Foot’ (2000) sets out desirable, acceptable and preferred maximum walking distances for different trip purposes. These are set out in **Table 2.1**.

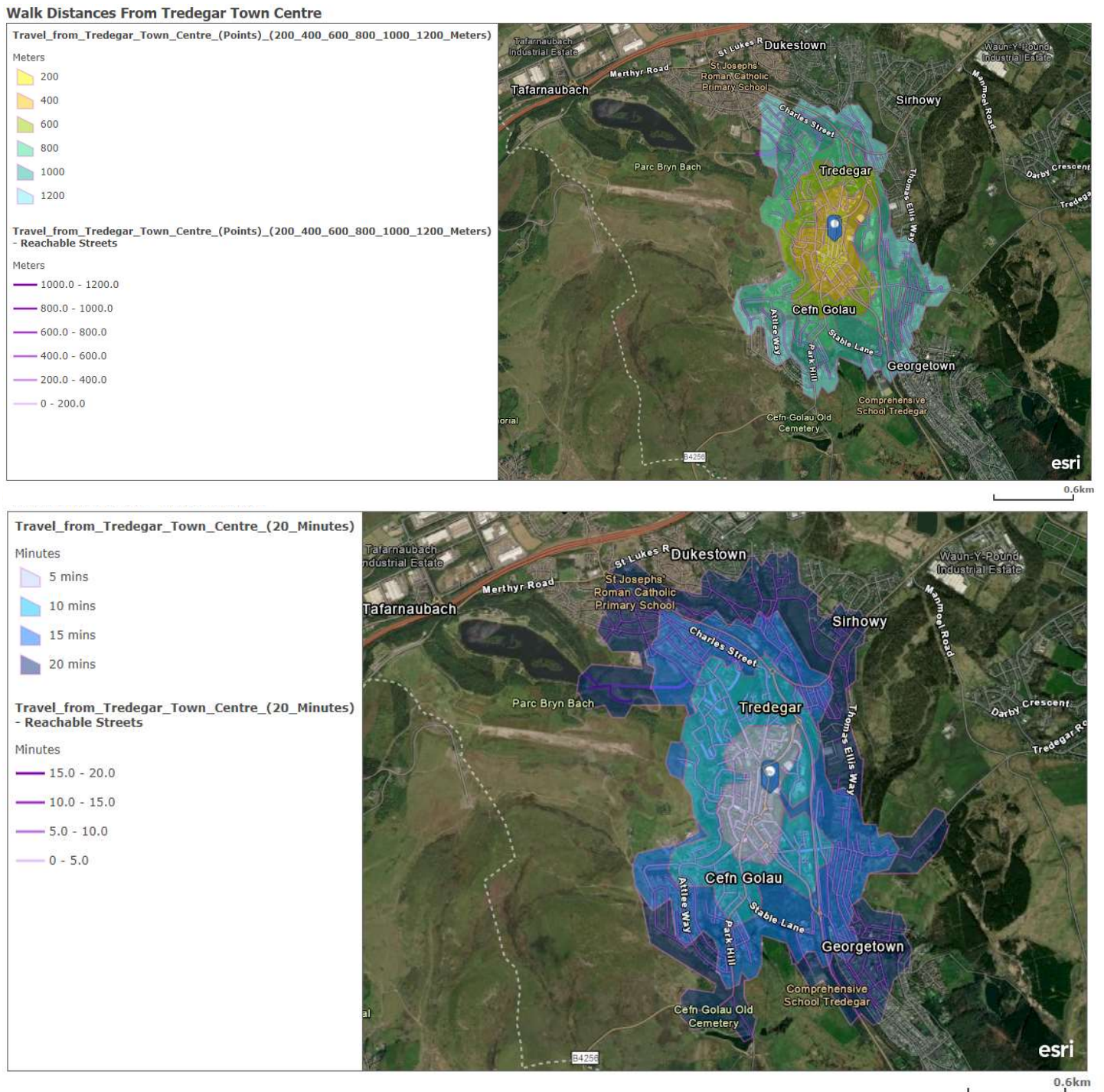
	Town Centre (m)	Commuting/school(m)	Elsewhere (m)
Desirable	200	500	400
Acceptable	400	1000	800
Maximum	800	2000	1200

Table 2.1: CIHT suggested acceptable walking distances

2.4.2 Research undertaken by WYG published in Local Transport Today edition 13th – 26th October 2017 states the following:

‘Our other research on walking distances to public transport stops has shown the mean walking distance to a bus stop is 580m and 810m the 85th percentile, notably longer than CIHT’s 400m maximum distance. The average walking distance to a railway station is 1,000m and 1,600m is the 85th percentile, again notably longer than CIHT’s guidance of 800m.’

2.4.3 **Figure 2.1** sets out the walk distances and walk times to areas of Tredegar from the Town Centre.



- 2.4.4 Footways are provided along the majority of carriageways throughout Tredegar Town Centre. Footway provision is of a reasonable standard along Commercial Street, Queen Victoria Street and Castle Street.
- 2.4.5 There are few formal crossing points provided throughout the Town Centre.
- 2.4.6 The Gwent Shopping Centre and car park is open plan in its design and has several secluded entrances and exits that encourage anti-social behaviour.
- 2.4.7 Access to the town Centre from the existing Bus Interchange is via a short alley way onto Commercial Street across the Gwent Shopping Centre underpass road or via a circuitous route through the rear entrance of Gwent Shopping Centre via several steps or a longer distance over the third access point via a ramped access walkway.

Cycling

- 2.4.8 National Cycle Network (NCN) Route 411 runs to the north of Tredegar Town Centre along Church Street and onto Stockton Way before crossing over to a traffic-free section running adjacent to Tredegar Business Park towards the roundabout junction of the A4084. At this point, Route 411 joins with Route 467 which runs parallel to the A4084. To the north, Route 467 provides access to Route 46.
- 2.4.9 Route 46 follows the Heads of The Valleys and provides access locally to Ebbw Vale and Brynmawr.
- 2.4.10 A map indicating the National Cycle Network Routes within the vicinity of Tredegar Town Centre are indicated in **Figure 2.2** below.
- 2.4.11 Currently, there are no dedicated cycle routes within Tredegar Town Centre.

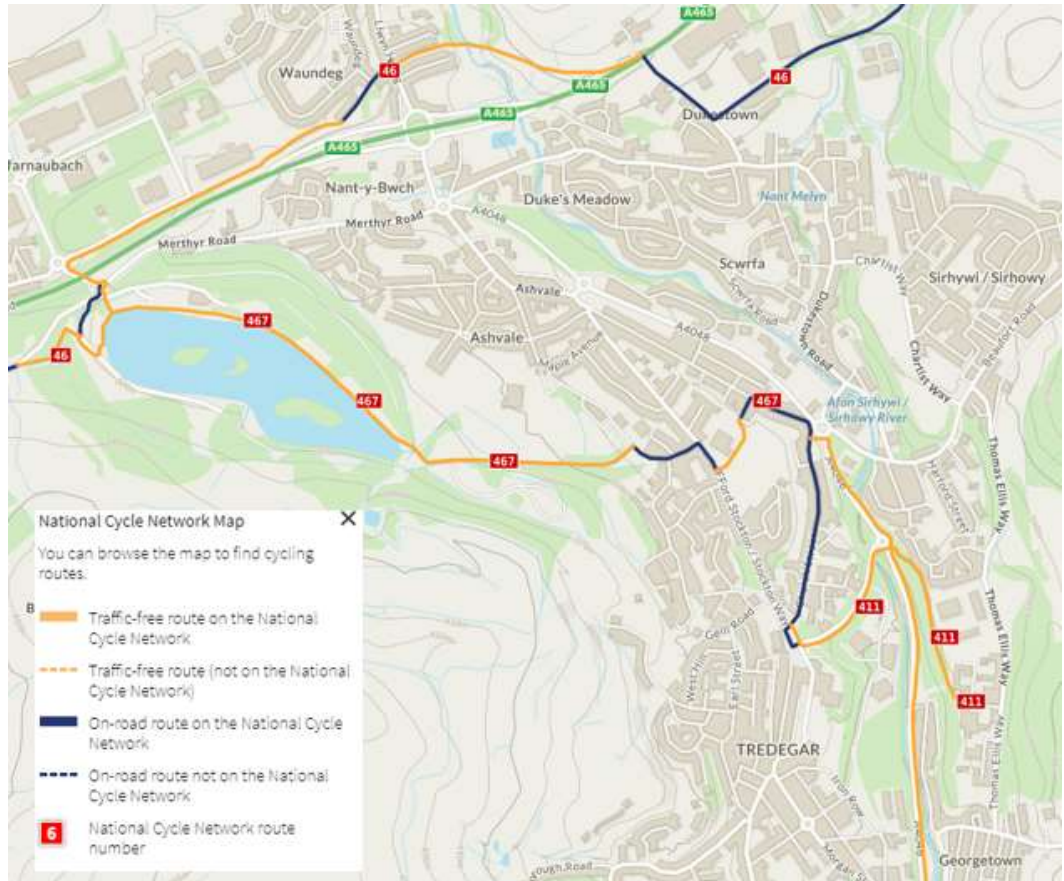


Figure 2.2: NCN Routes

2.5 Public Transport

2.5.1 The bus interchange and taxi rank are bound between the Gwent Shopping Centre car park and the rear of Commercial Street accessed via the Gwent Shopping Centre underpass. The location of the bus interchange is indicated in **Figure 2.3**.



Figure 2.3: Bus Interchange Location

- 2.5.2 The bus interchange comprises of three contemporary glass and steel bus shelters which are provided with seating.
- 2.5.3 The existing bus services currently operating at Tredegar Bus Interchange are summarised below in **Table 2.2**.

Route No.	Destination	First / Last	Frequency		
			Monday - Friday	Saturday	Sunday
4A	Tredegar – Rhymney (Circular)	07:12/17:10	5 services per day	5 services per day	No service
4C	Rhymney – Tredegar (Circular)	09:00/16:05	Approx. bi-hourly	Approx. bi-hourly	No service
56	Tredegar	07:17/19:18	Hourly	Hourly	Bi-hourly
	Newport	06:25/19:30	Hourly	Hourly	Bi-hourly
97	Brynmawr	08:41	1 service per day	No service	No service
E11	Tredegar	09:42/18:07	Hourly	Hourly	No service
	Ebbw Vale	08:50/17:15	Hourly	Hourly	No service
E12	Tredegar	09:45/15:50	Approx. Hourly	Approx. Hourly	No service

Table 2.2: Tredegar Bus Interchange Service Summary

2.5.4 As detailed in Table 2.2, there are two services (56 & E11) operating Monday – Saturday on an hourly basis from Tredegar providing access to Newport and Ebbw Vale.

2.5.5 There is no rail service available at Tredegar. The nearest railway stations are located at Rhymney (5.1km) to the west or Ebbw Vale (5.7km) to the east. Services to Cardiff Central are available from both stations.

2.6 Existing Highway Safety Record

2.6.1 Personal Injury Collision (PIC) data has been obtained for the most recent five-year period from CrashMap.

2.6.2 A summary of the collisions that occurred within the study area outlined within this report are shown in **Table 2.3** and the full collision report for each incident is detailed at **Appendix A**. The location and severity of the collisions assessed are shown in **Figure 2.4**.

Year	No. personal injury			Casualties	Vehicles
	Fatal	Serious	Slight		

2016	0	1	1	3	2
2017	0	0	1	2	2
2018	0	1	0	1	2
2019	0	0	2	2	3
2020	0	0	0	0	0
Total	0	2	4	8	9

Table 2.3: Summary of PIC data



Figure 2.4: PIC locations

2.6.3 It is evident from Table 2.3 that a total of 6 collisions have occurred in the study area during the most recent 5-year period resulting in a total of 8 casualties. Of the 6 collisions, 2 were recorded as serious.

2.6.4 The two serious collisions which occurred along Stockton Way and Castle Street are described in more detail below.

Stockton Way – 7th August 2018, 3:12PM

- 2.6.5 The collision involved a pedal cyclist and a car. The car was in the act of turning right and the cyclist was in the act of turning left. The car was struck on the nearside and the cyclist was struck to the front.

Castle Street – 17th October 2016, 11:25AM

- 2.6.6 The collision involved a car and a pedestrian. A car struck a pedestrian crossing from the drivers nearside. The pedestrian was not utilising a crossing facility.
- 2.6.7 Both of the serious collisions detailed above involved non-motorised users.

2.7 Existing Traffic Levels

- 2.7.1 Daily vehicle flow rates have been provided along Commercial Street by Blaenau Gwent County council. The data provided indicates the total number of vehicles travelling along Commercial Street between 27th January 2021 – 6th May 2021.
- 2.7.2 Over the time period surveyed, on average approximately 1670 vehicles pass through Commercial Street during an average weekday. This average takes into account the weekday AM and PM peak hour period.
- 2.7.3 It is estimated that of the 1670 vehicles, approximately 10% of the traffic will be on the network during the peak hour periods, equating to roughly 167 vehicles travelling along Commercial Street during the AM and 167 vehicles during the PM peak hour period.
- 2.7.4 Over the weekend, it is considered that on average 1351 vehicles travel along Commercial Street throughout the 48-hour period with a greater vehicle flow witnessed on a Saturday.

2.8 Socio-Economic Characteristics of the Study Area

- 2.8.1 At the time of the 2011 Census, Tredegar had a population of 15,103. The socio-economic distribution of the area will be based upon 2011 Census Data for W02000316 : Blaenau Gwent 003 and W02000319 : Blaenau Gwent 006. Key statistics for these areas include:

- 30% of residents in the wards analysed do not have access to a car or van, which is higher than the Blaenau Gwent average (29%)

- The average number of cars owned per household in the area is 1 and across Blaenau Gwent the average is also 1.
- 10% of residents in the wards either walk or cycle to work, which is the same as the borough average of 10%

3.0 IDENTIFIED TRANSPORT CHALLENGES

3.1 Introduction

3.1.1 This section of the report outlines the existing areas of Tredegar Town Centre where there are perceived issues with the existing transport infrastructure.

3.1.2 The Town Centre is split into 4 zones:

- Commercial Street and Castle Street conservation area
- Gwent Shopping Centre
- Tredegar Business Park, and
- Key transport hubs.

3.1.3 The key issues in each zone have been identified below.

3.2 Commercial Street & Castle Street

3.2.1 Commercial Street is currently open to vehicular traffic and is dominated by parked vehicles. Pavements are cluttered and uneven in places with a lack of safe crossing points for disabled and visually impaired users. There is currently a lack of signs guiding pedestrians to transport services and local facilities.

3.2.2 There are a significant number of cast iron bollard located along the footways, which appear to be installed to deter footway parking.

3.3 Gwent Shopping Centre

3.3.1 The Gwent Shopping Centre is located to the east of Commercial Street and in the northern sector of the town centre. It is accompanied by a large surface car park immediately south of the buildings.

3.3.2 A single carriageway road links Stockton Way to the north of the shopping centre by way of a traffic signal-controlled junction and Queen Victoria Street to the south by way of a compact roundabout junction. This roundabout junction provides the access to the centre's surface car park.

- 3.3.3 The same road provides access to Tredegar Bus Station and also passes under the shopping centre by way of an under-pass that in turn provides access to the under-croft service area of both sides of the shopping centre.
- 3.3.4 Pedestrian access is via a ramped access on Commercial Street and there is secondary access via steps from the rear car park accessed via the underpass road running under the shopping centre.
- 3.3.5 The Shopping Centre and car park is open plan in its design and has several secluded entrances and exits that encourage anti-social behaviour.

3.4 Tredegar Business Park

- 3.4.1 Tredegar Business Park is currently segregated from Tredegar Town Centre. Pedestrian routes are currently available; however, these are indirect, poorly lit and unattractive to pedestrians due to a perceived lack of safety.
- 3.4.2 It is considered that there are opportunities for enhanced active travel connections linking the Business Park with the town centre. These are detailed in Section 4.
- 3.4.3 In addition, a high-level appraisal has been undertaken of improving access from the south of the Business Park to the A4084. Consideration would need to be given to the existing land levels and bridging over the Sirhowy River would need to be considered.
- 3.4.4 There is also considered to be some potential for a second point of access into the Business Park by way of an improved junction at Bridge Street and Iron Row.

3.5 Key Transport Hubs

- 3.5.1 There are 2 separate bus interchange facilities located in Tredegar. One to the immediate east of the Lidl store accessed via the Stockton Way signal junction and the other to the immediate west of the Gwent Shopping Centre car park and immediately south of the under-pass road.

- 3.5.2 The facility on Stockton Way has two 16m bus stops both accompanied by modern shelters. There is pedestrian provision by way of dropped kerbs and tactile paving that link with the pedestrian crossing provision on the northern arm of the signal junction.
- 3.5.3 At the southernmost facility (adjacent to the Gwent Shopping Centre car park) there is a double length bus lay-by and a single length lay-by located adjacent to the south-bound carriageway. All 3 stops are accompanied by modern shelters and seating.
- 3.5.4 Pedestrian access from the bus interchange to Commercial Street is by way of a short alley way across the Gwent underpass road and Bank Lane. This route is gates and has steps present. There is an alternative route to Commercial Street via the Gwent Shopping Centre.
- 3.5.5 There is a raised zebra crossing located on the road that passes underneath the shopping centre on the northern side of the bus interchange.

4.0 PROPOSED TRANSPORT IMPROVEMENTS

4.1 Key Objectives

4.1.1 The proposal to implement public realm and highway improvements as part of the Tredegar Town Centre Redevelopment will:

- Improve journey times, reliability and journey quality for all road users
- Improve accessibility to Tredegar town centre for pedestrians, cyclists and road users
- Reduce congestion and its environmental impacts
- Improve access between Tredegar's bus interchange and the nearby strategic sites:
- Proposed a consolidated bus facility and
- Enhance the viability of the town centre, support Economic Development and other key areas.

4.2 Active Travel Improvements

4.2.1 Improved wayfinding signs should be provided to ensure a clear route toward Tredegar Bus Interchange from both Commercial Street and Castle Street to promote complimentary multi-modal interchange within the town. An example of a wayfinding totem and signage is indicated in **Figure 4.1**.



Figure 4.1: Wayfinding examples

4.2.2 In addition, the potential for full or partial pedestrianisation of Commercial Street has been investigated and discussed with stakeholders.

4.2.3 Pedestrianisation of Commercial Street would include:

- Removal of all traffic from the street or removal of traffic during certain time periods during the day
- Removal of curbs and footways, addition of new paving.
- Consolidation and removal of existing street furniture to facilitate pedestrian movement.

4.2.4 The quality of the walking environment is a huge factor in people's shopping choices, and people who walk to their high street have been shown to spend more, and in a wider range of shops, than visitors arriving by car, bus or bike.

- 4.2.5 Pedestrianisation aims to improve pedestrian’s safety and mobility. Another important benefit is related to the environment. These schemes can help to reduce both noise and pollution by discouraging or restricting access of non-essential vehicles. Furthermore, it helps to promote walking as a transport mode by making the walking experience more enjoyable.
- 4.2.6 An active travel route linking Tredegar Business Park to Tredegar Town Centre has been considered. A potential active travel route linking the business park and town centre has been identified in **Figure 4.2**.



Figure 4.2: Possible Active Travel Link

- 4.2.7 The creation of a bike hub/docking station offering bicycle hire and safe, secure, sheltered bicycle parking should be incorporated alongside the proposed new bus interchange. This would create a consolidated travel hub allowing easy interchange between modes.

- 4.2.8 The signal-controlled junction of Stocton Way, Commercial Street and the access to the bus facility could be improved to deliver cyclist crossing provision and possibly advanced cyclist stop lines for through cyclist movement.
- 4.2.9 It is noted from the collision analysis undertaken that there has been a serious collision involving a cyclist recorded at the junction.

4.3 Bus Interchange & Taxi Rank improvements

- 4.3.1 Developing a modern quality transport interchange to efficiently link commercial development with residential areas that capitalises on and maximises the opportunities being presented through the Cardiff Capital Region City Deal, specifically the delivery of the South East Wales Metro.
- 4.3.2 The provision of further Real Time Information (RTI) displays at key bus stops linked to the town centre.
- 4.3.3 Improved shelter provision to ensure passengers are protected from the weather whilst waiting for a bus.
- 4.3.4 Taxi parking provision and access should avoid causing conflict with pedestrian and cycle access in the station area.
- 4.3.5 Pedestrian and cycle safety will be ensured through appropriate design. The future design will ensure a hierarchy whereby pedestrian and cyclists are given priority, shared surface treatments, traffic calming and appropriate signs and demarcation will help to ensure taxi movements are conscious of other users and the busy interaction of users in the area.
- 4.3.6 Appropriate signs should be provided along key routes to and from the station area.

- 4.3.7 A drop-off area could be provided to the rear of Gwent Shopping Centre also providing a servicing facility for the existing retail use of Gwent Shopping Centre.
- 4.3.8 The South Wales Metro is an integrated public transport network that will make it easier for people travel across the Cardiff Capital Region, transforming rail and bus services as well as cycling and walking. The Cardiff Capital Region is made up of 10 local authorities including Blaenau Gwent.
- 4.3.9 Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) is a bus-based system that uses dedicated and/or prioritised highway space, similar to European-style segregated busways. BRT uses high-quality stops, off-vehicle ticketing and high-frequency services that are integrated into a wider regional transit network.
- 4.3.10 The BRT will provide a west - east connection that will complement north - south travel connectivity provided by the railway lines, and provide residents of these communities with direct access to economic opportunities located in the Heads of the Valleys corridor.
- 4.3.11 The BRT will have a particularly positive impact on Tredegar, which is currently disconnected from the railway line through connecting the town to rail links in Ebbw Vale, Rhymney and Merthyr.
- 4.3.12 The BRT will provide access to natural tourism opportunities in the Valleys Regional Park, Brecon Beacons Park (via one of the Heads of the Valleys settlements) and Monmouthshire.

4.4.2 A consolidated facility will improve inter-change between all services operational in the town centre but land requirements will be dependent on partial demolition of the Gwent Shopping Centre.

4.4.3 The creation of a new consolidated bus interchange has been discussed with key passenger transport and SW metro officers who were supportive of the proposal. Such a facility could allow better integration with the South Wales metro proposal and would deliver socio economic benefits to the town centre.

4.5 Tredegar Business Park

4.5.1 The Consultant's brief requested that an additional exit only access from the Business Park to the A4048 be investigated. It is considered likely that any such new access would need to bridge the River Sirhowy as the A4048 traverses the river at the southern extent of the Council Land to the south of the Business Park. Beyond this location the river runs between the A4048 and the land associated with the Business Park.

4.5.2 An access into the Business Park from the A4048 would require a detailed engineering appraisal as it is considered from a preliminary review that significant structural work would be required to bridge the river. Such engineering works may incur significant costs, and may prove cost-prohibitive. However, it is recommended that this be investigated further.

4.5.3 The location of the potential access point is indicated in **Figure 4.4**.

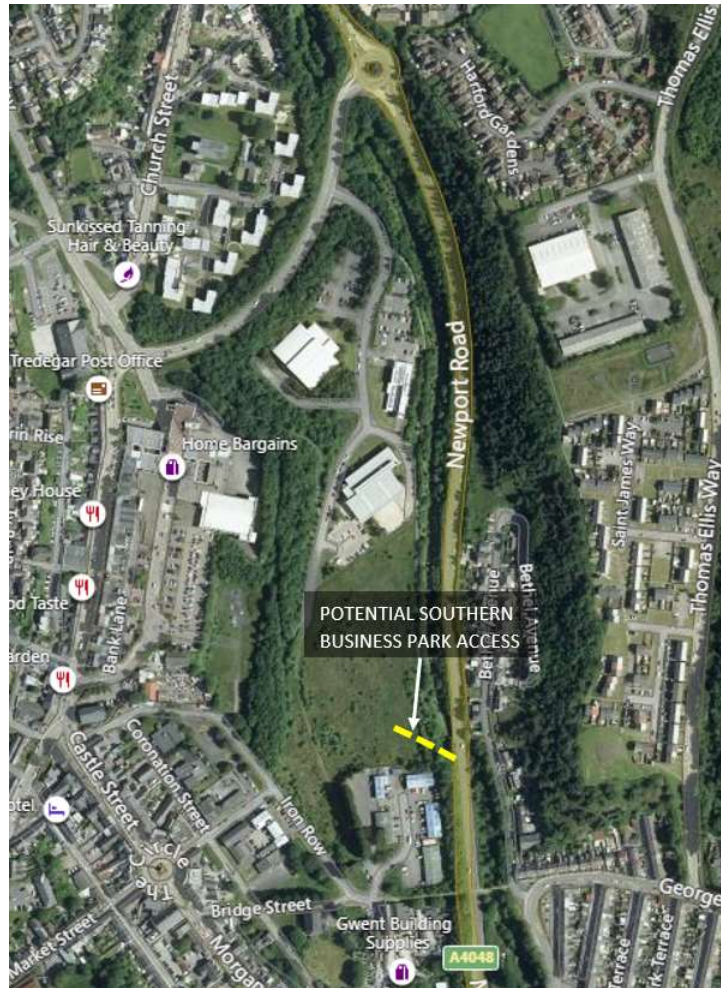


Figure 4.4: Potential Southern Business Park Access

4.5.4 A further option has been investigated in order to provide a second point of access into Tredegar Business Park from the south. This option suggests the provision of possibly a compact roundabout junction with Iron Row. The proposed location of the second access is detailed in **Figure 4.5**.



Figure 4.5: Proposed roundabout access location

4.5.5 It is envisaged that the point of access detailed in Figure 4.5 would possibly prove a more viable access improvement than that proposed in Figure 4.4.

5.0 CONCLUSION

5.1 Summary

- 5.1.1 This Transport Vision Document is a high-level review intended to inform and influence future strategic decision making for regeneration activity within the study area outlined. It is intended and to act as an evidence base to support Blaenau Gwent CBC with external funding applications.
- 5.1.2 The report has reviewed current transport planning policy in Wales and undertaken a baseline assessment of the transport characteristics of the study area.
- 5.1.3 The Transport Vision outlines the key areas for improvement within Tredegar town centre and suggests a number of potential transport enhancement strategies for the town.
- 5.1.4 A number of meetings have occurred with key stakeholders and these have included meetings with local councillors and key passenger transport and active travel officers of the Local Authority and those with responsibilities for the South Wales Metro project.
- 5.1.5 It is envisaged that a number of improvements to the pedestrian realm, active travel routes and public transport infrastructure would enhance the overall experience for various users of the town centre. Similarly improved access to the Business Park and improved connectivity with the town centre would contribute to Tredegar's regeneration.
- 5.1.6 This report has discussed relatively low-cost improvements such as increased cycle parking provision throughout the study area to potentially significant infrastructure works such as a new all mode access to the Tredegar Business Park and a new bus interchange facility.

Agenda Item 11

Cabinet and Council only

Date signed off by the Monitoring Officer: 21.11.22

Date signed off by the Section 151 Officer: 24.11.22

Committee: **Cabinet**

Date of meeting: **7th December 2022**

Report Subject: **Local Development Plan – Annual Monitoring Report (AMR)**

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

Report Submitted by: **Ellie Fry, Corporate Director Regeneration and Community Services**

Reporting Pathway								
Directorate Management Team	Corporate Leadership Team	Portfolio Holder / Chair	Governance Audit Committee	Democratic Services Committee	Scrutiny Committee	Cabinet	Council	Other (please state)
08/11/22	10/11/22	22.11.22				07/12/22		

1. Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 To provide Members with information on the Local Development Plan - Annual Monitoring Report (AMR) for 2021 – 2022.

2. Scope and Background

2.1 Scope

- 2.1.1 This report sets out the findings of the Annual Monitoring Report (AMR) for the current Blaenau Gwent Local Development Plan (LDP). The Annual Monitoring Report assesses the effectiveness of the LDP objectives and strategic policies, and the Plan's sustainability credentials. It also identifies any significant contextual changes and draws conclusions and makes recommendations on under performance.

2.2 Background

- 2.2.1 The Blaenau Gwent Local Development Plan (LDP) was formally adopted by the Council on 22nd November 2012. Following the adoption of the LDP, the Council has a statutory obligation, under section 76 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004, to produce an AMR. An AMR must be submitted annually to the Welsh Government.

- 2.2.2 Even though a replacement Local Development Plan is being prepared we are still required to produce an Annual Monitoring Report for the current Plan. This is the eighth AMR and is based on the period **1st April 2021 to 31st March 2022.**

- 2.2.3 The AMR has two primary roles; firstly to identify any policies that are not being implemented and secondly to consider whether the LDP Strategy remains valid. It is required to include:

- A review of changes to national and regional policy and guidance and their implications for the LDP;
- Local Development Plan Monitoring;
- Sustainability Appraisal Monitoring;
- Statutory indicators; and
- Recommendations on the course of action in respect to policies and the LDP as a whole.

2.3.4 The AMR provides an opportunity for the Council to assess the impact the LDP is having on the social, economic and environmental well-being of the County Borough.

2.3.5 The Executive Summary of the Annual Monitoring Report is attached as Appendix 1 and the Annual Monitoring Report is attached as Appendix 2. The AMR will be made available on the Council website once approved by the Cabinet.

2.3.6 The following is an overview of the content of the AMR report:

2.3.7 **Executive Summary** – provides a summary of the report highlighting key findings in terms of contextual changes, the Local Development Plan Monitoring Results, Sustainability Appraisal Monitoring and conclusions and recommendations.

2.3.8 **Chapter 1 – Introduction** outlines the requirement for, the purpose and structure of the AMR.

2.3.9 **Chapter 2 – Monitoring Framework** explains the process of monitoring the LDP and Sustainability Appraisal (SA), and provides an update on the Council's position in terms of revising the LDP.

2.3.10 **Chapter 3 – Contextual Change** reviews the economy at UK, Wales and the local level. It found that in Wales and the UK, economic growth is moderating and there is great uncertainty as a result of Brexit. Though improvements have been made in a number of key economic data sets in Blaenau Gwent figures remain below the Welsh average.

2.3.11 A review was undertaken of national, regional and local policy documents but none were considered to have resulted in any significant change to policy that needed to be addressed in the short-term.

2.3.12 **Chapter 4 – Local Development Plan Monitoring** analyses the results of the monitoring exercise and provides an interesting and varied picture of development in Blaenau Gwent. The results of the monitoring process for 2021-2022 are identified within the Performance Information and Data section of this report.

2.3.13 **Chapter 5 – Sustainability Appraisal Monitoring** analyses the impact the LDP is having on the social, economic and environmental well-being of

Blaenau Gwent. The results of the monitoring process are identified within the Performance Information and Data section of this report.

- 2.3.14 **Chapter 6 – Conclusions and Recommendations** identifies that the current economic situation, the lack of confidence in the housing market and viability issues has undoubtedly had an impact on the delivery of the Plan. Progress on delivering the Strategy of Growth and Regeneration continues to fall short of expectations.

As a result of the findings of the Annual Monitoring Report it recommends:

- 2.3.15 • The Council continues with its preparation of a Replacement Local Development Plan.

3. **Options for Recommendation**

3.1 **Option 1:** Cabinet Members:

- Consider the detail contained with the annual monitoring report and agree the content before publication

3.2 **Option 2:** Cabinet Members:

- Consider the detail contained with the annual monitoring report and consider amendments prior to publication

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

4.1 **Corporate Plan**

The LDP supports the key priorities of the Corporate Plan. In particular it plays a key role in delivering a variety of homes, jobs, potential energy opportunities and ensuring the long term future of town centres. The AMR reports on progress of the Plan in these and other areas.

4.2 **Statutory Responsibilities**

The Council has a statutory obligation, under section 76 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004, to produce an Annual Monitoring Report (AMR).

4.3 **Blaenau Gwent Well-being Plan**

The Plan helps to create safe communities thus supporting the achievement of objective 2. It looks after and protects the natural environment thus supporting the achievement of objective 3. The Plan aims to improve prosperity thus supporting the achievement of objective 4. It also aims to enable people to make healthy lifestyle choices thus supporting the achievement of objective 5.

5. **Implications Against Each Option**

5.1 ***Impact on Budget***

5.1.1 There are no budget impacts as a result of this report as this relates to the publication of the Annual Monitoring Report. Preparation of the Replacement LDP will be met through existing budgets and reserves identified for the Development Plans team.

5.2 ***Risk including Mitigating Actions***

5.2.1 There are no risks associated with this report.

5.3 ***Legal***

5.3.1 There is a statutory requirement to submit an Annual Monitoring Report to Welsh Government.

5.4 ***Human Resources***

5.4.1 There are no staffing implications as a result of this report.

6. **Supporting Evidence**

6.1 ***Performance Information and Data***

6.1.1 The Annual Monitoring Report contains detailed information on a whole range of economic, social and environmental data in line with the monitoring framework set out in the Local Development Plan and the Plan's Strategic Environmental Assessment / Sustainability Report. Below is a summary of the Plans performance:

6.1.2 The results of the monitoring process for the LDP's objectives and strategic policies indicate that the targets in respect of 4 out of 19 core monitoring aims are on-going, being met or exceeded whilst 8 are not currently being achieved but the situation can be overcome without immediate intervention or are sufficiently progressed so as not to require direct intervention. The remaining 7 are currently falling short of the required pattern of delivery (See Appendix 1: pages 3-4 or Appendix 2 pages 13-96 for further detail). The number of review triggers breached this year has decreased the previous year, although 6 triggers remain breached (See Appendix 1: page 4).

6.1.4 The results of the monitoring process on sustainability indicate that the Plan is having a positive impact in respect of 10 of the sustainability objectives; is not having a positive or is having a mixed impact on 11; and is having a negative impact on 2 objectives. There is no update for one indicator (See Appendix 1: pages 5-7 or Appendix 2 pages 70-97 for further detail).

6.1.5 Overall, the plan is having a mixed impact on aspects of sustainability when measured against the SA objectives.

6.2 ***Expected outcome for the public***

- 6.2.1 The AMR updates the public on how the LDP is progressing in terms of achieving the LDP's objectives and policies; and delivering the strategy and allocations.

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

- 6.3.1 There has been insufficient time to consult the public prior to seeking Cabinet approval and submission to Welsh Government. However, the AMR will be made available on the Council website when agreed by the Cabinet.

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

- 6.4.1 The Local Development Plan looks to address the long term land requirements of the Borough and the AMR reports on progress in meeting these needs.

6.5 ***Preventative focus***

- 6.5.1 The AMR identifies where problems are occurring with the delivery of the Adopted Local Development Plan's objectives and policies and puts actions in place to address them where necessary. The AMR also monitors the impact on the social, economic and environmental well-being of the Plan.

6.6 ***Collaboration / partnership working***

- 6.6.1 The Development Plan section collaborates with other departments and organisations when gathering the data and in identifying actions to overcome underperformance.

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

- 6.7.1 The AMR provides an update on the current position in terms of delivering the LDP objectives and policies and the impact the LDP is having on sustainability. The AMR cuts across housing, economic development, retail, education, community facilities, waste, transport and the environment.

6.8 ***Integrated Impact Assessment***

- 6.8.1 Integrated Impact Assessment Screening found that there were no impacts of significance that required further assessment.

7. **Monitoring Arrangements**

- 7.1 The preparation of the Annual Monitoring Report is monitored through directorate performance management arrangements. The Annual

Monitoring Report of the Adopted LDP is required by regulation to be produced and published annually.

Background Documents / Electronic Links

- Appendix 1: Executive Summary
- Appendix 2: Annual Monitoring Report 2021-2022

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Blaenau Gwent Local Development Plan (LDP) was adopted on 22nd November 2012. As part of the statutory development plan process the Council is required to prepare an Annual Monitoring Report (AMR) covering the period 1st of April to 31st of March every year. The AMR provides the basis for monitoring the effectiveness of the LDP objectives and strategic policies, the Plan's sustainability credentials and identify any significant contextual changes that might influence implementation. This is the final AMR covering the Adopted LDP plan period (2006 – 2021).

Key Findings of the Annual Monitoring Process

Contextual Changes

This section looks at local, regional, national and international factors that have had an influence on land use development in Blaenau Gwent and subsequently on the implementation of the LDP. These include:

External Conditions

Economy

- The UK economy shrank by 0.6% in June 2022. Although the economic output stood at 0.9% above pre pandemic levels in February 2020, some regions struggles to reach the pre-pandemic levels.
- The growth outlook has deteriorated. It is expected that, two years of slow or even negative GDP growth will be experienced post 2022.
- Blaenau Gwent is below the Wales average in almost all socio economic indicators though has made a number of improvements in relation to employment this year.

Housing

- The UK housing market is strong with house prices rising. Wales saw the highest house price growth at 15.8% and was the strongest performing part of the UK for the first time since the Nationwide data began in 1973.
- The number of housing completions in Blaenau Gwent is rising but still remains lower than expected.

Policy, Legislation and Statistical Change

National Policy and Legislation

- Suspension of Technical Advice Note 15: Development Flooding and Coastal Erosion (December 2021)
- Development Quality Requirements for Housing Associations and Local Authorities 2021

Regional Policy

- Strategic Development Plan for South East Wales – update

Local Policy and Legislation

- There has been no change in the local policy framework.

Statistics

- There have been no mid-year estimates published this year.
- The 2021 population Census figures have been released. In Blaenau Gwent, the population size has decreased by 4.2%, from around 69,800 in 2011 to 66,900 in 2021.

Local Development Plan Monitoring

The results of the monitoring exercise provide a varied picture of development in Blaenau Gwent. Some of the most notable results are:

Theme 1: Create a Network of Sustainable Vibrant Valley Communities

- The delivery of the strategy for Growth and Regeneration is behind target;
- **1,643** new dwellings were built in the period 2006-2022, which is well below the expected figure of 1,900 homes by 2016 and the plan requirement of 3,500 by 2021;
- In the period 2021-2022 (April to March) **124** new dwellings were built in the County Borough which is slightly below the previous year.
- **0.28 ha** of employment allocations have been delivered during 2021 and 2021;
- **No** retail allocations have been delivered to date;
- **No** transport schemes were delivered this year leaving the total schemes completed at 12;
- Retail vacancy rates across Blaenau Gwent average **14.6% (2021-2022)** which is a 2.3% decrease from 2020-2021. The Blaenau Gwent vacancy rate is lower than the Wales vacancy rate of 17.7%;
- The 2021 census data has been released and the population figure is 66,900 which is a 4.2% decrease from 69,800 in 2011.
- **27** affordable dwellings were built in 2021-22;
- Only **62.3%** of LDP allocations have been granted planning permission;
- **94%** of development permitted in 2021-22 was on brownfield land which is higher than the target figure of 80%;

Theme 2: Create Opportunities for Sustainable Economic Growth and the Promotion of Learning and Skills

- The latest economic activity rate is **71.1%** which is up by 0.1% from 2020-21, decreasing the gap with the Wales average to 2%;
- The latest figure for the economically inactive wanting a job is **19.5%** down by 1.4% from 2020-21 and 2.4% higher than the Welsh average;
- Between 2019 and 2020 Blaenau Gwent witnessed a decrease of 500 jobs within manufacturing. Overall there has been a net loss of **1,300** jobs since 2008 (baseline date);
- Between 2019 and 2020 Blaenau Gwent lost **100** jobs in construction, with an overall net loss of **100** jobs since 2008;
- Between 2019 and 2020 Blaenau Gwent lost **250** jobs in services, with an overall net loss of 725 jobs since 2008;

Theme 3: Create Safe, Healthy and Vibrant Communities and Protect and Enhance the Unique Natural and Built Environment

- The Fields in Trust (FIT) Standard for outdoor play space provision remained at **1.00 ha** in 2022 which is well below the target of 2.4 ha;
- There has been no loss of Listed Buildings or historic sites this year;

Theme 4: Create Opportunities to Secure an Adequate Supply of Minerals and Reduce Waste

- The Plan has a **3-year** land bank which is behind the target of ensuring there is a minimum 10 -year land bank; and
- **64.9%** of waste was recycled during 202-210, this is a slight decrease from the years before but it above the Welsh Government target of 64% by 2021.

Detailed consideration of the results of the monitoring exercise has allowed the Council to make an informed judgement about the nature of the progress that has been made during 2018-19, in delivering the LDP targets and therefore its policies. As a visual aid in showing the monitoring outcomes, a simple colour coded system has been devised, as shown below.

G	The monitoring aim is on-going, being met or exceeded
A	The monitoring aim is not currently being achieved but the situation can be ameliorated without immediate intervention or sufficiently progressed not to require direct intervention
R	The monitoring aim is not being achieved and it is unlikely that this will be addressed without specific intervention

The result of the delivery of each of the monitoring aims is shown in the table below:

LDP Monitoring	
Policy	Result
THEME 1: CREATE A NETWORK OF SUSTAINABLE VIBRANT VALLEY COMMUNITIES	
SP1	Northern Strategy Area – Sustainable Growth and Regeneration
To ensure sustainable growth and regeneration in the North of the Borough	R
SP2	Southern Strategy Area – Regeneration
To ensure regeneration in the South of the Borough	R
SP3	The Retail Hierarchy and the Vitality and Viability of the Town Centres
(a) To ensure town centres thrive through the implementation of the retail hierarchy	A
(b) To ensure the improvement of viability in town centres	A
SP4	Delivering Quality Housing
(a) To secure the construction of 3,500 net additional dwellings and halt population decline	R
(b) To ensure the delivery of 1,000 affordable dwellings, 335 of which through planning obligations	R
SP5	Spatial Distribution of Housing Sites
(a) To ensure that housing is delivered in all areas in accordance with the Strategy	R

	(b) To ensure that housing is delivered in accordance with the strategy to increase build rates over the Plan period	R
SP6	Ensuring Accessibility	
	To ensure improved connectivity within Blaenau Gwent and with the wider area	R
SP7	Climate Change	
	(a) To ensure that more of the County Borough's electricity and heat requirements are generated by renewable and low / zero carbon energy	G
	(b) To ensure the efficient use of land	A
	(c) To avoid development in areas at high risk of flooding	G
THEME 2: CREATE OPPORTUNITIES FOR SUSTAINABLE ECONOMIC GROWTH AND THE PROMOTION OF LEARNING AND SKILLS		
SP8	Sustainable Economic Growth	
	(a) To ensure sufficient employment land is provided to increase economic activity	A
	(b) To ensure the diversification of the economic base	A
THEME 3: CREATE SAFE, HEALTHY AND VIBRANT COMMUNITIES AND PROTECT AND ENHANCE THE UNIQUE NATURAL AND BUILT ENVIRONMENT		
SP9	Active and Healthy Communities	
	To increase opportunities for people to participate in active and healthy communities	A
SP10	Protection and Enhancement of the Natural Environment	
	To ensure the protection, preservation and enhancement of the natural environment	A
SP11	Protection and Enhancement of the Historic Environment	
	To ensure that listed buildings and archaeological sites are protected, preserved and where appropriate enhanced	G
THEME 4: CREATE OPPORTUNITIES TO SECURE AN ADEQUATE SUPPLY OF MINERALS AND REDUCE WASTE		
SP12	Securing an Adequate Supply of Minerals	
	To ensure a minimum 10 year land bank and provision of at least 3Mt of aggregates	A
SP13	Delivering Sustainable Waste Management	
	To ensure the delivery of sustainable waste management	G

The results of the monitoring process for 2021-22 indicate that the targets in respect of 4 out of 19 core monitoring aims are on-going, being met or being exceeded (annotated in green) and 8 are not currently being achieved but the situation can be overcome without immediate intervention or are sufficiently progressed not to require direct intervention (annotated in amber). The remaining 7 (annotated in red) are currently falling short of the required pattern of delivery and actions have been identified to address them.

Generally the issues arise due to development levels being far lower than planned which is as a result of external factors beyond the Council's control in relation to the Covid-19 pandemic, economic recession, the poorly performing housing market and issues around viability.

Trigger levels were identified in the Plan to indicate where a policy had diverged to such an extent that it could be identified as failing to be implemented and needs to be amended. The number of triggers breached this year has decreased from 9 to 6 in 2020-21. The following triggers were breached this year:

- The net number of additional affordable and general market dwellings built at 1,643 is 46% below the target of 3,500 (2021 outcome) and has therefore breached the trigger of 30%.
- The number of net additional affordable houses delivered through S106 per annum and the outcome requirement for 335 by 2021, having only delivered 4 and secured a total of 71 units the Plan has failed to meet the 2021 requirement. It also breaks the trigger of being below 20% of the 335 target for 2021.
- In terms of the change in viability no trigger has been broken as sales value per sq metre are not 10% less than the original sales values.
- There has been an under delivery of cumulative housing completions since the beginning of the Plan period and so the trigger of under delivery on two consecutive years has been broken.
- In terms of the requirement for 23.8 ha of employment land to be delivered by 2016 and 50 ha by 2021, with 3.35 ha of employment allocations delivered, the Plan has breached the trigger of -20%.
- In terms of the number of year's land bank of permitted reserves and the requirement of 100% provision of a 10-year land bank, according to the latest available information (2019) the Plan only has 3 years and therefore the 100% requirement trigger has been broken.

Sustainability Appraisal (SA) Monitoring

The key findings of the SA Monitoring Process are outlined below:

Economy

- The average weekly earnings for full time workers in Blaenau Gwent was **£523.30** (2021) which has increased by £69.10 since 2020 and is **£47.60** (2021) less than the average figure for Wales;

Social

- The National Survey for Wales included a question on the satisfaction of the local area as a place to live. People who live in Blaenau Gwent were 68% satisfied, the lowest rate of 22 local authorities in Wales which was significantly lower than the next lowest ranked local authority;

Environment

- Carbon Dioxide emission tonnes per Capita have decreased from **6.1** in 2007 to **3.9** in 2020;
- **0.84** MW of renewable energy and low carbon energy capacity has been installed this year;
- There has been no decrease in air quality; and
- 0% of Special Landscape Area has been lost to development.

The result of the delivery of each of the SA monitoring objectives is shown in the Sustainability Monitoring table below. As a visual aid in showing the monitoring outcomes, a simple colour coded system has been devised, as shown below.

G	The Plan is having a positive impact on the monitoring objective
A	The Plan is not having an impact, or is having a mixed impact on the monitoring objective
R	The Plan is having a negative impact on the monitoring objective

Sustainability Appraisal Monitoring		
	SA Objective	Result
Economic		
1.	To promote economic growth and strengthen and diversify the economy	R
2.	To increase levels of local employment and ensure distribution of opportunities	G
3.	To enable the development of a strong tourism economy in Blaenau Gwent, complementary to the regional offer	R
4.	To enhance the vitality and viability of town centres	A
Social		
5.	To meet identified housing needs	A
6.	To improve the quality of Blaenau Gwent's housing stock	X
7.	To secure the delivery and maintenance of quality affordable housing	G
8.	To improve educational attainment and increase skill levels	A
9.	To improve accessibility to education, leisure, employment, health, homes and community services for all sectors of the community	A
10.	To promote community health, social care and well-being	A
11.	To reduce crime, social disorder and fear of crime	G
12.	To encourage modal shift from private transport to sustainable transport	A
Environment		
13.	To protect and enhance biodiversity across Blaenau Gwent	G
14.	To conserve and enhance the heritage assets of Blaenau Gwent and their settings	G
15.	To make the best use of previously developed land and existing buildings to minimise pressure for greenfield development, where this will not result in damage or loss in biodiversity	A
16.	To conserve soil resources and their quality	A
17.	To reduce emissions of greenhouse gases, in particular carbon dioxide	G
18.	To reduce waste generation and maximise reuse and recycling	G
19.	To maintain current air quality	G

20.	To maintain current low levels of vulnerability of all development to flooding	A
21.	To promote the use of sustainably sourced products and resources	A
22.	To increase energy efficiency and generation and use of renewable energy across the County Borough	G
23.	To conserve and enhance surface and ground water quality	A
24.	Protect the quality and character of the landscape and enhance where necessary	G

The results of the monitoring process indicate that the Plan is having a positive impact in respect of 10 of the sustainability objectives (annotated in green), is not having a positive or is having a mixed impact on the majority 11 (annotated in amber); is having a negative impact on 2 objectives (annotated in red) and there is no update available for one (annotated with an X).

Overall, the plan is having a mixed impact against the SA objectives.

Conclusions and Recommendations

The current economic situation, the lack of confidence in the housing market and viability issues has undoubtedly had an impact on the delivery of the Plan. Progress on delivering the Strategy of Growth and Regeneration continues to fall short of expectations. Although, it is important to note that the Council are starting to see some positivity in the housing market with more housebuilding taking place than ever and significant private sector interest in the County Borough.

This year the Plan was found to be meeting 4 out of 19 monitoring aims which is one less than last year. The number of monitoring aims identified as not being achieved and needing intervention remained at 8 this year. The number of trigger levels has decreased this year, although 6 trigger levels remain breached. The Plan is not performing in areas such as retail, housing, and employment.

The Council is currently preparing a Replacement Local Development Plan (RLDP) to address these matters.

Recommendation

As a result of the findings of the Annual Monitoring Report for 2021-22 it is recommended that:

1. The Council progresses work on a Replacement Local Development Plan

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Blaenau Gwent Local Development Plan

ANNUAL MONITORING REPORT 2021 - 2022



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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Blaenau Gwent Local Development Plan (LDP) was adopted on 22nd November 2012. As part of the statutory development plan process the Council is required to prepare an Annual Monitoring Report (AMR) covering the period 1st of April to 31st of March every year. The AMR provides the basis for monitoring the effectiveness of the LDP objectives and strategic policies, the Plan's sustainability credentials and identify any significant contextual changes that might influence implementation. This is the final AMR covering the Adopted LDP plan period (2006 – 2021).

Key Findings of the Annual Monitoring Process

Contextual Changes

This section looks at local, regional, national and international factors that have had an influence on land use development in Blaenau Gwent and subsequently on the implementation of the LDP. These include:

External Conditions

Economy

- The UK economy shrank by 0.6% in June 2022. Although the economic output stood at 0.9% above pre pandemic levels in February 2020, some regions struggles to reach the pre-pandemic levels.
- The growth outlook has deteriorated. It is expected that, two years of slow or even negative GDP growth will be experienced post 2022.
- Blaenau Gwent is below the Wales average in almost all socio economic indicators though has made a number of improvements in relation to employment this year.

Housing

- The UK housing market is strong with house prices rising. Wales saw the highest house price growth at 15.8% and was the strongest performing part of the UK for the first time since the Nationwide data began in 1973.
- The number of housing completions in Blaenau Gwent is rising but still remains lower than expected.

Policy, Legislation and Statistical Change

National Policy and Legislation

- Suspension of Technical Advice Note 15: Development Flooding and Coastal Erosion (December 2021)
- Development Quality Requirements for Housing Associations and Local Authorities 2021

Regional Policy

- Strategic Development Plan for South East Wales – update

Local Policy and Legislation

- There has been no change in the local policy framework.

Statistics

- There have been no mid-year estimates published this year.
- The 2021 population Census figures have been released. In Blaenau Gwent, the population size has decreased by 4.2%, from around 69,800 in 2011 to 66,900 in 2021.

Local Development Plan Monitoring

The results of the monitoring exercise provide a varied picture of development in Blaenau Gwent. Some of the most notable results are:

Theme 1: Create a Network of Sustainable Vibrant Valley Communities

- The delivery of the strategy for Growth and Regeneration is behind target;
- **1,643** new dwellings were built in the period 2006-2022, which is well below the expected figure of 1,900 homes by 2016 and the plan requirement of 3,500 by 2021;
- In the period 2021-2022 (April to March) **124** new dwellings were built in the County Borough which is slightly below the previous year.
- **0.28 ha** of employment allocations have been delivered during 2021 and 2021;
- **No** retail allocations have been delivered to date;
- **No** transport schemes were delivered this year leaving the total schemes completed at 12;
- Retail vacancy rates across Blaenau Gwent average **14.6% (2021-2022)** which is a 2.3% decrease from 2020-2021. The Blaenau Gwent vacancy rate is lower than the Wales vacancy rate of 17.7%;
- The 2021 census data has been released and the population figure is 66,900 which is a 4.2% decrease from 69,800 in 2011.
- **27** affordable dwellings were built in 2021-22;
- Only **62.3%** of LDP allocations have been granted planning permission;
- **94%** of development permitted in 2021-22 was on brownfield land which is higher than the target figure of 80%;

Theme 2: Create Opportunities for Sustainable Economic Growth and the Promotion of Learning and Skills

- The latest economic activity rate is **71.1%** which is up by 0.1% from 2020-21, decreasing the gap with the Wales average to 2%;
- The latest figure for the economically inactive wanting a job is **19.5%** down by 1.4% from 2020-21 and 2.4% higher than the Welsh average;
- Between 2019 and 2020 Blaenau Gwent witnessed a decrease of 500 jobs within manufacturing. Overall there has been a net loss of **1,300** jobs since 2008 (baseline date);
- Between 2019 and 2020 Blaenau Gwent lost **100** jobs in construction, with an overall net loss of **100** jobs since 2008;
- Between 2019 and 2020 Blaenau Gwent lost **250** jobs in services, with an overall net loss of 725 jobs since 2008;

Theme 3: Create Safe, Healthy and Vibrant Communities and Protect and Enhance the Unique Natural and Built Environment

- The Fields in Trust (FIT) Standard for outdoor play space provision remained at **1.00 ha** in 2022 which is well below the target of 2.4 ha;
- There has been no loss of Listed Buildings or historic sites this year;

Theme 4: Create Opportunities to Secure an Adequate Supply of Minerals and Reduce Waste

- The Plan has a **3-year** land bank which is behind the target of ensuring there is a minimum 10 -year land bank; and
- **64.9%** of waste was recycled during 202-210, this is a slight decrease from the years before but it above the Welsh Government target of 64% by 2021.

Detailed consideration of the results of the monitoring exercise has allowed the Council to make an informed judgement about the nature of the progress that has been made during 2018-19, in delivering the LDP targets and therefore its policies. As a visual aid in showing the monitoring outcomes, a simple colour coded system has been devised, as shown below.

G	The monitoring aim is on-going, being met or exceeded
A	The monitoring aim is not currently being achieved but the situation can be ameliorated without immediate intervention or sufficiently progressed not to require direct intervention
R	The monitoring aim is not being achieved and it is unlikely that this will be addressed without specific intervention

The result of the delivery of each of the monitoring aims is shown in the table below:

LDP Monitoring		Result
THEME 1: CREATE A NETWORK OF SUSTAINABLE VIBRANT VALLEY COMMUNITIES		
SP1	Northern Strategy Area – Sustainable Growth and Regeneration	
	To ensure sustainable growth and regeneration in the North of the Borough	R
SP2	Southern Strategy Area – Regeneration	
	To ensure regeneration in the South of the Borough	R
SP3	The Retail Hierarchy and the Vitality and Viability of the Town Centres	
	(a) To ensure town centres thrive through the implementation of the retail hierarchy	A
	(b) To ensure the improvement of viability in town centres	A
SP4	Delivering Quality Housing	
	(a) To secure the construction of 3,500 net additional dwellings and halt population decline	R
	(b) To ensure the delivery of 1,000 affordable dwellings, 335 of which through planning obligations	R
SP5	Spatial Distribution of Housing Sites	
	(a) To ensure that housing is delivered in all areas in accordance with	R

the Strategy		
(b) To ensure that housing is delivered in accordance with the strategy to increase build rates over the Plan period		R
SP6	Ensuring Accessibility	
To ensure improved connectivity within Blaenau Gwent and with the wider area		R
SP7	Climate Change	
(a) To ensure that more of the County Borough's electricity and heat requirements are generated by renewable and low / zero carbon energy		G
(b) To ensure the efficient use of land		A
(c) To avoid development in areas at high risk of flooding		G
THEME 2: CREATE OPPORTUNITIES FOR SUSTAINABLE ECONOMIC GROWTH AND THE PROMOTION OF LEARNING AND SKILLS		
SP8	Sustainable Economic Growth	
(a) To ensure sufficient employment land is provided to increase economic activity		A
(b) To ensure the diversification of the economic base		A
THEME 3: CREATE SAFE, HEALTHY AND VIBRANT COMMUNITIES AND PROTECT AND ENHANCE THE UNIQUE NATURAL AND BUILT ENVIRONMENT		
SP9	Active and Healthy Communities	
To increase opportunities for people to participate in active and healthy communities		A
SP10	Protection and Enhancement of the Natural Environment	
To ensure the protection, preservation and enhancement of the natural environment		A
SP11	Protection and Enhancement of the Historic Environment	
To ensure that listed buildings and archaeological sites are protected, preserved and where appropriate enhanced		G
THEME 4: CREATE OPPORTUNITIES TO SECURE AN ADEQUATE SUPPLY OF MINERALS AND REDUCE WASTE		
SP12	Securing an Adequate Supply of Minerals	
To ensure a minimum 10 year land bank and provision of at least 3Mt of aggregates		A
SP13	Delivering Sustainable Waste Management	
To ensure the delivery of sustainable waste management		G

The results of the monitoring process for 2021-22 indicate that the targets in respect of 4 out of 19 core monitoring aims are on-going, being met or being exceeded (annotated in green) and 8 are not currently being achieved but the situation can be overcome without immediate intervention or are sufficiently progressed not to require direct intervention (annotated in amber). The remaining 7 (annotated in red) are currently falling short of the required pattern of delivery and actions have been identified to address them.

Generally the issues arise due to development levels being far lower than planned which is as a result of external factors beyond the Council's control in relation to the Covid-19

pandemic, economic recession, the poorly performing housing market and issues around viability.

Trigger levels were identified in the Plan to indicate where a policy had diverged to such an extent that it could be identified as failing to be implemented and needs to be amended. The number of triggers breached this year has decreased from 9 to 6 in 2020-21. The following triggers were breached this year:

- The net number of additional affordable and general market dwellings built at 1,643 is 46% below the target of 3,500 (2021 outcome) and has therefore breached the trigger of 30%.
- The number of net additional affordable houses delivered through S106 per annum and the outcome requirement for 335 by 2021, having only delivered 4 and secured a total of 71 units the Plan has failed to meet the 2021 requirement. It also breaks the trigger of being below 20% of the 335 target for 2021.
- In terms of the change in viability no trigger has been broken as sales value per sq metre are not 10% less than the original sales values.
- There has been an under delivery of cumulative housing completions since the beginning of the Plan period and so the trigger of under delivery on two consecutive years has been broken.
- In terms of the requirement for 23.8 ha of employment land to be delivered by 2016 and 50 ha by 2021, with 3.35 ha of employment allocations delivered, the Plan has breached the trigger of -20%.
- In terms of the number of year's land bank of permitted reserves and the requirement of 100% provision of a 10-year land bank, according to the latest available information (2019) the Plan only has 3 years and therefore the 100% requirement trigger has been broken.

Sustainability Appraisal (SA) Monitoring

The key findings of the SA Monitoring Process are outlined below:

Economy

- The average weekly earnings for full time workers in Blaenau Gwent was **£523.30** (2021) which has increased by £69.10 since 2020 and is **£47.60** (2021) less than the average figure for Wales;

Social

- The National Survey for Wales included a question on the satisfaction of the local area as a place to live. People who live in Blaenau Gwent were 68% satisfied, the lowest rate of 22 local authorities in Wales which was significantly lower than the next lowest ranked local authority;

Environment

- Carbon Dioxide emission tonnes per Capita have decreased from **6.1** in 2007 to **3.9** in 2020;
- **0.84** MW of renewable energy and low carbon energy capacity has been installed this year;
- There has been no decrease in air quality; and
- 0% of Special Landscape Area has been lost to development.

The result of the delivery of each of the SA monitoring objectives is shown in the Sustainability Monitoring table below. As a visual aid in showing the monitoring outcomes, a simple colour coded system has been devised, as shown below.

G	The Plan is having a positive impact on the monitoring objective
A	The Plan is not having an impact, or is having a mixed impact on the monitoring objective
R	The Plan is having a negative impact on the monitoring objective

Sustainability Appraisal Monitoring		
	SA Objective	Result
Economic		
1.	To promote economic growth and strengthen and diversify the economy	R
2.	To increase levels of local employment and ensure distribution of opportunities	G
3.	To enable the development of a strong tourism economy in Blaenau Gwent, complementary to the regional offer	R
4.	To enhance the vitality and viability of town centres	A
Social		
5.	To meet identified housing needs	A
6.	To improve the quality of Blaenau Gwent's housing stock	X
7.	To secure the delivery and maintenance of quality affordable housing	G
8.	To improve educational attainment and increase skill levels	A
9.	To improve accessibility to education, leisure, employment, health, homes and community services for all sectors of the community	A
10.	To promote community health, social care and well-being	A
11.	To reduce crime, social disorder and fear of crime	G
12.	To encourage modal shift from private transport to sustainable transport	A
Environment		
13.	To protect and enhance biodiversity across Blaenau Gwent	G
14.	To conserve and enhance the heritage assets of Blaenau Gwent and their settings	G
15.	To make the best use of previously developed land and existing buildings to minimise pressure for greenfield development, where this will not result in damage or loss in biodiversity	A
16.	To conserve soil resources and their quality	A
17.	To reduce emissions of greenhouse gases, in particular carbon dioxide	G

18.	To reduce waste generation and maximise reuse and recycling	G
19.	To maintain current air quality	G
20.	To maintain current low levels of vulnerability of all development to flooding	A
21.	To promote the use of sustainably sourced products and resources	A
22.	To increase energy efficiency and generation and use of renewable energy across the County Borough	G
23.	To conserve and enhance surface and ground water quality	A
24.	Protect the quality and character of the landscape and enhance where necessary	G

The results of the monitoring process indicate that the Plan is having a positive impact in respect of 10 of the sustainability objectives (annotated in green), is not having a positive or is having a mixed impact on the majority 11 (annotated in amber); is having a negative impact on 2 objectives (annotated in red) and there is no update available for one (annotated with an X).

Overall, the plan is having a mixed impact against the SA objectives.

Conclusions and Recommendations

The current economic situation, the lack of confidence in the housing market and viability issues has undoubtedly had an impact on the delivery of the Plan. Progress on delivering the Strategy of Growth and Regeneration continues to fall short of expectations. Although, it is important to note that the Council are starting to see some positivity in the housing market with more housebuilding taking place than ever and significant private sector interest in the County Borough.

This year the Plan was found to be meeting 4 out of 19 monitoring aims which is one less than last year. The number of monitoring aims identified as not being achieved and needing intervention remained at 8 this year. The number of trigger levels has decreased this year, although 6 trigger levels remain breached. The Plan is not performing in areas such as retail, housing, and employment.

The Council is currently preparing a Replacement Local Development Plan (RLDP) to address these matters.

Recommendation

As a result of the findings of the Annual Monitoring Report for 2021-22 it is recommended that:

1. The Council progresses work on a Replacement Local Development Plan

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 The Blaenau Gwent Local Development Plan (LDP) was adopted on 22nd November 2012. The LDP provides a land use framework which forms the basis on which decisions about future development in the County Borough are based.

1.2 As part of the statutory development plan process the Council is required to prepare an Annual Monitoring Report (AMR). The AMR provides the basis for monitoring the effectiveness of the LDP objectives and strategic policies, the Plan's sustainability credentials and identifies any significant contextual changes that might influence its implementation. The results of the monitoring process will feed into the preparation of the revised Plan. The results of this and the previous AMRs will form a significant part of the evidence base for the revised Plan.

1.3 This is the eighth AMR to be prepared since the adoption of the LDP and monitors the period 1st April 2021 to 31st March 2022. It provides an opportunity for the Council to assess the impact the LDP is having on social, economic and environmental well-being of the County Borough. Due to tight timescales, the AMR has not been subject to public consultation. This is the final AMR covering the Adopted LDP plan period (2006 – 2021).

Format of the AMR

1.4 This Chapter has outlined the requirement for, the purpose and structure of the AMR and sets out below what is covered in the rest of the document.

Chapter 2 – Monitoring Framework explains the process of monitoring the LDP, how to quantify the resulting data and, if necessary, determine whether a review of the LDP and Sustainability Appraisal (SA) is required.

Chapter 3 – Contextual Change analyses the potential impact of factors such as economic climate, local issues and changes to national policy on implementation.

Chapter 4 – Local Development Plan Monitoring provides an analysis of the effectiveness of the LDP policy framework in delivering the plan's targets.

Chapter 5 – Sustainability Appraisal Monitoring analyses the impact the LDP is having on the social, economic and environmental well-being of Blaenau Gwent.

Chapter 6 – Conclusions and Recommendations provides an overview of the findings of the AMR and makes recommendations about issues that require further consideration.

Appendix 1 – Status of Allocations provides an update on progress of the LDP Allocations.

Appendix 2 – Mandatory Indicators provides the results for the WG national indicators which are specifically designed to monitor the delivery of the LDP.

Appendix 3 –sets out the housing trajectory.

1.5 The AMR has been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Town and Country Planning (Local Development Plan) (Wales) Regulations 2005; Strategic Environmental Assessment Regulations (2004); and the Habitats Regulations Assessment (2004).

2.0 MONITORING FRAMEWORK

2.1 The Monitoring Framework comprises two key elements. These are the monitoring of:

- The LDP strategy, policies and proposals; and
- The Sustainability Appraisal (SA) which includes the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA).

2.2 The on-going success of these documents and the policies within them are to be measured against a set of targets identified as part of the LDP process. Indicators have been formulated to determine whether these targets have been met. Where their results conclude that the targets are not being met, and that the effectiveness of the LDP documents (or parts or policies of it), are falling significantly below the level required, then consideration will be given to the need for a review of the LDP.

LDP Monitoring Aims, Indicators, Targets, Triggers and Outcomes

2.3 The LDP monitoring framework identifies 19 monitoring aims based on the Strategic Policies which deliver the strategy of the Plan. These monitoring aims are assessed against 50 indicators (including WG national indicators – see Appendix 2: Mandatory Indicators for results) and are specifically designed to monitor the delivery of the LDP. It should be noted that whilst the targets and indicators relate to each Strategic Policy, the framework has been designed to ensure that linkages are made between the Strategic Policies, relevant objectives and Development Management and Allocation policies. Monitoring the delivery of the Strategic Policies therefore provides a mechanism for monitoring the LDP as a whole.

2.4 Trigger levels have been set which identify where a policy has diverged from the monitoring target to such an extent that the policy is failing to be implemented or needs to be amended. Where this happens the analysis in the monitoring table identifies the issue and, where necessary, the actions required to address it.

2.5 The Plan also identifies outcomes which are stepping stones identified for 2016 and the end of the Plan period to enable us to monitor progress of the Plan.

Sustainability Appraisal Objectives and Indicators

2.6 The Sustainability Appraisal (SA) of the LDP identifies a set of objectives and significant effect indicators which are intended to measure the social, economic and environmental impact of the LDP. The SA identifies 24 objectives and 71 indicators specifically designed to monitor the environmental credentials of the LDP.

Replacement Targets and Indicators

2.7 Where the Council has been unable to monitor a target or indicator or the target or indicator has been superseded, an explanation will be provided in the relevant monitoring section and where necessary an alternative indicator will be identified.

2.8 There may be occasions where it is necessary to amend a target or indicator. This may simply be to improve the clarity of the indicator to re-align it with the relevant data sets. Where this is necessary an explanation will be provided in the relevant monitoring section and an alternative target or indicator will be identified. Appendix 3 sets out the housing trajectory tables.

Monitoring Progress

2.9 The analysis of the monitoring process will be in the form of detailed written assessment of the indicator results and a subsequent view on the success of the targets and effectiveness of the policies. This will be provided in the respective monitoring sections of this report for the LDP and SA. As a visual aid in showing the monitoring outcomes, a simple colour coded system has been devised, and will be included in the individual tables of Strategic Policies and SA results, as shown below:

G	The monitoring aim is on-going, being met or exceeded (LDP) The Plan is having a positive impact on the monitoring objective (SA)
A	The monitoring aim is not currently being achieved but the situation can be ameliorated without immediate intervention or sufficiently progressed not to require direct intervention (LDP) The Plan is not having an impact, or is having a mixed impact on the monitoring objective (SA)
R	The monitoring aim is not being achieved and it is unlikely that this will be addressed without specific intervention (LDP) The Plan is having a negative impact on the monitoring objective (SA)

2.10 In instances where there is nothing to report the monitoring results will be left blank.

Replacement LDP

2.11 In November 2016, a full review of the Plan was triggered, being 4 years after the Plan's adoption. The Council have now completed the review of the Local Development Plan and have determined that the full revision procedure should be followed to update the Plan. The review resulted in the production of a [Review Report](#).

2.12 The Council agreed a Delivery Agreement with Welsh Government in October 2018 and commenced work on a Replacement Local Development Plan 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). Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council were about to undertake a Second Call for Candidate Sites when the country went into Lockdown. The Council were advised by Welsh Government not to proceed with the Second Call for Candidate Sites due to difficulties with being able to undertake consultation in line with the Community Involvement Scheme identified in the Delivery Agreement. This meant that the Plan risked being found 'unsound' by an Inspector at Examination.

2.13 In July 2020, Welsh Government advised that it was possible to proceed with the Plan. As the original timetable had slipped beyond the 3 months' slippage allowed, a revision of the Delivery Agreement timetable was required.

2.14 A revised Delivery Agreement was agreed by Welsh Government on 6th October 2020. This meant that work on the RLDP could formally recommence. The second call for candidate sites and request for further information commenced March to May 2021 which also sought views on the draft findings of assessments undertaken of the submitted candidate sites and further information from the site promoters.

2.15 Towards the end of 2021, the Planning Policy team experienced significant resource issues with the loss of staff due to retirement and sickness. This resulted in further slippage in the revised Delivery Agreement timetable. The team are now back to full capacity and are working on a second revised Delivery Agreement which will set out a new timetable for the delivery of the Replacement Local Development Plan. It is anticipated that this will be approved at the end of 2022 / beginning of 2023.

Local Development Plan Wales (2005)

2.16 In addition to the monitoring framework outlined in the Council's LDP, the Welsh Government sets out in LDP Wales paragraph 4.43 the following requirements:

'the AMR to identify any policy that is not being implemented and to give the reasons, together with any steps the authority intends to take to secure the implementation of the policy and any intention to revise the LDP to replace or amend the policy. The AMR should include an assessment of:

- *Whether the basic strategy remains sound (if not, a full plan review may be needed);*
- *What impact the policies are having globally, nationally, regionally and locally;*
- *Whether the policies need changing to reflect changes in national policy;*
- *Whether policies and related targets in LDPs have been met or progress is being made towards meeting them, including publication of relevant Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPG);*
- *Where progress has not been made, the reasons for this and what knock on effects it may have;*
- *What aspects, if any, of the LDP need adjusting or replacing because they are not working as intended or are not achieving the objectives of the strategy and/or sustainable development objectives; and*
- *If policies or proposals need changing, what suggested actions are required to achieve this.*

The AMR must also specify the housing land supply (from the current Housing Land Availability Study) and the number of net additional affordable and general market dwellings built in the authority's area, and report on other LDP indicators.'

2.17 These matters are addressed in Chapter 6 Conclusions and Recommendations.

3.0 CONTEXTUAL CHANGE

3.1 The findings of the AMR are fundamental in determining how the implementation and delivery of the LDP is progressing. However, it is important to understand how the implementation of the LDP has been influenced by local, regional, national and international factors. Blaenau Gwent does not exist in isolation and development at even the most local level can be affected by national and international economic trends.

3.2 By seeking to understand how different factors have affected the delivery of the LDP, the Council will gain a better understanding of what it can do to support the Plan's implementation. In focussing on those factors it can influence, and accepting that some factors are beyond its control, the Council will be able to better support delivery of its objectives and shape future strategies to respond to wider socio economic issues.

3.3 The following section looks specifically at those factors that influence development in Blaenau Gwent. These include changes in:

- External Conditions; and
- Policy, Legislation and Statistical Changes.

External Conditions

Economy

3.4 In June 2022, the UK economy shrank by 0.6%, with polarised growth recorded at regional levels. The economic output stood at 0.9% above pre pandemic levels in February 2020, some regions struggled to reach the pre-pandemic levels. Latest data shows London is growing at its fastest rate, while other regions such as Wales and Midlands experienced a decrease in rates and remain less than pre-pandemic levels.

3.5 The growth outlook for the UK has deteriorated. It is expected that, two years of slow or even negative GDP growth will be experienced post 2022. (Source: PWC UK Economic Outlook)

Blaenau Gwent's Economy

3.6 Blaenau Gwent remains below the Wales average in almost all socio-economic indicators – economic activity, employment and business enterprise. However, it has made significant improvements this year in terms of employment.

3.7 At the end of December 2021 the employment rate in Blaenau Gwent was 71.1%, an increase of 0.1% from 71% in 2020-21. However, this is 2%% lower than the Welsh average. The unemployed (model based) rate was 3.6%, 0.2% above the Welsh average. In 2021 the gross weekly pay earnings by residence stood at £523.30 which is £47.30 less than the Welsh average and £69.10 more than 2020 (Source: Nomis).

Housing Market

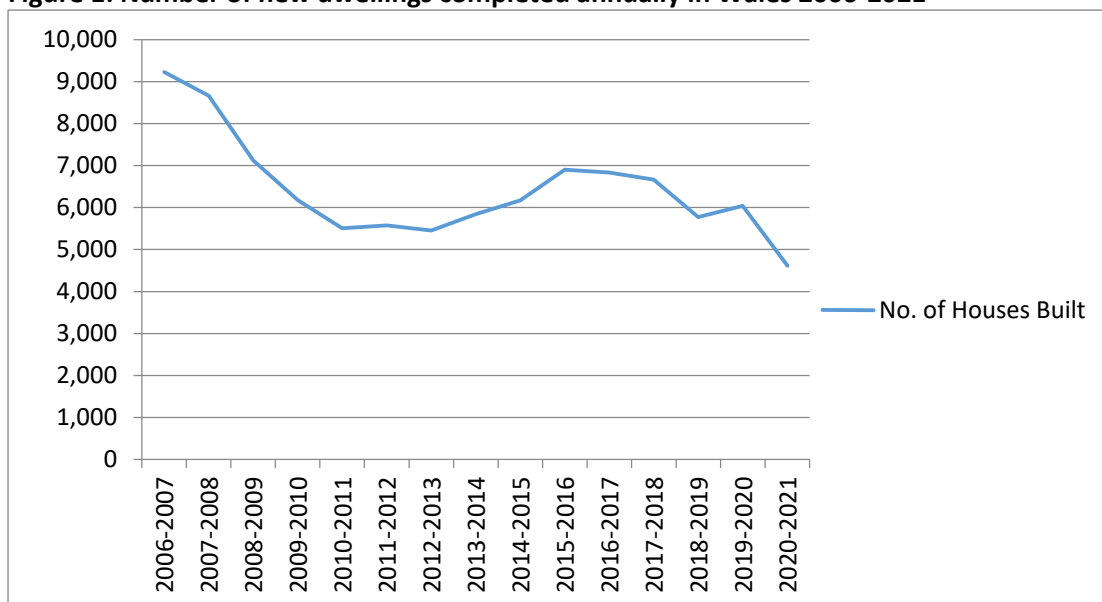
3.8 With house price growth at 10.4%, 2021 was the strongest calendar year for price growth since before the Global Financial Crisis (GFC) in 2008. House prices rose by 1.0% in December alone, according to Nationwide, and annual house price growth has now

exceeded 10% in seven of the last eight months. Demand was driven by the experiences of lockdown and fuelled by the stamp duty holiday. Wales saw the highest house price growth at 15.8%, and was the strongest performing part of the UK for the first time since the Nationwide data began in 1973.

3.9 The top five local authorities for annual house price growth in September were all in Wales, with Ceredigion at 21.6%, the only local authority to exceed 20% house price growth. Blaenau Gwent and Powys followed at 19.4% and 17.1% respectively. (Source: Savills)

3.10 The number of house completions in Wales continues to fall with completions well below that achieved before the recession and well below Welsh Government targets. The number of new dwellings completed in 2019-20 was 6,037 and was up 5% on the previous year. However, in 2020-21, the number of new dwellings completed decreased by 24% to 4,616

Figure 1: Number of new dwellings completed annually in Wales 2006-2021



Blaenau Gwent’s Housing Market

3.11 House building completions in Blaenau Gwent have been erratic since 2006 due in part to a greater reliance on completions from the social sector where schemes tend to be completed at one point. The last two years have seen a rise in completion figures though they still remain very low in comparison to the LDP requirement. Overall completions have been much lower than expected due to Blaenau Gwent only having one private sector national builder operating in the area. This is Lovell Homes at the Ebbw Vale Northern Corridor Site (MU1). However, looking forward things are more positive as Persimmon Homes have commenced construction at the former school and college site adjacent (MU1) and Davies Homes achieved planning permission and are on site at the Northgate Site at The Works (MU2) soon. There has been a decrease in completions this year. 2020 saw the lowest level of small completions (12). Although this figure has risen in the past 2 years, with 27 completions for 2022 they are still below what has been achieved over the past 10 years (39). Overall completions were below the 140 per annum expected by the LDP for the

period between 2006-2011; fell well below the 260 expected between 2011 and 2016; and are well below the 300 expected between 2017-2021 (see Figure 2 below).

Figure 2: Housing Completions for Blaenau Gwent 2006-2022

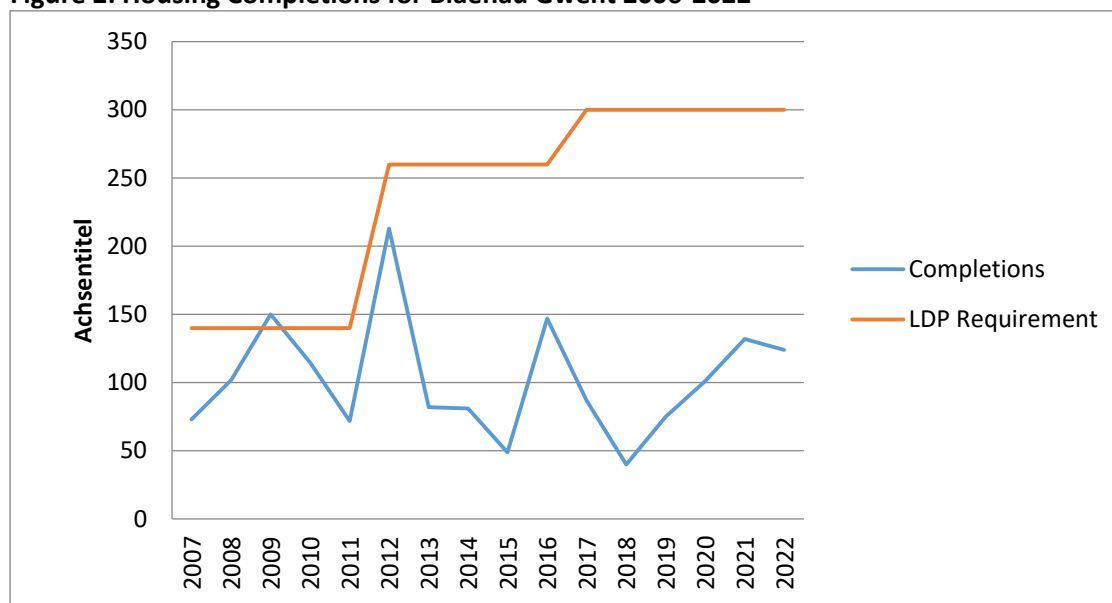
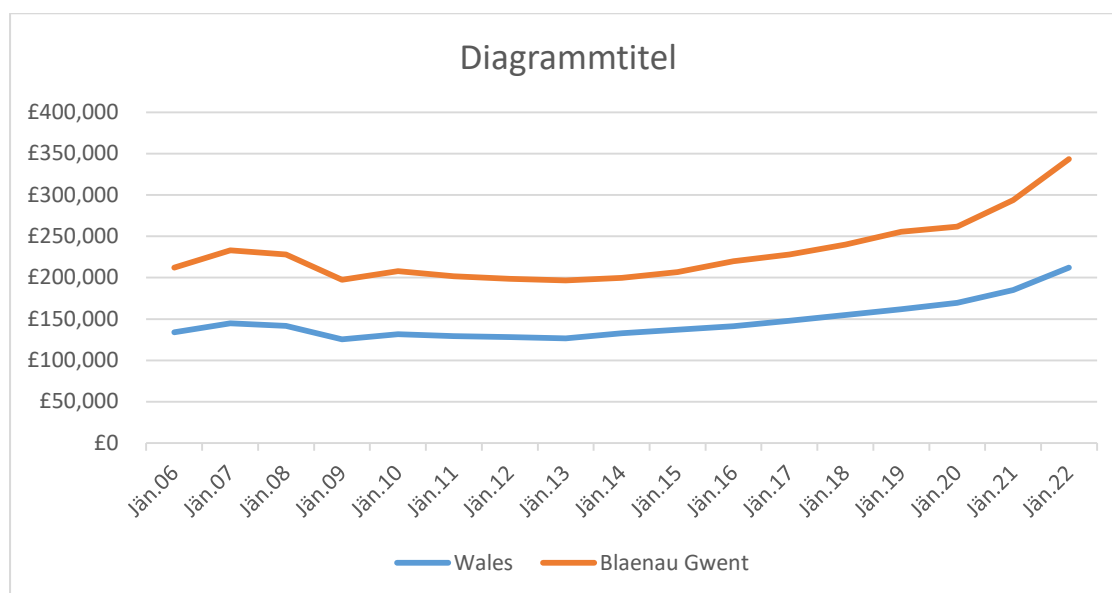


Figure 3: Average House Price in Wales and Blaenau Gwent 2006-2022



3.12 According to the Land Registry, in March 2022 the average house price in Wales was £211,990 whereas the average house price in Blaenau Gwent was £131,596. As can be seen from the graph above house prices in Blaenau Gwent remain below the Wales average. This disparity in house price is partly a reflection of the lack of new homes being built as new houses normally command higher prices.

Planning applications with significant impacts

3.13 The previous AMRs reported on a major planning application in Blaenau Gwent which could have had a significant impact on the economic future of the area: the Circuit of Wales, which received outline planning permission in September 2013. Last year we reported that an application has been made to extend the lifetime of the permission. The application remains undetermined. Work was undertaken to scope out what was required to update and supplement the original Environmental Statement but nothing further was submitted. The situation remains uncertain and will continue to be monitored.

Policy, Legislation and Statistical Changes

Technical Advice Note 15: Development Flooding and Coastal Erosion (December 2021)

3.14 To ensure the planning system plays a full part in adaptation to climate change a new version of TAN 15 was made available on 28 September 2021, in advance of its coming into effect and formal publication on 1 December 2021. The new TAN 15 is accompanied by the Flood Map for Planning, which builds on the Flood Risk Assessment Wales map and includes allowances for climate change. On their publication, they will replace the 2004 version of TAN 15 and the Development Advice Map (which does not include climate change allowances), as well as Technical Advice Note 14: Coastal Planning.

3.15 A letter received from Julie James, Minister for Climate Change explained that to enable local planning authorities to consider fully the impact of the climate change projections on their respective areas, a suspension would be put into place of the new TAN 15 and Flood Map for Planning until 1st June 2023. The existing TAN 15, published in 2004, and the Development Advice Map will continue in the meantime as the framework for assessing flood risk.

3.16 A further letter received from Neil Hemington set out a package of work to be completed by local authorities before June 2023 and key implications for services during the pause period. In summary:

1. Strategic flood consequence assessments - By the end of January 2022, we expect every local planning authority to notify the Welsh Government whether it is undertaking a new SFCA, updating an existing document, or has concluded no further work is necessary. In the case of the latter, a clear justification must be provided.

3.17 Blaenau Gwent confirmed that an SFCA was in preparation for the deposit plan of the Replacement Local Development Plan. This was being undertaken by Wallingford Hydro Solutions Ltd. Blaenau Gwent was also included in a regional SFCA for South East Wales where stage 1 has been completed to date.

Development Quality Requirements for Housing Associations and Local Authorities 2021

3.18 Welsh Development Quality Requirements 2021 (WDQR 2021) Creating Beautiful Homes and Places, sets out the minimum functional quality standards for new and rehabilitated general needs affordable homes. The Welsh Government encourages housing

providers and their consultants to aim for standards beyond the minimum requirements specified here and to adopt a holistic view of quality, recognising the benefit that quality and culturally suitable homes will have on both physical and mental well-being for all.

Regional Policy Framework

Strategic Development Plan for South East Wales

3.19 The Local Government Elections (Wales) Act 2021 (LGEW Act) gained royal assent on 20 January 2021 and provides a framework for establishing Corporate Joint Committees across Wales. This Act provides the basis for delivering specified functions on a regional basis. The initial functions are regional transport planning, strategic development planning and the economic well-being power. Preparation of a Strategic Development Plan (SDP) will enable a more consistent, cost effective approach to plan making, with key decisions taken once at the strategic level. This will be larger than local issues such as the scale of housing growth, jobs and spatial distribution across a number of LPAs planned for in an integrated and comprehensive way.

3.20 Blaenau Gwent forms part of the South East Wales CJC which came into force in February 2022. Welsh Government are encouraging local authorities to start the preparatory work for the SDP now, so there is minimal delay in preparing an SDP.

Local Policy Framework

3.21 There has been no change in the local policy context in 2021-22. Other documents were also added to the LDP evidence base.

Supplementary Planning Guidance

3.22 The Council commissioned consultants to undertake a Green Infrastructure Strategy which is expected to be published in the next few months. This work will now be used to inform the Replacement Local Development Plan and prepare a Green Infrastructure Supplementary Planning Guidance document.

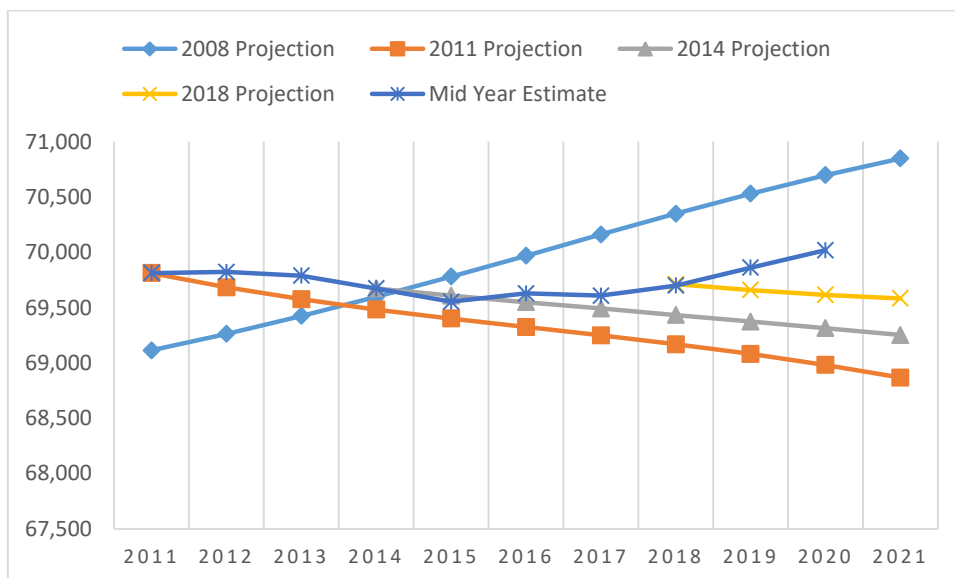
3.23 A list of Local Buildings of Historic Value has been prepared and will be consulted on alongside the RLDP.

Statistics

Mid-Year Estimates

3.24 In 2019 the mid-year estimate for Blaenau Gwent was 69,862 which was a slight increase (162) from the previous year. In 2020 the mid-year estimate stands at 70,020 (2020) which is a further increase of 158. There been no mid-year estimates published this year.

Figure 4: Comparison of 2008, 2011, 2014 and 2018 based Population Projections and Mid-year Estimates for Blaenau Gwent



Census Population Figure

3.25 The 2021 population census figures have been released. The headline figures published show that in Blaenau Gwent population size has decreased by 4.2%, from around 69,800 in 2011 to 66,900 in 2021. The total population of Wales grew by 1.4%, increasing by 44,000 to 3,107,500. Detailed analysis and breakdowns of the 2021 Census results are not yet available. It is understood that new 2021-based population and household projections will be available in late 2023 at the earliest.

4.0 LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN MONITORING

4.1 The 2019-21 Annual Monitoring Report is the seventh monitoring report to be prepared since the adoption of the Blaenau Gwent LDP. The report provides an important opportunity for the Council to assess the impact that the LDP is having on social, economic and environmental well-being of the County Borough particularly as the Council is entering the final phase of the plan and has commenced preparation of a Replacement Local Development Plan (RLDP).

4.2 This section outlines the results of the monitoring with respect to each of the monitoring aims set for the Strategic Policies (SP). In doing so it reports on each indicator identifying relevant triggers and where appropriate reporting on progress against outcomes.

Monitoring Table: SP1

POLICY SP1	RELEVANT OBJECTIVES:	RELEVANT POLICIES:
Northern Strategy Area – Sustainable Growth and Regeneration	1 & 7	DM1, DM2, DM3, DM5 & DM6 MU1, MU2, MU3, AA1, R1, H1, HC1, T1, T2, T4, & T6
MONITORING AIM:	To ensure sustainable growth and regeneration in the north of the Borough	
MONITORING INDICATOR:	MONITORING TARGET:	
	Outcome by End of 2016	Outcome by End of Plan (2021)
Amount of new A1 development	A1 Development 9,100 sq m delivered	A1 Development 11,500 sq m delivered
Amount of new leisure development	Leisure Development Contracts on Bryn Serth site – start of construction	Leisure Development Project at MU1 complete
Amount of land B use class delivered	Land in B use class 22.3 ha delivered	Land in B use class 48.5 ha delivered
Amount of housing delivered	Housing development 1,635 homes delivered	Housing development 3,155 homes delivered
Transport projects delivered	Transport projects 13 projects delivered	Transport projects 6 projects delivered
ANALYSIS OF RESULTS:		
<p>A key element of the Blaenau Gwent LDP Strategy is to deliver sustainable growth and regeneration in the Northern Strategy Area that benefits the whole of Blaenau Gwent. To fully understand the progress made in achieving this it is necessary to consider the findings of the monitoring exercise, as identified in the above indicators, in relation to the following interrelated factors:</p> <p>A1 Development</p> <p>The Retail Needs Assessment identified a need for 13,145 sq m of retail floorspace. The Plan allocates 11,500 sq m of land for new retail floorspace through commitments (sites with planning permission at April 2009) and a proposal in Ebbw Vale town centre. None of these retail allocations have been developed. Further information regarding proposals and planning permission for these sites is contained in Appendix 1 – Status of Allocations.</p> <p>The remaining 1,645 sq m is to be met through redevelopment proposals in the town centres. The</p>		

following table includes details of redevelopment proposals that have resulted in an increase of floorspace in the town centre:

Location	Proposal	Floorspace	Status
2013-2014			
Existing Aldi Store, The Walk, Ebbw Vale	Store extension	227 sq m (net sales area)	Complete
2014-2015			
No planning applications approved			
2015-2016			
No planning applications approved			
2016-2017 -			
No planning applications approved			
2017-2018			
Mcdonald's restaurant, The Walk, Ebbw Vale	Store extension	14.5 sq m	Complete
2018-2019			
No planning applications approved within the town centre			
2019-2020			
No planning applications approved within the town centre			
2020-2021			
No planning applications approved within the town centre			
2021-2022			
No planning applications approved within the town centre			
		Total	241.5sq m

Between 2021-22, no planning applications have been approved within the town centres for redevelopment proposals that would result in an increase of floorspace. In total, 241.5 sq m of floorspace has been delivered through redevelopment proposals in the town centre.

In terms of the amount of A1 land delivered through allocations and redevelopments in the town centre and the outcome requirement of 9,100 sq m by 2016 and 11,500 sq m by 2021, as only 241.5 sq m has currently been delivered, the 2016 and 2021 targets have not been achieved.

Leisure Development

Planning permission for mixed use development including the provision of a hotel has now lapsed on land at Bryn Serth. The Council are currently working with the landowners of the site as part of the replacement Local Development Plan process.

In terms of the amount of new leisure development and the outcome requirement for start of construction on the Bryn Serth site by 2016 the target has not been achieved and the target of the completion of the projection by 2021 has not been achieved.

Land in B Use Class

By the end of the plan period, it was expected that 48.5 ha of employment land would be delivered in the Northern Strategy Area.

Location	Proposal	Site Area (Ha)	Status
2009-2016			

MU2 The Works, Ebbw Vale	500 sq m of office space	0.18	Complete
2016-17			
EMP1.6 Land at Waun y Pound Industrial Estate	Vehicle security park and storage container facility, provides 460 sq m of B2 floorspace	0.7	Complete
2017-18			
EMP1.6 Land at Waun y Pound Industrial Estate	B2 industrial unit with associated offices and external area provides 558 sq m of B2 floorspace	0.2	Complete
2018-19			
MU1 Rhyd y Blew, Bryn Serth Road	4,955 sq m of B1, B2 or B8 uses	2.87	Not Started
MU2 Land north of the Regain Building The Works, Ebbw Vale	Construction of 9 (B1) business units	1.0	Complete
Site to the north of the Learning Zone, Lime Avenue, Ebbw Vale	Provision of office development (A2 and B1) with ancillary facilities constructed from shipping containers.	0.2 ha	Complete
2019 – 20			
MU2 Land off southern end of Lime Avenue-opposite hospital.	Construction of 6 buildings to provide 25 employment units for B1 and B2 uses, new access road and junctions off Lime Avenue & associated parking and other infrastructure.	1.7	Not Started
2020-21			
MU2 Regain Building, Mill Lane, Ebbw Vale	Two storey building (B1) linked to Regain building with associated infilling of basement garden, access, parking and other infrastructure, and additional parking areas and service access to regain building	0.28	Complete 2021-22
2022-21			
MU2 Land to the southern end of Lime	Construction of employment units	2.0 ha	Not started

Avenue, Ebbw Vale	for B1, B2, and B8 uses, new access road and junction off Lime Avenue		
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In addition to allocated sites, in 2021-22, 5,229 sq m of employment floorspace has been delivered.

In terms of the amount of land for B use class delivered on allocated sites and the outcome requirement for 22.3 ha to be delivered by 2016 and 48.5 ha by the end of the plan period, as only 2.56 ha have been delivered, the 2016 and 2021 targets.

Housing Development

To date 1,449 dwellings have been completed in the Northern Strategy Area which falls short of the 2016 outcome of 1,635 and the 2021 outcome of 3,155.

In terms of the amount of housing delivered and the outcome requirement for 1,635 homes to be delivered by 2016 and 3,155 by 2021, as only 1,325 homes have been delivered, the 2016 target has not been achieved and it is unlikely that the 2021 target will be achieved.

Transport Projects

Highway and public transport schemes implemented	
Cycle Routes	
T1.1	HoV Route linking 9 Arches Tredegar to Brynmawr
T1.3	HoV to Ebbw Vale and Cwm
T1.4	Cwm to Aberbeeg
T1.8	Brynmawr to Blaenavon
Rail Network and Station Improvements	
T2.1	Extension of rail link from Ebbw Vale Parkway to Ebbw Vale Town
T2.2	Provision of new station and bus interchange at Ebbw Vale
Improvement to Bus Services	
T4.2	Bus Interchange improvement at Brynmawr
T4.3	Bus interchange improvement at Ebbw Vale
New Roads to Facilitate Development	
T5.1	Construction of the Peripheral Distributor Road through 'The Works'
T5.2	Online improvements between the Peripheral Distributor Road and the A465
Regeneration Led Highway Schemes	
T6.1	Dualling of the Heads of the Valleys Road (Phase 3 complete and Phase underway)

No further schemes have been completed this year in the Northern Strategy Area, bringing the number of schemes completed to date to 11. The Plan is two schemes short of the target to deliver 13 projects by 2016. The 2021 target is to deliver a further 6 transport projects.

In terms of transport projects delivered and the outcome requirement for 13 projects delivered by 2016 the target has not been achieved. The outcome by the end of the Plan is for 19 transport projects to be delivered in the Northern Strategy Area, this has not been achieved.

The monitoring aim of delivering sustainable growth and regeneration in the north of the

borough has not been achieved at the anticipated 2016 and 2021 levels.	
PERFORMANCE:	R
ACTION:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• A Replacement Local Development Plan is being prepared.	

Monitoring Table: SP2

POLICY SP2	RELEVANT OBJECTIVES:	RELEVANT POLICIES:																																				
Southern Strategy Area – Regeneration	1, 6, 11 & 12	DM1, DM2, DM3, DM5, DM14, DM15, DM16, DM17 R1, H1, HC1, T1, T2, T4, T6, ENV2, ENV3, ENV4, TM1																																				
MONITORING AIM:	To ensure regeneration in the south of the Borough																																					
MONITORING INDICATOR:	MONITORING TARGET:																																					
	Outcome by End of 2016	Outcome by End of Plan (2021)																																				
Amount of land in B use class delivered	Land in B use class 1.5 ha delivered	Land in B use class 1.5 ha delivered																																				
Amount of housing delivered	Housing development 265 homes delivered	Housing development 345 homes delivered																																				
Tourism initiatives	Tourism initiatives 1 initiative delivered																																					
Environmental reclamation projects	Environmental reclamation 1 project delivered																																					
Transport projects	Transport projects 3 projects delivered	Transport projects 5 projects delivered																																				
ANALYSIS OF RESULTS:																																						
<p>The objective of the Southern Strategy Area is to build on the strong sense of community pride and spectacular landscape to secure regeneration and create sustainable communities. To fully understand the progress made in achieving this objective it is necessary to consider the findings of the monitoring exercise in relation to the following interrelated factors:</p> <p>Land in B Use Class</p> <p>By the end of the plan period, 1.5 ha of employment land was expected to be delivered in the Southern Strategy Area.</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Location</th> <th>Proposal</th> <th>Site Area Ha</th> <th>Status</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td colspan="4">2018-19</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Roseheyworth Business Park</td> <td>Household waste recycling facility</td> <td>0.79</td> <td>Complete</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="4">2019 – 2020</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="4">No planning applications approved</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="4">2020-2021</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="4">No planning applications approved</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="4">2021-2022</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="4">No planning applications approved</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>In terms of the amount of land in B use class delivered and the outcome of 1.5 ha by the end of plan period, with 0.79 ha of land delivered and no further planning applications approved, the target has not been achieved.</p> <p>Housing Development</p> <p>To date, 111 homes have been delivered in the Southern Strategy Area which falls short of the 2016 outcome of 265 and the 2021 outcome requirement figure of 345.</p> <p>In terms of the amount of housing delivered and the outcome of 265 homes to be delivered by</p>			Location	Proposal	Site Area Ha	Status	2018-19				Roseheyworth Business Park	Household waste recycling facility	0.79	Complete	2019 – 2020				No planning applications approved				2020-2021				No planning applications approved				2021-2022				No planning applications approved			
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No planning applications approved																																						

2016 and 345 by 2021, with only 111 homes delivered, the 2016 and 2021 targets have not been achieved.

Tourism Initiatives

1 tourism initiative is expected to have been completed by 2016. However, the tourism and leisure initiative at Cwmtillery Lakes for an Outdoor Gateway and Education Centre is no longer being progressed due to Communities First no longer being in operation. Although a project of this nature remains an aspiration.

In terms of the delivery of tourism initiatives and the outcome of 1 to be delivered by 2016, with no delivery, the target has not been achieved.

Environmental Reclamation

The LDP identifies a land reclamation scheme in the Southern Strategy Area to be delivered by 2016.

The Council is looking to purchase or CPO the Llanhilleth Pit Head Baths property if necessary to redevelop it.

In terms of environmental reclamation projects and the outcome for 1 project to be delivered by 2016, with no progress on this, the target has not been achieved.

Transport Projects

The outcome at the end of 2016 was for the delivery of 3 projects, with only 1 project being delivered, the 2016 target has not been achieved. The target requirement for 2021 is for a further 5 transport projects to be delivered. No further schemes have been completed during 2021-22.

Highway and public transport schemes implemented	
Cycle Routes	
T1.9	Extension to Ebbw Fach Trail from Abertillery to Aberbeeg and completion of missing section through Blaina

In terms of transport projects and the outcome for 3 projects to be delivered by 2016, with only 1 delivered, the target has not been achieved. The 2021 target was for a total of 8 schemes to be delivered by 2021 has also not been achieved.

The monitoring aim of delivering regeneration in the south of the borough has not been achieved at the anticipated 2016 and 2021 levels.

PERFORMANCE:	R
ACTION:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A Replacement Local Development Plan is being prepared. 	

Monitoring Table: SP3 (a)

POLICY SP3	RELEVANT OBJECTIVES:	RELEVANT POLICIES:
The Retail Hierarchy and Vitality and Viability of the Town Centres	1	DM1, DM2, DM5 & DM6 AA1 & R1
MONITORING AIM: SP3(a)	To ensure town centres thrive through the implementation of the retail hierarchy	
MONITORING INDICATOR:	ANNUAL MONITORING TARGET:	
Number of A1 uses in primary retail areas as a percentage of all units in the primary retail areas	Increase the % of A1 uses in Ebbw Vale’s primary retail areas from a base level of 61% (2009)	
	Increase the % of A1 uses in Abertillery’s primary retail area from a base level of 45% (2009)	
	Increase the percentage of A1 uses in Brynmawr’s primary retail area from a base level of 61% (2009)	
	Increase the % of A1 uses in Tredegar’s primary retail area from a base level of 67% (2009)	

ANALYSIS OF RESULTS:

To deliver thriving town centres and protect local shopping facilities, Policy SP3 defines a retail hierarchy. The monitoring targets set to monitor its success are the percentage of A1 uses in the primary retail area of each of the town centres.

Number of A1 uses in primary retail areas as a percentage of all units in primary retail areas

The table below shows the % of A1 uses in the Principal and District Town Centres for 2009; and 2014-2022 and the percentage change between 2009 and 2022:

% of A1 Uses in Primary Retail Area											
Town	Year										% Change 2009 - 2022
	09	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	
Ebbw Vale	61	61	62	68	61	59	61	67	56	59	-2
Abertillery	45	45	45	45	41	40	44	49	47	50	+5
Brynmawr	61	62	54	53	53	58	58	61	58	64	+3
Tredegar	67	61	63	56	54	51	50	52	41	60	-7

Source: Blaenau Gwent Annual Town Centre Surveys

In 2020-21, the percentage change of A1 uses in the Primary Retail Areas presented a bleak picture across the principal and district town centres which suggested that the impact of the Covid -19 pandemic was becoming apparent. However, latest figures for the period 2021-22 reveal that all of the towns have witnessed an increase in the percentage of A1 uses in the primary retail areas, the most significant increase being in Tredegar with a 19% increase, although it remains 7% below the 2009 base level. Abertillery is at 50% which is the highest percentage the town has achieved across the span of AMRs and is now 5% higher than the 2009 base level. Brynmawr has also witnessed an increase and is now 3% higher than the 2009 base level. The improvement in Ebbw Vale, although moving in a positive direction has been slower and remains 2% lower than the 2009 base level.

In terms of increasing the % of A1 uses in the Ebbw Vale Primary Retail Area from a base of 61% the target has not been achieved (-2%).

In terms of increasing the % of A1 uses in the Abertillery Primary Retail Area from a base of 45% the target has been achieved (+5%).

In terms of increasing the % of A1 uses in the Brynmawr Primary Retail Area from a base of 61%

the target has not been achieved (+3%).

In terms of increasing the % of A1 uses in the Tredegar Primary Retail Area from a base of 67% the target has not been achieved (-7%).

The monitoring aim to ensure town centres thrive through the implementation of the retail hierarchy is having a mixed impact. All retail related policies will be reviewed as part of the RLDP.

PERFORMANCE:

A

Monitoring Table SP3 (b)

POLICY SP3	RELEVANT OBJECTIVES:	RELEVANT POLICIES:									
The Retail Hierarchy and Vitality and Viability of the Town Centres	1	DM1, DM2, DM5 & DM6 AA1 & R1									
MONITORING AIM: SP3(b)	To ensure the improvement of viability in the town centres										
MONITORING INDICATOR:	ANNUAL MONITORING TARGET:										
Reduce vacancy rates from a 2009 base figure tracked against other valley town centres	Reduce the vacancy rate in Ebbw Vale town centre from a base level of 11.5% (2009) tracked against other Valley towns										
	Reduce the vacancy rate in Abertillery town centre from a base level of 20% (2009) tracked against other Valley towns										
	Reduce the vacancy rate in Brynmawr town centre from a base level of 16% (2009) tracked against other Valley towns										
	Reduce the vacancy rate in Tredegar town centre from a base level of 12% (2009) tracked against other Valley towns										
	Reduce the vacancy rate in Blaina town centre from a base level of 25% (2009) tracked against other Valley towns										
ANALYSIS OF RESULTS:											
<p>The second part of Policy SP3 is to improve the vitality and viability of the town centres. In order to monitor this, the vacancy rate of the town centres need to be tracked to ensure they are decreasing and are comparable with other Valley towns.</p> <p>Reduce vacancy rates from a 2009 base figure tracked against other valley town centres</p> <p>The table below shows the vacancy rates for Blaenau Gwent’s town centres for 2009 and 2014-2022; and the difference in vacancy rates between 2009 and 2022:</p>											
Percentage of Vacant Units in the Town Centre											
Town Centre	Year										% Change 2009 – 2022
	09	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	
Ebbw Vale	11.5	11	11	13	14.5	11.9	11.9	9.4	17	15	+3.5
Abertillery	20	23	23	18	24	18.8	18	18	19	17	-3
Brynmawr	11	11.1	9	10	10	11.7	8.7	11	8	6	-5
Tredegar	12	18.6	19.4	18	17	19	24	21	19	14	+2
Blaina	25	27.3	22.6	21.8	21.8	20.8	26	28	25	26	+1
Overall Vacancy Rates	15	17.5	18.3	15.9	17.3	16.4	17.4	16.7	16.9	14.6	-0.4%
Source: Blaenau Gwent Town Centre Surveys											
<p>The overall vacancy rate for the town centres is 14.6% (2021-22) which is a 2.3% decrease on last year and a 0.4% increase from 2009. The Blaenau Gwent vacancy rate is lower than the Wales vacancy rate of 17.7% (Welsh Retail Consortium).</p> <p>The vacancy rate in Ebbw Vale slightly decreased in 2021 to 15% although it remains 3.5% above the 2009 base vacancy rate. The main reason for the high vacancy rate is the sub division of a large unit into smaller units and a number of these units remaining vacant.</p> <p>The vacancy rate in Abertillery, at 17% is a slight decrease from the previous year (2%) and remains 3% lower than in 2009.</p>											

The vacancy rate for Brynmawr has decreased to 6% which is 2% lower than 2021 and is the lowest it has ever been which is very positive. It is also 5% lower than the 2009 base vacancy rate. Brynmawr has the lowest vacancy rate out of all of the Blaenau Gwent town centres.

In Tredegar, the vacancy rate percentage decreased by 5% in 2022 when compared to the previous year although it remains 2% higher than that of 2009.

The vacancy rate in Blaina has increased by 1% this year, the only town centre whose vacancy rate has increased. The vacancy rate is 1% higher than that in 2009.

Town	Status	Total No. of Commercial Premises in 2009	% Vacant Units 2009	Total No of Commercial Premises 2022	% Vacant Units 2022	% Change 2009-2022
Blaenau Gwent						
Ebbw Vale	Principal Town Centre	139	11.5%	125	15%	+3.5%
Abertillery	District Local Town Centre	159	20%	126	17%	-3%
Brynmawr	District Local Town Centre	155	11%	102	6%	-5%
Tredegar	District Local Town Centre	170	12%	154	14%	+2%
Blaina	Local Town Centre	64	25%	53	26%	+1%
Caerphilly						
Bargoed	Principal Town	138	19%	147	24.5%	+5.5%
Rhymney	Local Centre	31	6%	No longer monitored by CCBC		
Merthyr Tydfil						
Merthyr Town	Principal Town	No data available	13%	339	13.86%	+0.86%
Rhondda Cynon Taf						
Aberdare	Principal Town	223	15%	220	15.91%	+0.91%
Ferndale	Key Settlement	46	13.0%	46	19.57%	+6.57%
Mountain Ash	Key Settlement	94	14.9%	91	21.98%	+7.08%
Treorchy	Key Settlement	114	6.1%	120	1.67%	-4.43%

The picture in Blaenau Gwent is similar to other Heads of the Valleys towns. In 2021-22, several of the towns across the Heads of the Valleys, namely Abertillery, Brynmawr and Treorchy witnessed decreases in vacancy rates compared to the 2009 base rate. However, all of the other towns witnessed an increase in vacancy rate in 2021-22 which means it is higher than what it was in 2009. The worst performing towns are Mountain Ash, Ferndale and Bargoed which means that their vacancy rates are significantly higher than the 2009 base rate. Abertillery, Brynmawr, and Treorchy are the only centres that have witnessed decreases in their vacancy rates for the years 2021-22.

In terms of reducing the vacancy rate in Ebbw Vale from a base level of 11.5% the target has not been achieved (+3.5%).

In terms of reducing the vacancy rate in Abertillery from a base level of 20% the target has been

<p>achieved (-3%). In terms of reducing the vacancy rate in Brynmawr from a base level of 11.6% the target has been achieved (-5%). In terms of reducing the vacancy rate in Tredegar from a base level of 12.4% the target has not been achieved (+2%). In terms of reducing the vacancy rate in Blaina from a base level of 25% the target has not been achieved (+1%).</p> <p>The monitoring aim to ensure improvement of viability in the town centres is not currently being achieved in its entirety. All retail related policies will be reviewed as part of the RLDP.</p>	
PERFORMANCE:	A

Monitoring Table: SP4 (a)

POLICY SP4	RELEVANT OBJECTIVES:	RELEVANT POLICIES:
Delivering Quality Housing	2 & 3	DM1, DM2, DM3, DM7, DM8, DM9 & DM12 MU1, MU2, MU3, H1, & HC1
MONITORING AIM:SP4 (a)	To secure construction of 3,500 net additional dwellings by 2021 and halt population decline	
MONITORING INDICATOR :	MONITORING TARGET:	
	Outcome by End of 2016	Outcome by End of Plan (2021)
Net number of additional affordable and general market dwellings built per annum	Completion of 1,900 homes	Completion of 3,500 homes
Population level of Blaenau Gwent	Increase population to 69,968	Increase population to 70,849
Percentage of vacant properties	Decrease vacancy rate of residential properties to 4.5%	Decrease vacancy rate of residential properties to 4%
ANALYSIS OF RESULTS:		
<p>To stem out-migration and attract people to the area Policy SP4 makes provision for the delivery of 3,500 new dwellings and aims to increase the population of the Borough to 70,894 by 2021. The monitoring targets set to measure success are the completion of homes and population levels. This is also an indicator that measures the vacancy rate of residential properties as the Plan relies on reducing vacancy rates to meet its overall housing requirement figure.</p>		
Net number of additional affordable and general market dwellings built		
Year	Net number of additional affordable and general market dwellings built	
2006 – 2013	807	
2013-2014	81	
2014 – 2015	49	
2015-2016	147	
2016-2017	87	
2017-2018	40	
2018-2019	75	
2019-2020	101	
2020-2021	132	
2021 - 2022	124	

Total to date	1,643
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The above table identifies that 1,643 homes have been built to date which is less than half of the Plan requirement of 3,500 by 2021.

There has been a decrease in completions this year. 2020 saw the lowest level of small site completions (12). Although this figure has risen in the past 2 years, with 27 completions for 2022 they are still below what has been achieved over the past 10 years (39).

In terms of the net number of additional affordable and general market dwellings built and the outcome requirement for 3,500 by 2021 at 1,643 the LDP is behind target and has failed to meet the 2021 outcome requirement. It is 46% below the requirement of 3,500 which is above the trigger of 30%.

Population level of Blaenau Gwent

The policy aims to increase the population of the Borough from 68,914 in 2006 to 70,849 in 2021. However, the 2006 figure was based on a mid-year estimate which has since been revised to take account of the 2011 census results. The revised figure for 2006 is 69,610.

Year	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Population	69,610	69,685	69,820	69,850	69,798	69,812	69,822	69,789
Year	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	
Population	69,674	69,554	69,628	69,609	69,700	69,862	70,020	

The latest mid-year estimate (2020) is 70,020. There has been slight increase in the last two years but we are within reach of meeting the target of 70,849 set for 2021.

The 2021 census data has been released and the population figure is 66,900

Although we said last year that the plan is on target of reaching the population level the 2021 population census figures have been released. In Blaenau Gwent, the population size has decreased by 4.2%, from around 69,800 in 2011 to 66,900 in 2021.

Percentage of Vacant Properties

In order to identify the number of households required in the Plan period the Council was required to convert the dwelling requirement into a household requirement. Part of this equation relied on an estimate of the vacancy rate at the end of the Plan period. The Council used a figure of 4%. In order to ensure that the projection is based on sound information it was considered necessary to monitor this figure. The aim is to reduce the vacancy rate from 5.7% to 4% by 2021.

Year	2001	2011
Vacancy Rate	5.7%	4.8%

The 2011 census figure identifies that the vacancy rate has reduced to 4.8%, a 0.9% decrease. If this rate of decrease continues the vacancy rate in 2016 would be 4.45% meeting the 2016 outcome target and by 2021 would be 3.9%, again meeting the 2021 outcome target.

The new 2021 Census figures on vacancy rates has not yet been published therefor there is no update available for this monitoring outcome.

In terms of decreasing the vacancy rate of residential properties to 4.5% by 2016 and 4% by 2021 the Plan is on target.

The monitoring aim to secure the construction of 3,500 net additional dwellings by 2021 and halt population has not been achieved.	
PERFORMANCE:	R
ACTIONS:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• A Replacement Local Development Plan is being prepared.	

Monitoring Table: SP4 (b)

POLICY SP4	RELEVANT OBJECTIVES:	RELEVANT POLICIES:																								
Delivering Quality Housing	2 & 3	DM1, DM2, DM3, DM7, DM8, DM9 & DM12 MU1, MU2, MU3, H1, & HC1																								
MONITORING AIM: SP4 (b)	To ensure the delivery of 1,000 affordable dwellings, 335 of which through planning obligations																									
MONITORING INDICATOR :	MONITORING TARGET:																									
	Outcome by End of 2016	Outcome by End of Plan (2021)																								
Number of net additional affordable dwellings built per annum	224 affordable dwellings through S106 agreements	335 affordable dwellings through S106 agreements																								
ANNUAL MONITORING TARGET:																										
Change in viability	Change in sales value per sq m																									
	A change that would impact on viability of development - building regulations and code for sustainable homes																									
ANALYSIS OF RESULTS:																										
<p>The second part of Policy SP4 is to ensure that local housing need is met and sustainable linked communities are created. The monitoring targets set to monitor its success are the number of net additional affordable dwellings built per annum and a change that would impact on viability of development.</p> <p><u>Number of net additional affordable dwellings built per annum</u></p> <p>Part of delivering quality housing is ensuring that local housing need is met. This involves the delivery of a mix of tenure including social rented, intermediate rent and low cost homes. Overall the Plan aims to deliver 1,000 affordable properties by 2021.</p>																										
<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Year</th> <th>Number of net additional affordable dwellings Completed</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>2006- 2013</td> <td>317</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2013-2014</td> <td>41</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2014-2015</td> <td>7</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2015-2016</td> <td>63</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2016-2017</td> <td>48</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2017-2018</td> <td>0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2018-2019</td> <td>31</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2019-2020</td> <td>0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2020-2021</td> <td>72</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2021-2022</td> <td>27</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total</td> <td>606</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>			Year	Number of net additional affordable dwellings Completed	2006- 2013	317	2013-2014	41	2014-2015	7	2015-2016	63	2016-2017	48	2017-2018	0	2018-2019	31	2019-2020	0	2020-2021	72	2021-2022	27	Total	606
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Total	606																									
<p>In the Plan period 606 affordable dwellings have been delivered therefore the 2021 target of 1,000 has not been met. However, if all the schemes under construction or in the pipeline are delivered as planned this figure would increase to 736.</p>																										
Development	Number of affordable units in pipeline	Progress																								
Greenacres, Tredegar	18	Site completed																								

Infants School and Griffin Yard, Brynmawr	36	Not started but in SHG programme
Land at Bryn Serth, Ebbw Vale	21	Site completed
Land at Waun-y-Pond, College Road, Ebbw Vale	55	Site under construction
Total	130	

Further information regarding proposals and planning permission for these sites are contained in Appendix 1 – Status of Allocations.

In terms of the number of net additional affordable houses built per annum and the requirement for 1,000 by the end of the Plan period, with a figure of 606 the 2021 requirement figure has not been met.

Number of net additional affordable dwellings delivered through S106

Development	No of units secured through S106 Agreements
Peacehaven, Tredegar	4 and £80,000 financial contribution
Total	4

Of the 1,000 total affordable properties 335 are to be secured through S106 Agreements by 2021. To date only 4 units have been delivered through S106 agreements without the aid of Social Housing Grant. These are the 4 units provided on the Peacehaven, Tredegar Site.

However, a further 169 units and a financial contribution to deliver 5.4 units have been secured, a further 39.5 units and a financial contribution to deliver 7.4 units are in the process of being secured through S106 Agreements. See the table below:

Development	No of units secured through S106 Agreements
BKF Plastics (S106 signed)	2
Park Hill, Tredegar (Phase 1) (S106 signed)	14
Park Hill, Tredegar (Phase 2 (S106 signed)	15
Nant Farm Road, Six Bells, Abertillery (S106 signed)	Financial Contribution equivalent to 2 affordable homes
Cambridge Gardens, Ebbw Vale (S106 signed)	Financial contribution equivalent to 1 affordable home
Carlton House, Ebbw Vale (S106 signed)	1
Land at Pochin, Tredegar (S106 signed)	Financial contribution equivalent to 2.4 affordable homes
	32 units Financial contribution equivalent of 5.4 units
Rhyd -y- Blew (subject to signing of S106)	25
Pantforest, Ebbw Vale (subject to signing of S106)	Financial contribution equivalent to 2 affordable homes
Land at Nant-y-Croft (subject to signing of S106)	5
Land at Ashvale Sports Club (subject	2

to signing of S106)	
Land to the east of Blaina Road (subject to signing of S106)	2 Plus financial contribution for 0.5 a house
Northgate, The Works (subject to signing of S106)	5 Plus financial contribution of £83,539
	39 Plus financial contribution equivalent of 2.5 houses plus £83,539
Total	71 units Plus financial contribution equivalent of 7.9 houses and £83,539

The figure of 208.5 falls well short of the target of 335 by 2021 and reflects the lack of confidence in the private sector housing market in Blaenau Gwent and the wider problems in the housing market.

In terms of the number of net additional affordable houses delivered through S106 per annum and the outcome requirement for 335 by 2021, having only delivered 4 and secured a total of 71 units the Plan has failed to meet the 2021 requirement. It also breaks the trigger of being below 20% of the 335 target for 2021.

Change in viability

The Council set a 10% affordable housing requirement for developers and to ensure that this requirement is viable it was considered necessary to monitor changes in sales value per sq m and other changes that could impact on viability such as building regulations.

Year	Source	Sales values per sq m
2010	Affordable Housing Viability Assessment	£1,700
2014	Based on an assessment of Peacehaven, Tredegar	£1,377.40
2015	CIL Report	£1,500 - £1,700
2016	Based on an assessment of Peacehaven, Tredegar	£1,548
2017	Based on an assessment of Peacehaven, Tredegar	£1,679.29
2018	Based on an assessment of Peacehaven, Tredegar	£1,787.58

The Affordable Housing Viability Assessment undertaken in 2010 was based on sales values of £1,700 per sq. m. The Council has since undertaken viability work to inform a decision on the introduction of the Community Infrastructure Levy. The sales values identified in this work vary across the Borough, from £1,500 in the south of the Borough to £1,700 in the Ebbw Vale area. This work is informing a revised Planning Obligations Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPG) document and future S106 negotiations. Since 2014, we have monitored sales values at Peacehaven, Tredegar and these have increased from £1,377.4 to £1,787.58, an increase of 30%. All houses at the site are now sold and it is therefore no longer possible to monitor sales values at the site.

The year has seen a further increase in house prices and hence sales values. Average house prices have increased from £106,453 in April 2021 to £125,585 in April 2022 an increase of £19,132 or 18% (Source: Land Registry). Average property sale prices in November 2012 when the LDP was Adopted were £67,464, meaning an increase of property prices of £58,121 or 86% when compared to April

2022 (Source: Land Registry).

Average prices for new build properties increased from £215,899 in April 2021 to £281,368 in April 2022, an increase of £65,469 or 30% (Source: Land Registry). Average new build property prices in November 2012 when the LDP was Adopted were £127,529, meaning an increase new build property prices of £153,839 or 121% when compared to April 2022 (Source: Land Registry).

In terms of the change in viability no trigger has been broken as sales value per sq metre are not 10% less than the original sales values.

The introduction of mandatory requirements for Sustainable Urban Drainage (SUDs) is having implications for viability of sites. Though there is limited evidence gathered to date and what is available shows great variation the costs are no doubt impacting on the viability of sites.

The introduction of mandatory SUDs is a change that is impacting on viability.

The monitoring aim to deliver 1,000 affordable dwellings, 335 of which through planning obligations is not being achieved at the anticipated levels.

PERFORMANCE:	R
ACTIONS:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A Replacement Local Development Plan is being prepared. • A Viability Assessment is being prepared to support the Replacement Local Development Plan. 	

Monitoring Table: SP5 (a)

POLICY SP5	RELEVANT OBJECTIVES:	RELEVANT POLICIES:																																																																																					
Spatial Distribution of Housing	3	MU1, MU2, MU3, H1, & HC1																																																																																					
MONITORING AIM: SP5 (a)	To ensure the delivery of housing in accordance with the strategy																																																																																						
MONITORING INDICATOR:	ANNUAL MONITORING TARGET:																																																																																						
The annual level of housing completions monitored against the Average Annual Requirement (AAR)	Under delivery of annual completions on two consecutive years																																																																																						
Total cumulative completions monitored against the cumulative requirement (Cumulative AAR)	Under delivery of completions on two consecutive years																																																																																						
Land available for Gypsy and Traveller units	Land Available - loss of land to other uses																																																																																						
ANALYSIS OF RESULTS:																																																																																							
<p>In March 2020, Welsh Government announced changes to the way in which housing delivery is monitored. The changes to PPW remove the five-year housing land supply policy and replace it with a housing trajectory as the basis for monitoring the delivery of development plan housing requirements in Annual Monitoring Reports.</p> <p>To ensure the delivery of housing in accordance with the strategy, the plan now monitors the annual level of housing completions against the average annual requirement and cumulative completions against the cumulative housing requirement. The availability of land for Gypsy and Traveller units is also monitored.</p> <p>In accordance with the Development Plans Manual (March 2020), a housing trajectory has been prepared and updated in consultation with the Housing Stakeholder Group. For LPAs who adopted their LDPs prior to the publication of the Development Plans Manual the Average Annual Requirement (AAR) method is required to be used as the primary indicator to measure housing delivery. The Average Annual Requirement for the adopted LDP equates to 233 dwellings per annum, the LDP requirement of 3,500 dwellings divided by the 15-year Plan period. This is the figure against which LDP housing delivery will now be monitored. Two new indicators have been included in this AMR, which replace the previous indicator which measured the five-year housing land supply.</p> <p>The first of these indicators measures the annual level of housing completions (Annual Completion Rate or ACR) monitored against the Average Annual Rate (AAR). The DPM states that this must be presented clearly in the AMR both in numerical and percentage terms (plus/minus x %) and that the trigger for further investigation should be under delivery of annual completions on two consecutive years.</p>																																																																																							
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Year	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022																																																																							
AAR	233	233	233	233	233	233	233	233	233	233	233	233	233	233	233	233																																																																							
ACR	73	102	150	115	72	213	82	81	49	147	87	40	75	101	132	124																																																																							
No.	-160	-131	-83	-118	-161	-20	-151	-152	-184	-86	-146	-193	-158	-132	-101	-109																																																																							
%	-68	-56	-36	-51	-69	-9	-65	-65	-78	-40	-63	-83	-68	-57	-43	-47																																																																							
<p>The Plan has consistently under delivered during the Plan period. At best housing completions were 9% below the Average Annual Rate and completions have frequently been 50% less than the required figure.</p> <p>In terms of the annual level of housing completions monitored against the Average Annual Requirement (AAR) the trigger of under delivery over two consecutive years has been broken.</p>																																																																																							

The second of these indicators measures the total cumulative completions monitored against the cumulative requirement (Cumulative AAR). Again the DPM states that this must be presented clearly in the AMR both in numerical and percentage terms (plus/minus x %) and that the trigger for further investigation should be under delivery of completions on two consecutive years. It should be noted that the adopted LDP is now beyond the 2006 – 2021 plan period and this AMR covers the monitoring period to 31st March 2022. The cumulative completions, however, remain 53% less than the adopted LDP housing requirement for 2021.

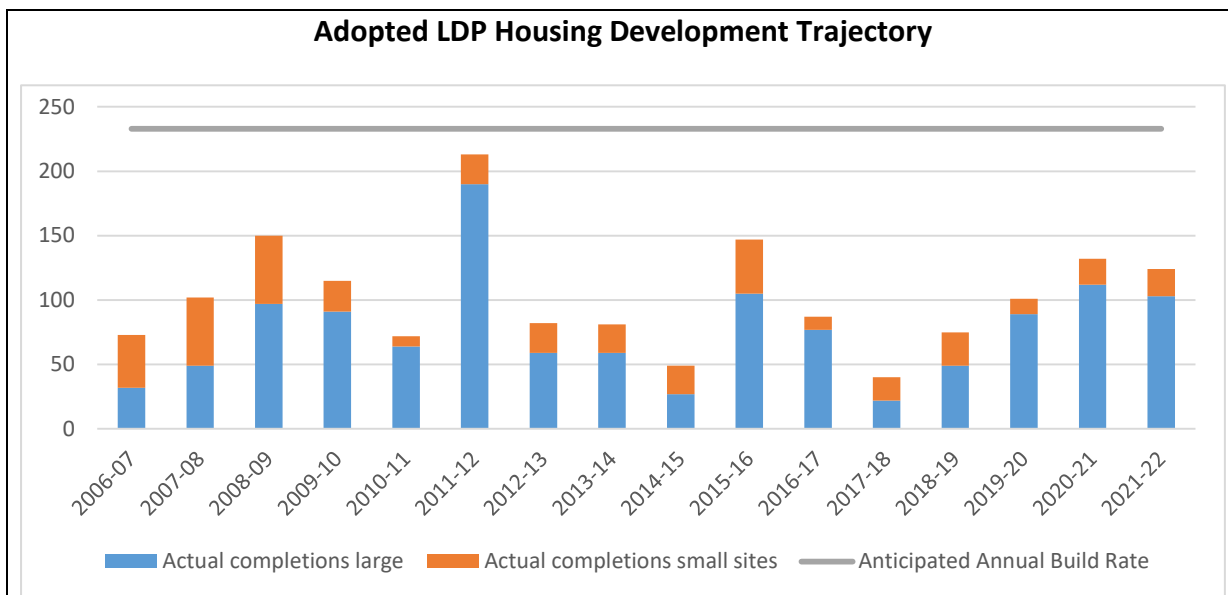
Year	'07	'08	'09	'10	'11	'12	'13	'14	'15	'16	'17	'18	'19	'20	'21	'22
CAAR	233	466	699	932	1,165	1,398	1,631	1,864	2,097	2,330	2,563	2,796	3,029	3,262	3,500	3,500
CACR	73	175	325	440	512	725	807	888	937	1,084	1,171	1,211	1,286	1,387	1,519	1,643
No.	-160	-291	-374	-492	-653	-673	-824	-976	-1,160	-1,246	-1,392	-1,585	-1,743	-1,875	-1,981	-1,857
%	-69	-62	-53	-53	-56	-48	-51	-52	-55	-53	-54	-62	-57	-57	-57	-53

In terms of the cumulative annual level of completions monitored compared against the cumulative Average Annual Requirement (AAR) there has been under delivery of cumulative completions since the beginning of the Plan period and so the trigger of under delivery on two consecutive years has been broken.

The DPM also requires that the components of housing supply, including site allocations, large and small windfalls should be monitored separately and included on a graph to be included in the AMR.

Annual Completions Compared against the AAR

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
Year	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
Actual recorded completion on large sites during year	32	49	97	91	64	190	59	59	27	105	77	22	49	89	112	103
Actual recorded completion on small sites during year	41	53	53	24	8	23	23	22	22	42	10	18	26	12	20	21
Anticipated completions on allocated sites during year																
Anticipated landbank completions during year																
*Anticipated completions large windfall during year																
Anticipated completions small windfall during year																
Total actual completions during year	73	102	150	115	72	213	82	81	49	147	87	40	75	101	132	124
Total projected cumulative completions	233	466	699	932	1,165	1,398	1,631	1,864	2,097	2,330	2,563	2,796	3,029	3,262	3,500	3,500



Emerging Replacement Local Development Plan

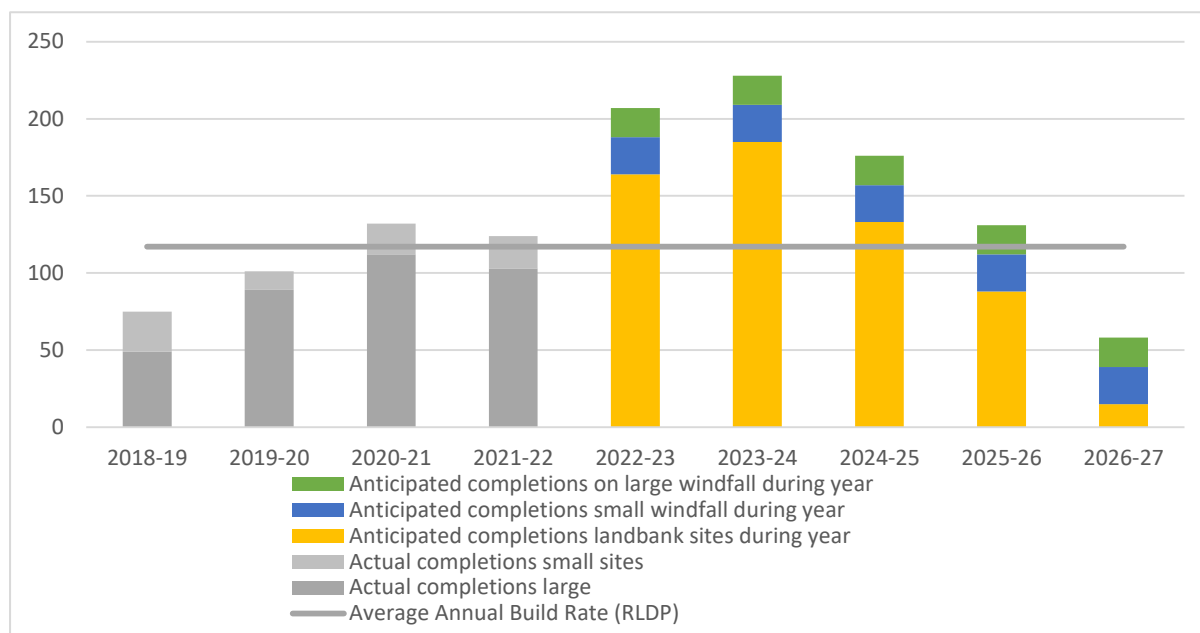
An interim forward looking housing trajectory has been prepared in consultation with the Housing Stakeholder Group based on the emerging Replacement LDP Preferred Strategy and is shown in the table and graph below. Welsh Government advises that this provides a more useful comparison. However, this exercise is limited in scope as the group has looked at the next 5 years and not the whole plan period given allocations have not yet been identified in the Replacement Deposit Plan.

Annual Completions Compared against the AAR

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
Year	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	2029-30	2030-31	2031-32	2032-33
Actual completion on large sites	49	89	112	103											
Actual completion on small sites	26	12	20	21											
Anticipated completions on allocated sites during year															
Anticipated landbank completions during year					164	185	133	88	15						
*Anticipated completions large windfall during year					19	19	19	19	19						
*Anticipated completions small windfall during year					24	24	24	24	24						
Total Actual Completions (E+F+G+H+I+J)	75	101	132	124	207	228	176	131	58						
Total LDP Housing Requirement	117	117	117	117	117	117	117	117	117	117	117	117	117	117	117

*as set out in the Council's [Housing Supply Background Paper January 2020](#)

Emerging Replacement Local Development Plan Trajectory – 2018-2026



Year	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
AAR	117	117	117	117	117	117	117	117	117
ACR	75	101	132	124	207	228	176	131	58
No.	-42	-16	+15	+7	+90	+111	+59	+14	-59
%	-36	-14	+13	+6	+77	+95	+50	+12	-50

In terms of the new trajectory the annual completions in the first two years of the plan have been lower than anticipated (-36% and -14%). Completions returned to the average annual requirement rate and it is anticipated that the build rate will exceed the AAR in the next few years. This is mainly due to higher levels of completions and sales at the Land at Waun Y Pound College Road (allocated under policy MU1 in the Adopted LDP and being delivered by Persimmon Homes). The Council will continue to work with site promoters through the site assessment process and in the preparation of the Replacement Deposit Plan, which will include and a comprehensive housing trajectory.

Land Available for Gypsy and Traveller units (GT1)

As part of policy SP4’s aim, of meeting local housing need a site was included in the Plan to accommodate unmet gypsy and traveller needs. The trigger point is the loss of the proposed site to other uses – the land is currently vacant and thus the trigger has not been broken. Although, a planning application has been approved for the development of 4 new pitches at this site the need to improve the existing facility will mean that this land will no longer be available.

In terms of the requirement for land being available for Gypsy and Traveller units the Plan is failing to meet this requirement.

The monitoring aim to deliver housing in accordance with the strategy is not being achieved at the anticipated levels and it is unlikely that this will be addressed without specific intervention.

PERFORMANCE: R

ACTIONS:

- A Replacement Local Development Plan is being prepared and will include a new trajectory including new allocations.
- An updated Gypsy & Traveller Assessment will support the Replacement Local Development Plan.

Monitoring Table: SP5 (b)

POLICY SP5	RELEVANT OBJECTIVES:	RELEVANT POLICIES:		
Spatial Distribution of Housing	3	MU1, MU2, MU3, H1, & HC1		
MONITORING AIM: SP5 (b)	To ensure the delivery of housing in accordance with the strategy and to increase build rates over the plan period			
MONITORING INDICATOR:	MONITORING TARGET:			
	Outcome by End of 2016	Outcome by End of Plan (2021)		
Percentage of housing developments delivered in hub areas in accordance with the Plan's phasing	Ebbw Vale – 55%	Ebbw Vale – 60%		
	Tredegar – 25%	Tredegar – 20%		
	Upper Ebbw Fach – 10%	Upper Ebbw Fach – 15%		
	Lower Ebbw Fach – 10%	Lower Ebbw Fach – 5%		
To ensure the delivery of housing in accordance with the strategy, the plan monitors the percentage of build rates in the four hub areas. These are compared against a set of expected outcomes figures.				
Percentage of housing developments delivered in hub areas in accordance with the Plan's phasing				
Area	Number of Houses Delivered from April 2006 to April 2022	Percentage	Expected Outcome by 2016	Expected Outcome by 2021
Ebbw Vale	717	43%	55%	60%
Tredegar	490	30%	25%	20%
Upper Ebbw Fach	308	19%	10%	15%
Lower Ebbw Fach	128	8%	10%	5%
Total	1,643			
At 45% it is clear that Ebbw Vale has underperformed against the expected outcome of 60% by 2021. However, the situation is improving with work having commenced on two large sites at Ebbw Vale Northern Corridor (MU1) (Bryn Serth Road and College Road). The Northgate site on The Works (MU2) has now been sold and an application has been approved subject to the signing of a S106. This level of delivery has contributed towards the overall plan target of 3,500 dwellings over the plan period not being met.				
In terms of the percentage of housing developments delivered in the Ebbw Vale hub area and the outcome requirement for 60% by 2021 the Plan, at 45%, is below the 2021 target.				
In terms of the percentage of housing developments delivered in the Tredegar hub area and the outcome requirement for 20% by 2021 the Plan, at 29%, it is above the 2021 target.				
In terms of the percentage of housing developments delivered in the Upper Ebbw Fach hub area and the outcome requirement for 15% by 2021 the Plan, at 18%, is above the 2021 target.				
In terms of the percentage of housing developments delivered in the Lower Ebbw Fach hub area and the outcome requirement for 5% by 2021 the Plan, at 7%, is above the 2021 target.				
The monitoring aim to ensure the delivery of housing in accordance with the strategy and to increase build rates over the plan period has not been achieved.				
PERFORMANCE:	R			
ACTIONS:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A Replacement Local Development Plan is being prepared and will include a new spatial strategy. 			

Monitoring Table: SP6

POLICY SP6	RELEVANT OBJECTIVES:	RELEVANT POLICIES:
Ensuring Accessibility	4	DM1 T1, T2, T3, T4, T5 & T6
MONITORING AIM :	To ensure improved connectivity within Blaenau Gwent and with the wider area	
MONITORING INDICATOR :	MONITORING TARGET :	
	Outcome by End of 2016	Outcome by End of Plan (2021)
Number of highway and public transport schemes implemented	Transport projects 13 projects delivered	Transport projects 26 projects delivered
ANALYSIS OF RESULTS:		
Policy SP6 is aimed at ensuring accessibility, the monitoring aim is to ensure that connectivity within Blaenau Gwent is improved. This is to be measured through the delivery of schemes identified in the Plan.		
Number of highway and public transport schemes implemented		
Highway and public transport schemes implemented		
Cycle Routes		
T1.1	HoV Route linking 9 Arches Tredegar to Brynmawr	
T1.3	HoV to Ebbw Vale and Cwm	
T1.4	Cwm to Aberbeeg	
T1.8	Brynmawr to Blaenavon	
T1.9	Extension to Ebbw Fach Trail from Abertillery to Aberbeeg and completion of missing section through Blaina	
Rail Network and Station Improvements		
T2.1	Extension of rail link from Ebbw Vale Parkway to Ebbw Vale Town	
T2.2	Provision of new station and bus interchange at Ebbw Vale	
Improvement to Bus Services		
T4.2	Bus Interchange improvement at Brynmawr	
T4.3	Bus interchange improvement at Ebbw Vale	
New Roads to Facilitate Development		
T5.1	Construction of the Peripheral Distributor Road through 'The Works'	
T5.2	Online improvements between the Peripheral Distributor Road and the A465	
Regeneration Led Highway Schemes		
T6.1	Dualling of the Heads of the Valleys Road (Phase 3 complete and Phase 2 underway)	
No further schemes have been completed. At 12 schemes completed the Plan is 14 schemes short of the outcome of 26 by 2021.		
Further information regarding proposals and planning permission for these sites are contained in Appendix 1 – Status of Allocations.		
In terms of the number of transport schemes implemented and the outcome for 26 by 2021 the Plan, with 12 schemes completed has failed to meet the 2021 target.		
The monitoring aim to ensure improved connectivity within Blaenau Gwent and with the wider area has not been met.		
PERFORMANCE:	R	

ACTIONS:

- A Replacement Local Development Plan is being prepared and will re-assess transport requirements.

Monitoring Table: SP7 (a)

POLICY SP7	RELEVANT OBJECTIVES:	RELEVANT POLICIES:																		
Climate Change	6	DM1, DM2 & DM4																		
MONITORING AIM: SP7 (a)	To ensure that more of the County Borough's electricity and heat requirements are generated by renewable and low zero carbon energy																			
MONITORING INDICATOR:	MONITORING TARGET:																			
Progress on the adoption of an Energy Opportunities Plan	Outcome by End of 2016	Outcome by End of Plan (2021)																		
	The Energy Opportunities Plan will be adopted by the Council																			
The capacity of renewable energy developments installed per annum	ANNUAL MONITORING TARGET:																			
	All major applications provide evidence of consideration to the generation of renewable energy																			
ANALYSIS OF RESULTS:																				
<p>Policy SP7 seeks to address the causes of climate change. As part of this, the Policy aims to ensure that more of the County Borough's electricity and heat requirements are generated by renewable and low zero carbon energy.</p> <p><u>Energy Opportunities Plan</u> Regeneration Services have been actively exploring a range of energy opportunities in the County Borough. The Council owns and operates an existing district heating network at The Works site in Ebbw Vale. It is exploring the potential for further network opportunities and has carried out heat demand mapping, masterplanning and preparation of a feasibility study. An energy prospectus has been prepared identifying renewable energy generation opportunities in the Borough:</p>																				
<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Project Name</th> <th>Technology</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>RE:FIT</td> <td>Lighting, CHP, Solar, PV et al</td> </tr> <tr> <td>The Works Expansion</td> <td>Gas CHP, Biomass Boilers</td> </tr> <tr> <td>District Energy Network Development</td> <td>Gas CHP</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Silent Valley Wind Project</td> <td>Wind</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Beaufort Wind Project</td> <td>Wind</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Hydro Generation Hydro</td> <td>Hydro</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>			Project Name	Technology	RE:FIT	Lighting, CHP, Solar, PV et al	The Works Expansion	Gas CHP, Biomass Boilers	District Energy Network Development	Gas CHP	Silent Valley Wind Project	Wind	Beaufort Wind Project	Wind	Hydro Generation Hydro	Hydro				
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RE:FIT	Lighting, CHP, Solar, PV et al																			
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<p>In terms of the adoption of the Energy Opportunities Plan, the target has been achieved.</p> <p><u>The capacity of renewable energy developments installed per annum</u></p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Scheme</th> <th>Location</th> <th>Capacity</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td colspan="3">2013-2014</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Wind Turbine</td> <td>Unit 15 Rassau Industrial Estate</td> <td>0.75 MW</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Wind Turbine</td> <td>Penrhiwgwaith Farm, Hollybush</td> <td>0.5 MW</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="3">2014 – 2015</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Wind Turbine</td> <td>Unit 29 Tafarnaubach</td> <td>0.5 MW</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>			Scheme	Location	Capacity	2013-2014			Wind Turbine	Unit 15 Rassau Industrial Estate	0.75 MW	Wind Turbine	Penrhiwgwaith Farm, Hollybush	0.5 MW	2014 – 2015			Wind Turbine	Unit 29 Tafarnaubach	0.5 MW
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Industrial Estate		
2016-2017		
Photovoltaic solar park comprising of 53,955 photovoltaic solar panels over 28.6 ha	Hafod y Dafal Farm, Abertillery	Partially installed – approximately 73% installed (15.3 ha) which equates to 10 MW
Roof and ground mounted photovoltaic panels	Unit 15 Rassau Industrial Estate, Ebbw Vale	0.25 MW
Erection of a single turbine and associated transformer enclosure	Former Techboard Site, Rassau Industrial Estate, Rassau	0.5 MW
2 wind turbines	Eurocaps Ltd Crown Business Park, Tredegar	0.5 MW
2017-2018		
Two wind turbines	Coed y Gilfach, Six Bells, Abertillery	0.5 MW
2018-2019		
No renewable energy developments installed		
2019-2021		
Installation of roof mounted photovoltaic solar panels	3 Business units Land north of Regain Building, Mill Lane, Victoria, Ebbw Vale	1 MW
Solar panels on roof space	Site north of Lime Avenue, The Works, Ebbw Vale	1 MW
2021-2022		
Ground mounted PV solar panels	Land adjacent to Unit 10 Roseheyworth Business Park	0.04
Total (2013-2022)		15.54 MW

Capacity of low carbon energy developments installed per annum

Scheme	Location	Capacity
2013-2014		
Combined heat and power	The Works Energy Centre	0.39 MW
2014-2015		
Biomass Boiler	The Works Energy Centre	2.4 MW
2015-2016		
No low carbon energy developments installed		
2016-2017		
No low carbon energy developments installed		
2017-2018		
No low carbon energy developments installed		
2018-2019		
No low carbon energy developments installed		
2019-2021		
Connection to Combined heat power district heating. Ground/water/air heat pump	3 Business units Land north of Regain Building, Mill Lane, Victoria, Ebbw Vale	2 MW
2021-2022		
Biomass boiler	Unit 28 Tafarnaubach Industrial Estate, Tredegar	0.8 MW

Total (2013-2022)		5.59 MW	
0.84 MW of renewable / low carbon energy has been installed in 2021-2022.			
All major applications provide evidence of consideration to the generation of renewable energy			
Policy DM4 defines major applications as 100 or more flats or homes and/or provision of 1,000 sq m and over of floorspace. In 2021-22, the following major schemes have been approved:			
Location	Scheme	Floorspace	Consideration of Renewable Energy
2019-2020			
Land at Waun-y-Pound, Ebbw Vale	Residential development of 277 units, including associated works	21,400sq m	Renewable energy Generation was considered as part of the preliminary enquiry stage, however it was deemed not viable to include.
Land off southern end of Lime Avenue, Former Steelworks Site, Ebbw Vale	Construction of 6 buildings to provide 25 employment units for B1 and B2 uses, new access road and junctions off Lime Avenue & associated parking and other infrastructure.	17,800sq m	The proposal includes 38 MW of solar photovoltaic panels.
Rassau Ind Est, Ebbw Vale	Construction of new business units (Class B1/B2/B8 and ancillary uses) and associated parking areas, external works.	8,330 sqm	The applicant considered renewable energy and concluded that the use and split of the units are not known therefore specifics in terms of renewable energy cannot be provided at this stage.
Lakeside Brynmawr	3 retail units (Unit 2 Class A1 convenience food store, Unit 3 Class A1 comparison and flexible use for Unit 4 Classes A1/A2/A3) and associated works	3500 sqm	An energy statement accompanied the planning application which reviewed a number of renewable energy sources. It considered that as each potential occupier will have their own specifications, it was difficult for any decisions to be made. Out of the sources considered, only unit 3 was considered viable for solar due to the south facing pitch of the roof. The ES also commits to achieving high energy efficiency standards through building regulations. Therefore there is evidence that

			consideration has been given to renewable energy.
Units 23/ 24, Tafarnaubach Ind Est	A new pharmaceutical containment facility and ancillary infrastructure (eg. chillers), extended service yard and new car park.	7,800sqm	See other comments in relation to this site.
Units 23/24, Tafarnaubach Ind Est	Parking place for heavy goods vehicles with associated workshop/office building comprising of 6 no. starter business units new vehicular accesses and associated parking	6,800sqm	The proposed development includes solar panels in the front roof plane.
23-24 Tafarnaubach Ind Est	Three storey lab block, external stairs, associated canopies and link to the existing building.	1,195sqm	See other comments in relation to this site.
2020-2021			
Units 23/24 Tafarnaubach Industrial Estate	Construction of new packaging line building, retaining wall and covered pedestrian walkway linking new packaging line building with new car park	3,800 sq m	An energy statement was submitted with the planning application which highlighted that the opportunity to include renewable energy was limited due to the nature of the proposal and viability reasons. A commitment to achieve energy efficiency by complying with or exceeding building regulations in relation to the construction of a building has been noted. Therefore there is evidence that consideration has been given to renewable energy.
Land at western end of Hov Hub Industrial Estate, Crown Industrial Estate	Industrial building subdivided into six small units and use of part of the site for the siting of approximately 14 metal containers units to be used as a container storage facility	4,700 sq m	The proposal includes solar photovaltics.
2021-2022			

Ben Wards Fields Brynmawr Ebbw Vale	Retention of earthworks including importation of material, re-profiling of existing contours, temporary ancillary works including welfare facilities & parking areas with restoration to grass land with hedgerows & drainage		Due to the nature of the development, consideration to renewable energy is not relevant.
Former Glyncod Comprehensive School Badminton Grove Ebbw Vale	New Primary School and Childcare Facility with External Play Areas, Recreational Spaces and Other Associated Infrastructure	4,062	The design and access statement indicates that the site will achieve BREEAM excellent and therefore gives consideration to renewable energy as part of this.
Land to the Southern end of Lime Avenue Ebbw Vale	Construction of employment units for B1, B2, and B8 uses, new access road and junction off Lime Avenue	4,065 sq m	A Low and Zero Carbon Sustainability Appraisal has been undertaken for the planning application. PV solar panels are proposed for each of the industrial units. There are 10 EV charging spaces and all heating will be electrical based.
Land at Northgate Steelworks Road, Ebbw Vale	Proposed residential development and associated works	1.9 ha	It is not clear if consideration has been given to renewable energy from the planning application documents.

In terms of the requirement for all major applications to provide evidence of consideration to the generation of renewable energy, with all 3 out of 4 major applications, considering the generation of renewable energy, the Plan is on target.

The monitoring aim to ensure that more of the County Borough's electricity and heat requirements are generated by renewable and low zero carbon energy is being met.

PERFORMANCE:	G
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Monitoring Table: SP7 (b)

POLICY SP7	RELEVANT OBJECTIVES:	RELEVANT POLICIES:
Climate Change	6	DM1, DM2 & DM
MONITORING AIM : SP7 (b)	To ensure the efficient use of land	
MONITORING INDICATOR:	ANNUAL MONITORING TARGET:	
Average density of housing development permitted on allocated sites	100% of mixed use sites to deliver 35 units and over per hectare	

Amount of development including housing, permitted on allocated sites in the development plan as a % of development plan allocations and as a % of total development permitted (ha and units)	70% of all development to be on allocated sites	
Amount of new development permitted on previously developed land (brownfield redevelopment and conversions) expressed as a percentage of all development permitted	80% of new development to be on brownfield land	
MONITORING INDICATOR:	MONITORING TARGET :	
	Outcome by End of 2016	Outcome by End of Plan (2021)
The number of land reclamation schemes completed per annum	Land Reclamation Schemes – 2 delivered	Land Reclamation Schemes – 2 delivered

ANALYSIS OF RESULTS:

The aim of this policy is to ensure the efficient use of land, this is being monitored through ensuring that the average density set in the Plan is being achieved particularly on the large mixed-use sites. Also ensuring that development is taking place on allocated land and brownfield land.

Average Density of Housing Development permitted on allocated sites

Year	Average Density
2013-2014	31.07
2014-2015	47
2015-2016	19
2016-2017	37.8
2017-2018	35.7
2018-2019	33
2019-2020	32
2020-2021	30
2021-2022	29

In terms of the average density of housing development permitted on allocated sites the average density this year and the previous three years are below the 35 Plan average.

100% of Mixed-use sites to deliver 35 units and over

Year	Average Density
2013-2014	N/A
2014-2015	42
2015-2016	N/A
2016-2017	N/A
2017-2018	N/A
2018-2019	27
2019-2020	32

2020-2021	29
2021-2022	29

In terms of the average density of housing development permitted on allocated sites and the requirement for 100% of mixed-use schemes to be over 35, the monitoring target has not been met.

Development on Allocated Sites

Percentage of allocated sites with permission

Year	Size (Ha) of development permitted on allocated land	% of all allocated land (379.75 ha)
2006-2013	139.09	36.6%
2013-2014	1.13	0.2%
2014-2015	21.48	5.6%
2015-2016	9.18	2.4%
2016-2017	3.97	1%
2017-2018	10.53	2.7%
2018-2019	13.98	4%
2019-2020	26.04	6.8%
2020-2021	5.44	1.43%
2021-2022	5.88	1.54%
Total to date	236.72	62.3%

(Note: Some allocations already had permission prior to 2006)

In terms of the percentage of allocated sites with permissions we have reached 62.3%, however we are now at the end of the Plan period. The figure of 1.54% for the current year remains lower than what is required (6.6%) on an annual basis.

In terms of the percentage of allocated sites with permission the figure of 62.3% falls short of what was expected by 2021.

Development permitted on allocated sites as a percentage of total development permitted

Year	Size (Ha) on allocated land	Size (Ha) of Total Development permitted	% of allocated as a % of total development permitted
2006-2013	139.09	177.46	78%
2013-2014	1.13	241.42	0.4%
2014-2015	21.48	26.52	81%
2015-2016	9.18	19.32	48%
2016-2017	3.97	14.36	27%
2017-2018	10.53	18.33	57%
2018-2019	13.98	20.26	69%
2019-2020	26.04	35.16	74%
2020-2021	5.46	7.06	77%
2021-2022	5.88	11.78	50%
Total to date	236.74	571.67	41%

This year 50% of all developments were on allocated sites, which is lower than last year.

In terms of the percentage of development permitted on allocated sites as a percentage of total

development permitted and the requirement for 70%, the Plan, with a figure of 50% this year is behind target. In terms of total figures, the figure is much lower due to the permission granted for the Circuit of Wales.

New Development on Brownfield land

Year	Size (Ha) on brownfield	Size (Ha) of Total Development permitted	% on brownfield land
2006-2013	136.341	177.461	76.8%
2013-2014	5.42	241.42	2.2%
2014-2015	22.41	26.52	84%
2015-2016	14.38	19.32	74%
2016-2017	13.3	14.36	93%
2017-2018	15.69	18.33	86%
2018-2019	17.68	20.26	87%
2019-2020	32.78	35.16	93%
2020-2021	5.297	7.057	75%
2021-2022	11.06	11.78	94%

This year 94% of new development permitted was on brownfield land.

In terms of the amount of new development permitted on previously developed land (brownfield redevelopment and conversions) expressed as a percentage of all development permitted and the requirement for 80%, the Plan with a figure of 94%, is ahead of target this year.

Land Reclamation Schemes

The LDP identifies four land reclamation schemes; two of which are to be delivered in the second phase of the plan by 2016; and two in the third phase of the plan by 2021. The Council is in negotiation with the landowners of the Llanhilleth Pit Head Baths to purchase the site and then redevelop it. Nevertheless, the Plan has failed to meet the 2021 outcome.

There is no WG or capital funding available to deliver these schemes and this policy allocation will need to be re-examined through the review of the Plan.

In terms of the number of land reclamation schemes completed per annum and the outcome for 2 schemes to be completed by 2016 and a further 2 by 2021 the Plan, having completed none, the Plan has failed to meet both the 2016 and 2021 outcome.

The monitoring aim to ensure the efficient use of land is not being met but the situation can be ameliorated without immediate intervention or sufficiently progressed not to require direct intervention.

PERFORMANCE:

A

Monitoring Table: SP7 (c)

POLICY SP7	RELEVANT OBJECTIVES:	RELEVANT POLICIES:																								
Climate Change	6	DM1, DM2 & DM4																								
MONITORING AIM: SP7(c)	To avoid development in areas at high risk of flooding																									
MONITORING INDICATOR:	ANNUAL MONITORING TARGET:																									
Amount of development (by TAN15 paragraph 5.1 development category) permitted in C1 and C2 floodplain areas not meeting all TAN 15 tests	No permissions for highly vulnerable or emergency services development within flood zone C2																									
	100% of developments permitted in flood zone C1 to meet the justification test of TAN 15 and to have shown that the consequences of flooding can be managed to an acceptable level																									
ANALYSIS OF RESULTS:																										
<p>Policy SP7 seeks to address climate change and part of this involves ensuring that new developments adapt to climate change. As part of this the policy aims to ensure that new development is directed away from areas which are at risk of flooding.</p> <p><u>Amount of development (by TAN15 paragraph 5.1 development category) permitted in C1 and C2 floodplain areas not meeting all TAN 15 tests</u></p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Year</th> <th>No. of Developments</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Nov 2012 -31st March 2013</td> <td>2</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2013 – 2014</td> <td>1</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2014 – 2015</td> <td>1</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2015-2016</td> <td>1</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2016-2017</td> <td>0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2017-2018</td> <td>0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2018-2019</td> <td>1</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2019-2020</td> <td>1</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2020-2021</td> <td>3</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2021-2022</td> <td>0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total</td> <td>10</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>In terms of the amount of development permitted in C1 and C2 flood plain areas not meeting all TAN 15 tests the figure for 2022 is 0.</p> <p>In 2022 no developments were permitted in C1 and C2 floodplain areas not meeting all TAN 15 tests.</p> <p><u>No permissions for highly vulnerable or emergency services development within flood zone C2</u></p> <p>The annual monitoring target is for no permissions for highly vulnerable or emergency services development within flood zone C2. There were no developments permitted within flood zone C2 this year.</p> <p>In terms of the requirement for no permissions for highly vulnerable or emergency services development within flood zone C2, as no developments were allowed the trigger was not breached this year.</p> <p><u>100% of developments permitted in flood zone C1 to meet the justification test of TAN 15 and to have shown that the consequences of flooding can be managed to an acceptable level</u></p>			Year	No. of Developments	Nov 2012 -31 st March 2013	2	2013 – 2014	1	2014 – 2015	1	2015-2016	1	2016-2017	0	2017-2018	0	2018-2019	1	2019-2020	1	2020-2021	3	2021-2022	0	Total	10
Year	No. of Developments																									
Nov 2012 -31 st March 2013	2																									
2013 – 2014	1																									
2014 – 2015	1																									
2015-2016	1																									
2016-2017	0																									
2017-2018	0																									
2018-2019	1																									
2019-2020	1																									
2020-2021	3																									
2021-2022	0																									
Total	10																									

The second part of the annual monitoring target is for 100% of development permitted in flood zone C1 to meet the justification test of TAN 15. No developments were in C1 areas.

In terms of 100% of developments permitted in flood zone C1 to meet the justification test of TAN 15 and to have shown that the consequences of flooding can be managed to an acceptable level the Plan is on target.

The monitoring aim to avoid development in areas at high risk of flooding is not being met but the situation can be ameliorated without immediate intervention or sufficiently progressed not to require direct intervention.

PERFORMANCE:

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Monitoring Table: SP8 (a)

POLICY SP8	RELEVANT OBJECTIVES:	RELEVANT POLICIES:	
Sustainable Economic Growth	8 & 9	DM1, DM2, DM3 & DM10 MU1, MU2, EMP1, EMP2, ED2 & TM1	
MONITORING AIM: SP8(a)	To ensure sufficient employment land is provided to increase employment activity		
MONITORING INDICATOR:	MONITORING TARGET:		
	Outcome by End of 2016	Outcome by End of Plan (2021)	
Net Employment Land	Employment land – 23.8 ha delivered	Employment land – 26.2 ha delivered	
Employment rate for Blaenau Gwent	Increase employment rate from 59.2% (2009) to 66.05% (2016) tracked against Merthyr Tydfil	Increase employment rate from 59.2% (2009) to 72.9% (2021) tracked against Merthyr Tydfil	
Percentage of economic activity wanting a job	Reduce percentage of economic inactive wanting a job from 25.2% (2009) to 23.95% (2016) tracked against Merthyr Tydfil	Reduce percentage of economic inactive wanting a job from 25.2% (2009) to 22.7% (2021) tracked against Merthyr Tydfil	
ANALYSIS OF RESULTS:			
<p>To meet economic and employment development needs and ensure that Blaenau Gwent achieves its economic potential, Policy SP8 allocates 50 hectares of land for employment use. The monitoring targets set to measure success are the development of employment land, employment and economic inactivity levels.</p> <p>Employment Land Allocated Employment Land</p> <p>By the end of 2016, it was expected that 23.8 ha employment land would be delivered and a further 26.2 ha by the end of the plan period (2021).</p>			
Location	Proposal	Site Area (Ha)	Status
2009-2016			
MU2 The Works, Ebbw Vale	500 sq m of office space	0.18	Complete
2016-17			
EMP1.6 Land at Waun y Pound Industrial Estate	Vehicle security park and storage container facility, provides 460 sq m of B2 floorspace	0.7	Complete
2017-18			
EMP1.6 Land at Waun y Pound Industrial Estate	B2 industrial unit with associated offices and external area provides 558 sq m of B2 floorspace	0.2	Complete
2018-19			
MU1 Rhyd y Blew, Bryn Serth Road	4,955 sq m of B1, B2 or B8 uses	2.87	Not Started
MU2 Land North of the Regain Building,	Construction of 9 (B1) business units	1.0	Complete

The Works, Ebbw Vale			
Roseheyworth Business Park	Household waste recycling facility	0.79	Complete
Site to the north of the Learning Zone, Lime Avenue, Ebbw Vale	Provision of office development (A2 and B1) with ancillary facilities constructed from shipping containers.	0.2 ha	Complete
2019 – 2020			
Land off southern end of Lime Ave – opposite hospital	Construction of 6 buildings to provide 25 employment units for B1 and B2 uses, new access road and junctions & associated parking and other infrastructure.	1.7	Not Started
2020-2021			
Regain Building, Mill Lane, Ebbw Vale	Two storey building (B1) linked to Regain building with associated infilling of basement garden, access, parking and other infrastructure, and additional parking areas and service access to regain building	0.28 ha	Complete
2021-2022			
MU2 Land to the southern end of Lime Avenue, Ebbw Vale	Construction of employment units for B1, B2, and B8 uses, new access road and junction off Lime Avenue, drainage,	2.0 ha	Not started

During 2021-22, 0.28 ha of employment development was delivered on allocated sites. In total, 3.35 ha has been delivered on allocated employment sites which falls well short of the 50 ha outcome requirement by the end of the plan period therefore the target has not been met.

Non-Allocated Employment Land

In addition to the allocated sites, the Council monitors annually the existing 21 employment areas across the County Borough, which consist of approximately 248 primarily B1, B2 and B8 employment units. As well as ensuring the ability of new sites to come forward, the LDP also plays a key role in protecting and managing these sites.

Planning permission has been granted on EMP2 employment areas for extensions and new units. At

the end of March 2022 there was extant planning permission for 9,937 sq m of floorspace for B1, B2 and B8 uses. In 2021-22, 5,229 sq m of this floorspace has been delivered.

In terms of net employment land delivered and the outcome requirement for 50 ha by 2021, the Plan, with 3.35 ha delivered on allocated sites is behind the 2016 and 2021 targets. At -20% a trigger has been breached.

Employment Rate

All People – Economically Active – In Employment

Year	Blaenau Gwent Nomis Data July 2021	Merthyr Tydfil Nomis Data July 2021)	Wales Nomis Data – July 2021)
2008 – 2009	62.4%	66.2%	68.7%
2009 – 2010	58.4%	62.6%	66.7%
2010 – 2011	61.1%	65.3%	66.5%
2011 – 2012	57.7%	59.0%	66.8%
2012 – 2013	59.4%	64.9%	67.3%
2013 – 2014	61.7%	63.6%	68.9%
2014 – 2015	65.5%	68.7%	69.5%
2015 – 2016	65.0%	65.9%	70.3%
2017 – 2018	64.7%	68.8%	72.4%
2018 – 2019	70.9%	72.6%	76.7%
2019-2020	69.9%	71.2%	76.4%
2020-2021	71.0%	64.6%	72.8%
2021-2022	71.1%*	69.2%*	73.1%*

Source: Nomis

* data is based on Jan 2021-Dec 2021

In 2021-2022, there was an increase in the employment rate in Blaenau Gwent, Merthyr Tydfil and at a national level. The rate of growth is different between Merthyr Tydfil and Blaenau Gwent. Merthyr Tydfil's rate has increased by 4.6% whilst Blaenau's has increased only slightly by 0.1%. Blaenau Gwent's rate of growth is comparable to the national rate which has increased by 0.3%. Blaenau Gwent has a lower economic activity rate than Wales yet it is higher than Merthyr Tydfil.

In terms of the Plans outcomes to increase the employment rate from 59.2% in 2009 to 66.05% by 2016 and 72.9% by 2021, the 2016 target has been achieved yet it is below the 2021 target.

Economically Inactive – Wants a Job

Year	Blaenau Gwent	Merthyr Tydfil	Wales
2008 – 2009	25.2%	31.9%	22.9%
2009 – 2010	33.1%	33.5%	24.3%
2010 – 2011	27.8%	30.2%	24.8%
2011 – 2012	29.0%	26.9%	22.9%
2012 – 2013	35.0%	35.5%	24.8%
2013 – 2014	33.8%	29.1%	25.4%
2014 – 2015	30.6%	33.4%	25.6%
2015 -2016	27.7%	27.8%	26.5%
2016 – 2017	23.9%	26.5%	23.8%
2017-2018	21.2%	16.9%	21.7%
2018-2019	25.6%	18.8%	21.3%

2019-2020	16.8%	14.9%	20.4%
2020-2021	20.9%	12.2%	17.6%
2021-2022	19.5%	12.9%	17.1%

Source: Nomis

The number of people economically inactive who wants a job has been steadily decreasing from its highest rate in 2012-2013 at 35% to 16.8% in 2019-20. For the period 2021-22 in Blaenau Gwent, there has been a decrease from the previous year of 1.4% compared to Merthyr Tydfil who has witnessed a slight increase of 0.7% and Wales a slight decrease of 0.5%. The percentage for Blaenau Gwent remains higher than both Wales and Merthyr Tydfil.

In terms of the percentage of economic inactive - wanting a job and the outcome requirement of reducing this from 25.2% to 23.95% by 2016 and 22.7% by 2021, the Plan at 19.5% has achieved both the 2016 target and 2021 targets.

The monitoring aim to ensure sufficient employment land is provided to increase employment activity is not being achieved at the anticipated levels and it is unlikely that this will be addressed without specific intervention.

PERFORMANCE:	A
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Monitoring Table: SP8 (b)

POLICY SP8	RELEVANT OBJECTIVES:	RELEVANT POLICIES:									
Sustainable Economic Growth	8 & 9	DM1, DM2, DM3 & DM10									
MONITORING AIM: SP8(b)	To ensure the diversification of the economic base										
MONITORING INDICATOR :	ANNUAL MONITORING TARGET:										
Official labour market statistics for Blaenau Gwent identifying the number of employees in different sectors.	Maintain the number of employee jobs in manufacturing at 5,300 (2008) tracked against the HoV average										
	Increase the number of employee jobs in construction industry from 800 (Blaenau Gwent, 2008) to 1,000 (Wales, 2008) tracked against the HoV average										
	Increase the number of employee jobs in the service industry from 12,700 (Blaenau Gwent, 2008) to 13,797 tracked against the HoV average										
MONITORING INDICATOR:	MONITORING TARGET:										
	Outcome by End of 2016	Outcome by End of Plan (2021)									
Delivery of learning infrastructure	Completion of the Learning Zone	Completion of the new primary school on the Six Bells Colliery Site									
Delivery of health infrastructure		Completion of primary care resource centres									
ANALYSIS OF RESULTS:											
Employment Diversification											
To improve the diversification of the economic base the Plan monitors the number of employees in different sectors and the delivery of learning and health infrastructure.											
The tables below show the number of employee jobs in Blaenau Gwent in relation to the manufacturing, construction and services sectors for 2008; 2009; 2012; 2013; 2014; 2015; 2016; 2017; 2018; 2019 and 2020 (latest data available). The same data is provided for Merthyr Tydfil, in order to track Blaenau Gwent against the Heads of the Valleys. However, the 2008 data is not available for Merthyr Tydfil so comparisons are made against the 2009 data.											
The Number of Employee Jobs in Blaenau Gwent											
Sector	2008	2009	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Manufacturing	5,300	4,000	4,200	4,400	4,300	4,500	4,000	4,000	4,000	4,500	4,000
Construction	800	900	1,000	900	800	800	900	500	600	600	700
Services	12,700	13,100	14,100	13,000	12,800	13,070	12,875	12,860	12,975	12,225	11,975
Source: Nomis											
The Change in Employee Jobs in Blaenau Gwent between 2008-2020											
Sector	No. Change 2009-2020		% Change 2009-2020								
Manufacturing	0		0								
Construction	-200		-22.2%								
Services	-1,125		-8.5%								
The Number of Employee Jobs in Merthyr Tydfil											
Sector	2009	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	
Manufacturing	3,100	2,700	2,800	3,000	3,000	3,500	3,000	3,000	3,000	3,000	
Construction	600	600	600	700	600	1,000	700	1,000	900	1,250	
Services	18,200	18,100	17,800	17,300	16,900	17,125	17,915	17,675	17,825	20,300	

Source: Office for National Statistics

The Change in Employee Jobs in Merthyr Tydfil between 2009-2020

Sector	No. Change 2009-2020	% Change 2009-2020
Manufacturing	-100	-3.2%
Construction	+600	+100%
Services	-2100	+11.5%

Manufacturing

The most significant loss in manufacturing was between 2008 and 2009 when 1,300 jobs were lost. Whilst there have been both increases and decreases since, the sector has returned to 2016 and 2017 levels of 4000.

The annual monitoring target to maintain the number of employee jobs in manufacturing has not been met, with a loss of 1,300 employee jobs between 2008 and 2020. When comparing data between 2009 and 2020 against Merthyr Tydfil, Blaenau Gwent has remained at the same level whereas Merthyr Tydfil has witnessed a loss of 3.2%

In terms of maintaining the number of employee jobs in manufacturing at 5,300, at 1,300 below this figure, the target has not been achieved.

Construction Industry

The number of jobs in construction in 2020 has slightly increased (100) from the level recorded in 2019. Since 2008, the figures have fluctuated within the sector showing increases and decreases between the years. Between 2008 and 2020 there has been an overall loss of 100 jobs resulting in only 700 being employed in this sector. The annual monitoring target to increase the number employed in the construction sector from 800 to 1,000 by the end of the plan period has therefore not been achieved.

Whilst Merthyr Tydfil have also experienced losses in the construction sector over the years. In 2020, the figure has increased by 100% from a figure of 600 in 2019 to a level of 1,250 in 2020.

In terms of maintaining the number of employee jobs in construction and the target to increase the number from 800 to 1,000 by 2021, at 700 jobs, the target has not been achieved.

Service Industry

There has been a further small decrease of 250 people in the service sector this year. Over the period 2008 to 2020 the number of people in this sector has seen significant fluctuations, peaking at 14,100 in 2012 though falling to its lowest level in 2020. With a figure of 11,975 the annual monitoring target to increase the number employed in the service sector to 13,797 has not been achieved.

In comparison with Merthyr Tydfil over the period of 2009-2020, Blaenau Gwent witnessed a 8.5% decline; whereas Merthyr Tydfil has witnessed an increase of 11.5%. The most significant service sector to increase in Merthyr Tydfil is the health and social sector with a 4,000 person increase.

In terms of maintaining the number of employee jobs in the service industry and the target to increase the number from 12,700 to 13,797 by 2021, at 11,975 jobs, the target has not been achieved.

Learning and Health Infrastructure

Another element of Policy SP8 is maximising the potential of the health and social sector and the

promotion of learning and skills. This is to be measured through the delivery of schemes identified in the Plan.

Learning Infrastructure

As reported in the previous LDP Annual Monitoring Reports, the Learning Zone; Ebbw Fawr 3-16 Learning Community; and Pen y Cwm special educational needs school were all completed and operational on The Works site, Ebbw Vale (Policy MU1) in September 2012. The Welsh medium primary school Ysgol Gymraeg Brynmawr opened in September 2009.

In terms of the Six Bells Primary School, development has been completed and the school opened in September 2019.

In terms of delivery of learning infrastructure and the outcome requirement for the completion of the learning zone by 2016 the target has been achieved. In terms of the outcome requirement for the completion of a new primary school on the former Six Bells Colliery site by 2021, the target has been achieved.

Health Infrastructure

The construction of a primary care resource centre (on land adjacent to Blaen y Cwm School in Brynmawr) is complete and the facility is operational.

Funding has been approved by the Welsh Government to build a health and social care ‘super-surgery’ in Tredegar at the former Tredegar General Hospital and Tredegar Health Centre. Planning permission has also been granted and construction is underway.

There is no further progress regarding a scheme for Ebbw Vale.

In terms of delivery of health infrastructure the Plan is on target for completion by 2021.

The monitoring aim to ensure the diversification of the economic base is not currently being achieved but the situation can be ameliorated without immediate intervention or sufficiently progressed not to require direct intervention.

PERFORMANCE:	A
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Monitoring Table: SP9

POLICY SP9	RELEVANT OBJECTIVES:	RELEVANT POLICIES:
Active and Healthy Communities	11 & 12	DM3, DM11, DM12, DM13, DM14, DM15 & DM16 MU1, MU2, CF1, TM1 & L1
MONITORING AIM:	To increase opportunities for people to participate in active and healthy communities	
MONITORING INDICATOR:	ANNUAL MONITORING TARGET:	
Amount of greenfield and open space lost to development (ha) which is not allocated in the Plan	No net loss of greenfield land and open space to development which is not allocated in the Plan	
Hectares of recreational open space per1000 population (FIT standard)	Working towards FIT standards of 2.4 hectares of recreational open space per 1000 projected population (current standard 1.11 ha)	
	Outcome by End of 2016	Outcome by End of Plan

		(2021)
Number of tourism/leisure facilities completed per annum	Completion of 6 tourism/leisure facilities projects	Completion of 1 tourism / leisure projects and community cycle routes
Number of people with access to natural greenspace within 400m of their home as a percentage of all people	Increase the number of people with access to natural greenspace within 400m of their home from the current level of 65% (2007) to 77% (2016)	Increase the number of people with access to natural greenspace within 400m of their home from the current level of 65% (2007) to 80% (2021)

ANALYSIS OF RESULTS:

The aim is to increase opportunities for people to participate in active and healthy communities. The monitoring targets to measure success are loss of greenfield and open space to development, progress with the FIT standard, completion of tourism, leisure facilities and community cycle routes and access to natural greenspace.

Amount of greenfield land and open space lost to development not allocated in the Plan

Area Lost to development

Planning App No.	Proposal	Location	Area Lost
2013 – 2014			
C/2013/0062	The Circuit of Wales Project	Land north of Rassau, Ebbw Vale	344 ha
Total			344 ha
2014 – 2015			
C/2014/0210	Proposed new Primary Care Resource Centre with ancillary pharmacy and associated car parking	Land adjacent to Blaen y Cwm Primary School, Blaenavon Road, Brynmawr	0.8 ha
Total			0.8 ha
2015 – 2016			
There has been no loss.			
2016 – 2017			
C/2016/0124	Erection of a steel frame stock building	Hafodarthen Farm, Llanhilleth	0.03 ha
C/2016/0225	Detached house	Land at Whitworth Terrace	0.15 ha
Total			0.18 ha
2017 – 2018			
There has been no loss			
2018-2019			
There has been no loss			
2019 – 2020			
C/2018/0325	Construction of three new dwellings	Land at Club Row Abertillery	0.06ha
C/2018/0323	Detached Dwelling	Merthyr Road Tredegar	0.11ha
2020 – 2021			
There has been no loss			
2021 - 2022			

C/2021/0063	Change of use from open space, to create a car parking area.	Trafalgar Close Alma Street Brynmawr	0.02ha
C/2021/0379	Plot 4 Mount Pleasant View Georgetown Tredegar	Construction of a new detached dwelling and integral garage	0.10ha
C/2021/0266	Two storey detached house with integral garage	Land Adjacent To No.3 Aneurin Rise Tredegar	0.03ha

In 2021 - 2022 there was a loss of 0.15 ha of greenfield/open space lost to development which is not allocated in the Plan.

Area Gained

Planning App No.	Proposal	Location	Area Gained
2013 – 2014			
There has been no gain for this year			0 ha
2014 – 2015			
C/2014/0054	Proposed community play area to include open play space, community area, soft play area, a mounded area and an orchard with car parking on a former site of derelict housing	Bevan Avenue, Ashvale, Tredegar	0.04 ha
C/2014/0262	Creation of public amenity area on former disused land	Corner of Tillery Street and Division Street, Tillery Square, Abertillery	0.01 ha
Total			0.05 ha
2015 – 2016			
C/2015/0123	Creation of public amenity area	Hilltop, Ebbw Vale	0.07 ha
C/2015/0241	New public footpath and combined cycle route	Nanty Melyn, Rassau, Ebbw Vale	0.05 ha
N/A	Creation of public amenity area	Land on the edge of Tredegar Town Centre	0.11 ha
Total			0.23 ha
2016 – 2017			
C/2016/0252	Creation of recreational area to include kick about, play areas and park land	Site of former Tre Newydd flats, Newtown, Ebbw Vale	0.44 ha
C/2017/0008 C/2017/0009 C/2017/0011	Creation of /change of use of public amenity area by providing allocated parking area, creation of new paths to tie in with existing play areas, landscaping to provide seating areas for residents	Waunheulog, Nantyglo, Brynmawr	0.46 ha
Total			0.9 ha
2017 – 2018			

There has been no gain for this year			
		Total	0 ha
2018 – 2019			
There has been no gain for this year			
		Total	0 ha
2019 – 2020			
There has been no gain for this year			
		Total	0 ha
2020 – 2021			
C/2018/0164	Rejuvenate/reclaim the existing derelict space to its previous use as an open natural adventure play space for children	Community Centre, Mount Pleasant Estate. Brynithel, Abertillery	0.34ha
		Total	0.34 ha
2021 - 2022			
There has been no gain for this year			
		Total	0 ha

The monitoring target of no net loss of greenfield and open space to development has not been achieved for 2021 – 2022.

FIT Standard

Year	FIT Standard (ha)
2009	1.11
2012	1.11
2014	1.05
2015	1.02
2016	1.02
2017	0.99
2018	0.99
2019	0.99
2020	1.00
2021	1.00
2022	1.00

In 2009 the first assessment of recreational open space was undertaken recording a standard of 1.11 ha per 1,000 population. This has been used as a baseline target to improve upon in order to achieve the FIT standard of 2.4 ha per 1,000 population. However, rather than improving, the standard steadily decreased between 2009 and 2017 and has since remained at 0.99 ha up to year 2020 2021.

For the current year 2021 - 2022 this target figure has stayed at 1.00 ha.

In terms of the annual monitoring target of working towards the FIT standard of 2.4 hectares of recreational open space per 1,000 projected population, the Plan is failing.

Tourism and Leisure developments completed

The Plan allocates 7 tourism projects and the monitoring framework seeks to ensure the completion of 6 projects by 2016 and a further project by 2021.

Tourism Allocations Completed

2014 – 2015	
TM1.4	Bedwellty House and Park
MU2	The Works – Ebbw Vale Leisure Centre
2015 – 2016	
TM1.1	Eastern Valley Slopes
2016 – 2017	
There has been no schemes completed on allocated sites for the current year	
2017 – 2018	
There has been no schemes completed on allocated sites for the current year	
2018 – 2019	
There has been no schemes completed on allocated sites for the current year	
2019 – 2020	
There has been no schemes completed on allocated sites for the current year	
2020 – 2021	
There has been no schemes completed on allocated sites for the current year	
2021 - 2022	
There has been no schemes completed on allocated sites for the current year	

To date 3 of the projects have been completed. Further progress is being made in terms of TM1.6 Nantyglo Roundhouse Towers with the completion of part of a barn to three holiday units in 2019. Development is on-going with full plans being granted for a bunk house accommodation with carparking and picnic area.

Further information regarding proposals and planning permission for these sites are contained in Appendix 1 – Status of Allocations.

Other Leisure Tourism Schemes

As well as allocated Leisure/Tourism sites, the following leisure/tourism business schemes have been granted planning permission.

Tourism Schemes

Planning App. No.	Proposal	Location	Status
2015 – 2016			
C/2015/0359	Three storey extension to the Premier Inn, alterations to the car park and air conditioning compound	Premier Inn, Festival Site, Ebbw Vale	Complete
2016 – 2017			
None			
2017 – 2018			
None			
2018 – 2019			
C/2017/0309	Change of use of office building to 38 bedroom hotel	Bridge Street, Ebbw Vale	Site construction Under
2019 – 2020			

C/2019/0286	Change of use of existing outbuilding to holiday let.	Bush Inn Hall Street, Ebbw Vale	Not Started
2020 – 2021			
C/2020/0045	Conversion of outbuilding into walkers holiday let accommodation.	Cross Brook Cottages, Trefil	Not Started
2021 - 2022			
None			
Leisure Schemes			
Planning App. No.	Proposal	Location	Status
2015 – 2016			
C/2015/0414	Extension of the Market Hall cinema into the adjoining former library to provide a second cinema screen	Market Square, Brynmawr	Complete
2016 – 2017			
C/2016/0012	Change of use to indoor climbing centre	Rassau Industrial Estate, Ebbw Vale	Complete
C/2016/0088	Change of use to Gym	Bridge Street Industrial Estate, Tredegar	Complete
C/2016/0145	Change of use to Gym	Unit 28a, Gwent Shopping Centre, Tredegar	Complete
2017 – 2018			
C/2017/0307	Change of use to Gym	Beaufort Street, Brynmawr	Complete
C/2017/0194	Change of use to Gym	Sirhowy Industrial Estate	Complete
2018 – 2019			
C/2018/0327	Change of use to an indoor obstacle challenge centre with café	Unit 4, Sirhowy Industrial Estate	Site under construction
2019 – 2020			
C/2019/0281	Alterations to existing retail units to create childrens play area and splash park.	Unit 55/56 Festival Park Shopping Centre, Ebbw Vale	The Fesitval Park is closing
2020 – 2021			
C/2020/0047	Provision of 2 x 58 seater stands and associated works	Jim Owen Field, Abertillery	Not started
C/2020/0255	Proposed alterations and extension to existing cricket pavilion.	Eugene Cross Park, Ebbw Vale	Not started
2021 - 2022			
C/2021/0350	The construction of two pods to create a co working office hub to include information	Bryn Bach Park	Site under construction

	points to promote wellbeing activities		
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In terms of the number of tourism projects completed per annum and the outcome requirement for 6 schemes to be completed by 2016 and a further project by 2021, with only 3 schemes being completed the 2016 target and the 2021 target have not been achieved.

The Outcome for 2021 also included reference to completion of the community cycle routes. The table below sets out the cycle routes completed:

Cycle Routes Completed

Policy	Location
T1.4	Cwm to Aberbeeg (phase 1 + 2)
T1.1	HoV Route linking 9 Arches Tredegar to Brynmawr
T1.3	HoV to Ebbw Vale and Cwm
T1.8	Brynmawr to Blaenavon
T1.9	Extension to Ebbw Fach Trail from Abertillery to Aberbeeg and completion of missing section through Blaina
(C/2015/0241)	Shared cycle/footpath on land between A465 and Nant Melyn, Rassau
C/2019/0256	New cycle Link with hand-railing and associated works. Walnut Close, Peacehaven Tredegar

There has been no cycle routes completed this year, however, a total of 6 cycle routes have been completed, 5 of which are allocated and 2 are community based developments. Of the 12 cycle routes allocated in the Plan, 5 have been completed.

Number of people with access to natural greenspace within 400m of their home as a percentage of all people

The basis for this information is an Exogesis report which was based on a study undertaken in 2007. The Council has now updated this study and the results are as follows:

Study Year	2007	2022
Percentage of people with access to natural greenspace within 400m	65%	87%

In terms of the number of people with access to natural greenspace within 400m of their home and the outcome requirement to increase this from 65% to 77% by 2016 and 80% by 2021 with 87% having access this has been achieved.

The monitoring aim to increase opportunities for people to participate in active and healthy communities has not been met this year.

PERFORMANCE:	A
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Monitoring Table: SP10

POLICY SP10	RELEVANT OBJECTIVES:	RELEVANT POLICIES:																																				
Protection and Enhancement of the Natural Environment	13	DM1, DM14, DM15 & DM16 ENV1, ENV2 & ENV3																																				
MONITORING AIM :	To ensure the protection, preservation and enhancement of the natural environment																																					
MONITORING INDICATOR :	ANNUAL MONITORING TARGET:																																					
The amount of SSSI, lost to development per annum	No net loss of area of SSSI																																					
The amount of SINCs and LNRs lost to development per annum	No net loss of SINCs / LNRs lost to development without mitigation																																					
Number of developments which have an adverse effect on European sites	Where required, all sites to have a project HRA																																					
Provision of environmental enhancements	Major applications produce a net gain in biodiversity and / or enhancements to the green infrastructure network																																					
Percentage of water bodies of good status	No permissions granted where there is a known risk of deterioration in the status of water bodies																																					
	Permissions incorporate measures designed to improve water quality where appropriate																																					
Background air pollution	No decrease in air quality within the County Borough																																					
ANALYSIS OF RESULTS:																																						
<p>The aim is to ensure the protection, preservation and enhancement of the natural environment. The monitoring targets to measure success are no loss of SSSI, SINC's and LNR's to development, all sites to have a project HRA, the provision of environmental enhancements, the percentage of water bodies of good status and no decrease in air quality in the Borough.</p> <p><u>The Amount of SSSI Lost to Development Per Annum</u> There has been no net loss of SSSI as a result of development.</p> <p>In terms of the requirement for no net loss of SSSI to development, the target has been achieved.</p> <p><u>The Amount of SINCs and LNRs Lost to Development per Annum</u></p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Year</th> <th>Loss of LNR (ha)</th> <th>Loss of SINC (ha)</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Nov 2012-March 2013</td> <td>0</td> <td>0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2013-2014</td> <td>0</td> <td>1.23</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2014-2015</td> <td>0</td> <td>0.8</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2015-2016</td> <td>0</td> <td>0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2016 – 2017</td> <td>0</td> <td>0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2017 – 2018</td> <td>0</td> <td>0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2018-2019</td> <td>0</td> <td>0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2019 - 2020</td> <td>0</td> <td>0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2020 - 2021</td> <td>0</td> <td>0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2021 - 2022</td> <td>0</td> <td>0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total Loss to date</td> <td>0</td> <td>2.03</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>There has been no net loss of LNRs or SINCs for the current year.</p>			Year	Loss of LNR (ha)	Loss of SINC (ha)	Nov 2012-March 2013	0	0	2013-2014	0	1.23	2014-2015	0	0.8	2015-2016	0	0	2016 – 2017	0	0	2017 – 2018	0	0	2018-2019	0	0	2019 - 2020	0	0	2020 - 2021	0	0	2021 - 2022	0	0	Total Loss to date	0	2.03
Year	Loss of LNR (ha)	Loss of SINC (ha)																																				
Nov 2012-March 2013	0	0																																				
2013-2014	0	1.23																																				
2014-2015	0	0.8																																				
2015-2016	0	0																																				
2016 – 2017	0	0																																				
2017 – 2018	0	0																																				
2018-2019	0	0																																				
2019 - 2020	0	0																																				
2020 - 2021	0	0																																				
2021 - 2022	0	0																																				
Total Loss to date	0	2.03																																				

In terms of the requirement for no net loss of SINC's / LNRs lost to development without mitigation the requirement has been met and the target has been achieved.

Developments which have an adverse impact on European Sites

There has been no planning application received for the current year which has been considered to have a possible adverse effect on European Sites.

In terms of the number of developments which have an adverse effect on European sites and the requirement for all sites to have a project level HRA where required, as no planning applications were received the target has been achieved.

Provision of Environmental Enhancements

The LDP identifies major applications as those defined as 100 or more flats or homes and/or the provision of 1,000 sq m and over of floorspace.

Planning App No.	Location	Nature of Development	Provision of Environmental Enhancements
2015 – 2016			
C/2015/0057	Beechwood House, Silent Valley Landfill, Cwm	Extension to the existing waste transfer station	None required
2016 -2017			
C/2016/0151	Cwmcraehen Gypsy Site	Extension of Cwmcraehen Gypsy Site for the provision of 4 new pitches, 2 semi detached utility buildings, new access and associated works	Mitigation measures have been put in place via planning conditions
C/2016/0158	Land rear of units 39 and 40 Rassau Industrial Estate	Erection of 2 buildings for class B1 B2 B8 use with new pedestrian and vehicular access and associated parking	None required
C/2016/0226	Land adj to Bethany Baptist Church, Six Bells Road, Six Bells	Outline consent for the proposed construction of a new single form entry primary school including vehicular and pedestrian access, site boundaries and car parking	A reserved matters application has been received. Suitable mitigation will be sought to provide ecological enhancements
2017 -2018			
C/2017/0019	Former NMC Site, Brynmawr	Full consent for a restaurant and outline consent for 3 retail units.	None required
2018-2019			
C/2018/0310	Land at Rhyd Y Blew	Full consent granted with conditions for the erection of employment units	Mitigation measures have been put in place via planning conditions
C/2018/0152	Land north of the Regain building, Mill Lane, Ebbw Vale	Full consent granted with conditions for the construction of 9 business units	None were required

C/2018/0217	Land at Bryn Serth (adj to KFC) Waun-y-Pound, Ebbw Vale	Full consent granted with conditions for the construction of 100 residential dwellings	Mitigation measures have been put in place via planning conditions
C/2018/0154	Eurocaps, Crown Business Park, Tredegar	Extension of existing production and warehouse facilities	None were required
2019 – 2020			
C/2019/0061	Unit B Cwm Draw Ind Est, Ebbw Vale	First floor extension to existing factory unit to form office space	None were required
2020 – 2021			
C/2020/0106	23/24 Tafarnaubach Ind Est PCI Pharma Services Tredegar	Construction of new packaging line building, retaining wall and covered pedestrian walkway linking new packaging line building with new car park	None were required
C/2021/0006	Land at western end of Hov Hub Industrial Estate, Crown Ind Est Tredegar	Industrial building subdivided into six small units and use of part of the site for the siting of approximately 14 metal containers units to be used as a container storage facility	None were required
2021 - 2022			
C/2021/0274	Former Glyngoed Comprehensive School Badminton Grove Ebbw Vale	New Primary School and Childcare Facility with External Play Areas, Recreational Spaces and Other Associated Infrastructure	Mitigation measures have been put in place via planning conditions
C/2021/0386	Land To The Southern End Of Lime Avenue Ebbw Vale	Construction of employment units for B1, B2, and B8 uses, new access road and junction off Lime Avenue, drainage	None were required
C/2021/0172	Ben Wards Field Brynmawr Ebbw Vale	Retention of earthworks including importation of material, re-profiling of existing contours, temporary ancillary works including welfare facilities & parking areas with restoration to grass land with hedgerows & drainage	An Environmental Management Plan is Required

Three major application was received in 2022, one required mitigation measures and due to the restoration work being undertaken a long term management plan has been put in place for Ben Wards Field.

In terms of the monitoring target of major applications producing a net gain in biodiversity and/or enhancements to the green infrastructure, the Plan is on target.

Percentage of water bodies of good status

Year	Percentage surface water (natural water bodies) of Good Ecological Status
2014 (2013 figures)	42%
2015 (2014 figures)	42.8%
2016 (2015 figure)	33.3%*
2017 (2016 figure)	33.3%*
2018 (http://waterwatchwales.naturalresourceswales.gov.uk/en/)	33.3%*
2019 (http://waterwatchwales.naturalresourceswales.gov.uk/en/)	33.3%*
2020 (http://waterwatchwales.naturalresourceswales.gov.uk/en/)	33.3%*
2021 (http://waterwatchwales.naturalresourceswales.gov.uk/en/)	33.3%*
2022 (http://waterwatchwales.naturalresourceswales.gov.uk/en/)	0%*

* Please note that the * annual figure is based on a new methodology.
Source: Water Watch Wales

New methodology was introduced in 2015, where the percentage of water bodies of good status remained the same. However, stricter targets for phosphate levels have recently been set for Wales' rivers, Natural Resources Wales has published an evidence package outlining phosphate levels for all river Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) across Wales. (21 January 2021). Following the new measures, this evidence review shows that overall, phosphorus breaches are widespread within Welsh SAC rivers with over 60% of waterbodies failing against the challenging targets set. This is reflected in the above table, where the new target levels show there are no water bodies of good status.

Granting of permissions where there is known risk of deterioration in the status of water bodies

There were no planning permissions granted for the current year where there is a known risk of deterioration in the status of water bodies.

In terms of the requirement for no permissions granted where there is a known risk of deterioration in status, with no permissions granted, the target has been achieved.

Permissions to incorporate measures designed to improve water quality where appropriate

There were no permissions for the current year where it was considered appropriate to incorporate measures to improve water quality.

In terms of permissions incorporating measures designed to improve water quality, the target has been achieved.

Background air pollution

There has been no change in the air quality for Blaenau Gwent.

Blaenau Gwent CBC carries out air quality monitoring for nitrogen dioxide at 22 locations. The monitoring results from all of the sites are significantly below the air quality objective for nitrogen dioxide in the UK. As a result, the Council has not declared any air quality management areas within Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council area.

In terms of the requirement for no decrease in air quality within the County Borough the target has been achieved.

The monitoring aim to ensure the protection, preservation and enhancement of the natural environment has had a mixed effect.

PERFORMANCE:

A

Monitoring Table: SP11

POLICY SP11	RELEVANT OBJECTIVES:	RELEVANT POLICIES:	
Protection and Enhancement of the Historic Environment	14	DM17 TM1	
MONITORING AIM:	To ensure that listed buildings and archaeological sites are protected, preserved and where appropriate enhanced		
MONITORING INDICATOR :	MONITORING TARGET:		
Number of listed buildings and historic sites	No applications to result in the loss of listed buildings and historic sites		
Number of listed buildings or archaeological sites enhanced	All applications to preserve or enhance a listed building or archaeological site		
Number of listed or local buildings of historical value brought into use for tourism	Outcome by End of 2016	Outcome by End of Plan (2021)	
	Prepare a list of locally listed buildings of historic value	Adopt as Supplementary Planning Guidance	
ANALYSIS OF RESULTS:			
<p>The aim is to ensure that listed buildings and archaeological sites are protected, preserved and where appropriate enhanced. The monitoring targets to measure success are no loss of listed building or historic site, the number of listed buildings and archaeological sites enhanced and the number of listed or local buildings bought back into use for tourism.</p> <p><u>Loss of Listed Buildings and Historic Sites</u> There has been no loss of listed buildings or historic sites.</p> <p>In terms of the number of listed buildings and historic sites and the requirement for no applications to result in a loss, the target has been met.</p> <p><u>Preservation and Enhancement of Listed Buildings and Archaeological Sites</u> For the current year 2021-22, one planning application was received for works to Newtown Bridge, Ebbw Vale.</p>			
Planning App. No.	Proposal	Location	Status
2015-2016			
c/2015/0392	Listed building consent granted to bring an existing barn into use for tourism	Nantyglo Roundhouse Towers, Nantyglo	Work is nearing completion
2017-2018			
c/2017/0059	Replacement and reinstatement of features of the Grade II listed building	NCB Social Club, The Circle, Tredegar	Work is well underway
2018-2019			
No planning applications received for this year			

2019 – 2020			
No planning applications received for this year			
2020 – 2021			
C/2013/0206	Retention of alterations to institute roof and proposed works including hall fire escape doors, hall bar with balustraded technical area above served by new access stair, ground floor north wing internal partitioning arrangements, relocation of external refuse bin storage area and rebuilding of rear bank retaining wall incorporating new seating area	Ebbw Vale Institute, Ebbw Vale	Not started
2021 - 2022			
C/2021/0086	The preservation and enhancement of the bridge	Newtown Bridge, Ebbw Vale	Work is well underway

In terms of all applications to preserve or enhance a listed building or archaeological sites, the target has been met.

Number of listed or local buildings of historical value brought into use for tourism

Planning App. No.	Proposal	Location	Status
2015-2016			
c/2015/0392	Listed building consent granted to bring an existing barn into use for tourism	Nantyglo Roundhouse Towers, Nantyglo	Work has been completed.
2021 - 2022			
2020/0270 and 2020/0269	Listed building consent and the conversion of the south wing of existing barn complex to form a new bunkhouse accommodation with associated external staircase, carparking and picnic area.	Nantyglo Roundhouse Towers, Nantyglo	Work has not started

A further application has been received for Nantyglo Roundhouse Towers to change the use of a listed building for tourism. The full application has been granted.

List of Locally Listed Buildings of Historic Value

A draft list of locally listed buildings and sites of historic value for Tredegar, Ebbw Vale, Brynmawr, Blaina and Abertillery has been completed. External consultation is required before the draft can be

adopted as a Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPG) document. This is likely to happen as part of the Replacement Local Development Plan.

The outcome requirement to prepare a list of locally listed buildings of historic value has been achieved. However, the target to adopt the list by 2021 has not been achieved.

The monitoring aim to ensure that listed buildings and archaeological sites are protected, preserved and where appropriate enhanced has been met.

PERFORMANCE:

G

Monitoring Table: SP12

POLICY SP12	RELEVANT OBJECTIVES:	RELEVANT POLICIES:
Securing an Adequate Supply of Minerals	15	DM3, DM18 & DM19 M1, M2, M3 & M4
MONITORING AIM :	To ensure a minimum 10-year land bank and provision of at least 3Mt of aggregates	
MONITORING INDICATOR :	ANNUAL MONITORING TARGET:	
Number of years land bank of permitted aggregate reserves	100% provision of a 10 year landbank (measured annually) through the plan period	
	Outcome by End of 2016	Outcome by End of Plan (2021)
The extent of primary land-won aggregates permitted expressed as a percentage of the total capacity required, as identified in the Regional Technical Statement	Planning application received by 2016	Consent granted for at least 3Mt
ANALYSIS OF RESULTS:		
Policy SP12 seeks to secure an adequate supply of minerals. To ensure this is achieved the land bank and the extent of required capacity is monitored.		
<u>Number of years land bank of permitted aggregate reserves</u>		
The South Wales Regional Aggregates Working Party latest Annual Report is for 2019.		
Year	No. of years land bank of permitted reserves	
2013	11.8	
2014	10	
2016	7	
2018	6	
2019	3	
In terms of the number of year's land bank of permitted reserves and the requirement for 100% provision of a 10-year land bank according to the latest available information (2019) the Plan has a 3 year land bank and has therefore broken the trigger of less than a 10 years land bank.		
<u>The extent of primary land-won aggregates permitted expressed as a percentage of the total capacity required, as identified in the Regional Technical Statement</u>		
The latest RTS for South Wales (2 nd Review) (Sept 2020) identifies that Blaenau Gwent apportionment requirement is 5.027 million tonnes from 2016 to 2041 and that Blaenau Gwent had		

1.32 million tonnes of reserves at the end of 2016. This equates to 26% of the total capacity required. As no further consents have been granted and the reserve continues to be worked this situation has likely deteriorated.

The Plan identifies three preferred areas for mineral extraction to accommodate the requirement for a further 1.25 million tonnes: Adjacent Trefil Quarry, Tredegar; Tir Pentwys Tip, Llanhilleth; and Land South East of Cwm, Ebbw Vale. In terms updates, a Scoping Opinion has been sought at Trefil Quarry and a planning application has been received for the lateral extension at Trefil Quarry. The promoters of Land South East of Cwm are actively working on bringing the site forward but no planning application has been received or formal pre-application discussions held to date. In terms of Tir Pentwys Tip, Torfaen County Borough Council refused permission for the land within their Council area. The applicant appealed this decision but the refusal was upheld. Revised access proposals for Tir Pentwys Tip quarry have been proposed as part of the candidate site submission for Torfaen County Borough Council's Replacement LDP. Discussions are ongoing regarding a Sub-Regional Statement of Common Ground in line with RTS2 provisions.

In terms of the extent of primary land-won aggregates permitted as a percentage of the total capacity required the figure is 26%. In terms of the outcome requirement for a planning application to be received by 2016 and consent granted by 2021 the Plan has failed to meet the target.

The monitoring aim to ensure a minimum 10-year land bank and provision of at least 3Mt of aggregates is not currently being achieved but the situation can be ameliorated without intervention.

PERFORMANCE:

A

Monitoring Table: SP13

POLICY SP13	RELEVANT OBJECTIVES:	RELEVANT POLICIES:															
Delivering Sustainable Waste Management	16	DM1, DM2, DM3 & DM20 W1															
MONITORING AIM:	To ensure the delivery of sustainable waste management																
MONITORING INDICATOR:	Outcome by End of 2016	Outcome by End of Plan (2021)															
Delivery of regional waste facilities	Residual project contract awarded																
	Organic projects contract awarded																
Amount of waste arising, and managed by management type	Meet Wise about Waste targets for reuse and recycling / composting for municipal waste to 58%	Meet Wise about Waste targets for re-use and recycling / composting for municipal waste to 64%															
ANALYSIS OF RESULTS:																	
<p>Policy SP13 is about the delivery of sustainable waste management in Blaenau Gwent. The outcomes being monitored are in relation to awarding contracts, completion of the regional waste facility and meeting recycling targets.</p> <p><u>Delivery of regional waste facilities</u></p> <p>The Residual Project</p> <p>Blaenau Gwent and Torfaen have joined the Tomorrow's Valley residual waste procurement partnership consisting of neighbouring authorities Merthyr Tydfil and Rhondda Cynon Taff County. The contract started on 1st April 2016 and will be in place for 25 years with the option to extend for a further 5 years.</p> <p>In terms of the delivery of the regional waste facilities and the outcome requirement for the residual project contract to be awarded by 2016, as the contract has been awarded, the Plan is on target.</p> <p>The Organics Project</p> <p>Blaenau Gwent acting as the Lead Authority on behalf of Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council, Monmouthshire County Council and Torfaen County Borough Council awarded a long term contract for the treatment of food waste on behalf of the Authorities. The Contract commenced on 1st April 2018 and will be in place for 15 years with the option to extend for a further three years.</p> <p>In terms of the delivery of the regional waste facilities and the outcome requirement for the organics project contract to be awarded by 2016, as the contract was awarded in 2018, the Plan is slightly behind target.</p> <p><u>Amount of waste arising, and managed by management type</u></p> <p>Our performance in relation to the recycling targets are as follows:</p> <p>Towards Zero Waste Targets</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Year</th> <th>Towards Zero Waste Target</th> <th>BG Performance</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>2012-13</td> <td>52%</td> <td>51.2%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2013-14</td> <td></td> <td>54.75%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2014-15</td> <td></td> <td>50%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2015-16</td> <td>58%</td> <td>49%</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>			Year	Towards Zero Waste Target	BG Performance	2012-13	52%	51.2%	2013-14		54.75%	2014-15		50%	2015-16	58%	49%
Year	Towards Zero Waste Target	BG Performance															
2012-13	52%	51.2%															
2013-14		54.75%															
2014-15		50%															
2015-16	58%	49%															

2016-17		56.77%
2017-18		56%
2018-19		59.28%
2019-20		65.3%
2020-21	64%	65.5%
2022	64%	64.94%

Source: Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council: Waste

The recycling rate has improved from last year and has exceeded the target of 64% set for 2021 by 0.9%.

In terms of the amount of waste arising and the outcome to meet the Wise about Waste target for reuse and recycling/ composting for municipal waste of 64% by 2021 the plan has met the target.

The monitoring aim to ensure the delivery of sustainable waste management is currently being achieved.

PERFORMANCE:	G
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5.0 SUSTAINABILITY APPRAISAL MONITORING

5.1 The Sustainability Appraisal of the LDP identified 24 objectives and 71 indicators which are intended to measure the social, economic and environmental impact of the LDP.

5.2 A key issue in determining the Plan's sustainability progress is ensuring the proposed indicators are providing the necessary information to allow prediction of the effects of the Plan. The monitoring programme contained within the Sustainability Appraisal Report was preliminary and only identified potential indicators. The monitoring process has found that there are opportunities to improve the SA monitoring to ensure that appropriate data is collected. There are no proposed changes to the SA monitoring indicators for this year.

SA Objective 1	SA Indicators																												
To promote economic growth and strengthen and diversify the local economy	Employment by Sector	R																											
	Amount of major retail, office and leisure development	R																											
Monitoring Results	R																												
<p>Employment by Sector Refer to LDP Monitoring Framework Table SP8 (b) for detail.</p> <p>In terms of maintaining the number of employee jobs in manufacturing at 5,300, at 4,000 the target has not been achieved. In terms of increase the number of employee jobs in construction from 800 to 1,000 by 2021 at 700 jobs the target has not been achieved. In terms of increasing the number of employee jobs in the service industry from 12,700 to 13,797 by 2021 at 11,975 jobs the target has not been achieved.</p> <p>Amount of major Retail, Office and Leisure Development</p> <p>Retail Refer to LDP Monitoring Framework Table SP1 for detail.</p> <p>In terms of the amount of A1 land delivered through allocations and redevelopments in the town centre and the outcome requirement of 9,100 sq m by 2016 and 11,500 sq m by 2021, as only 241.5 sq m has currently been delivered, the 2016 and 2021 targets have not been achieved.</p> <p>Office Development</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Location</th> <th>Proposal</th> <th>Status</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td colspan="3">2014-15</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Land to the south east of Lime Avenue, The Works, Ebbw Vale</td> <td>48,000 sq m of B1 employment floorspace</td> <td>Not started</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="3">2015-16</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Former Rehobeth Congregational Church, Brynmawr</td> <td>An element of the redevelopment involves A2 use (up to 148 sq m)</td> <td>Complete in 2017-18</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="3">2016-17</td> </tr> <tr> <td>39 and 40 Rassau Industrial Estate, Ebbw Vale</td> <td>B1 employment floorspace</td> <td>Not started</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="3">2017-18</td> </tr> <tr> <td>39-47 Somerset Street, Abertillery</td> <td>change of use of the existing ground floor units from A1 retail to a single unit of A2</td> <td>Complete in 2018-19</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>			Location	Proposal	Status	2014-15			Land to the south east of Lime Avenue, The Works, Ebbw Vale	48,000 sq m of B1 employment floorspace	Not started	2015-16			Former Rehobeth Congregational Church, Brynmawr	An element of the redevelopment involves A2 use (up to 148 sq m)	Complete in 2017-18	2016-17			39 and 40 Rassau Industrial Estate, Ebbw Vale	B1 employment floorspace	Not started	2017-18			39-47 Somerset Street, Abertillery	change of use of the existing ground floor units from A1 retail to a single unit of A2	Complete in 2018-19
Location	Proposal	Status																											
2014-15																													
Land to the south east of Lime Avenue, The Works, Ebbw Vale	48,000 sq m of B1 employment floorspace	Not started																											
2015-16																													
Former Rehobeth Congregational Church, Brynmawr	An element of the redevelopment involves A2 use (up to 148 sq m)	Complete in 2017-18																											
2016-17																													
39 and 40 Rassau Industrial Estate, Ebbw Vale	B1 employment floorspace	Not started																											
2017-18																													
39-47 Somerset Street, Abertillery	change of use of the existing ground floor units from A1 retail to a single unit of A2	Complete in 2018-19																											

	use (364 sqm)	
2018-19		
Land north of Regain Building, Mill Lane, Victoria, The Works, Ebbw Vale (MU2)	Construction of 9 business units (B1) within 3 buildings, with associated parking and new access road. 50% will be office space (1,175.25 sqm)	Complete in 2019-21
Site to the north of the Learning Zone, The Works Ebbw Vale (MU2)	Provision of office development with ancillary facilities (856 sqm)	Complete in 2019-21
2019-20		
Land off Southern end of Lime Avenue (MU2)	Construction of 6 buildings to provide 25 employment units for B1 and B2 uses, new access road and junctions off Lime Avenue and associated parking and other infrastructure (B1 1,692 sq m)	Not started (2021-22)
Unit B Cwm Draw Industrial Estate	First floor extension to existing Factory unit, to form office space (186 sq m)	Complete in 2021-22
Land adjacent to unit 27 Tafarnaubach Industrial Estate	Parking place for heavy goods vehicles with associated workshop/office building (unique use class), building comprising of 6 no. starter business units (B1 use class), new vehicular accesses and associated parking (976 sq m)	Complete in 2021-22
Land to the north east of Rassau Industrial Estate	Construction of new business units (Class B1/B2/B8 and ancillary uses) and associated parking areas, external works (B1 1,012 sq m)	Complete in 2021-22
2020-21		
Regain building and basement garden, Steelworks Road	Two storey building (B1 use) linked to Regain building with associated infilling of basement garden, access, parking and other infrastructure, and additional parking areas and service access to Regain building (942 sq m)	Complete in 2021-2022
2021-22		
Land at Waun y Pound Industrial Estate	Proposed light industrial units (996 sq m)	Not started (2021-22)
Bryn Bach Country Park, Merthyr Road, Tredegar	The construction of two pods to create a co working office hub (58 sq m)	Under construction (2021-22)
Land to the Southern End of Lime Avenue, Ebbw Vale	Construction of employment units for B1, B2 and B8 uses (2,140 sq m)	Not started (2021-22)

In terms of the amount of office development, 3,116 sq m of A2/B1 development has been completed during 2021-22.

Tourism and Leisure

Refer to LDP Monitoring Framework Table SP9 for detail.

In terms of the number of tourism projects completed per annum and the outcome requirement for 6 schemes to be completed by 2016 and a further project by 2021, with only 3 schemes being completed the 2016 and 2021 targets have not been achieved.

In terms of the amount of major retail, office and leisure development the Plan is behind target.

The plan is having a negative impact on the objective to promote economic growth and strengthen and diversify the local economy.

SA Objective 2	SA Indicators	
To increase levels of local employment and ensure distribution of employment	% of working age population that are economically active	G
	Earnings by residence	G
Monitoring Results	G	

% of Working Age Population that are Economically Active

Refer to the LDP Monitoring Framework – Table SP8 (a) for detail.

In terms of the monitoring target to increase the employment rate from 59.2% and the outcome requirement of 66.05% by 2016 and 72.9% by 2021, the 2016 has been achieved but the employment rate is falling slightly behind the 2021 target.

Earnings by Residence

Gross Weekly Pay for Full-Time Workers

Year	Blaenau Gwent (£'s)	Wales (£'s)
2009	369.60	444.60
2013	404.50	475.30
2014	395.90	480.00
2015	403.50	487.60
2016	438.50	499.20
2017	489.90	505.70
2018	484.50	518.50
2019	455.10	540.0
2020	454.20	541.70
2021	523.30	570.6

Source: Nomis

In 2021, the average gross weekly pay for full-time workers in Blaenau Gwent increased by £69.10. In the same period, the weekly pay in Wales increased by £28.90. The gap between Blaenau Gwent and Wales is closing and is now only £47.30 compared to £87.50 in 2020.

Hourly-Pay Excluding Overtime

Year	Blaenau Gwent (£'s)	Wales (£'s)
2013	10.13	11.98
2014	10.06	12.04
2015	10.55	12.30
2016	11.10	12.67

2017	11.99	12.75
2018	12.03	13.00
2019	11.59	13.65
2020	11.85	13.83
2021	13.78	14.40

Source: Nomis

In Blaenau Gwent, the hourly pay excluding overtime increased in 2021 by £1.93. In 2020 there was an increase of 26p. This is comparable to Wales which also witnessed an increase of 57p, albeit a much less of an increase. There is now only a 62p difference between Wales and Blaenau Gwent compared to a £1.98 difference in 2020.

In terms of earnings by residence there was a significant increase in 2021.

The Plan overall is having a mixed impact on the objective to increase levels of local employment and ensure distribution of employment.

SA Objective 3	SA Indicators	
To enable the development of a strong tourism economy in Blaenau Gwent, complementary to the regional offer	Total number of day visitors	X
	Total number of stay visitors	X
	Number of tourism facilities completed per annum	R
	Amount of revenue generated by the tourism industry	X
Monitoring Results	R	

Total Number of Day Visitors

Year	Number of Day Visitors
2012	504,500
2013	517,470
2014	508,240
2015	537,850
2016	557,970
2017	514,620
2018	558,230
2019	574,320
2020	No data available

Source: Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council: Tourism

There is no update available for this indicator

Total Number of Stay Visitors

Year	Number of Stay Visitors
2012	125,900
2013	126,660
2014	131,320
2015	137,680
2016	141,130
2017	164,090

2018	164,960
2019	169,400

Source: Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council: Tourism

There is no update available for this indicator.

Number of Tourism Facilities Completed per Annum

Refer to the LDP Monitoring Framework – Table SP9 for detail.

In terms of the number of tourism projects completed per annum and the outcome requirement for 6 schemes to be completed by 2016 and a further project by 2021, with only 3 schemes being completed the 2016 and 2021 targets have not been achieved.

Amount of Revenue Generated by the Tourism Industry

The table below sets out the amount of revenue generated by the tourism industry.

Year	Amount of Revenue Generated by the Tourism Industry
2013	£37.98 million
2014	£39.76 million
2015	£43.2 million
2016	£45.6 million
2017	£50.9 million
2018	£54.9 million
2019	£60.87 million
2020	No data available

Source: Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council: Tourism

There is no update available for this indicator.

The Plan is having a mixed impact on the objective to enable the development of a strong tourism economy in Blaenau Gwent, complementary to the regional offer.

SA Objective 4	SA Indicators	
To enhance the vitality and viability of town centres	Annual vacancy rate in town centres	A
Monitoring Results	A	
<u>Annual vacancy rate in town centres</u>		
Refer to the LDP Monitoring Framework Table SP3 (b) for detail.		
In terms of reducing the vacancy rate in Ebbw Vale from a base level of 11.5% the target has not been achieved (+3.5%).		
In terms of reducing the vacancy rate in Abertillery from a base level of 20% the target has been achieved (-3%).		
In terms of reducing the vacancy rate in Brynmawr from a base level of 11.6% the target has been achieved (-5%).		
In terms of reducing the vacancy rate in Tredegar from a base level of 12.4% the target has not been achieved (+2%).		
In terms of reducing the vacancy rate in Blaina from a base level of 25% the target has not been achieved (+1%).		

The Plan is having a mixed impact on the objective to enhance the vitality and viability of town centres.

SA Objective: 5	SA Indicators	
To meet identified housing needs	Number of net additional affordable and general market dwellings built per annum	R
	Percentage of vacant residential properties	G
	Net additional Gypsy and Traveller units	R
Monitoring Results	A	

Number of Net Additional Affordable and General Market Dwellings Built per Annum

Year	General Market Housing	Affordable Housing	Total
2007	73	0	73
2008	102	0	102
2009	112	38	150
2010	43	72	115
2011	46	26	72
2012	65	148	213
2013	49	33	82
2014	40	41	81
2015	42	7	49
2016	46	101	147
2017	39	48	87
2018	40	0	40
2019	44	31	75
2020	101	0	101
2021	60	72	132
2022	97	27	124
Total	999	644	1,643

Refer to LDP Monitoring Framework Table SP4 (a) for more detail.

In terms of the net number of additional affordable and general market dwellings built and the outcome requirement of 1,900 by 2016 and 3,500 by 2021 at 1,643 the Plan is behind target and has not met the outcome for 2021.

Percentage of Vacant Residential Properties

Refer to LDP Monitoring Framework Table SP4 (a) for more detail.

The new 2021 Census figures on vacancy rates has not yet been published therefor there is no update available for this monitoring outcome.

Net Additional Gypsy and Traveller Units

Refer to LDP Monitoring Framework Table SP5 (a) for more detail.

In terms of the requirement for land being available for Gypsy and Traveller units the Plan is failing to meet this requirement.

The Plan is having a mixed impact on the objective of meeting housing needs.

SA Objective: 6		SA Indicators	
To improve the quality of housing stock	Number of houses meeting Welsh Housing Quality Standard		X
Monitoring Results		X	
Number of houses meeting Welsh Housing Quality Standard			
In 2021-22, it was reported that:			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • United Welsh has 961 properties in Blaenau Gwent – all of which are WHQS compliant. • Melin has 425 properties in Blaenau Gwent – all of which are WHQS compliant. • Linc Cymru has 598 properties in Blaenau Gwent – No update has been received for the period 2021-2022. • Tai Calon has 5,861 properties in Blaenau Gwent – 100% of which are WHQS compliant. 			
Year	Number of houses meeting Welsh Housing Quality Standard		
2014	4,129		
2015	7,000		
2016	8,038		
2017	8,103		
2018	8,026		
2019	7,748		
2020	No data available		
2021	No data available		
2022	No data available		

SA Objective: 7		SA Indicators	
To secure the delivery and maintenance of quality affordable housing	% of eligible residential planning permissions where affordable housing has been negotiated		G
	Average house price to income ratio		A
Monitoring Results		G	
% of Eligible Residential Planning Permissions where Affordable Housing has been Negotiated			
Year	Number of eligible planning applications	No. where affordable housing has been negotiated	% of eligible residential planning permissions where affordable housing has been negotiated
2013-2014	1	1	100%
2014-2015	3	2	66%
2015-2016	8	7	87.5%
2016-2017	1	1	100%
2017-2018	3	2	66%
2018-2019	7	6	90%
2019-2020	2	2	100%

2020-2021	2	1	50%
2021-2022	1	1	100%
Total	28	23	82%

Affordable housing was negotiated on 100% of eligible planning applications this year.

In terms of the percentage of eligible residential planning permissions where affordable housing has been negotiated, at 82% of applications, the Plan is having a positive impact.

Average House Price to Income Ratio

Year	Average house price	Average earnings	Ratio
2013-2014	£61,860	£21,034	2.94:1
2014-2015	£61,371	£20,711.6	2.96:1
2015-2016	£69,384	£20,976.8	3.3:1
2016-2017	£77,737	£22,562.8	3.4:1
2017-2018	£83,280	£25,547.7	3.26:1
2018-2019	£93,806	£24,956	3.73:1
2019-2020	£92,437	£23,618	3.91:1
2020-2021	£107,218	£27,211	3.94.1

Source: Land Registry and Nomis

The latest information for earnings and house prices for April 2021 was £107,218 (Land Registry) whereas the average earnings was £27,211 (Nomis). This results in a ratio of 3.94:1 which is the highest to date.

In terms of average price to income ratio this year has risen by 0.03 to 3.94:1.

Overall the Plan is having a positive impact on the objective to secure the delivery and maintenance of quality affordable housing.

SA Objective 8	SA Indicators									
To improve educational attainment and increase skills levels	Delivery of learning infrastructure	G								
	Proportion of new employment opportunities that offer training schemes secured through S106 agreements on major schemes	A								
Monitoring Results	A									
<p>Delivery of Learning Infrastructure Refer to LDP Monitoring Framework Table SP8 (b) for detail.</p> <p>In terms of delivery of learning infrastructure and the outcome requirement for the completion of the learning zone by 2016 the target has been achieved. In terms of the outcome requirement for the completion of a new primary school on the former Six Bells Colliery site by 2021, the target has been achieved.</p> <p>Proportion of new employment opportunities that offer training schemes</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Year</th> <th>Number of major employment schemes</th> <th>Number which offer training schemes</th> <th>Proportion</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>2013-2014</td> <td>1</td> <td>1</td> <td>100%</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>			Year	Number of major employment schemes	Number which offer training schemes	Proportion	2013-2014	1	1	100%
Year	Number of major employment schemes	Number which offer training schemes	Proportion							
2013-2014	1	1	100%							

2014-2015	0	0	N/A
2015-2016	0	0	N/A
2016-2017	0	0	N/A
2017-2018	0	0	N/A
2018-2019	3	0	0%
2019-20	3	0	0%
2020-21	2	0	0%
2021-22	1	0	0%

There has been 1 planning permission granted for a major employment opportunity in the period 2021-22, of which it does not offer a training scheme.

In terms of delivery of the proportion of new employment opportunities that offer training schemes secured through S106 agreements on major schemes the Plan is not having a positive impact.

The Plan is having a mixed impact on the objective to improve educational attainment and increase skills levels.

SA Objective 9	SA Indicators		
To improve accessibility to education, leisure, employment, health, homes and community services for all sectors of the community	The percentage of the total length of rights of way in the local authority area, that are easy to use by the general public		X
	Accessibility by hubs – Number of highway and public transport schemes implemented		R
Monitoring Results	A		
<u>The percentage of the total length of rights of way in the local authority area, that are easy to use by the general public</u>			
Year	Total Length of PROW	PROW Accessible to the General Public	Percentage Accessible to the General Public
2013 - 2014	300,984 metres	295,086 metres	98.07%
2014 - 2015	300,984 metres	241,289 metres	80.2%
2015 - 2016	300,984 metres	242,589 metres	80.6%
2016 - 2017	301,392 metres	243,805 metres	80.9%
2017 - 2018	301,392 metres	243,805 metres	80.9%
2018-2019	301,392 metres	243,805 metres	80.9%
2019-2020	There is no accurate up to date figure available		
2020-2021	There is no accurate up to date figure available		
2021-2022	There is no accurate up to date figure available		
Source: Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council: Green Infrastructure			
It has not been possible to collect the data for this indicator for a number of years and therefore it is impossible to give any degree of accuracy over the ease of use of public rights of way in Blaenau Gwent.			
<u>Accessibility by Hubs – Number of Highway and Public Transport Schemes Implemented</u>			
Refer to LDP Monitoring Framework Table SP6 for detail.			

In terms of the number of transport schemes implemented and the outcome for 26 by 2021 the Plan, with 12 schemes completed has failed to meet the 2021 target.

The Plan is currently having a mixed impact on the objective to improve accessibility to education, leisure, employment, health, homes and community services for all sectors of the community.

SA Objective 10	SA Indicators	
To promote community health, social care and well-being	Community satisfaction / perceptions	A
	Overall index of multiple deprivation	X
	Hectares of recreational open space per 1,000 population	R
	Number of leisure facilities completed per annum	R
	Delivery of health infrastructure	G
	Number of people with access to natural greenspace within 400m of their home as a percentage of all people	G
	Percentage of population within 1 km of Cycle Network	G
	Percentage of pupils who take part in sport at least 3 times a week	X
	Percentage of pupils who take part in sport at a club outside of school in the last year	X
	Percentage of pupils who enjoy sport outside of school a lot	X
Monitoring Results	A	

Community Satisfaction / Perceptions

Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council have not undertaken a community satisfaction survey this year. However, Welsh Government undertakes an annual National Survey for Wales. In August 2022, the results of the 2021-22 survey were published. The survey included a question on the satisfaction of the local area as a place to live. People who live in Blaenau Gwent were 68% satisfied, the lowest rate of 22 local authorities in Wales which was significantly lower than the next lowest ranked local authority, Newport with 79% (although Blaenau Gwent also had the highest level of ‘neither satisfied or dissatisfied’). The highest rate of satisfaction was in Denbighshire with 96%.

Overall Index of Multiple Deprivation

The latest Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation (WIMD) was published October 2019. There has been no refresh of the WIMD 2019 data.

Hectares of Recreational Open Space per 1,000 Population

Refer to the LDP Monitoring Framework Table SP9 for details.

In terms of working towards the FIT standard of 2.4 hectares of recreational open space per 1,000 projected population, the figure has remained at 1.00 ha.

Number of Leisure Facilities Completed per Annum

Refer to the LDP Monitoring Framework Tables SP1 and SP9 for detail.

In terms of the number of leisure facilities completed per annum and the outcome requirement for 6 schemes to be completed by 2016 and a further project by 2021, the target has not been achieved as only 3 out of the 7 schemes have been completed.

Delivery of Health Infrastructure

Refer to LDP Monitoring Framework Table SP8 (b) for details.

In terms of delivery of health infrastructure the Plan is on target for completion by 2021.

Number of people with access to natural greenspace within 400m of their home as a percentage of all people

Refer to LDP Monitoring Framework Table SP9 for details.

In terms of the number of people with access to natural greenspace within 400m of their home and the outcome requirement to increase this from 65% to 77% by 2016 and 80% by 2021 with 87% having access this has been achieved.

Percentage of Population within 1km of Cycle Network

Year	Percentage of population within 1 km of Cycle Network
2013-2014	91%
2014-2015	95%
2015-2016	95%
2016-2017	96%
2017-2018	96%
2018-2019	96%
2019-2020	96%
2020-2021	96%
2021-2022	96%

There has been no change in the percentage of the population within 1km of the cycle network.

In terms of the percentage of population within 1 km of the cycle network the Plan is having a positive impact.

Percentage of pupils who take part in sport at least 3 times a week

The School Sports Survey has not been updated since 2018 so there is no data available to report.

Year	Blaenau Gwent	Wales
2018	38%	48%
2019	No data available for this period	
2020		

Source: School Sports Survey (Sports Wales, 2015 and 2018)

Percentage of pupils who take part in sport at a club outside of school in the last year

Year	Blaenau Gwent %
2015	77%
2018	66%
2019	No data available for this period

2020	
Source: School Sports Survey (Sports Wales, 2015 and 2018)	
Percentage of pupils who enjoy sport outside of school a lot	
Year	Blaenau Gwent %
2015	66%
2018	59%
2019	No data available for this period
2020	
Source: School Sports Survey (Sports Wales, 2015 and 2018)	
The Plan is having a mixed impact on the objective to promote community health, social care and well-being.	

SA Objective 11	SA Indicators	
To reduce crime, social disorder and fear of crime	Percentage of large new housing sites that meets the 'secured by design' certification criteria	G
Monitoring Results	G	
<p>Percentage of new housing sites that meets the 'secured by design certification criteria' For the current year (2022), one full planning application for housing has been granted which meets the 'secure by design criteria'.</p> <p>In terms of the percentage of housing sites that meets the 'secured by design certification criteria' the Plan is on target.</p> <p>The Plan is having a positive impact on the objective to reduce crime, social disorder and fear of crime.</p>		

SA Objective: 12	SA Indicators							
To encourage modal shift from private transport to sustainable transport	Frequency of buses between hubs	A						
	Frequency of public transport to Cardiff or Newport	A						
	No. and value of planning contributions secured for improvements in public transport, walking and cycling	A						
	Modal split - % of population travelling to work by sustainable modes	X						
Monitoring Results	A							
<p>Frequency of buses between hubs The following list identifies the main bus services that currently operate within Blaenau Gwent:</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="width: 15%;">SERVICE</th> <th style="width: 60%;">ROUTE AND TIMINGS</th> <th style="width: 25%;">OPERATOR</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>X4*</td> <td>Cardiff-Merthyr-Tredegar-Ebbw Vale-Brynmawr-Abergavenny-Herford (2 hourly to Hereford every 30mins at busy times and hourly throughout the rest of the day to Abergavenny)</td> <td>Stagecoach (black)</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>			SERVICE	ROUTE AND TIMINGS	OPERATOR	X4*	Cardiff-Merthyr-Tredegar-Ebbw Vale-Brynmawr-Abergavenny-Herford (2 hourly to Hereford every 30mins at busy times and hourly throughout the rest of the day to Abergavenny)	Stagecoach (black)
SERVICE	ROUTE AND TIMINGS	OPERATOR						
X4*	Cardiff-Merthyr-Tredegar-Ebbw Vale-Brynmawr-Abergavenny-Herford (2 hourly to Hereford every 30mins at busy times and hourly throughout the rest of the day to Abergavenny)	Stagecoach (black)						

X15*	Brynmawr-Abertillery-Newport (every 30 mins at busy times and hourly service for the rest of the day)	Stagecoach (dark red)
E11*	Tredegar Peacehaven-Ebbw Vale (hourly service)	Harris Coaches (green)
E12	Tredegar-Dukestown (hourly)	Harris Coaches
E14	Tredegar-Gwent Way (hourly service)	Harris Coaches (dark blue)
4	Tredegar – Cefn Golau-Rhymney – Pontlottyn and Ystrad Ysbyty Fawr(hourly service)	Harris & Stagecoach (dark green)
52	Abertillery-Newbridge-Blackwood (every hourly service)	Stagecoach (red)
56	Tredegar-Blackwood-Newport (30 mins at busy times otherwise hourly)	Stagecoach (red)
3	Abergavenny-Gilwern-Brynmawr (4 services a day)	Stagecoach (lilac)
1	Abertillery-Cwmtillery-Brynithel-Hillcrest-Abertillery (hourly service)	Henleys Bus Service
3	Abertillery-Arael View (hourly)	Henleys Bus Service
X1*	Brynmawr-Abertillery-Pontypool-Cwmbran (hourly)	Phil Anslow
31	Brynmawr to Forgeiside (hourly)	Phil Anslow

* denotes links between hubs

In terms of bus services the E2,E3 and E4 no longer run and have been replaced by a new fflecsi service. The frequency of buses between hubs varies between 2 and 1 per hour.

Frequency of public transport to Cardiff or Newport

There is an hourly train link to Cardiff from Ebbw Vale town. The current frequency of services between Ebbw Vale and Cardiff Central are as follows:

Monday-Saturday: 1 train per hour (First train, 06.33, last train, 22:38).

Sunday: 1 train every 2 hours (First train, 8.52, last train, 22:44).

Plans are underway to increase this service to 2 per hour.

There is a bus service every 30 mins at busy times and hourly at other times to Newport from Tredegar, Brynmawr and Abertillery.

In terms of the frequency of public transport to Cardiff and Newport there has been no change since last year.

No. and value of planning contributions secured for improvements in public transport, walking and cycling

No contributions have been secured this year.

Year	No of improvements	Value of contributions
2009-2014	5	£50,000
2014-2015	0	0

2015-2016	0	0
2016-2017	0	0
2017-2018	0	0
2018-2019	0	0
2019-2020	0	0
2020-2021	0	0
2021 - 2022	0	0

In terms of the number and value of planning contributions secured none were secured this year.

Modal split - % of population travelling to work by sustainable modes

No further update is available.

The Plan is having a mixed impact on the objective to encourage modal shift from private transport to sustainable transport.

SA Objective 13	SA Indicators	
To protect and enhance biodiversity across Blaenau Gwent	Number of developments which have an adverse effect on European sites	G
	Area of SSSI lost to development per annum	G
	Amount of protected woodland and trees lost to development per annum	G
	Area of SINC lost to development per annum	G
	Area of LNR lost to development per annum	G
	Number of Environmental Enhancements	G
Monitoring Results	G	
<p><u>Number of developments which have an adverse effect on European sites</u> Refer to LDP Monitoring Framework Table SP10 for detail.</p> <p>In terms of the number of developments which have an adverse effect on European sites and the requirement for all sites to have a project level HRA, as no planning applications were received the target has been achieved.</p> <p><u>Area of SSSI lost to development per annum</u> Refer to LDP Monitoring Framework Table SP10 for detail.</p> <p>In terms of the requirement for no net loss of SSSI to development the Plan is on target.</p> <p><u>Amount of protected woodland and trees lost to development per annum</u> The amount of trees protected by a Tree Preservation Order (TPO) that have been lost this year through development are set out in the table below.</p>		
2016-2017		
Planning Ref No	Location	Comments
C/2004/0534	Medhurst Nantyglo	The planning permission relates to the development of 3 dwellings. There has been a loss of 33 protected trees

		due to unlawful works on site, not carried out in accordance with the planning permission.
C/2016/0050	Bangor Road	2 trees lost to development. Planning permission granted at appeal.
2017 - 2018		
No loss of protected trees or woodland		
2018 - 2019		
No loss of protected trees or woodland		
2019 - 2020		
No loss of protected trees or woodland		
2020 - 2021		
Planning Ref No	Location	Comments
C/2020/0201	Land at Northgate Steelworks Rd Ebbw Vale	There is a removal of 4 diseased trees. Further tree planting is to take place.
C/2019/0190	Catholic Rd, Brynmawr	There will be a loss of a number of trees, however re-planting will be undertaken to enhance the current tree cover and longer term tree management will take place
2021 - 2022		
No loss of protected trees or woodland		

In terms of the amount of protected woodland and trees lost to development per annum there was no loss this year. The Plan is therefore on target for the current year.

Area of SINC lost to development per annum

Refer to LDP Monitoring Framework Table SP10 for detail.

In terms of the requirement for no net loss of SINC lost to development without mitigation the requirement has been met and the Plan is on target.

Area of LNR lost to development per annum

Refer to LDP Monitoring Framework Table SP10 for detail.

In terms of the requirement for no net loss of LNR lost to development without mitigation the requirement has been met and the Plan is on target.

Number of Environmental Enhancements

Refer to LDP Monitoring Framework Table SP10 for detail.

In terms of the provision of environmental enhancements and the requirement for major applications to produce a net gain in biodiversity and/or enhancements to the green infrastructure network, mitigation has been put in place where it was necessary therefore this target has been achieved.

The Plan is having a positive impact on the objective to protect and enhance biodiversity across Blaenau Gwent.

SA Objective 14	SA Indicators	
To conserve and enhance the heritage assets of Blaenau Gwent and their settings	Number of conservation area appraisals and conservation area	G

	management plans undertaken / implemented	
	Number of listed buildings and historic sites	G
	Number of listed buildings or archaeological sites enhanced	G
	Number of listed or local buildings of historical value brought into use for tourism	G
	The number of scheduled ancient monuments having undergone positive management works	G
	Number of historic assets that have an approved monument management in place	G
	Condition of registered parks and gardens of historic interest	G
Monitoring Results		G
<p><u>Number of conservation area appraisals and conservation area management plans undertaken / implemented</u></p> <p>The Tredegar Conservation Area Appraisal and Management Plan was adopted by the Council in 2013. The Tredegar Conservation Area Design Guide is currently still on hold.</p> <p>In terms of the number of conservation area appraisals and conservation area management plans undertaken and being implemented, there is full coverage in Blaenau Gwent.</p> <p><u>Number of listed buildings and historic sites</u></p> <p>In 2009 it was recorded that there are 53 listed buildings and 9 scheduled ancient monuments, there has been no loss of listed buildings and historic sites therefore, there is no change from the base date of the Plan.</p> <p>In terms of the number of listed buildings and historic sites the Plan is having a positive impact.</p> <p><u>Number of listed buildings or archaeological sites enhanced</u></p> <p>Refer to Monitoring Framework Table SP11 for detail.</p> <p>In terms of all applications to preserve or enhance listed buildings or archaeological sites, the target has been met.</p> <p><u>Number of listed or local buildings of historical value brought into use for tourism</u></p> <p>Refer to LDP Monitoring Framework Table SP11 for detail.</p> <p>For the current year 2021 – 2022 one application was granted to change the use of a listed building for tourism use.</p> <p><u>The number of scheduled ancient monuments having undergone positive management works</u></p> <p>There have been no scheduled ancient monuments that have undergone positive management works in the period 2021 - 2022.</p>		
Year	No. of Scheduled Ancient Monuments having undergone	

	positive management works
2006 -2014	2
2014 -2015	0
2015 - 2016	0
2016 - 2017	0
2017 - 2018	0
2018 - 2019	0
2019 - 2020	0
2020 - 2021	0
2021 - 2022	0

In terms of the number of Scheduled Ancient Monuments having undergone positive management works there have been none this year.

Number of historic assets that have an approved monument management plan in place

Currently there are 4 monument management plans in place. There are no historic assets that have undergone monument management plans in 2021 - 2022.

Year	No. of historic assets that have an approved monument management plan in place
2006-2014	4
2014-2015	0
2015 - 2016	0
2016 - 2017	0
2017 - 2018	0
2018 - 2019	0
2019 - 2020	0
2020 - 2021	0
2021 - 2022	0

In terms of the number of historic assets that have an approved monument management in place there has been no change.

Condition of registered parks and gardens of historic interest

The only registered park and garden is Bedwellty Park, which is in excellent condition having been restored with a £5.6m grant from Heritage Lottery Fund in 2011.

In terms of the condition of registered parks and gardens of historic interest the only existing park and garden has been improved and is in excellent condition.

Where it is required the Plan is having a positive impact on the objective to conserve and enhance the heritage assets of Blaenau Gwent and their settings.

SA Objective 15	SA Indicators	
To make the best use of previously developed land and existing buildings to minimise pressure for greenfield development, where this will not result in damage or loss to biodiversity	Amount of new development permitted on previously developed land (brownfield development and conversions) expressed as a	A

	percentage of all development permitted	
	Average density of housing development permitted on allocated sites	A
	Number of land reclamation schemes completed per annum	R
Monitoring Results	A	
<p><u>Amount of new development permitted on previously developed land (brownfield development and conversions) expressed as a percentage of all development permitted</u> Refer to LDP Monitoring Framework Table SP7 (b) for details.</p> <p>In terms of the amount of new development permitted on previously developed land (brownfield redevelopment and conversions) expressed as a percentage of all development permitted and the requirement for 80%, the Plan with a figure of 94%, is ahead of target this year.</p> <p><u>Average density of housing development permitted on allocated sites</u> Refer to LDP Monitoring Framework Table SP7 (b).</p> <p>In terms of the average density of housing development permitted on allocated sites the average density last year and this year are below the 35 Plan average.</p> <p><u>Number of land reclamation schemes completed per annum</u> Refer to LDP Monitoring Framework Table SP7 (b).</p> <p>In terms of the number of land reclamation schemes completed per annum and the outcome for 2 schemes to be completed by 2016 and a further 2 by 2021 the Plan, having completed none, the Plan has failed to meet both the 2016 and 2021 outcome.</p> <p>The Plan is having a mixed impact on the objective to make the best use of previously developed land and existing buildings to minimise pressure for greenfield development, where this will not result in damage or loss to biodiversity.</p>		

SA Objective 16	SA Indicators	
To conserve soil resources and their quality	No. and area of contaminated land site remediated through new development	G
	Area of greenfield land lost to development (ha) which is not allocated in the plan	A
Monitoring Results	A	
<p><u>No. and area of contaminated land site remediated through new development</u> In terms of the number and area of contaminated land sites to be remediated through development there has been 9 between 2021 - 2022.</p>		

Year	No. of contaminated land sites to be remediated through development	Area of contaminated land to be remediated through development (ha).
2012 – 2014	5	2.93
2014 – 2015	0	0
2015 – 2016	1	1.85
2016 – 2017	0	0
2017 – 2018	3	3.67
2018 - 2019	8	7.72
2019 - 2020	2	3.22
2020 - 2021	3	3.17
2021 - 2022	9	9.39

The Plan is having a positive impact on the objective to conserve soil resources and their quality.

Area of greenfield land lost to development (ha) which is not allocated in the plan

Refer to LDP Monitoring Framework Table SP9.

The monitoring target of no net loss of greenfield land lost to development which is not allocated in the plan has not been achieved between 2021 – 2022, with a loss of 0.15ha.

SA Objective 17	SA Indicators			
To reduce emissions of greenhouse gases, in particular carbon dioxide	Greenhouse gas emissions (CO ₂ equivalent) by sector and per capita (tonnes per year) G			
Monitoring Results	G			
The table below shows the Local Authority Carbon Dioxide Figures (2015) by sector in Blaenau Gwent. The most up to date information available is for 2017 which was published in June 2019				
Local Authority CO₂ emissions estimates 2005-2017 (kt CO₂) by sector in Blaenau Gwent				
Year	Industry & Commercial	Domestic	Transport	Per Capita Emissions (t)
2007	146.2	171.3	88.4	6.1
2008	149.3	175.9	87.0	6.2
2009	118	157.3	84.9	5.4
2010	125.7	164.9	83.2	5.6
2011	110.2	143.7	82.7	5.0
2012	121.9	152.8	82.1	5.3
2013	120.5	150.1	81.1	5.2
2014	100.7	125.5	81.6	4.4
2015	84.4	122.1	84.2	4.4
2016	79.4	115.1	85.7	4.3
2017	86.2	109.4	79.4	4.1
2018	88.7	109.2	81.8	4.2
2019	94.2	108.0	80.0	4.2

2020	93.6	105.7	70.3	3.9
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Source: 2005-2020 UK Local and Regional CO₂ Emissions Dataset (Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC))

According to the data available from DECC, the CO₂ emissions in Blaenau Gwent are significantly less than 2007/8. The most recent data for 2020 shows a decrease across all sectors. These figures require on-going monitoring to ensure that improved economic conditions in the future don't lead to an increase in CO₂ emissions.

The Plan is having a positive impact on the objective to reduce emissions of greenhouse gases, in particular carbon dioxide.

SA Objective: 18	SA Indicators	
To reduce waste generation and maximise reuse and recycling	Amount of re-use and recycling/composting of municipal waste	G
Monitoring Results	G	
Amount of waste arising and managed by management type		
Refer to LDP Monitoring Table SP13 for details.		
In terms of the amount of waste arising and the outcome to meet the Wise about Waste target for reuse and recycling/ composting for municipal waste of 64% by 2021 the plan has met the target.		
The Plan is having a positive impact on the objective to reduce waste generation and maximise reuse and recycling.		

SA Objective 19	SA Indicators	
To maintain current air quality	Estimated background air quality	G
Monitoring Results	G	
Background air pollution		
Refer to LDP Monitoring Framework Table SP10 for details.		
In terms of the requirement for no decrease in air quality within the County Borough the Plan is on target.		
The Plan is having a positive impact on the objective to maintain current air quality.		

SA Objective 20	A	
To maintain current low levels of vulnerability of all development to flooding	Amount of development (by TAN 15 paragraph 5.1 development category) permitted in C1 and C2 floodplain areas not meeting all TAN 15 tests	A
Monitoring Results	A	
Amount of development permitted in C1 and C2 floodplain areas not meeting all TAN 15 tests		
Refer to LDP Monitoring Table SP7 (c).		

In terms of the amount of development permitted in C1 and C2 flood plain areas not meeting all TAN 15 tests the figure for 2021 - 2022 is 0.

The Plan is having a mixed impact on maintaining the current low levels of vulnerability of all development to flooding.

SA Objective 21		SA Indicators	
To promote the use of sustainably sourced products and resources		Use of reclaimed and sustainably sourced materials for construction	A
Monitoring Results		A	
Use of reclaimed and sustainability sourced materials for construction			
It was suggested in the 2013-2014 AMR that this information is only collected for major schemes.			
Proposal	Application type	Use of reclaimed and sustainably sourced material secured	
2014-2015			
Primary care resource centre on land adjacent to Blaen y Cwm School in Brynmawr	Full	Yes	
Proposed factory extension to provide additional warehousing facilities at Zorba Delicacies on Rassau Industrial Estate	Full	No	
B1 employment use on land to the south east of Lime Avenue	Outline	Will be dealt with as Reserved Matters	
Residential development at the former Rhyd y Blew reservoir	Outline	Will be dealt with as Reserved Matters	
2015-2016			
Extension to the existing Waste Transfer Station	Full	No	
2016-2017			
Erection of two buildings for class B1/B2/B8 use on land rear of 39 and 40 Rassau Industrial Estate	Full	No	
Proposed construction of a new single form entry school on land adjacent to Bethany Chapel, Six Bells	Outline	Yes (reserved matters currently being considered)	
Extension of Cwmcrachen Gypsy Site for the provision of 4. No pitches	Full	No	
2017-2018			
Drive thru restaurant and retail units on the former NMC factory site, Blaina Road, Nantyglo	Hybrid application – Full and Outline	No material details were submitted with the outline application. The materials for the drive thru restaurant are	

		typical of the established restaurant chain.
2018-2019		
Land north of Regain Building, Mill Lane, Victoria, The Works, Ebbw Vale	Full	The applicant has identified within the DAS that materials will be locally sourced
Land at Rhyd Y Blew, Bryn Serth Road, Ebbw Vale. The construction of an employment unit for B1, B2 or B8 uses,	Full	The applicant has stated that low impact building materials will be used but does not state whether these will be locally sourced or reclaimed material.
Land at Bryn Serth (adj to KFC) Waun-y-Pound, Ebbw Vale. Construction of 100 residential dwellings	Full	No
Eurocaps, Crown Business Park, Tredegar. Extension of existing production and warehouse facilities	Full	No
2019-2020		
Land at Waun-y-Pound, Ebbw Vale Residential development of 277 units	Full	It is not clear if this has been taken into account or if the materials will be locally sourced.
Land off southern end of Lime Avenue, Former Steelworks Site, Ebbw Vale Construction of 6 buildings to provide 25 employment units for B1 and B2 uses	Full	Although it is noted that an energy statement has been prepared for the development, it is not clear if sustainable sourced or reclaimed materials has been taken into account or if the materials will be locally sourced.
Rassau Ind Est, Ebbw Vale Construction of new business units (Class B1/B2/B8 and ancillary uses) and associated parking areas, external works.	Full	The proposed buildings will be a modern clad which is typical of the surrounding buildings and industrial nature of the proposal.
Lakeside Brynmawr 3 retail units (unit 2 Class A1 convenience food store, Unit 3 Class A1 comparison and flexible use for Unit 4 Classes A1/A2/A3) and associated works	Full	The materials used are typical of the national chain occupiers.
Units 23/24, Tafarnaubach Ind Est Parking place for heavy goods vehicles with associated workshop/office building comprising of 6 no. starter	Full	The proposed buildings will be a galvanised steel which is typical of the surrounding buildings and industrial nature of the proposal.

business units new vehicular accesses and associated parking		
23-24 Tafarnaubach Ind Est Three storey lab block, external stairs, associated canopies and link to the existing building.	Full	The proposed buildings will be a composite metal faced and insulated wall cladding which is typical of the surrounding buildings and industrial nature of the proposal.
2020-2021		
Units 23/24 Tafarnaubach Industrial Estate Construction of new packaging line building, retaining wall and covered pedestrian walkway linking new packaging line building with new car park	Full	The building will in all aspects comply with the requirements for building regulations Part L. Insulation and fabric performance will exceed the minimum requirements. A computational model will be provided to show compliance with the building regulations Part L.
Land at western end of Hov Hub Industrial Estate, Crown Industrial Estate Industrial building subdivided into six small units and use of part of the site for the siting of approximately 14 metal containers units to be used as a container storage facility	Full	The building will be clad and roofed with composite insulated metal sheeting These materials are 'A' rated in the BRE green materials guide whilst any timber used in construction will be sustainability sourced and Forest Stewardship Certified
2021-2022		
Land to the Southern end of Lime Avenue, Ebbw Vale Construction of employment units for B1, B2, and B8 uses, new access road and junction off Lime Avenue	Full	It is not clear if sustainable sourced or reclaimed materials has been taken into account or if the materials will be locally sourced.
Ben Wards Fields Brynmawr Ebbw Vale Retention of earthworks including importation of material, re-profiling of existing contours, temporary ancillary works including welfare facilities & parking areas with restoration to grass land with hedgerows & drainage	Full	The proposal relates to environmental improvements and not construction.
Land at Northgate Steelworks Road Ebbw Vale Proposed residential development and associated	Full	The applicant has identified within the DAS that materials will be locally sourced as appropriate.

works		
Former Glyncod Comprehensive School Badminton Grove Ebbw Vale New Primary School and Childcare Facility with External Play Areas, Recreational Spaces and Other Associated Infrastructure	Full	Sustainable materials which have maximum durability, minimum maintenance requirements and low toxicity, making use of recyclable or recycled content are proposed.
<p>The Plan is having a mixed impact on the objective to promote the use of sustainably sourced products and resources.</p>		

SA Objective 22	SA Indicators	
To increase energy efficiency and generation and use of renewable energy across the County Borough	Capacity of renewable energy developments installed per annum	G
	Capacity of low carbon energy developments installed per annum	G
Monitoring Results	G	
<p><u>Capacity of renewable energy developments installed per annum</u> Refer to Monitoring Table SP7 (a) for detail.</p> <p>0.04 MW of renewable energy developments have been installed in 2021-22. The plan is moving in the right direction and having a positive impact.</p> <p><u>Capacity of low carbon energy developments installed per annum</u> Refer to Monitoring Table SP7 (a) for detail.</p> <p>0.8 MW of low carbon energy developments have been installed in 2021-22. The plan is moving in the right direction and having a positive impact.</p> <p>The Plan is having a positive impact on the objective to increase energy efficiency and generation and use of renewable energy across the County Borough.</p>		

SA Objective 23	SA Indicators	
To conserve and enhance surface and ground water quality	Percentage surface water (natural water bodies) of Overall Good Status	A
	Percentage groundwater of Overall Good Status (quality and levels)	A
	% of planning applications granted in sewered areas where there is no capacity and no planned upgrades	G
Monitoring Results	A	

The full local evidence packages from NRW on the Water Framework Directive have not been updated since 2015 for local authorities, however up-to-date data is available via the Geo-portal Lle and Water Watch Wales.

Percentage surface water (natural water bodies) of overall Good Status

Year	Percentage surface water (natural water bodies) of Good Ecological Status
2014 (2013 figures)	42%
2015 (2014 figures)	Lakes 50% Rivers 37.5% 42.8% overall
2016 (2015 figures)	Lakes 0% Rivers 33.3% 33.3% overall
2017 (2016 figures)	Lakes 0% Rivers 33.3% 33.3% overall
2018 (2017 figures)	Lakes 0% Rivers 33.3% 33.3% overall
2019 (2018 figures)	Lakes 0% Rivers 33.3% 33.3% overall
2020 (2018 figures)	Lakes 0% Rivers 33.3% 33.3% overall
2021 (2018 figures)	Lakes 0% Rivers 33.3% 33.3% overall
2022	Lakes 0% Rivers 0% 33.3% overall

* Please note this figure is based on the new methodologies. NRW have introduced changes to how they monitor water body status. These include updated standards to determine good status and changes to the size and shape of water bodies.

In terms of the percentage of surface water of good overall status, there has been no change in the figures.

Percentage groundwater of Overall Good Status (quality and levels)

Year	Percentage Groundwater Overall Status (natural water bodies) of Good Ecological Status
2014 (2013 figures)	50%
2015 (2014 figures)	50%
2016 (2015 figures)	50%
2017 (2016 figures)	50%
2018 (2017 figures)	50%
2019 (2018 figures)	50%
2020 (2019 figures)	50%
2021	50%
2022 (2021 figures)	50%

* Please note this figure is based on the new methodologies 2021. NRW have introduced changes to how they monitor water body status. These include updated standards to determine good status and changes to the size and shape of water bodies.

<https://waterwatchwales.naturalresourceswales.gov.uk/en/>

In terms of the percentage of groundwater water of good overall status there has been no change.

Percentage of planning applications granted in sewered areas where there is no capacity and no planned upgrades

0% of planning applications have been granted in sewered areas where there is no capacity and no planned upgrades. The Plan is therefore having a positive impact.

The Plan has had a mixed impact on the objective to conserve and enhance surface and ground water quality.

SA Objective 24	SA Indicators	
Protect the quality and character of the landscape and enhance where	Proportion of valued landscape lost to development	G

necessary	Number of new developments exceeding TAN 11 or BS4142 Noise Requirements	G
	Number of planning permissions granted that include conditions relating to light pollution	G
	Effect of development which negatively affects the Brecon Beacons National Park (visual and physical effects)	G
	Proportion of landscape characterised and managed	G
Monitoring Results	G	

Proportion of valued landscape lost to development

There has been no major planning application proposed outside the settlement boundary and within a Special Landscape Area for the current year, therefore there has been no loss in valued landscape.

Year	Area of valued landscape lost to development (ha)	Proportion of valued landscape lost to development
2013-2014	236 ha	3%
2014-2015	0 ha	0%
2015-2016	0 ha	0%
2016-2017	0 ha	0%
2017-2018	0 ha	0%
2018-2019	0 ha	0%
2019-2020	0ha	0%
2020 - 2021	0ha	0%
2021 - 2022	0ha	0%

In terms of the proportion of valued landscape lost to development there was no loss this year the plan is therefore having a positive impact.

Number of new developments exceeding TAN 11 or BS4142 Noise Requirements

The information below is based on major planning applications. There have been no planning applications which has exceeded TAN 11 or BS4142 noise requirements. However the table below shows the number of applications received for the current year, where potential noise nuisance has been conditioned and mitigation measures put in place.

Planning App. No.	Location
2016 – 2017	
C/2016/0151	Cwmcrachen Gypsy Site, Nantyglo
C/2016/0158	Land to rear of units 39 and 40 Rassau Industrial Estate, Ebbw Vale
C/2016/0226	Land adjacent to Bethany Baptist Chapel, Six Bells
2017 – 2018	
C/2017/0019	Former NMC Factory Site, Brynmawr
2018-2019	
C/2017/0143	Land at Ashvale Sports Club, Griffiths Gardens
C/2017/0159	Land East of Blaina Road, Brynmawr
C/2017/0309	Office building, Bridge Street, Ebbw Vale
C/2017/0338	Land adjacent to and north of Llys Glyncoed, Ebbw Vale
C/2017/0344	Baldwin House, The Boulevard, Victoria, Ebbw Vale

C/2018/0132	Crawshay House, Greenland Road, Brynmawr
C/2018/0191	Greenacre Hospital, Tredegar
C/2018/0205	Former quarry adjacent to Craig House, Nant y Croft, Rassau, Ebbw Vale
C/2018/0217	Land at Bryn Serth, Ebbw Vale
C/2018/0310	Land at Rhyd y Blew
C/2018/0334	Land South of Unit 11 Roseheyworth Business Park, Abertillery
2019-2020	
C/2019/0005	Land at Waun-y-Pound.
C/2019/0054	Land off southern end of Lime ave - opposite hospital.
C/2019/0009	Rassau Ind Est
C/2019/0195	Tafarnaubach Ind Est
C/2019/0203	Tafarnaubach Ind Est
C/2020/0033	23-24 Tafarnaubach Ind Est
C/2019/0102	29 Tafarnaubach Ind Est
C/2019/0331	Roseheyworth Business Park
C/2019/0035	Former NMC Site 2-4 lakeside, Blaina Rd
C/2019/0030	Land to the East of Blaina Rd.
2020 - 2021	
C/2021/0001	Unit 21 Rising Sun Ind Est
2021 - 2022	
C/2021/0233	Swffryd Service Station Swffryd Road Swffryd Crumlin

In terms of the number of new developments exceeding TAN 11 or BS4142 Noise, as there are none, the Plan is having a positive impact.

Number of planning permissions granted that include conditions relating to light pollution

The information provided has been based on major applications.

In terms of the number of major applications granted that include conditions relating to light pollution, there were none received in the period 2019-2021. Therefore a return of no applications has been recorded for the current year.

Planning App No	Location
2016-2017	
C/2016/0226	Land adjacent to Bethany Baptist Chapel, Six Bells
2017 - 2018	
None	
2018-2019	
None	
2019-2020	
None	
2020 - 2021	
None	
2021 - 2022	
C/2021/0145	Units 19 & 20 Rising Sun Industrial Estate Blaina
C/2021/0386	Land To The Southern End Of Lime Avenue Ebbw Vale
C/2022/0036	Unit 10 Roseheyworth Business Park Abertillery

Three planning permission has been granted that include conditions relating to light pollution.

Effect of development which negatively affects the Brecon Beacons National Park (visual and

physical effects)

There has been no development which has negatively affected the Brecon Beacons National Park.

In terms of the effect of development which negatively affects the Brecon Beacons National Park (visual and physical effects) as there were no developments with impacts, the Plan is having a positive impact.

Proportion of landscape characterised and managed

100% of the landscape has been characterised through the LANDMAP process and as a result extensive areas of land has been designated as Special Landscape Areas (7,614 ha).

10 Local Nature Reserves (LNRs) sites with a total area of 396 ha are subject to management plans.
3 Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) with a total area of 152 ha are also subject to management plans.

This information has remained unchanged for the period 2021 - 2022.

In terms of the proportion of landscape characterised and managed, as 100% is characterised and 548 ha are subject to management plans, the plan is having a positive impact.

The Plan is having a positive impact on the objective to protect the quality and character of the landscape and enhance where necessary.

6.0 CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

6.1 The 2021-22 AMR is the eighth monitoring report to be prepared since the adoption of the LDP in November 2012. The findings of the AMR provide an important opportunity for the Council to assess the effectiveness of the Plan and to determine whether or not it needs to be reviewed.

6.2 LDP Wales (2005) asks for seven factors to be considered when monitoring LDP's. The following section provides a conclusion of findings of the monitoring process, specifically addressing the requirements of LDP Wales (2005).

1. Does the basic strategy remain sound (if not, a full plan review may be needed)?

6.3 The LDP provides a robust platform for sustainable growth and regeneration. Welsh Governments initiatives such as the Tech Valleys project to bring advanced manufacturing jobs to the Gwent Valleys will both assist with growing the economy and help deliver the Strategy of growth and regeneration. This is evident through the major planning application which was approved in 2022 for the construction and operation of a glass manufacturing factory on Rassau Industrial Estate

6.4 The required 4-year review of the Plan has been undertaken and identifies that a full review is required. Important factors in reaching this conclusion include the inability to deliver the levels of growth required by the LDP strategy and the resulting failure to maintain the 5 year land supply. The level of growth therefore needs to be reconsidered which could result in a significant change to the strategy. In addition, the extent of changes required to the evidence base in order to extend the plan period could result in a plan significantly different from the adopted LDP.

2. What impact are the policies having globally, nationally, regionally and locally?

6.5 Globally, the SEA Monitoring framework identifies that there is a mixed impact on economic, social and environmental aspects of sustainability.

6.6 Nationally the LDP policy framework is providing opportunities for development to meet national need for housing and employment land.

6.7 From a regional perspective the LDP is assisting in meeting transport, waste and mineral requirements.

6.8 Locally the LDP interventions and delivery of allocations assist with regeneration and meeting the Local Well-being Plan objectives and local community needs.

3. Do the policies need changing to reflect changes in national policy?

6.9 Section 3 indicates the changes in national planning policy guidance. The Replacement Local Development Plan will take into account these changes. In the meantime, relevant changes in national policy will be considered where necessary in any development management decision.

4. Are policies and related targets in LDPs being met or progress being made towards meeting them, including publication of relevant supplementary Planning guidance (SPG)?

6.10 The findings of the LDP and SA monitoring exercise are outlined in Sections 4 and 5 of the AMR.

6.11 The results of the monitoring process for 2021-22 indicate that the targets in respect of 4 out of 19 monitoring aims are on-going, being met or exceeded and 8 monitoring aims are not currently being achieved but the situation can be overcome without immediate intervention or sufficiently progressed not to require direct intervention. The remaining 7 are currently falling short of the required pattern of delivery.

6.12 The lack of delivery in terms of employment, retail and housing is having an impact on Strategic Policies SP1, SP2, SP4 (a), SP4 (b) and SP5 (a). Whilst development levels are far lower than planned this is as a result of external factors particularly in relation to the Covid-19 pandemic, economic recession, poorly performing housing market and the high aspirations identified for the area.

6.13 In terms of the Sustainability Appraisal monitoring the results indicate that the Plan is having a positive impact in respect of the 10 of the sustainability objectives; not having a positive or are having a mixed impact on 11 of the objectives; having a negative impact on 2 objective and there is no data available for 1 indicator. The main area where targets are not being met is with regards to the promotion of economic growth and strengthening and diversification of the economy. Overall, the plan is having a mixed impact on aspects of sustainability.

6.14 No new Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPG) documents have been approved in the period 2021-22.

5. Where progress has not been made, what are the reasons for this and what knock on effects may it have?

6.15 The primary reason for the slow delivery of some aspects of the LDP is directly attributable to the impact of the global economic recession on the operations of the housing and commercial markets. The reduction in new investment in housing and commercial development during the recession inevitably had an adverse impact on the delivery of some elements of the LDP.

6.16 It is becoming increasingly clear that the original housing requirement figure based on the 2008 household projection is too high. It was based on a period of growth whereas what we have experienced is a recession. This has meant low housing completions for 14 out of the 15 year Plan period.

6. What aspects, if any, of the LDP need adjusting or replacing because they are not working as intended or are not achieving the objectives of the strategy and/or sustainable development objectives.

6.17 The table below identifies the policies that need adjusting or replacing because they are not working or are not achieving the objectives of the strategy. A Replacement Local Development Plan is currently being prepared which will seek to address these strategic issues.

Policy	Monitoring Aim
SP1: Northern Strategy Area – Sustainable Growth and Regeneration	To ensure sustainable growth and regeneration in the north of the Borough
SP2: Southern Strategy Area – Regeneration	To ensure regeneration in the south of the Borough
SP3 (a): The Retail Hierarchy and Vitality and Viability of the Town Centres	To ensure town centres thrive through the implementation of the retail hierarchy
SP4 (a): Deliver Quality Housing	To secure construction of 3,500 net additional dwellings by 2021 and halt population decline
SP4 (b): Delivering Quality Housing	To ensure the delivery of 1,000 affordable dwellings, 335 of which through planning obligations
SP5 (a): Spatial Distribution of Housing	To ensure that housing is delivered in all areas in accordance with the strategy
SP8: (a) Sustainable Economic Growth	To ensure sufficient employment land is provided to increase economic activity

6.18 Further information on aspects of the LDP which need adjusting or replacing can be found in the LDP Review Report.

7. If policies or proposals need changing, what suggested actions are required to achieve this?

6.19 The Council is currently preparing a Replacement Local Development Plan.

Recommendations

6.20 The current economic situation, the lack of confidence in the housing market and viability issues has undoubtedly had an impact on the delivery of the Plan. Progress on delivering the Strategy of Growth and Regeneration continues to fall short of expectations.

6.21 This year the Plan was found to be meeting 4 out of 19 monitoring a decrease of 1 from last year. The number of monitoring aims identified as not being achieved has remained at 8 this year. The number of trigger levels has decreased from 9 in 2019-21 to 6 in 2020-21. The Plan is not performing in areas such as retail, housing, and employment.

6.22 The Council have completed a full review of the Local Development Plan and have determined that a full revision procedure should be followed to update the Plan.

6.23 The Council agreed a Delivery Agreement with Welsh Government in October 2018 and commenced work on a Replacement Local Development Plan 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). Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council were about to undertake a Second Call for Candidate Sites when the country went into Lockdown. The Council were advised by Welsh Government not to proceed with the Second Call for Candidate Sites due to difficulties with being able to undertake consultation in line with the Community Involvement Scheme identified in the Delivery Agreement. This meant that the Plan risked being found 'unsound' by and Inspector at Examination

6.24 In July 2020, Welsh Government advised that it was possible to proceed with the Plan. As the original timetable had slipped beyond the 3 months' slippage allowed, a revision of the Delivery Agreement timetable was required.

6.25 A revised Delivery Agreement was agreed by Welsh Government on 6th October 2020. This meant that work on the RLDP could formally recommence. The second call for candidate sites and request for further information commenced March to May 2021 which also sought views on the draft findings of assessments undertaken of the submitted candidate sites and further information from the site promoters.

6.26 Towards the end of 2021, the Planning Policy team experienced significant resource issues with the loss of staff due to retirement and sickness. This resulted in further slippage in the revised Delivery Agreement timetable. The team are now back to full capacity and are working on a second revised Delivery Agreement which will set out a new timetable for the delivery of the Replacement Local Development Plan. It is anticipated that this will be approved in January 2023.

Recommendations

6.27 As a result of the findings of the Annual Monitoring Report for 2021-22 it is recommended that:

1. The Council continues to progress work on the Replacement Local Development Plan.

Appendix 1: Status of Allocations

Policy Ref.	Site Name	Description	Progress
Mixed Use Sites			
MU1	Ebbw Vale Northern Corridor	<p>Strategic mixed-use employment site – on land at Rhyd-y-Blew (29.8 ha of which 13.2 ha is the indicative developable area)</p> <p>Employment and road side services - at Bryn Serth (22.8 ha of which 10.5 ha is the indicative developable area)</p> <p>Commercial leisure hub – commercial leisure and associated A3 uses (4 ha)</p> <p>Residential - 805 homes including 10% affordable housing on three parcels of land (23 ha) (It should be noted that not all of the existing facilities are required to relocate to enable the provision of 805 homes)</p>	<p>Part of Enterprise Zone. Full application approved (2013/0199) in February 2014 for access and engineering works which have been completed. The sewerage connection works have also been completed. A full application has been approved (c/2018/0310) for the erection of a 4955 sq.m (50,000 sq.ft) employment unit for B1, B2 or B8 uses. No development has taken place to date.</p> <p>Part of Enterprise Zone Full planning has been approved (C/2018/0310 for the erection of a 4955 sq.m (50,000 sq.ft) employment unit for B1, B2 or B8 uses. Work has not started to date.</p> <p>The Council are currently working with the landowners of the site to bring the remaining site forward.</p> <p>Outline planning application (2013/0170) for 250 housing units on the former reservoir site has been granted subject to the signing of a S106 agreement, which is currently being re-negotiated.</p> <p>(2018/0217) at Land at Bryn Serth has been completed.</p> <p>A further planning application (C/2019/0005) has been submitted by Persimmon Homes for 277 units on the former school and college site. The site is under construction.</p> <p>These are being secured through S106 contributions and/or on site works.</p>

		<p>A network of green links – to allow the effective integration of the SINC's and other key habitat areas</p>	
MU2	'The Works', Ebbw Vale	<p>Aneurin Bevan Hospital – a 96 bed Local General Hospital;</p> <p>The Central Valley & Wetlands Park – a green corridor running through the site</p> <p>Environmental Resource Centre – Provides an education facility for local children and the community to explore the heritage and ecology of the site</p> <p>Employment – 5 ha of commercial and business space primarily located adjacent to the hospital site</p> <p>Residential – Approximately 520 homes at varying densities across the site built to higher than nationally required standards and including 20% affordable housing</p> <p>Learning Zone – The Learning Zone includes the provision of education and training for 14-19 year olds. The Works site will also include a 21st Century 3-16 School</p>	<p>The development is complete.</p> <p>The development is complete.</p> <p>The development is complete.</p> <p>Part of Enterprise Zone. The REGAIN building is complete providing 500 sq m of floorspace and covers a wider site area of 0.18 ha. 9 B1 business units within 3 buildings (2018/0152) for employment use on 1.2ha of land north of the Regain Building, Mill Lane has been completed. New office development (C/2018/0208) to the north of the learning zone (856sqm) has been completed.</p> <p>5 sustainable houses have been completed on the site. A Design and Masterplan for The Works was adopted in October 2013. A Development Brief for the Northgate residential area has been adopted. The site has full planning permission and development of the site is underway.</p> <p>The development is complete.</p> <p>The development is complete.</p> <p>The development is complete.</p>

		<p>over two sites that will provide; primary education; an integrated children’s centre, secondary education and the relocated Pen y Cwm Special School</p> <p>Leisure Centre and Sports Fields – A new leisure centre and sports pitches will be developed to provide new leisure amenities for the community</p> <p>Arts Centre – A new arts centre will be developed to provide a community and professional arts/cultural event programme</p> <p>Basement Strategy – A range of uses are being considered for the basements including sports and leisure, exhibition space, summer markets for food & craft including a café, education and recreation facilities</p> <p>Retail – The retail element will only consist of local convenience facilities, including local shops and smaller commercial units;</p> <p>Energy Centre – A centralised energy hub.</p> <p>Family History & Genealogy Visitor Centre – The Former General Offices (Grade II* Listed Building) is to become a visitor centre bringing industrial heritage to life and showcasing one of the largest archives in Wales.</p> <p>Public Realm – Focus on a sequence of public squares running through the site.</p>	<p>On-going.</p> <p>The development has not started.</p> <p>The development is complete.</p> <p>The development is complete.</p> <p>The development is complete.</p>
MU3	NMC Factory and Bus Depot, Brynmawr	<p>Residential – maximum of 60 homes including 10% affordable housing; and Commercial / Leisure/ Community Facility opportunity to act as an active link between Brynmawr District</p>	<p>Full planning permission for the provision of 3 retail units/ Unit 2 Class A1 convenience food store, Unit 3 Class A1 comparison and flexible use for Unit 4 Classes A1/A2/A3) and associated works. (C/2019/0035). The</p>

		Town Centre and Lakeside Retail Park	McDonalds is being implemented under a separate permission C/2017/001. A number of planning application conditions have been discharged relating to signage, highway works and contamination. The factory buildings have also been demolished on the site and development is almost complete.
Action Areas			
AA1.1	Southern Gateway, Ebbw Vale	Mechanical Link - Planning permission was granted in December 2013 for an outdoor inclined mechanical link, which will provide a pedestrian connection between the town centre and 'The Works' site Proposed office and retail development	The Cableway is complete. There is no progress to report.
AA1.2	Market Square, Ebbw Vale	Provision of a key link with Ebbw Vale Northern Corridor site Mixed-use development	No progress to date. No progress to date.
Retail			
R1.1	Rhyd y Blew Retail Park, Ebbw Vale	6,000 sq m of non-food retail comprises of 13 retail units of varying sizes.	The land has been sold. Discussions are ongoing with the landowner on the future use of the site.
R1.2	Extension to Festival Shopping Outlet Centre, Ebbw Vale	1,400 sq m of comparison floorspace.	Development of this site is unlikely to happen due to the closure of Festival Shopping Retail Park.
R1.3	Extension to Tesco Stores, North West Approach, Ebbw Vale	1,700 sq m of convenience and comparison	Planning permission has now lapsed.
R1.4	Market Street, Ebbw Vale	600 sq m of comparison floorspace	The site is currently being used as a car park. No progress to date.
Housing			
H1.1	Willowtown School, Ebbw Vale	Allocation for 22 units.	The school building has been demolished. Discussions are on-going regarding development of this site. Planning Permission has not been granted.
HC1.1	North of Cwmyrdderch Court Flats,	Committed housing site for 16 units.	The site is a self-build site with 4 units completed. There are three more units currently under construction.

	Ebbw Vale		The site is under construction.
HC1.2	Letchworth Road, Ebbw Vale	Committed housing site for 27 units.	The development is complete.
HC1.3	Old 45 Yard, Steelworks Road, Ebbw Vale	Committed housing site for 82 units.	The development is complete.
HC1.4	Adjacent Pant-y-Fforest, Ebbw Vale	Committed housing site for 21 units.	A planning application (c/2014/0077) to vary a condition to extend the time period for the submission of a reserved matters planning application has been approved and S106 has now been signed. Development has not started.
HC1.5	Heol Elan, Ebbw Vale	Committed housing site for 43 units.	The development is complete.
HC1.6	Land at College Road, Ebbw Vale	Committed housing site for 41 units.	The development is complete.
HC1.7	Adj Sports Ground, Gwaun Helyg, Ebbw Vale	Committed housing site for 69 units.	The development is complete.
HC1.8	Higgs Yard, Ebbw Vale	Committed housing site for 29 units.	Full permission (c/2007/0658) was granted in 2009 and has now lapsed.
HC1.9	Mountain Road, Ebbw Vale	Committed housing site for 22 units.	The development is complete.
HC1.10	Briery Hill, Ebbw Vale	Committed housing site for 33 units.	The development is complete.
H1.2	Cartref Aneurin Bevan, Tredegar	Housing allocation for 13 units.	The development is complete.
H1.3	Greenacres, Tredegar	Housing allocation for 18 units.	The site is under construction
H1.4	Land adjacent to Chartist Way, Tredegar	Housing allocation for 101 units.	No progress to date.
HC1.11	Derelict Bus Garage, Woodfield Road, Tredegar	Committed housing site for 11 units.	The development is complete.
HC1.12	Former LCR Factory, Charles Street, Tredegar	Committed housing site for 14 units.	The development is complete.
HC1.13	Former Factory Site, Pochin, Tredegar	Committed housing site for 28 units.	Planning permission for reserved matters was granted (c/2008/0360) in 2008. Outline planning permission has been granted for the construction of dwellings (c/2014/0238) and the

			<p>S106 agreement has been signed.</p> <p>A reserved matter application is pending for access, site layout and infrastructure and currently conditions are being discharged. The number of units on site has decreased to 15.</p> <p>The factory has been demolished and some ground work undertaken.</p>
HC1.14	Land at Poultry Farm, Queen Victoria Street, Tredegar	Committed housing site for 3 units.	<p>20 units completed and a further unit under construction. 1 unit not started.</p> <p>Full permission has been granted for the construction of a further dwelling (c/2015/0033) however no further progress has been made.</p>
HC1.15	Upper Ty Gwyn Farm, Nantybwich, Tredegar	Committed housing site for 38 units.	<p>The site is a self-build site. 20 units have been completed and a further 3 units are under construction.</p> <p>The site is under construction and progressing slowly.</p>
HC1.16	Former LCR Factory, opposite Tredegar Comprehensive School, Tredegar	Committed housing site for 47 units.	The development is complete.
HC1.17	Peacehaven, Tredegar	Committed housing site for 147 units.	The development is complete.
HC1.18	The Goldmine, Sirhowy, Tredegar	Committed housing site for 16 units.	<p>Planning permission has expired.</p> <p>Development has not started.</p>
HC1.19	BKF Plastics, Ashvale, Tredegar	Committed housing site for 54 units.	<p>Outline planning permission C/2007/0730 was granted and a renewal of this has since been granted C/2015/0052. A further application for renewal has been approved subject to the signing of a S106 (C/2019/0351). The building has been demolished.</p> <p>Development has not started.</p>
HC1.20	Sirhowy Infants School Site, Tredegar	Committed housing site for 23 units.	The development is complete.
HC1.21	Corporation Yard, Tredegar	Committed housing site for 23 units	<p>Outline planning permission c/2007/0418 has now lapsed.</p> <p>Planning permission (c/2015/0077)</p>

			<p>has been approved for 6 houses on part of the site. No development has taken place to date.</p> <p>The development has not started.</p>
HC1.22	Park Hill, Tredegar	Committed housing site for 160 units.	<p>Outline planning permission (c/2003/0322) was granted in 2005 for 160 dwellings. Since the base date of the Plan full permission was granted on part of the site (c/2009/0329) and outline permission was granted on the remainder of the site (c/2009/0328). In total planning permission has been granted for 293 units.</p> <p>Planning permission (c/2015/0236 and c/2015/0237) has been granted to remove conditions 34, 35 & 36 (code for sustainable homes) & variation of condition 38 (to extend the life of the planning permission (c/2009/0328). The section 106 agreement has been signed for the site.</p> <p>A new planning application (c/2021/0290 has been approved to extend the life of the permission (c/2015/0236 and c/2015/0237)</p> <p>Development has not started.</p>
H1.5	Garnfach School, Nantyglo	Housing allocation for 28 units.	<p>The school buildings have been demolished.</p> <p>Development has not started.</p>
H1.6	Crawshay House, Brynmawr	Housing allocation for 25 units.	<p>A planning application (2018/0132) has been approved to convert the building into 14 apartments.</p> <p>Development has not started.</p>
H1.7	Infants School & Old Griffin Yard, Brynmawr	Housing allocation for 36 units	<p>The school buildings have been demolished. The Council are working with Linc Cymru to provide feasibility plans for a mixed tenure scheme of houses and bungalows.</p> <p>Development has not started.</p>
H1.8	Hafod Dawel Site, Nantyglo	Housing allocation for 44 units.	The development is complete.
H1.9	West of the Recreation	Housing allocation for 15 units.	No planning applications received. No further progress to date.

	Ground, Nantyglo		Development has not started.
H1.10	Land to the East of Blaina Road, Brynmawr	Housing allocation for 25 units.	Outline planning (2017/0159) has been approved for residential development (25 units) and a drive thru restaurant. The drive through has been completed. No further progress on site.
H1.11	Land to the North of Winchestown, Nantyglo	Housing allocation for 15 units.	No planning applications received. Development has not started.
HC1.23	Recticel and Gwalia Former Factory Site, Brynmawr	Committed housing site for 45 units.	The development is complete.
HC1.24	Land at Clydach Street, Brynmawr	Committed housing site for 15 units.	The site is a self-build site. 12 units have been completed, progress is slow. A discharge of conditions application for 3 plots has been approved. The site is under construction.
HC1.25	TSA Woodcraft, Noble Square Industrial Estate, Brynmawr	Committed housing site for 25 units.	The development is complete.
HC1.26	Roberto Neckwear, Limestone Road, Nantyglo	Committed housing site for 19 units.	Outline planning permission (c/2005/0602) was granted in 2006 and has now expired. The site is back in use. Development has not started.
HC1.27	Cwm Farm, Blaina	Committed housing site for 78 units. The site is part self-build and part developer led.	Outline planning was granted for phase 4 (c/2004/0608) in 2005. Outline Planning permission has been granted for 25 dwellings (c/2015/0426; c/2015/0435; c/2016/0007). The site is under construction with 134 units completed to date. The recent permissions should lead to the completion of the site. The site is under construction.
HC1.28	Salem Chapel, Waun Ebbw Road and Pond Road Junction,	Housing commitment for 11 units.	Full planning permission (c/2008/0310) was granted in 2008 which has now lapsed.

	Nantyglo		Two further outline applications have been received pending decision.
H1.12	Six Bells Colliery Site, Six Bells	Housing allocation for 40 units.	No planning applications received. No further progress to date.
H1.13	Warm Turn, Six Bells	Housing allocation for 32 units.	No planning applications received. No further progress to date.
H1.14	Roseheyworth Comprehensive, Abertillery	Housing allocation for 33 units.	No planning applications received. No further progress to date.
H1.15	Former Mount Pleasant Court, Brynithel	Housing allocation for 18 units.	No planning applications received. No further progress to date.
H1.16	Hillcrest View, Cwmtillery	Housing allocation for 22 units.	Full planning permission granted (c/2008/0383) in 2010 has now lapsed. Further planning permission has been granted with conditions (C/2020/0043) for 28 units. The development has not been started.
H1.17	Quarry Adj to Cwm Farm Road, Six Bells	Housing allocation for 22 units.	No planning applications received. No further progress to date.
HC1.29	At Cwm Farm Road, Abertillery	Committed housing site for 20 units.	Since the base date of the plan the outline planning permission 2008/0207 has been renewed by application 2012/0005 and application 2017/0075. The development has not started.
HC1.30	Former Swffryd Junior School, Swffryd	Committed housing site for 18 units.	The development is complete.
HC1.31	Land at Penrhiw Estate, Brynithel	Committed housing site for 23 units.	Outline planning permission was granted (2005/0578) in 2006. Full planning permission was granted in 2017 (C/2016/0375) for 31 houses. In 2018 a further application was approved for variation of conditions – for a new site layout and substitution of housing type (C/2018/0109). The development has not been started.
Gypsy Traveller			
GT1	Land South of Cwmcraehen Gypsy Site, Nantyglo	Accommodation for 6 pitches	A full planning application (c/2015/0399) has been granted for the extension of Cwmcraehen gypsy site for the provision of 4 new pitches, 2 semi-detached utility buildings, new

			access and associated works. The development has not started.
Transport			
Cycle Routes			
T1.1	HoV Route linking Nine Arches Tredegar to Brynmawr		The development is complete.
T1.2	Link from HoV to Rassau Industrial Estate		The development has not started.
T1.3	HoV to Ebbw Vale and Cwm		The development is complete.
T1.4	Cwm to Aberbeeg		The development is complete.
T1.5	Link from HOV to Trefil		The development has not started.
T1.6	Links from HoV to Tafarnaubach Industrial Estate		The development has not started.
T1.7	Hilltop to Ebbw Vale to Manmoel		The development has not started.
T1.8	Brynmawr to Blaenavon		The development is complete.
T1.9	Extension of Ebbw Fach Trail from Abertillery to Aberbeeg and completion of missing section through Blaina		The development is complete.
T1.10	Link to Cwmtillery Lakes		The development has not started.
T1.11	Aberbeeg to Royal Oak		The development has not started.
T1.12	Royal Oak to Swffryd		The development has not started.
Rail Network and Station Improvements			
T2.1	Extension of rail link from Parkway to Ebbw Vale Town		The development is complete. The railway line was operational in May 2015.
T2.2	Provision of new station and bus interchange		The development is complete.

	at Ebbw Vale		
T2.3	Extension of rail link to Abertillery		Investigations are underway.
T2.4	Provision of new station and Park and Ride at Abertillery		No further progress has been made.
T2.5	Rail freight provision at Marine Colliery		No further progress has been made.
Safeguarding of Disused Railway Infrastructure			
T3	Rail track east of Brynmawr	This is a safeguarding policy.	Safeguarding in place.
Improvements to Bus Services			
T4.1	Bus Priority Scheme along the Brynmawr to Newport Bus Corridor		The development has not started.
T4.2	Bus Interchange improvement at Brynmawr		The development is complete.
T4.3	Bus Interchange improvement at Ebbw Vale		The development is complete.
New Roads to Facilitate Development			
T5.1	Construction of a Peripheral Distributor Road through 'The Works'		The development is complete.
T5.2	Online improvements between the Peripheral Distributor Road and the A465		The development is complete.
Regeneration led Highway Improvements			
T6.1	Dualling of the A465 Heads of the Valleys Road (Tredegar to Brynmawr)		The development is complete.
T6.2	Online improvements to the A4046 south of Cwm		The development has not started.
T6.3	Online improvements to the A4048		The development has not started.

	south of Tredegar		
T6.4	Online improvements to the A467 south of Abertillery		The development has not started.
Employment			
EMP 1.1	Land at Festival Park, Ebbw Vale		The development has not started.
EMP1.2	Land at Tredegar Business Park, Tredegar	Part of Enterprise Zone	The development has not started.
EMP1.3	Land at Rising Sun Industrial Estate, Nantyglo		The development is complete.
EMP 1.4	Rassau Platform A, Ebbw Vale	Part of Enterprise Zone	Planning application received for the construction and operation of a purpose-built glass facility and associated development. (C/2021/0278) Full planning approved subject to the signing of S106. The development has not started.
EMP 1.5	Rassau Platform B, Ebbw Vale	Part of Enterprise Zone	
EMP 1.6	Land at Waun-y-Pound, Tredegar	Part of Enterprise Zone	The north eastern arm of the site has been granted planning permission for: 0.4 ha for a vehicle security park and storage container facility including office facility and weigh bridge. The development is complete. 0.2 ha for the construction of a B2 industrial unit with associated offices and external area. The development is complete. Construction and operation of a 16 MW gas fired standby Short Term Operating Reserve (STOR) power plant. The development is complete. The rest of the site is yet to be developed.
EMP 1.7	Marine Colliery, Ebbw Vale		The development has not started.
EMP 1.8	Crown Business Park Platform A, Tredegar		C/2020/0062 and C/2020/0064 for the change of use of land to form part of existing car showroom with new

			vehicular entrance and security fencing. The development has been completed.
EMP1.9	Crown Business Park Platform B, Tredegar		The development has not started.
EMP1.10	Land at Roseheyworth Business Park, Cwmtillery		<p>Planning permission has been granted for 0.79 ha of the site to be developed for a household waste facility, new access road and shop. The development is complete.</p> <p>A further application has been granted for 0.04ha of the site to be developed for a Single storey education building to be used in association with existing household waste recycling centre (C/2021/0094).</p>
Education			
ED1.1	Ysgol Gymraeg, Brynmawr	New primary school	The development is complete.
ED1.2	Lower Plateau Six Bells Colliery Site	A new primary school on the former Six Bells Colliery site to replace Bryngwyn and Queen Street	The development is complete.
Community Facilities			
CF1.1	Sirhowy Infants School, Tredegar	Community Centre	The development is complete.
Tourism and Leisure			
TM1.1	Eastern Valley Slopes, Ebbw Vale	Potential for tourism, leisure and education via promotion of access to the countryside and improvement to the natural environment.	The development is complete.
TM1.2	Garden Festival, Ebbw Vale	Proposal to develop Festival Park into a major tourist destination. 3 applications have been granted: c/2010/0132 for Castle, super tubing c/2011/0109 for Vertigo hang loose zip-wire attraction' c/2011/0248 for widening of footpaths and creation of new sections for shared use.	<p>The development is complete.</p> <p>Development is unlikely to happen due to site closure.</p> <p>The development is complete.</p>
TM1.3	Blue Lakes, Tredegar	Ebbw Vale and District Development Trust (EVAD) proposal to create a new park, visitor centre and café.	<p>EVAD have been disbanded and it is unlikely that this scheme will proceed.</p> <p>The development has not started.</p>
TM1.4	Bedwellty House and Park,	Restoration of Bedwellty House to create a visitor experience,	The development is complete.

	Tredegar	restaurant, gardens and function area.	
TM1.5	Parc Bryn Bach (including a hotel), Tredegar	Potential to further develop the tourism offer of the park with opportunities for a hotel and bunk-house facility.	<p>Planning permission has been granted for the construction of two pods to create a co working office hub to include information points to promote wellbeing activities (C/2021/0350). The development is under construction</p> <p>The development for a hotel has not started.</p>
TM1.6	Nantyglo Roundhouse Towers, Nantyglo	Potential for heritage centre and educational resource.	<p>Planning permission has been granted for the conversion of the north wing of the barn to 3 no. holiday units (c/2015/0128). Development is complete.</p> <p>Full planning has been granted for the conversion of south wing barn to form a new bunkhouse accommodation, car parking and picnic area (C/2020/0270) alongside listed building consent C/2020/0269. The development has not started.</p> <p>The educational and heritage potential has not been progressed.</p>
TM1.7	Cwmtillery Lakes, Cwmtillery	Outdoor Gateway and Education facility as a base for outdoor activities.	<p>Community led project which is unlikely to be taken forward.</p> <p>The development has not started.</p>
Formal Leisure			
L1.1	Chartist Way, Tredegar	Informal play space provision	No further progress to date.
Land Reclamation			
ENV4.1	Pennant Street phase 2, Ebbw Vale		No further progress to date.
ENV4.2	Parc Bryn Bach, Tredegar		No further progress to date.
ENV4.3	Cwmcrahen, Brynmawr		No further progress to date.
ENV4.4	Llanhilleth Pithead Baths, Llanhilleth		<p>The Council is in negotiation with the owner to buy the site.</p> <p>The development has not started.</p>
Cemetery Extensions			
ENV5.1	Cefn Golau Cemetery, Tredegar		The development is complete.

ENV5.2	Dukestown Cemetery, Tredegar		No further progress to date.
ENV5.3	Blaina Cemetery, Blaina		The development is complete.
Waste			
W1.1	Land south of Waun-y-Pound, Tredegar		<p>This site was offered up as part of the Heads of the Valleys Organics project. None of the bidders selected chose to use the site. However, the selected bidder no longer wishes to proceed. The site is no longer required for the organics project.</p> <p>The north eastern arm of the site has since been developed and work has been completed for: a vehicle security park and storage container facility, a B2 industrial unit with associated offices and external area, a 16 MW gas fired standby Short Term Operating Reserve (STOR) power plant.</p>
W1.2	Silent Valley, Ebbw Vale	New bulking / waste transfer facility. Permission granted (2013/0105) in 2013.	<p>The development is complete.</p> <p>Planning permission (c/2015/0057) has been granted for an extension to the existing waste transfer station.</p> <p>The development is complete.</p>

Appendix 2: Mandatory Indicators

Mandatory Indicators	Monitoring Results
The housing land supply taken from the current Housing Land Availability Study	<p>In March 2020, Welsh Government announced changes to the way in which housing delivery is monitored. The changes to PPW remove the five-year housing land supply policy and replace it with a housing trajectory as the basis for monitoring the delivery of development plan housing requirements in the Annual Monitoring Reports (AMRs).</p> <p>In terms of the annual level of housing completions monitored against the Average Annual Requirement (AAR) the trigger of under delivery over two consecutive years has been broken.</p> <p>In terms of the cumulative annual level of completions monitored compared against the cumulative Average Annual Requirement (AAR) there has been under delivery of cumulative completions since the beginning of the Plan period and so the trigger of under delivery on two consecutive years has been broken.</p>
Number of net additional affordable and general market dwellings built per annum	A total of 97 general market units and 27 affordable units were built in 2021-2022.
Net employment land supply / development per annum	During 2021-22, 0.28 ha of employment development was delivered on allocated sites and 0.52 ha of employment on non-allocated sites has been delivered.
Amount of development, including housing, permitted on allocated sites in the development plan as a % of development plan allocations and as a % of total development permitted (ha and units)	<p>From a total of 379.75 ha of allocated land, 5.88 ha was permitted in 2021-22 which is equivalent to 1.54%.</p> <p>In 2019-20, out of a total of 11.78 ha of land permitted 5.88 ha was on allocated sites, which is equivalent to 50%.</p>
Average density of housing development permitted on allocated development plan sites	The average density of housing development permitted on allocated sites was 29 per ha for the period 2021-22.
Amount of new development permitted on previously developed land (brownfield redevelopment and conversions) expressed as a percentage of all development permitted (BGCBC Planning Applications)	During 2021-22, 94% (11.06 ha of a total of 35.16 ha) of development permitted was on previously developed land.
Amount of major retail, office and leisure development (sq m) permitted in town centres expressed as a percentage of all major development permitted (TAN 4);	No major retail, office and leisure developments have been permitted in Blaenau Gwent's town centres.
Amount of development (by TAN 15 paragraph 5.1 development category) permitted in C1 and C2 floodplain	During 2021-22, no planning permissions for highly vulnerable or emergency services were permitted within flood zone C2 not meeting all TAN 15 tests.

areas not meeting all TAN 15 tests	
Amount of greenfield and open space lost to development (ha) which is not allocated in the Plan	During 2021-22 0.15 ha of open space has been lost to development which is not allocated in the Plan.
The extent of primary land-won aggregates permitted expressed as a percentage of the total capacity required, as identified in the regional waste Plan	26% of the total capacity required has been permitted.
The capacity of renewable energy developments installed per annum	0.84 MW of renewable /low carbon energy was installed in 2021-22.

Appendix 3: Housing Trajectory Tables

Tables for Current Local Development Plan

Table 19: The timing and phasing of allocations (2006-2021)

Settlement tier / growth zone	Allocated Site Name	Total Site Capacity	Completions	UC	Annual Completions																
					2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	
Tredegar	H1.2 Cartref Aneurin Bevan	14	14														14				
	H1.3 Greenacres	22	22																22		
	H1.4 Land adjacent to Chartist Way	80																			
Ebbw Vale	MU1 Ebbw Vale Northern Corridor	178																	30		
	MU1 Former Rhyd-y-Blew Reservoir Site	250																			
	MU1 Land at Bryn Serth adj to KFC	100	100															19	46	35	
	MU1 Land at Waun Y Pound College Road	277		7																	
	MU2 'The Works'	463	4					4													
	MU2 'The Works' Northgate Site	57																			

Settlement tier / growth zone	Allocated Site Name	Total Site Capacity	Completions	UC	Annual Completions																
					2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	
	H1.1 Willowtown	22		4																	
Upper Ebbw Fach	MU3 NMC Factory and Bus Depot	60																			
	H1.5 Garnfach School, Nantyglo	28																			
	H1.6 Crawshay House, Brynmawr	25																			
	H1.7 Infants School and Old Griffin Yard, Brynmawr	36																			
	H1.8 Hafod Dawel Site, Nantyglo	44	44							44											
	H1.9 West of the Recreation Ground, Nantyglo	15																			
	H1.10 Land to the East of Blaina Road, Brynmawr	25																			
	H1.11 Land to the North of Winchestown, Nantyglo	15																			
Lower Ebbw Fach	H1.12 Six Bells Colliery Site, Six Bells	40																			

Settlement tier / growth zone	Allocated Site Name	Total Site Capacity	Completions	UC	Annual Completions																
					2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	
	H1.13 Warm Turn, Six Bells	15																			
	H1.14 Roseheyworth Comprehensive, Abertillery	32																			
	H1.15 Former Mount Pleasant Court, Brynithel	18																			
	H1.16 Hillcrest View, Cwmtillery	22																			
	H1.17 Quarry Adjacent to Cwm Farm Road, Six Bells	22																			
			184	11					4	44							14	19	46	57	

Table 20: The timing and phasing of sites with planning permission

Settlement tier / growth zone	Allocated Site Name	Total Site Capacity	Completions	UC	Annual Completions																
					2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	
Tredegar	HC1.11 Derelict Bus Garage, Woodfield Road	16	16							16											

Settlement tier / growth zone	Allocated Site Name	Total Site Capacity	Completions	UC	Annual Completions																	
					2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22		
Tredegar	HC1.12 Former LCR Factory, Charles Street	8	7						1		1				2				1		2	
	HC1.13 Former Factory Site, Pochin	15																				
	HC1.14 Land at Poultry Farm, Queen Victoria Street	22	20	1			16	1	1	1											1	
	HC1.15 Upper Ty Gwyn Farm, Nantybwhch	27	20	3			6	4	3						1	1	2			1		2
	The George	12	12							12												
	HC1.17 Peacehaven	141	141							8	13	15	17	30	27	16	11	4				
	HC1.18 The Goldmine, Sirhowy	16																				
	HC1.19 BKF Plastics, Ashvale	54																				
	HC1.20 Sirhowy Infants School Site	23	23																			23
	HC1.21 Corporation Yard	23																				
	HC1.22 Park Hill	293																				

Settlement tier / growth zone	Allocated Site Name	Total Site Capacity	Completions	UC	Annual Completions															
					2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
Tredegar	St Lukes Road	32	32		32															
	LCR Factory Opposite Tredegar	47	47						47											
	Land at Stockton Way	26	26				26													
	Land at Ystrad Deri	12	12				12													
	Glandovey (small site later)	10	10						5											
	Land at Ashvale Sports Club, Griffiths Gardens, Tredegar	18																		
	HC1.1 North of Cwmyrdderch Court Flats, Cwm	16	4	3					1								2			
HC1.2 Letchworth Road	27	27						2	3				2	4	4	1	5	6		
HC1.3 Old 45 Yard, Steelworks Road	107	109				42	10	14	15	26										
HC1.4 Adjacent Pant-y-Fforest	21																			
HC1.5 Heol Elan	43	43						31	12											

Settlement tier / growth zone	Allocated Site Name	Total Site Capacity	Completions	UC	Annual Completions																
					2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	
Ebbw Vale	HC1.6 Land at College Road	41	41					41													
	HC1.7 Adj Sports Ground, Gwaun Helyg	73	50																		
	HC1.8 Higgs Yard	29												13	13		17		7		
	HC1.9 Mountain Road	56	56					14	9	33											
	HC1.10 Briery Hill	32	32											16	16						
	Land off Cambridge Gardens	10																			
	Carlton House, Penuel Square, Ebbw Vale	14	14																		14
	Former Briery Hill School, Ebbw Vale	35																			
	Land adjacent to Llys Glyncoed, College Rd, Ebbw Vale	33	33																		33
	Former quarry adjacent to Graig House, Nant-y-Croft, Rassau, Ebbw Vale	50																			0

Settlement tier / growth zone	Allocated Site Name	Total Site Capacity	Completions	UC	Annual Completions																
					2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	
Ebbw Vale	Ty Cwm, River Road, Cwm, Ebbw Vale, NP237TJ	34	34															34			
	Adjacent to big lane	10	10			3	7														
	Former Waunlwyd Junior and Infant School Site, Hill Street, Ebbw Vale	15	15												15						
	Former Sheltered Housing at Glanffrwd Court	23		23																	
	HC1.23 Recticel and Gwalia Former Factory Site, Brynmawr	41	41										41								
Upper Ebbw Fach	HC1.24 Land at Clydach Street, Brynmawr	14	12			3		2	2								2	2		1	
	HC1.25 TSA Woodcraft, Noble Square Industrial Estate, Brynmawr	37	37	4			12												4	21	

Settlement tier / growth zone	Allocated Site Name	Total Site Capacity	Completions	UC	Annual Completions															
					2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
	HC1.26 Roberto Neckwear, Nantyglo	19																		
	HC1.27 Cwm Farm, Tanglewood, Blaina	95	55	2	0	4	5	0	4	2	12	3	8	6	1	1		4	3	2
	HC1.28 Salem Chapel, Waun Ebbw Nantyglo	11																		
	HC1.29 At Cwm Farm Road	20																		
	Blaina and District Hospital	18	18											18						
Lower Ebbw Fach	HC1.31 Land at Penrhiw Estate, Brynithel	31																		
	Former Police Station, Somerset Street, Abertillery	14	14															14		
	HC1.30 Former Swffryd Junior School	20	20							20										
	Totals		1046	30	32	49	97	91	60	146	59	59	27	105	77	22	35	70	66	44

Table 20: Emerging Replacement Local Development Plan

Settlement tier / growth zone	Allocated Site Name	Total Site Capacity	UC	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	Units beyond 5 yr period	
Ebbw Vale	Land adj Glyncoed	33				33								
	Adj Sports Ground Gwaun Helyg	26		17		7								
	Letchworth Road	11		5	6									
	Land off Cambridge Gardens	10											10	
	Carlton House, Penuel Square	14					14							
	Former Briery Hill School Site	35							15	20				
	Norther Corridor - Former Rhyd-y-Blew Reservoir	250											250	
	Northern Corridor Land at Bryn Serth	100			19	46	35							
	Northern Corridor - Land at Waun - y -Pound, College Road	277							80	80	80	37		
	Former Quarry adj to Graig House, Nant-y-Croft	50								4	4	4	4	34
	Former Sheltered Housing at Glanffrwd	23	23						23					
	Northgate, The Works	57							30	27				
Tredgar	Poultry Farm	3	1				1	1	1					
	Upper TY Gwyn Farm	10	3		1		2	3	1	1	1	1		
	Former Sirhowy Infants School	23				23								
	Charles Street (small site)	3			1		2							
	Peachaven	15		11	4									
	Catref Aneurin Bevan	14		14										
	Greenacres	22					22							
	Land at Ashvale Sports Club	18									18			
BKF Plastics	54							18	18	18				

Settlement tier / growth zone	Allocated Site Name	Total Site Capacity	UC	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	Units beyond 5 yr period
Brynmawr /Nantyglo / Blaina	Clydach Street	7		2	2		1	1	1				
	Noble Square Industrial Estate	25			4		21						
	Crawshay House	14						14					9
	Cwm Farm, Tanglewood	49			4	3	2	6	6	6	6	6	10
Abertillery including Cwmtillery and Six bells	Former Police Station, Abertillery	14			14								
	Hillcrest View, Cwmtillery	28							28				
Tier 3: Cwm	Ty Cwm	34			34								
	Cwmrydderch Court Flats (north of)	13	3				1	3	1	1	1	1	5
Tier 5: Pochin	Pochin Houses	15						3	3	3	3	3	
TOTAL				49	89	112	101	164	185	133	88	15	318

Planning Policy Team

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Agenda Item 12

Cabinet and Council only

Date signed off by the Monitoring Officer: 22.11.22

Date signed off by the Section 151 Officer: 24.11.22

Committee: **Cabinet**

Date of meeting: **7th December 2022**

Report Subject: **Aneurin Leisure Trust Performance and Monitoring**

Portfolio Holder: **Cllr. Sue Edmunds, Cabinet Member for People and Education**

Report Submitted by: **Lynn Phillips, Corporate Director Education**

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)
✓	03.11.22	22.11.22			22.11.22	07.12.22		

1. Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 The purpose of the report is to update Members on the performance of the Aneurin Leisure Trust and to refocus the future performance monitoring arrangements

2. Scope and Background

- 2.1 In April 2018, the Council commenced a review of the provision of Leisure and Culture services. This review was in line with the finance and management agreement between the Council and the Aneurin Leisure Trust (ALT). The review included two phases and the second phase of the review concluded early 2020.
- 2.2 In parallel to the review, the Council developed the Leisure and Culture Strategy 2019-29 to provide strategic direction for the future of leisure services and identified key priorities for the next 10 years.
- 2.3 The outcome of the review was presented to Full Council in September 2020 where Option 2 was agreed which stated:
- ‘Provide a time limited contract extension period of five years with a break/review point at year 3. Using the proposed new governance structure to formally review the performance of ALT’s delivery of the business plan against the new specification and revised financial and management arrangement. Use clear checkpoints to identify risks and take action to mitigate those in a timely manner. If ALT fully deliver to their business plan the Council will consider a further extension to the contract subject to a further review’.
- 2.4 The lead responsibility for Leisure, Libraries and Culture sits within the Education Directorate, undertaking the role of client for these services, and the Service Manager for Young People and Partnerships is the Council’s lead officer with Aneurin Leisure Trust.

- 2.5 Since the last report to the former Education and Learning Scrutiny Committee, the following areas have been maintained:
- Regular meetings and protocols between the Education link officer and senior managers in the ALT;
 - Supporting the ALT Trust to full re-opening and understanding any financial impact associated with the pandemic;
 - Implementing key areas including the service specification, governance structure, SLAs, reporting framework; and,
 - Facilitating the transfer of the Metropole Theatre from ALT to Awen Cultural Trust and Head 4 Arts back into the Council.
- 2.6 The review recognised that key to the successful delivery of a sustainable Leisure and Culture offer, is improved governance and contract management arrangements. In response to this, a new Strategic Leisure and Libraries group was established which has met quarterly since September 2020. New dates are currently being agreed for the new political administration.
- 2.7 Weekly meetings held throughout Covid between the link officer and ALT moved to fortnightly and now monthly. The partnership between the Council and ALT has significantly improved over the past few years and the relationship is strong and underpinned by transparency.
- 2.8 ALT has again used this year to proactively pursue all possible funding / grant schemes available and these are set out in Appendix 2.
- 2.9 **Monitoring and Scrutinising Performance**
- 2.10 In order to monitor and scrutinise the progress and impact of the Trust, a full progress report will be presented to Partnership Scrutiny Committee twice a year, reporting against the agreed Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) within the specification. The KPI balance scorecard is set out in section 6.1 and is the proposed way ALT will present their performance. Other reports may be presented throughout the year by exception. These reports will also be presented to the Cabinet and the Joint Strategic Partnership Group for comment.
3. **Options for Recommendation**
- 3.1 This report has been discussed and agreed by Education DMT and CLT.
- 3.2 The Partnership Scrutiny Committee considered the report on 22nd November 2022 and supported Option 2, namely Members are requested to consider the information detailed within the report and make appropriate recommendations prior to final approval. Therefore, the Scrutiny Committee recommended that Cabinet consider the request, that in future monitoring reports, as well as the 6 monthly monitoring information, an overview is provided of future financial planning.

3.3 **Option 1:** Members are requested to consider the governance arrangements, annual performance and to agree the contents of the report; or,

Option 2: Members are requested to consider the information detailed within the report and make appropriate recommendations prior to final approval.

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

4.1 **Corporate Plan Priorities**

This report supports the Council's Performance Management Framework, and the work of the Aneurin Leisure Trust contributes to the Council priority, Strong and Environmentally Smart Communities, the delivery of statutory responsibilities for providing Library Services and the core elements of the Blaenau Gwent Wellbeing plan.

5. **Implications Against Each Option**

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

For 2022/23 Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council has agreed a £2.8m management fee to ALT. At the beginning of the financial year the Trust estimated a budget for the year anticipating a deficit of £667,000. This was produced when Covid 19 restrictions were still in place, however, restrictions were lifted close to the beginning of the financial year and income continues to improve.

5.1.1 ALT income and expenditure is set out below. This is regularly discussed and shared with the Council through the regular link officer meetings, the strategic board meetings and with a BGCBC Finance Officer also attending all ALT Finance meetings.

5.1.2 The reporting process ensures that the investment is delivering the outcomes as articulated in the Leisure and Culture Strategy. The Trust has a clear delivery plan and financial forecast which takes into account known risks and is being closely monitored. The full report can be accessed in Appendix 1.

5.1.3

Income and Expenditure	Original Estimate Year to Date	Sept 22 Actual Year to Date	Variance Fav (Adv)	Comments
	£	£	£	
Income YTD	3,196,406	3,642,271	445,865	Strong performances across all Sports Centres and catering outlets have provided the Trust an unexpected surplus at the 6 month point given the challenges faced across the board with rising operational costs. Work will now start to explore how the Trust can absorb an element of the rising costs and minimise inflation based price rises on all products.
Expenditure YTD	3,341,578	3,631,832	-290,254	
Surplus/(Deficit) YTD	-145,172	10,439	155,611	

5.1.4

2. Surplus / Deficit Position Forecast to 31st March 2023 (as at September 2022)		Comments
Core Trust Position	Surplus/(Deficit)	
September 2022 Year to Date Plus 6 Month Budget Forecast		The initial 22/23 budget was written whilst restrictions still remained and therefore shows a large annual deficit of £667k. Restrictions were fully lifted on 14th April and since then the Trust has month on month reduced this deficit budget and are currently in a 6 month surplus of £10.5k.
Year End Surplus / (Deficit) Forecast	(£347k)	
Unrestricted Reserves 31st March 2022	£1.1m	A re-forecast budget will be created through November to provide a realistic year end outcome. Consideration needs to reflect the larger than budgetted pay award which will negatively effect the forecast at a cost of £270k and challenging utility costs as we move into winter. We therefore expect to see an annual deficit in 22/23 mainly effected by the potential staff pay award however due to improved sales across the Trust we expect the outcome to improve from the year start point
Forecast Reserves Balance	£753k	

The trust is currently in a surplus position of £10k halfway through the financial year, however, the 2022/23 pay increases are yet to be agreed and have not been factored in at this stage. Any increase in pay (if backdated to the 1 April 2022) will erode the reported surplus which will swing to a deficit position. The proposed pay award is estimated to be £270,000 for the year (including oncosts), therefore based on 6 months backdated pay award the current 6-month surplus would become a £125,000 deficit.

The full year forecast as at September 2022 is a deficit of £347,000 (an improvement compared to original estimate), this will reduce the Trust's reserve balance from £1.1m (as at 31 March 2022) to £753,000 on 31 March 2023.

5.2 **Risk including Mitigating Actions**

There is a risk associated with ineffective monitoring against the agreed performance indicators that could lead to the outcomes in the Leisure and Culture Strategy not being met, and consequently, the Trust not meeting the requirements set out in the service specification.

5.3 **Legal**

Monitoring performance in line with the agreed performance indicators is a requirement within the Service Specification, which is part of the Finance and Management Agreement. The Finance and Management Agreement represents all the legal and financial arrangements for the relationship between the Council and ALT.

5.4 **Human Resources**

There are no direct Human Resources implications associated with this report other than the allocation of time from the link officer.

6. Supporting Evidence

6.1 Performance Information and Data

6.1.1 The report includes progress against the following key performance indicators. Targets and measures have been agreed against each of these areas to provide clarity on what is expected for the Trust and also to ensure Members can make judgements on what is going well and what needs to improve. ALT have developed a visual dashboard which highlights progress against the KPIs and the current status is set out below:

Area	Target	Outcome	Key Drivers
Governance, Leadership & Advocacy	Green >90% Amber <90% >80% Red <80%	Yellow	Waiting on date for the Strategic Board meeting. Once completed this KPI will revert back to green. All else on track
Financial Sustainability	Green 1% of Target Amber <1% of Target Red >5% of Target	Green	Catering is currently not seeing the impact of the cost of living crisis with sales continuing to show good YOY growth. Reforecast due in November to set a realistic outcome on year end.
Use of the Services	Green Target met Amber 10% of target Red >10% of Target	Yellow	Marked as Amber due to footfall counter issues. Estimates have been taken using a calculation of income as a % of sites that we know are accurate
Operational Performance	Green 80%-100% Amber 70%-79% Red 0%-79%	Green	All performing well. Receiving great feedback from function bookings in BHAP where the centre (bar 1 day) is now fully booked for the remainder of the calendar year
Customer & Staff Satisfaction	Green >55% Amber <55% >45% Red <45%	Green	Ahead of benchmark for Sports Centres. should be in a position to launch NPS into all sites during Q2
Library Services Standards	Green >80% Amber 70% - 79% Red <70%	Green	No Full audit to date. Scaled down audit 21/22 resulted in all 12 core measures being met. The report has gone to BGCBC
Environmental Sustainability	Green Within 5% of Target Amber Within 10% of Target Red >10% of Target	Green	To date (September) utilities are better than Target which is set at 6% lower than base year.
Asset Management	Green >90% Amber <90% >80% Red <80%	Yellow	To date (Q2) 10 activities planned 6 completed.

This table highlights ALT is performing well against all KPIs. All areas of the business have seen year on year growth which has been in part attributed to the investments that have been made across ALT over the last 2 years such as:

- Fully refurbished Sports Centres
- Improved golf products (mini golf & upgraded driving range)
- Additional activities at Parc Bryn Bach including: paddle boarding memberships, Go-karts, outside food kiosk, newly created sensory gardens (Parc Bryn Bach & Bedwellty House) and a newly created raised patio by lake side.

6.1.2

Alongside these investments ALT have been working in close partnership with several Council departments to support various funded projects such as:

- Summer of Fun (supported by Sports Development, Libraries & park teams).
 - Welsh Government (WG) reward and recognition funding for Social Services staff (supported through a voucher scheme, team building days and meeting space).
- 6.1.3
- Supporting the Ukrainian refugee crisis with a relaxation hub, English speaking courses and employment support in the Adult Education buildings and a voucher scheme set up to allow access to leisure to help integrate into the community.
 - Assisted submission to the Rhaglen grant to support the Trinity Chapel project in Abertillery.
 - Contributing to the developments of the Shared Prosperity Fund - People and Skills plans, which will replace the current ESF Adult Employability support programmes.

Additionally, Community Hubs have been established through the libraries in partnership with the Council and feedback from the public is extremely positive. A separate Library Standards report is presented to Scrutiny after December.

The full ALT report is attached in Appendix 1.

6.1.4

6.1.5

6.2 **Expected outcome for the public**

The expected outcome for the public will be to achieve the aspirations in the Leisure and Culture Strategy

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

The updating of the service specification and performance indicators has been developed in collaboration between the Council and the Trust.

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

Blaenau Gwent's decision to commission the provision of Leisure and Culture Services from ALT is intended to secure the long-term provision of Leisure and Culture provision in the County Borough. The monitoring and reporting process, in line with the finance and management agreement, seeks to strengthen the long-term provision by ensuring that provision is in line with what is required.

6.5 **Preventative focus**

The impact of leisure and cultural provision on wellbeing has been recognised for a long time and is preventative in its approach.

6.6 **Collaboration / partnership working**

The new governance model within the service specification ensures that collaboration is at the heart of all decisions. The Joint Strategic Partnership Group strengthens this approach and encourages greater partnership working.

6.7 *Integration (across service areas)*

The move of the client function to Education has further enhanced opportunities for integration between the Trust and across areas within the Council.

6.8 *Decarbonisation and Reducing Carbon Emissions*

The Trust play a key role in working towards this area and are actively included in the approach across the Council.

6.9 *Integrated Impact Assessment* (the screening template should be completed for any decisions to identify if a full integrated impact assessment (IIA) is needed. A full IIA will need to be completed if the decision is part of the socio-economic duty to consider how the decision might help to reduce the inequalities of outcome associated with socio-economic disadvantage).

7. *Monitoring Arrangements*

7.1 The current reporting arrangements, along with the new governance structure ensures that the performance of the Trust is transparent and accountable. Reports will be presented to CLT, Partnerships Scrutiny Committee, Cabinet, Council and the new Joint Strategic Partnership Group on a six-monthly basis.

Background Documents / Electronic Links

- Appendix 1 – 6 Month Report
- Appendix 2 - Funding

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Aneurin Leisure Trust

6 Month Report

April 2022 – September 2022



Report Author – Phill Sykes (Director of Operations)









Contents:

- High Level Summary
- Governance
- Financial Sustainability
- Use of Services
- Operational Performance
- Customer & Staff satisfaction
- Library Service Standards
- Environmental Sustainability
- Asset Management

High Level Summary

Page 354

Area	Target	Outcome	Key Drivers
Governance, Leadership & Advocacy	Green >90% Amber <90% >80% Red <80%		Waiting on date for the Strategic Board meeting. Once completed this KPI will revert back to green. All else on track
Financial Sustainability	Green 1% of Target Amber <1% of Target Red >5% of Target		Catering is currently not seeing the impact of the cost of living crisis with sales continuing to show good YOY growth. Reforecast due in November to set a realistic outcome on year end.
Use of the Services	Green Target met Amber 10% of target Red >10% of Target		Marked as Amber due to footfall counter issues. Estimates have been taken using a calculation of income as a % of sites that we know are accurate
Operational Performance	Green 80%-100% Amber 70%-79% Red 0%-79%		All performing well. Receiving great feedback from function bookings in BHAP where the centre (bar 1 day) is now fully booked for the remainder of the calendar year
Customer & Staff Satisfaction	Green >55% Amber <55% >45% Red <45%		Ahead of benchmark for Sports Centres. should be in a position to launch NPS into all sites during Q2
Library Services Standards	Green >80% Amber 70% - 79% Red <79%		No Full audit to date. Scaled down audit 21/22 resulted in all 12 core measures being met. The report has gone to BGCBC
Environmental Sustainability	Green Within 5% of Target Amber Within 10% of Target Red >10% of Target		To date (September) utilities are better than Target which is set at 6% lower than base year.
Asset Management	Green >90% Amber <90% >80% Red <80%		To date (Q2) 10 activities planned 6 completed.

The period from April - September 2022 has seen Aneurin Leisure Trust (ALT) perform well against all KPI's. Whilst a high degree of emphasis needs to be on the financial sustainability of the business, ALT are also extremely proud to maintain commitments to the company mission of 'Improving Community Life'. Like all businesses this financial year poses some difficult challenges during this economical period of uncertainty due to the Covid pandemic and more recently the large uplift in utility costs, however, ALT has planned effectively and continues to perform better than the initial financial forecasting put in place at the start of the financial year*.

All areas of the business have seen year on year growth which has been in part attributed to the investments that have been made across ALT over the last 2 years such as:

- 1- Fully refurbished Sports Centres
- 2- Improved golf products (mini golf & upgraded driving range)
- 3- Additional activities at Parc Bryn Bach
 - a. Paddle boarding memberships
 - b. Go-karts
 - c. Outside food kiosk
 - d. Newly created sensory gardens (Parc Bryn Bach & Bedwellty House)
 - e. Newly created raised patio by lake side

Alongside the investments ALT have been working in close partnership with several BGCBC departments to support various funded projects such as:

- 1- Summer of Fun (supported by Sports Development, Libraries & park teams.
- 2- Welsh Government (WG) reward and recognition funding for Social Services staff (supported through a voucher scheme, team building days and meeting space).
- 3- Supporting the Ukrainian refugee crisis with a relaxation hub, English speaking courses and employment support in the Adult Education buildings and a voucher scheme set up to allow access to leisure to help integrate into the community.
- 4- Assisted submission to the Rhaglen grant to support the Trinity Chapel project in Abertillery.

**It should be noted that at the time of forecasting social distancing restrictions remained in place across Sports Centres and wedding functions which presented a challenge when budget planning effectively.*

Financial Sustainability

Income and Expenditure	Original Estimate Year to Date	Sept 22 Actual Year to Date	Variance Fav (Adv)	Comments
	£	£	£	
Income YTD	3,196,406	3,642,271	445,865	<p>Strong performances across all Sports Centres and catering outlets have provided the Trust an unexpected surplus at the 6 month point given the challenges faced across the board with rising operational costs. Work will now start to explore how the Trust can absorb an element of the rising costs and minimise inflation based price rises on all products.</p>
Expenditure YTD	3,341,578	3,631,832	-290,254	
Surplus/(Deficit) YTD	-145,172	10,439	155,611	

2. Surplus / Deficit Position Forecast to 31st March 2023 (as at September 2022)

Core Trust Position	Surplus/(Deficit)	Comments
September 2022 Year to Date Plus 6 Month Budget Forecast		<p>The initial 22/23 budget was written whilst restrictions still remained and therefore shows a large annual deficit of £667k. Restrictions were fully lifted on 14th April and since then the Trust has month on month reduced this deficit budget and are currently in a 6 month surplus of £10.5k.</p>
Year End Surplus / (Deficit) Forecast	(£347k)	
Unrestricted Reserves 31st March 2022	£1.1m	<p>A re-forecast budget will be created through November to provide a realistic year end outcome. Consideration needs to reflect the larger than budgetted pay award which will negatively effect the forecast at a cost of £270k and challenging utility costs as we move into winter. We therefore expect to see an annual deficit in 22/23 mainly effected by the potential staff pay award however due to improved sales across the Trust we expect the outcome to improve from the year start point</p>
Forecast Reserves Balance	£753k	

Use of Services

Leisurecard holders																
	April	May	June	Q1	July	Aug	Sept	Q2	Oct	Nov	Dec	Q3	Jan	Feb	Mar	Q4
Current users		NA	N/A		N/A	N/A	N/A		N/A	N/A	N/A					
New users		NA	N/A		N/A	N/A	N/A		N/A	N/A	N/A					
Gym Statistics																
	April	May	June	Q1	July	Aug	Sept	Q2	Oct	Nov	Dec	Q3	Jan	Feb	Mar	Q4
Total Bookings in Month	13,815	13,238	12,070	39,123	11,506	11,110	11,130	33,746								
Age Group with Highest Bookings	26-35	26-35	26-35	NA	26-35	26-35	26-35	NA								
Swimming Statistics																
	April	May	June	Q1	July	Aug	Sept	Q2	Oct	Nov	Dec	Q3	Jan	Feb	Mar	Q4
Total Bookings in Month	7,507	8,317	8,124	23,948	9,933	13,183	8,019	31,135								
Racquet Sport Statistics																
	April	May	June	Q1	July	Aug	Sept	Q2	Oct	Nov	Dec	Q3	Jan	Feb	Mar	Q4
Total Bookings For Month - Badminton	99	75	48	222	80	106	95	281								
Total Bookings For Month - Squash	233	246	220	699	218	245	246	709								
Fitness Class Statistics																
	April	May	June	Q1	July	Aug	Sept	Q2	Oct	Nov	Dec	Q3	Jan	Feb	Mar	Q4
Occupancy	60%	58%	50%	56%	50%	50%	51%	50%								
Fitness Class Age Group Highest Usage	46-55	46-55	46-55	NA	46-55	46-55	46-55	NA								
Total Bookings in Month	4,174	4,894	4,763	NA	4,433	4,579	246	NA								
App Statistics																
	April	May	June	Q1	July	Aug	Sept	Q2	Oct	Nov	Dec	Q3	Jan	Feb	Mar	Q4
Total App Users	10,089	10,456	10,817	10,817	11,232	11,594	11,935	11,935								
Percentage % Increase Since Mar 20	972%	1011%	1050%		1094%	1132%	1168%									
Footfall Per Site																
	April	May	June	Q1	July	Aug	Sept	Q2	Oct	Nov	Dec	Q3	Jan	Feb	Mar	Q4
ASC	36,366	26,276	34,436	97,078	37,991	39,371	26,570	103,932								
EVSC	65,199	88,898	61,724	215,821	68,120	70,564	47,632	186,316								
TSC	23,823	32,482	22,562	78,867	24,891	25,795	17,408	68,094								
BHAP (park)	7,345	9,204	12,896	29,445	15,628	19,352	17,394	52,374								
BHAP (house)	1,968	2,845	4,955	9,768	8,951	11,395	10,319	30,665								
Parc Bryn Bach (park)	70,003	71,936	75,930	217,869	79,366	83,592	61,232	224,190								
Parc Bryn Bach (visitor centre)	23,986	25,307	27,932	77,225	32,456	42,912	30,235	105,603								
Ebbw Vale LAC	2,362	3,075	5,589	11,026	3,740	2,975	2,760	9,475								
Abertillery LAC	1,574	3,352	2,067	6,993	2,063	1,483	2,330	5,876								
Ebbw Vale Library	2,788	2,677	3,780	9,245	3,998	4,601	4,001	12,600								
Tredegarr Library	1,343	1,343	1,549	4,235	2,601	2,123	1,720	6,444								
Brynmawr Library/LAC	1,759	2,433	1,931	6,123	1,886	1,780	2,076	5,742								
Blaina Library	299	310	390	999	325	490	336	1,151								
Abertillery Library	1,026	1,026	1,431	3,483	1,890	2,071	2,334	6,295								
Cwm Library	450	402	450	1,302	510	601	555	1,666								

* Figures in red are estimated due to footfall data issues. The calculation is taken from previous FY income vs footfall and applied to this FY income

Usage numbers have been positive given that all sites are still operating under occupancy restrictions. The Trust continues to invest in digital infrastructure to provide ease of booking for all users such as:

- MobilePro App – enabling fitness class, gym session, swim session bookings plus news, etc.
- GoLearn – swimming lesson software with Parent Portal which gives regular updates as to how student is performing and allows course top-ups (financial).
- BookingHound – online booking for activities within Parc Bryn Bach.
- Sum Up (was GoodTill) – catering outlet specific software.

All sites continue to recover from the Covid pandemic which has been supported by various funded projects to ensure that some of the most vulnerable members of the community have been able to access free activities across all areas of the Trust.

Sports Centres

April - September 2022 Sport and Fitness has achieved the following: -

- New memberships 1,233; Abertillery Sports Centre 370, Ebbw Vale Sports Centre 617, Tredegar Sports Centre 246.
- Net growth – 624 based on 765 cancellations and 163 refer to payers retained – 7% net growth.
- Swimming lessons 2,151 – Abertillery Sports Centre 650, Ebbw Vale Sports Centre 741, Tredegar Sports Centre 760.
- Growth in swimming lessons – 783 participants for the same period in 2021 – the highest metric and income ever achieved in Blaenau Gwent – the best attended swim school in Wales based on population.
- NERS referrals (National Exercise Referral Scheme) 385 referred since July, 233 have started their fitness journey, 61% penetration.
- Advagym users 750; Abertillery Sports Centre 227, Ebbw Vale Sports Centre 350, Tredegar Sports Centre 183.
 - Repetitions total 10,441,336 – Abertillery Sports Centre 3,654,467, Ebbw Vale Sports Centre 5,220,668 Tredegar Sports Centre 1,566,199. (Repetitions is the number of single exercises performed on our pin select strength equipment. Advagym tracks the usage of these machines to help aid our placement and investment plans in the future).
 - Cardio workouts 49,645 workouts complete; Abertillery Sports Centre 16,584, Ebbw Vale 24,932, Tredegar Sports Centre 8,129.

(Cardio workouts consists of our treadmills, bikes, cross training and elliptical machines, The data analysis tracks the number of single workouts and time spent on each piece of equipment. This helps to advise of the longevity of the equipment).

- Inbody scans total 5,644; Abertillery Sports Centre 1,693, Ebbw Vale Sports Centre 2,822, Tredegar Sports Centre 1,128.
- Fitness Class attendance total 23,408; Abertillery Sports Centre 8,279, Ebbw Vale Sports Centre 8,944, Tredegar Sports Centre 6,185 – this is 52%.

Sport and Fitness continue to establish new and strengthen existing partnerships with the following organisations: Gain Nutrition, Les Mills, Precor, Sony, Peloton, Stages Cycling, ICG, Gladstone, Sport Wales, Coleg Gwent, PHW (Public Health Wales), DWP (Department for Work and Pensions), Tai Calon and BGCBC. Plus many more who are incorporated through bigger public bodies.

This year has seen a remodel of the Sport and Fitness management structure, allowing for more flexibility and empowerment, and should be highlighted that the intangibles such as vision, culture, and moral have improved based on engagement, communication and future planning strategies.

Parks & Hospitality

Parc Bryn Bach saw a particularly busy April - September Summer season where for a second consecutive season a whole range of new products were launched with thousands of visitors attending and enjoying what Parc Bryn Bach has to offer for a family day out.

Activities

This season a Caving Container for visitors to explore what caving would feel like in a 40ft container has been added to the activity menu. Go-Karts have been a welcome addition to the activity programme with visitors hiring them out for use on the online booking portal, exploring the paths and grounds on pedal go-karts for up to 4 people to enjoy, and share the pedalling. Go-karts became so popular additional karts have been purchased during this period to respond to demand. The mini adventure golf remains a popular activity at Parc Bryn Bach.

The Driving Range has during this period, seen a significant increase in usage due to the introduction of a contactless payment system and ball release machine. Users no longer have to call to the visitor centre to purchase driving range tokens, they can pay and access the baskets for balls at the range. This has proven a great improvement to the customer experience and use of the area.

Water based activities during the season were of great popularity with paddle boarding individually or as a group on the new Tikki Boards offered at the Lake being the highlight. A paddle board membership was launched for visitors to utilise the lake at their leisure within the desired timeframes, this saw a great take up and is an area to grow further in the future.

The availability of activities during this 6 month period due to developing a greater staffing infrastructure in the activities team has proven the greatest asset with activities being provided every day during the peak school holidays and every weekend. This has enabled visitors to explore and enjoy the great range of activities available.

Education

The April - July term time welcomed back regular school groups to the site continuing with their alternative education provision. The young people experienced a wider curriculum where they developed life survival, team working and communication skills. All of the Tredegar Cluster Primary Schools, Tredegar Comprehensive School, several schools from within BGCBC and some from neighbouring authorities booked Round Robin Activity Days at Parc Bryn Bach. Every day a school group would bring up to 60 young people to undertake a range of outdoor adventure activities. All thoroughly enjoyed and gained new skills. The park will be a great asset to supporting the development of the new curriculum across schools in the future.

Lake View Café, Kiosk & Terrace

The opening hours of the site were extended for this period. Street Food Thursdays continued throughout the season as well as the evening running and triathlon events returning to the evenings for 2022. Parc Bryn Bach became a hive of activity from 8am-8pm during the peak summer season with visitors enjoying the activities, using the dog friendly café, utilising the outdoor kiosk and also making use of the more relaxed terraced area overlooking the lake. Parc Bryn Bach Lake View Café & Kiosk exceeded all anticipated and projected income targets throughout the six-month period, serving in excess of 30,000 ice creams during this time. The Lake View Café also offered seasonal employment to 8 young people during the summer season. The Lake View Catering achieved a 5* Food Hygiene rating following inspection.

Events & Groups

Park Run has continued to grow from strength to strength with this season celebrating its 100th Park Run.

Several events have taken place at Parc Bryn Bach during the Summer season including Wildlife Wednesdays, Go Wild event, Triathlon events, open water swimming trials, Summer of Fun free activity programme and DB Max. The park as always welcomes the events and delivered them to the highest standard ensuring they operate successfully without impacting the daily use of the park for the local community.

Grounds

The park once again was successful in achieving the Green Flag Award for 2022 status and has been complimented on the cleanliness of the grounds and attention to the planters and aesthetics throughout the area. Public have fed back at how pristine the grounds are looking. The Canadian geese still took residency at the park this season, however, did not appear as problematic as they have been in previous years.

Accommodation

Caravan and Camping was welcomed back this summer season with visitors staying an average of 3 nights at the site. All visitors stated in feedback they would revisit the site in the future as were very impressed with their stay, the quality of the facilities and the range of onsite activities.

The Bunk House during this period underwent some final health and safety maintenance projects and will be ready to launch for the late Autumn.

A Working Hub was installed during this period at Parc Bryn Bach comprising of two rooms, one for wider team meetings for up to 12 delegates and a second where there are individual workstations. The hub was installed and all necessary works undertaken to enable its launch in late Autumn 2022.

Bedwellty House & Park

Weddings & Functions

Weddings along with other functions such as baby showers, wakes and celebration parties have been welcomed back to the venue with number of guests finally being to full capacity. A total of 14 full weddings were delivered during this period as well as ceremony only weddings. All weekends are fully booked with varying functions until the end of 2022.

The Summer saw the return of the outdoor music season in the courtyard, every Sunday from May through to September local musicians were booked to perform. Tables were fully booked during this period with the local community enjoying the alternative and varied entertainment.

Education & Family Activities

Local Education providers delivered an action-packed summer programme including Storytelling, Science Workshops, Animation Workshops, History Trails, Dinosaur Days, Animal Encounters and Princess Teas. All activities were fully booked with feedback from visitors complimenting the range of affordable but quality activities.

School programmes were delivered in the April - July period with the theme of celebration being delivered. Several Schools booked and enjoyed a Jubilee Tea Party. A Tapas/Spanish festival was delivered for Tredegar Comprehensive School along with several school wellbeing events which included 'Art in the Park' where young people undertook animation and other art-based lessons in the grounds. 'Feeling Great in the Garden' young people attended and supported the planting of the summer bulbs and tending to the vegetables in the allotment.

Bedwellty also hosted three Art/craft exhibitions during this period where schools showcased their work for the Eisteddfod, Sunflowers for Ukraine and the Queens Jubilee. All exhibitions were very well received and increased footfall to Bedwellty House of family members wishing to view the young people's art. The links with Education continue to develop and go from strength to strength.

Bedwellty participated in the Summer of Fun programme supported by Welsh Government which enabled a number of the activities to be free for children and young people to access.

Wild Tots has seen incredible growth during this period with additional sessions being provided and developing Wild Camps as well as Wild Tots. The links with the Play team are integral. Despite a setback early in the summer with a fire in this area the local community pulled together a fund-raising initiative and donated £750 to the team to replace the kit they had sadly lost. This highlighted the incredible community spirit and love for the park the local community have.

Community Events

Bedwellty House this season welcomed back the much-loved Summer Brass Band concerts. Supported by Tredegar Town Council a Brass Band concert was provided every Sunday from May - August from the Bandstand. These much-loved concerts attracted visitors from the local community and neighbouring authorities to the park.

Bedwellty Hosted Armed Forces Day, Queens Jubilee Garden Party, Bevan Festival, and National Play Day all of which are large scale free community events. National Play Day saw record numbers this year with in excess of 1,000 children and young people attending with their families.

The monthly Heritage Talks brought in some interesting guest speakers during this period, with attendance numbers soaring to 30+ tentative listeners.

Grounds

Bedwellty House was successful in once again achieving the Green Flag award. The grounds have been immaculately presented over the period, visitors always compliment the beauty of the park and grounds. A great achievement during the Summer was the fountain on the main grounds returning to operation which has been a much awaited and anticipated project, along with the tennis courts resuming to use, which again has been well received.

The Friends of Bedwellty have worked tirelessly during this period to launch a Sensory Garden, this tranquil space outside the Ice House is a welcomed project making what was a wild space a much loved area of the gardens. The friends are an asset to Bedwellty in their support throughout the grounds.

The kitchen garden has had a bumper season in 2022 with a successful crop of many fruit and vegetables including peas, carrots, potatoes, parsnips, beetroot, onions to name just a few of the variety planted and tended to. The volunteer gardener oversees this area with great pride and love. All vegetables are utilised within the Kitchen at Bedwellty with excess produce being offered to customers for a small donation.

The BG Youth Service support an area of the Kitchen Garden whereby they also tend to the vegetables and crops.

Orchid House Tea Room

The Orchid House Tea room has had a successful summer season serving a range of homecooked fresh meals to order 7 days per week, with often all tables being fully booked daily.

Bedwellty remains the go to venue for Sunday Lunches with regulars visiting week in week out for their family roast. Afternoon Teas, buffets and corporate catering has seen a significant increase during this period with an increasing demand for buffets to be delivered to alternative venues due to the reputation for great quality food Bedwellty has earned.

The Tea Room utilises as much of the Vegetables that are grown in the kitchen garden, letting customers know with great pride they have been home grown.

The Orchid House Tea Room was successful in achieving a 5* Food Hygiene rating following a recent inspection.

Libraries

The 2020/21 Welsh Public Library Standards report has been received from Welsh Government; Aneurin Leisure continues to achieve all twelve core indicators, the report noted that it was encouraging to see that the materials budget had increased by 18% since 2019/2020. Additionally, the report noted “The pro-active staff and partnerships bring considerable benefits to a wide range of individuals and communities”

Working in partnership with social services and Age Cymru a selection of coffee machines and refreshments have been purchased for all libraries. Carers Coffee mornings commenced in May, offering a range of support and advice for anyone in a caring role. The refreshments are being offered free of charge to promote the inclusive services and help combat social isolation. This initiative forms the foundation as we move in the Autumn months for each library to become a designed “warm space” to help combat the cost of living crisis.

During this period school visits have returned to the library service, for the first time since the pandemic. All year groups from Ebbw Fawr Primary have had weekly visits to Ebbw Vale Library, which has had a positive impact on membership numbers and issues. Similarly, Deighton, Tredegar and Cwm Primary schools have visited their respective libraries, with visits to Brynmawr and Abertillery planned for the Autumn term.

In addition to the £2,000 in funding received from Welsh Government to deliver free activities across libraries this summer, the Reading Agency also worked in partnership with the Service to deliver a variety of free author led workshops. Malachy Doyle, a children’s author who writes in English, Welsh and Irish attended Ebbw Vale library, reading excerpts from his most popular books. Welsh author Huw Davies visited Tredegar library, reading excerpts from his book Scrambled before working with the audience to develop their creative writing skills. Finally, author Karen Owen give a taster of her new book, before giving

the audience the opportunity to learn about codes and sign language. These sessions linked to this year's Summer Reading Challenge "Gadgeteers" which involved working with the Diffusion Art, Slime and Science Workshops incorporating STEM learning activities. These campaigns were instrumental in helping families re-connect with their community in post Covid times

The library Service has been working in partnership with "Pinc", a local cancer charity to raise funds to support Velindre Hospital through a creative writing competition for children and adults promoted through the libraries. This is the third year in which the competition has run, encouraging people of all ages to write a poem or short story on a particular theme, which was Heroes and Villains this year. The competition was sponsored by local company Fonseca Law with the winners being invited to an awards ceremony at Ebbw Vale library.

Adult Education

The core purpose of Adult Community Learning is to enable adults to develop to play a full part in life and work by providing support primarily through a curriculum focussed on improving essential skills. The target group for Adult Community Learning are those individuals who are not in full time education, training or employment. Across all curriculum areas Adult Community Learning serviced 924 learners with a retention in 2021/2022 of 95%, the highest for four academic years, whilst the attainment was 84%. The GCSE English and Maths classes continued to perform strongly with 100% of English Language learners (11 candidates) achieving an A-D grade, with 92% getting A or B grades. 100% of maths learners (15 candidates) who took the intermediate or higher tier course achieved an A*- D grade, with 79% getting an A*-C grade.

The successful application for a Welsh Government's Engagement Grant enabled the Service to deliver a wide range of wellbeing activities and taster sessions designed to raise awareness of the Adult Community Learning Service, activities included Papier Mache and Creative writing delivered in partnership with Head4Arts plus Yoga and Tai Chi.

In response to the Ukrainian Welcome Centre opening in Ebbw Vale, the service delivered a programme of English for Speakers of Other Languages through the Summer months, including chatter groups and formal classes. Over 30 refugees attend on weekly basis the majority of who have progressed into structured classes in September, with 6 securing employment through the Bridges into Work project.

The three ESF employability projects continue to perform against targets and deliverables, Bridges into Work currently has a job entry rate of 28% (624 participants and 178 into work), one of the highest of all the ESF employability projects in South-East Wales. The team have developed excellent working relationships with local employers to enable Bridges into Work participants to experience volunteering opportunities which enable them to obtain generic transferrable skills required for entry into the jobs market. Currently 74% of the participants in the Working Skills for Adults project have attained a qualification, the highest of all Working Skills for Adults delivery areas. Furthermore 70% of the participants who have engaged with Nurture, Equip Thrive whilst absent from work (illness/sickness) have returned to their workplace.

Operational Performance

Staff Absence							
Staff Absence (reporting period)	April	May	June	Q1	July	Aug	Sept
Percentage staff Total absence	3.30%	2.20%	2.90%		2.70%	3.60%	2.60%
Number of working days lost to total sickness absence per employee	0.41	0.28	0.37		0.36	0.48	0.34
Percentage sickness absence per employee - Short Term Sickness	1.60%	1.00%	0.70%		0.10%	1.50%	0.50%
Number of working days lost to sickness absence per employee - Short Term Sickness	0.20	0.13	0.09		0.01	0.19	0.06
Percentage sickness absence per employee - Long Term Sickness	1.70%	1.20%	2.20%		2.60%	2.20%	2.10%
Number of working days lost to sickness absence per employee - Long Term Sickness	0.22	0.15	0.28		0.28	0.29	0.28
SC membership attrition							
Memberships (New)							
Memberships (New)	April	May	June	Q1	July	Aug	Sept
Joined Members (DD)	164	207	219		186	175	282
Total New Members	46	71	40		107	98	83
Sales							
Sales	April	May	June	Q1	July	Aug	Sept
Total (£) Membership Sales for Month (DD)	£4,351	£5,893	£6,055		£5,825	£5,525	£8,627
Total (£) Membership Sales for Month (Cash)	£482	£702	£481		£3,494	£2,373	£522
Total (£) Membership Sales for Month (Payroll/Internal)	£171	£171	£288		£159	£156	£220
Memberships (Cancelled)							
Memberships (Cancelled)	April	May	June	Q1	July	Aug	Sept
Cancelled Members (DD)	119	97	111		116	118	170
Cancelled Memberships (DD)	102	83	103		104	109	159

Staff Absence

The tables below show the percentage of sickness absence by reason per quarter. The target absence percentage for the Trust is 2.7%.

Quarter 1

Reason	Percentage
Gastric	20%
Covid- 19	16%
Skeleton, Shoulder, Wrist	14%
Viral Infection	14%
Cold & Flu	7%
Eye, Ear, Nose, Throat	7%
Other	7%
Bereavement	5%
Hospitalisation	5%
Other	2%
Respiratory	2%
Stress	2%

The accumulative outturn for sickness absence in Quarter 1 2022/23 was 2.8% with the most common reason for absence during this period being gastric.

Quarter 2

Reason	Percentage
Other	23%
Skeleton	19%
Gastric	15%
Covid 19	12%
Hospitalisation	12%
Cold & Flu	8%
Head, eye, ear, nose, throat	4%
Infection	4%
Personal Stress	4%

The accumulative outturn for sickness absence in Quarter 2 2022/23 was 3.0% with the most common reason for absence during this period being a variety of other health reasons.

Year to date the average sickness rate is currently 2.9%. As shown above the reasons for sickness varies across the Trust with Covid 19 remaining relatively high in the reasons for absence.

Below is a selection of case studies across the business to support the positive impact the Trust is having on the community;

Sports Centres

Swimming Lessons

Case study 1

Anna and Teddy (son)

“Hello, in a day and age where complaining is so easy, I thought I would email to share my ‘HAPPINESS’ with you. My son, who is 2 and a half, has our weekly swimming lesson with Becky (Rebecca Griffiths) each Monday. She is just incredible! As a primary school teacher, myself, who is often a mentor for new teachers coming through, I feel confident in knowing what great teaching is and Becky is simply outstanding. Her positive attitude and passion radiate, her manner with the children and her knowledge of how to make the children progress in a fun and enjoyable way is just brilliant and the way she gets into the water to help us by modelling the skills is so appreciated.

A big thank you to Becky! I really appreciate how hard she works - thank you Aneurin Leisure.”

Case study 2

Rookie Lifesaving is for under 12's as an introduction to lifesaving and water safety

Gwen and her family live in London and visit their family in Blaenau Gwent during the summer holidays. They have been attending our swimming lessons for a couple of years, but when the pandemic started their travel to Wales had to stop. They have returned this year and Gwen has started Rookie Life Saving. Her mother has always provided feedback to our Aquatics Development Officer to say how much her daughter enjoys the lessons and how excited she gets to return in the holidays.

Gwen's mother: -

“Thank you as always and for including us again this year. Gwen loves her swimming and honestly says your classes are MUCH BETTER than any London sessions!!! I totally agree. One of the comments was and pass on please, ‘the teachers are lovely!’ Well done to Asia, Caroline, Cia.”

Abertillery Sports Centre

Case Study 1

Abertillery Sports Centre is proud to be home to Freefallers Trampoline Club. This club has been running for over 20 years by high performance coaches Lisa Parkinson and Tony James and have many members who come from near and far to train with them. Three local trampolinists from Blaenau Gwent have been proving how successful the club is. Bethany Paull is a disability trampolinist and gymnast, who has competed for Great Britain on numerous occasions at World and Special Olympic Games. Bethany is the current Special Olympics Gymnastics Champion. In trampolining, she was crowned the Inter-Regional Disability Category 1 Women's 15+ champion at the Final's in Sheffield September 22. Ffion Williams also joined Bethany at this competition, where she ranked 19th in the country for her level and age group.

Bethany and Lexi Griffiths have both been invited to compete in the Trampoline League National Finals in London next month after qualifying events in Cardiff and South Shields. Bethany is looking to defend her title as Disability Category 1 Women's 15+ championship from 2019. Along with Bethany and Lexi, 7 additional trampolinists at the club have also qualified for the Trampoline League National Finals. This is a fantastic achievement which reflects the hard work that the coaches and trampolinists have put in after resuming training since the pandemic.

Case study 2

Morgan Watts a future generational British Triathlete and an employed Recreation Assistant at Aneurin Leisure, started the 2022 season with Performance Assessment weekend which gives you your starting rank for the British super series where he ranked 35th. Next in the series was Llanelli and Morgan climbed 9 to 26th in the rankings. As the series continued it saw Morgan travelling around the country from Lockore Meadows in Scotland where he came 10th, to Bowood House in Wiltshire where he came 15th. Unfortunately, when he got to Mallory Park, he had a crash which led to a non-finish, but this didn't stop him. At the grand final of the series in Sunderland, Morgan finished 15th. The final race which was for the top 20 in his age category saw Morgan coming out 18th in Britain.

Aneurin Leisure, have some young stars rising the ranks in the world of sport, and are very proud of them and want to help them achieve their goals by any means of support we can provide.

Ebbw Vale Sports Centre

Case Study 1

After struggling with weight for many years and having no confidence. Rhiannon started her fitness journey in August 2021 and started by walking 7km a day for a month before she noticed her weight had started to drop. After losing 2 stone Rhiannon started to go to the gym and went into a calorie deficit to manage her calories and to ensure that she was getting a nutritionally balanced diet. Whilst at the gym she concentrated on weightlifting 2 days per week that split between upper and lower body.

When Rhiannon had lost another 2 stone, she took up running which she enjoys very much. Rhiannon has completed 2 races which is a big accomplishment, and she now looks forward to completing many more.

In total Rhiannon has lost 6 stone in 8 months. The key is consistency, and it is possible! Rhiannon now has more confidence and is a lot happier in herself.



Case study 2

The Hypolyser

Sustainability is a key priority for Aneurin Leisure and the introduction of the Hypolyser at Ebbw Vale Sports Centre is just one illustration of how the Trust is working to reduce its impact on the environment and keep swimming pools sustainable.

The Hypolyser is an electrolytic chlorination system that utilises electricity, salt and water to generate sodium hypochlorite, a safe, clean water treatment that is an alternative to traditional calcium hypochlorite commonly used in pools. Once the Hypolyser produces the solution, it is transferred to the daily dosing system to treat the pool water. This solution contains less than 1% chlorine as opposed to calcium hypochlorite which contains 65% chlorine. This reduces the use of hazardous chemicals and transportation of chemicals from countries such as the USA and China.

The Hypolyser was installed at Ebbw Vale Sports Centre during July and a cost benefit analysis is currently being written to expand this provision to Abertillery and Tredegar Sports Centres.

Tredegar Sports Centre

Case Study

Bradley left school at 16 but suggests that his attendance was extremely low from the age of 14. Bradley explained that he had always been overweight and had never considered using fitness as a tool to help him combat the weight gain, he avoided Physical Education in school, he explained that he would feel complete dread when it came to participating his PE lesson, often he pretended to forget his PE kit and would conjure up any excuse possible to avoid taking part. In Bradley's own words he says "*it was a very dark place to be*"

After officially leaving school at 16, still in a very dark place and suffering with his mental health, Bradley said he spent his days shut up in his bedroom, most of his focus at this time was on gaming, he also used food as a crutch, this caused him to then continue to gain weight faster than ever before. I asked Bradley what he weighed at the time, he said he had never weighed himself as he was too frightened to find out how heavy he really was.

Bradley had his first job when he was 17, his brother had found him a place in the factory where he worked, still suffering with his mental health, Bradley said he would hide in the toilets, he was extremely low and his new job made him feel even worse, he lasted 4 months.

Bradley was then under DWP, he had been offered work experience in the job centre, he was shocked when he realised, he really enjoyed the placement, he enjoyed helping people and enjoyed working front of house.

After leaving work experience, he enrolled into college where he completed level 3 and 4 computers and completed his Maths and English. In order to attend college Bradley had to catch a bus, the bus stop was less than a 10 minute walk from his house and it was at this point Bradley realised how unfit he actually was, he would be physically exhausted as he got to the bust stop.

After leaving college Bradley really wanted to find employment but after two years of being unemployed and having no luck, and then COVID 19 playing a big part in him being unable to find a job, he found himself again in a very dark place, it was at this point Bradley weighed for the first time, he was 30 stone, he was also suffering with his mental health.

Acknowledging that Bradley was suffering with his mental health, DWP suggested that he sign onto INSPIRE, he thought this was going to be just another 'scheme' but this was where Brad was introduced for the first time to Sport and Fitness, Bradley said it was the best thing that had ever happened to him, in his own words 'it saved my life'

The first time that Brad came into Tredegar Sports Centre he said he was 'terrified' he said he regularly experienced panic attacks and would have to take himself off to the toilet to try and overcome them, unbeknown to Bradley this would be the start of a journey that would change his life completely.

Bradley would be accompanied by a member of the INSPIRE team in the beginning twice a week, he said he remembers the first session being five minutes on the bike with two weights exercises, he would be too exhausted to carry on, but this didn't put him off, even though he would have to still take himself off to overcome regular panic attacks.

The first major milestone for Brad was after completing a 28km static bike ride in Ebbw Vale Sports Centre in 40 minutes, he said he couldn't believe it, he felt amazing, in his own words 'buzzed', he remembered the times where he struggled to get out of bed but now, he finally felt like a 'fit person', he felt great.

Currently at the age of 24, Bradley weighs 24 stone, he has had a loss of 6 ½ stone, and he says he is nowhere near the end of the journey, his confidence has grown immensely, to the point he recently interviewed for a receptionist role in Tredegar Sports Centre, he was successful in interview and is now part of the Aneurin Leisure, Sport and Fitness Team.

Brad's love for the product and service shines through when he speaks to people, his experience and journey helps him relate to our own customers and in turn they can relate to him, he's an asset to the Trust and I'm sure with his new found love for Sport and Fitness he will continue to inspire anyone and encourage all people from all walks of life, that fitness can change your life forever.

NERS

NERS - Case Study 1

Jeffery Colston	1 st Consultation	16 Week Consultation
Weight (kg)	120kg	104kg
Blood pressure	156/100	141/89
Heart Rate	62	60
BMI	46.1	40

Achievements

Client is attending 1 x class a week, gym 1-2 x a week, does a virtual class in the house and walks more often. Client has now taken out a DD membership for the gym. As you can see above client has lost a considerable amount of weight and lowered BP.

Reason for Attending the Referral Scheme

Client BP was high and so were her sugar levels. Client also had bad eating habits. More of an emotional eater. Client is now eating 3 x a day. Good nutritional food has more energy and has found her asthma is a lot more under control.

Difficulties you had to overcome

"Felt a little anxious when started but when I saw the class and took part it put my nervousness to rest".

Benefits from the Scheme

"I have lost weight and feel better about myself, feel guilty when I can't make it. I have got more energy to do things".

Overall Experience

"I would recommend it to everyone, I found the instructors very approachable and helpful. People in the class very friendly too".

NERS - Case Study 2

Christie Weights	1 st Consultation	8 Week Consultation
Weight (kg)	80.3	78.8
Waist (cm)	95	92
Blood pressure	126/82	123/82
Heart Rate	61	60
BMI	26.6	25.1

Achievements

The client has been attending the NeuroFit class 1 x a week for the past 8 weeks. Range of movement in shoulders and legs have increased. The client is now able to do some shoulder rolls and can lift both knees up to hip height.

Activity

Attending 1 class a week and receiving physio treatment and doing home exercise.

Reason for Attending the Referral Scheme

Neurological condition (The client had a stroke at a young age which left her finding daily activities very difficult and unable to work) client is only 38.

Difficulties you had to overcome

"I felt a little anxious at first as I was so young but once I realised the NeuroFit class was aimed specifically at my conditions needs I felt more at ease. I felt that way as I feel I should be doing more for a person my age"

Benefits from the Scheme

"I'm improving each week, my range of movement has increase in my shoulders and legs (I can do shoulder rolls and lift both knees to hip height which I couldn't before). I Feel my posture is improving which is allowing me to do sit to stands in the correct manner. I'm also learning how my body works which is helping me understand my limits".

Overall Experience - *"I think the class has given me a lot more confidence and I'm able to do more around the house and more activities with my daughter".*

Adult Education

Jonathan enrolled with Bridges into Work 2 in July 2018. He joined the project after he was made redundant from his retail position with Sainsbury's. He had a good work history but had lost some confidence after being with the same company for many years.

He needed to gain new skills, qualifications and experience to change his career to work in a different sector. Jonathan completed level 2 ECDL spreadsheets which helped his confidence. He began voluntary work with Hospice of the Valleys helping at events and assisting with setting up a new Hospice shop in Merthyr where he gained many new skills. He attended Job Club where he developed his CV and had support to apply for a variety of jobs.

In November 2019, with help from his Development Officer, he applied for a position as an Employment Advisor with Elite Clothing. From his application he gained an interview. He met with his Development Officer and discussed potential interview questions and examples to give relating to the job description. His interview went very well and he was offered the position starting at the end of January 2020. Jonathan has now been in the role for over two years and regularly notifies us of opportunities at Elite Clothing for either paid or voluntary work.

Ukrainian refugee Liliia came to Wales in the summer with her teenage son and they were placed in temporary accommodation at a hotel in Ebbw Vale. Liliia and her son attended the weekly Chatter Group at Ebbw Vale LAC to find out about the support they could receive and to improve their English skills. Liliia was very nervous as she did not speak any English and was extremely anxious about her husband and daughter who were still in Ukraine. Through the summer, BiW2 supported Liliia to improve her English, enrol onto ESOL courses at the centre and to compile a CV. Liliia is a trained seamstress making military uniforms in her job in Ukraine so, as Liliia's confidence grew, we contacted Jonathan at Elite and were able to arrange a work trial accompanied by her Development Officer. Elite were very impressed with her skills and offered her a full-time job but Liliia was very nervous. Working with Jonathan we were able to arrange lunch provision, transport, and a translator to accompany Liliia for her induction. We were also able to support with HR paperwork including her contract and obtaining a Share Code to prove Liliia's right to live and work in the UK.

Liliia is enjoying her job and is looking forward to improving her English language skills at evening classes at Ebbw Vale LAC.

Libraries

The Summer of Fun and Summer Reading Challenge were instrumental in helping families re-connect with their community in post Covid times. As the cost of living crisis is impacting on many residents, the service received lots of comments and feed-back expressing their gratitude for free events.

'The events in the library have been a saviour to us. As a family with 5 children, having free events in our local library have kept the children entertained, saved us so much money, money that we don't have and best of all, the children have thoroughly enjoyed them all. They have been educational and fun, at the same time. It has also got the children back into reading and they have made lots of new friends from attending the events. -Kate, -parent.

'We haven't been able to afford a summer holiday this year, so having so many free events has been great. We live in Ebbw Vale, we attended all the events there, my daughters loved the author session. We also went to Brynmawr and Cwm Libraries to join their sessions, because the children enjoyed them so much. They also completed the Summer Reading Challenge, it has kept them reading through the summer. It's also been nice to meet other parents at the event. We are new to the area, so the library has really helped us feel part of the community' - Sam-parent.

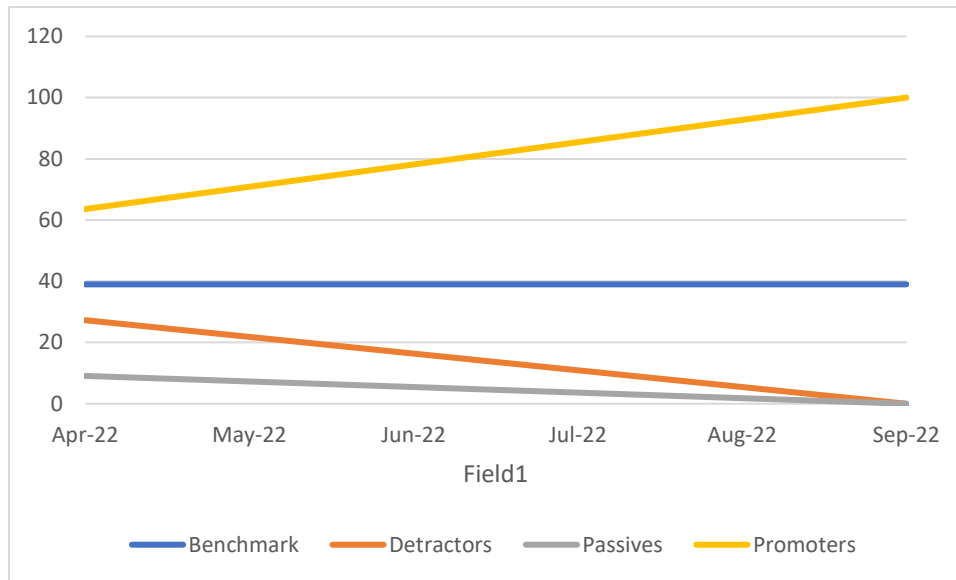


Customer and Staff Satisfaction

Customer Satisfaction

For the period April 2022 - September 2022, customer satisfaction was measured as follows:

- Net Promoter Score (NPS) for sports centres. Using an external system the Trust was able to monitor the NPS to September 2022. From October 2022, the Trust will be using Microsoft Forms for cost efficiencies.
- Introduction of NPS for Adult and Community Learning (ACL) and Libraries through Microsoft Forms.
- Google, Facebook and Trip Advisor reviews for the parks.

Sports Centres:

The above chart illustrates customer improvement in terms of those who would promote the sports centres versus initial detractors or those who were passive towards the service and facilities. The industry benchmark for NPS is 39.

Adult Community Learning and Libraries:

The Trust does not have access to members' data, therefore, is reliant on those using the website to respond to requests for feedback. The response thus far has been limited but we are exploring other ways of raising awareness to gain insight into those visiting ACL and libraries to improve / monitor our service levels.

Thus far, and noting limited data, we have a NPS of 60 for libraries and 0 for ACL. The latter we know to reflect two negative comments.

All responses are monitored monthly, and any comments addressed by the personnel directly.

Bedwellty House and Park (BHAP) / Parc Bryn Bach (PBB):

Both BHAP and PBB have received consistent reviews on Trip Advisor of 4.5 and 4 respectively during the period April - September 2022, and 4.8 and 4.5 respectively on Facebook. Both ratings are out of 5.

Some of the more recent comments are:

BHAP:

"Used the café and was very happy with the service and what was on the menu. A very good offering of gluten free and vegetarian options too."

"Lovely scenic, quiet park. You can walk around for hours and enjoy the peace and quiet. There are lots of interesting points to see such as the bandstand, Devil's Arch, the biggest piece of coal and the war memorial. The ponds could definitely do with being cleaned and updated though which is a shame. The house itself is beautiful inside and out. Great architecture. Lovely tea rooms although slightly expensive. A beautiful place to visit if you need to have a relaxing walk or a few hours peace and quiet!"

PBB:

"The park activity area has been refurbished and it's great for children."

"Had an excellent experience here. Was lovely to walk around the lake a few times, had a snack in the café and then played mini golf. Would go back again and do some of the trails/walks. Good value too as free parking and the food in the café was an affordable price."

Staff Satisfaction

During July and August 2022, the Trust undertook its bi-annual staff satisfaction survey. To make this easier for staff the survey was refined to reflect the Net Promoter Score approach undertaken in customer satisfaction surveys, with three questions:

- How likely are you to recommend working for Aneurin Leisure Trust?
- Good job prospects, benefits and friendly colleagues? All round good employer?
- Do you work full time/part time?
- If you could change one thing about the Trust, what would it be and why?

The results provided us with a NPS of 47 against the standard benchmark of 39. We had 62 responses of which 34 were promoters (score of 9 or 10), 23 were passive (score of 7 or 8) and 5 were detractors (score of 6 and below).

We are currently analysing the results to feedback to staff with an action plan to address concerns where raised.

Environmental Sustainability

Base target has been set using the 3-year average usage from financial years 2017/18, 2018/19 and 2019/20. As a result of COVID-19 and not all facilities being fully operational, it was agreed not to use 2020/21 financial year data when setting the base target.

The agreed contractual commitment which we use as the KPI Target, is to reduce consumption by 15% from the base year by 31st March 2026. This calculates as follows:

- 2021/22 – Base Target less 3% - ALT achieved 5% better than annual Target overall
- 2022/23 – Base Target less 6%
- 2023/24 – Base Target less 9%
- 2024/25 – Base Target less 12%
- 2025/26 – Base Target less 15%

All Utilities - Collectively

April 2022 to September 2022, the 6-month period is 24% better than target which is set on base year less 6%.

Electricity

April 2022 to September 2022, the 6-month period electricity consumption is 58% better than target.

During the reporting period the UK experienced a heatwave lasting several weeks which had a positive impact on electricity savings for the solar panels at Ebbw Vale Sports Centre (EVSC) which is currently 32% better than target.

Ebbw Vale Library and Bedwellty House are both running between 12% and 20% above target.

Gas

April 2022 to September 2022, the 6-month period gas consumption overall is 3% above target.

Bedwellty House, Parc Bryn Bach, Abertillery Library and Ebbw Vale Library are all better than target, however, Abertillery, Ebbw Vale and Tredegar Sports Centres are all within 5% above target with remaining Libraries and LACs being significantly above the target, 34% - 55%.

Water

April 2022 to September 2022, the 6-month period water consumption is 17% above target.

There has been an unidentified leak at Bedwellty House and Park (BHAP), which has had a major impact on water consumption at site. This leak has been investigated by Blaenau Gwent CBC Technical Services and resolved in September 2022. This has resulted in 125% above the target.

Both Abertillery and Tredegar Sports Centres are running between 37% and 77% above target. However, this year to date the sport centres have seen a significant increase in the swim school which has an impact on water usage within facilities, due to the need for backwashing on a more frequent basis, together with maintaining pool water levels.

Brynmawr LAC (24.5%), during this period there have been significant issues with the boiler within this facility which has included a leak. This is currently under investigation. The boiler and pipework within this facility have also been insulated which will reduce the amount of heat being lost into the atmosphere. Cwm Library (13.5%) and Ebbw Vale Library (76.4%) are all above target.

Next 6 Months

Over the next 6 months funding will be sought to propose the installation Solar PV panels at both Tredegar and Abertillery Sports Centres subject to landlord approval and the roof structure being capable of supporting them.

Through government funding obtained for Education facilities under the Carbon Net Zero Grant, lighting will be upgraded within Brynmawr, Ebbw Vale and Tredegar Adult Education Centres.

Toward the end of October 2022, a contractor will also be appointed to complete PV & Battery installation at Brynmawr LAC through the same funding stream, all of which will help reduce electricity usage within these facilities.

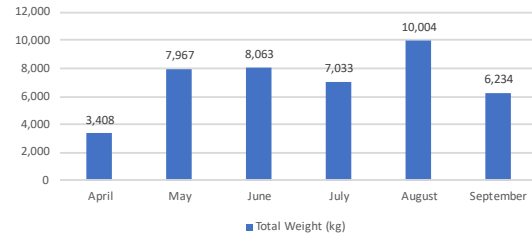
Recycling & Refuse

As a result of the Trust's commitment to becoming carbon net zero by 2030, an alternative waste management solution was sought, which resulted in the contract for financial year 2022/23 being awarded to Veolia, who guarantee that 100% of our waste is recycled with a zero waste to landfill solution, thus creating a sustainable future.

With zero waste going to landfill, all the Trust's general waste is transported to an Energy Recovery Facility and is 100% diverted from landfill. At the point when Veolia are unable to recycle any more of the materials collected from Trust sites, they recover energy from the general waste for export to the local grid through incineration.

The following diagrams provide a visual picture of the Trust’s position regarding recycling from April to September 2022.

Veolia has collected 36.48K kg of waste, consisting of:-



April	3,408
May	7,967
June	8,063
July	7,033
August	10,004
September	6,234



Landfill 0Kg

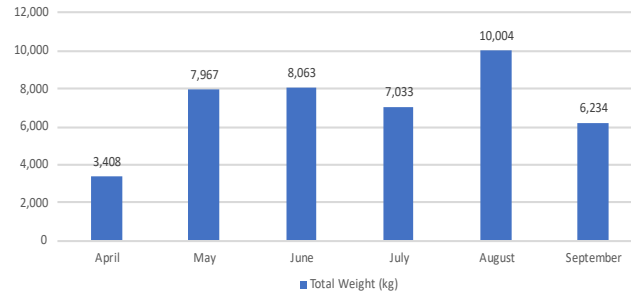


Recycling 8,570Kg



Diverted Waste 27.91KG

ALT saved 5K kg of CO2



Date - Month	CO2 Saved (kg)
April	830.00
May	0.00
June	860.00
July	1,320.00
August	1,490.00
September	1,000.00



Trees Planted - 18.97 (Average size tree mitigating 2kb of CO2 per year)



Houses Powered - 3.34 (Average house uses 3940KW/h per year)



Cars off Road - 2.05 (Average person mileage 9000 miles in a typical car per year)

Next 6 Months

The Trust will be working on controlling its recycled waste within the facilities and by customers when using the facilities.

Section	Awarding Body	Grant title	Date
Sports Centres	Sport Wales	Solar panels at Tredegar and Abertillery	Sep-22
Parc Bryn Bach	Valleys Regional Park	Wellbeing Workhub	Apr-22
Parc Bryn Bach	Tech Valleys	Decarbonisation systems	In Process
Parc Bryn Bach	Big Lottery	Sensory Garden	Sep-21
ACL	Welsh Government	Digital and Maintenance Grant	Feb-22
ACL	Welsh Government	Learner Engagement	Mar-22
PBB	WCVA	Environment - Hedgerow boundary	Nov-21
Libraries	ABUHB	Engagement (Tablet Loan Scheme)	Mar-22
Libraries	Welsh Government	National Libraries Week	Sep-22
Libraries	GAVO	Engagement Coffe & A Cuppa	Sep-22
Libraries	Welsh Government	Winter of Wellbeing	Feb-22
Total applied			

Total secured to date

Amount	Notes
£279,000	Through to final stage (not yet awarded)
£125,000	
£50,000	Currently in discussion with Planning applications
£12,500	
£178,036	
£62,161	
£34,400	
£10,000	
£2,000	
£8,000	
£4,000	
£765,097	
£436,097	