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Blaenau Gwent

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

THIS IS A MEETING WHICH THE PUBLIC ARE ENTITLED TO ATTEND

12th April 2023

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 deb.jones@blaenau-gwent.gov.uk) on Wednesday, 19th April, 2023 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.

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. **DECLARATION OF INTEREST AND DISPENSATIONS**

To receive.

DECISIONS

4. **SPECIAL CABINET** 5 - 8

To receive the decisions of Special Cabinet held on 23rd February, 2023.

5. **CABINET** 9 - 18

To receive the decisions of Cabinet held on 1st March, 2023.

CORPORATE & PERFORMANCE PORTFOLIO

6. **REVENUE BUDGET MONITORING - 2022/2023, FORECAST OUTTURN TO 31ST MARCH 2023 (AS AT 31ST DECEMBER 2022)** 19 - 58

To consider the report of the Chief Officer Resources.

7. **CAPITAL BUDGET MONITORING, FORECAST FOR 2022/2023 FINANCIAL YEAR (AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2022)** 59 - 82

To consider the report of the Chief Officer Resources.

8. **BUSINESS RATES RELIEF – RETAIL, LEISURE AND HOSPITALITY RATES RELIEF – 2023/24** 83 - 86

To consider the report of the Chief Officer Resources.

PLACE AND ENVIRONMENT PORTFOLIO

9. **PROGRESS REPORT CONTRACTS OVER £500K** 87 - 96

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

10. **LOCAL AIR QUALITY PROGRESS REPORT – 2022 (FOR 2021)** 97 - 182

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

11. **ECO4 FLEXIBLE ELIGIBILITY - MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING AND JOINT 'STATEMENT OF INTENT'** 183 - 230

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

PLACE AND REGENERATION PORTFOLIO

12. **BRYNMAWR PLACEMAKING PLAN** 231 - 336

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

13. **SHARED PROSPERITY FUND** 337 - 438

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

PEOPLE AND EDUCATION PORTFOLIO

14. **EAS BUSINESS PLAN 2023-2025 (CONSULTATION VERSION – ACCESSIBLE)** 439 - 482

To consider the report of the Corporate Director Education.

15. **PROPOSAL TO CONSULT ON ADDITIONAL LEARNING NEEDS RESOURCE BASE CAPACITY** 483 - 554

To consider the report of the Corporate Director of Education.

EXEMPT ITEM(S)

Derbyn ac ystyried yr adroddiad dilynol sydd ym marn y swyddog priodol yn eitem eithriedig gan roi ystyriaeth i'r prawf budd cyhoeddus ac y dylai'r wasg a'r

JOINT PORTFOLIO - PLACE AND ENVIRONMENT/PLACE AND REGENERATION

16. **ADVANCED ENGINEERING CENTRE (HIVE) EBBW VALE** 555 - 582

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

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

COUNTY BOROUGH OF BLAENAU GWENT

REPORT TO: THE LEADER AND MEMBERS OF THE CABINET
SUBJECT: SPECIAL CABINET – 22ND FEBRUARY, 2023
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 & Social Services
Councillor H. Trollope

WITH: Interim Chief Executive
Interim Corporate Director Social Services
Corporate Director Regeneration & Community Services
Corporate Director Education
Chief Officer Resources
Head of Partnerships and Governance
Head of Legal and Corporate Compliance
Communications, Marketing & Customer Access Manager
Head of Organisational Development
Service Manager – Policy & Partnerships
Corporate Procurement Manager
Service Manager – Customer Experience & Benefits

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>The following apologies for absence were received from:-</p> <p>Councillor S. Edmunds Chief Officer Customer and Commercial</p>
No. 3	<p><u>DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND DISPENSATIONS</u></p> <p>No declarations of interest or dispensations were reported.</p>
<u>CORPORATE AND PERFORMANCE PORTFOLIO</u>	
No. 4	<p><u>REVENUE BUDGET 2023/2024</u></p> <p>Consideration was given to the report of the Chief Officer Resources.</p> <p>A Leader proposed that sections 3.1.1 to 3.1.3 of Option 1 be accepted and sections 3.1.4 to 3.1.8 of Option 1 be deferred pending further consideration at the Special Meeting of the Council scheduled to be held on Thursday, 23rd February, 2023. This proposal was seconded.</p> <p>RESOLVED, subject to the foregoing that the report be accepted and</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Members recommended to Council the 2023/24 revenue budget as detailed in the table in paragraph 5.1.15 of the report;• provided comment on the outcomes within the overall provisional RSG Settlement and noted the potential for further change in the Final RSG Settlement (paragraphs 2.6 – 2.17);

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- provided comment on the outcomes within the BGCBC provisional RSG Settlement and its impact upon the Medium-Term Financial Strategy (paragraphs 2.18 – 2.26);
 - decisions related to the updated cost pressures and growth items (£3.22m in total) identified in Appendix 2 (paragraphs 5.1.10 – 5.1.16) be deferred for consideration at the Special Meeting of Council on 23rd February, 2023;
 - decisions related to an uplift of £1.5m which equates to 3% increase to the ISB (paragraphs 5.1.17 to 5.1.24) be deferred for consideration at the Special Meeting of Council on 23rd February, 2023;
 - decisions related to the Bridging the Gap proposals delivering £4.18m of financial efficiencies and budget cuts to towards the budget gap (paragraphs 5.1.25 to 5.1.32) be deferred for consideration at the Special Meeting of Council on 23rd February, 2023;
 - decisions related to the use of reserves of £2.5m to balance the budget for 2023/2024 (paragraphs 5.1.33 to 5.1.35) be deferred for consideration at the Special Meeting of Council on 23rd February, 2023; and
 - decisions related to a Council Tax increase of 4% for 2023/24 (paragraph 5.1.7) as per the MTFs assumptions be deferred for consideration at the Special Meeting of Council on 23rd February, 2023.
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COUNTY BOROUGH OF BLAENAU GWENT

REPORT TO: THE LEADER AND MEMBERS OF THE CABINET

SUBJECT: CABINET – 1ST MARCH, 2023

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 & Social Services
Councillor H. Trollope**

WITH: Interim Chief Executive
Chief Officer Resources
Corporate Director Regeneration and Community Services
Corporate Director Education
Chief Officer Customer and Commercial
Children’s Services Manager
Head of Partnerships and Governance
Head of Legal and Corporate Compliance

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.

<p>No. 2</p>	<p><u>APOLOGIES</u></p> <p>The following apologies for absence were received from:-</p> <p>Councillor S. Edmunds; and Interim Corporate Director Social Services</p>
<p>No. 3</p>	<p><u>DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND DISPENSATIONS</u></p> <p>No declarations of interest or dispensations were reported.</p>
	<p><u>DECISION SHEET</u></p>
<p>No. 4</p>	<p><u>CABINET</u></p> <p>To receive the decisions of Cabinet held on the 18th January, 2023.</p> <p>RESOLVED that the decisions be accepted as a true record of proceedings.</p>
	<p><u>GENERAL MATTERS</u></p>
<p>No. 5</p>	<p><u>CONFERENCES, COURSES, EVENTS AND INVITATIONS</u></p> <p>Consideration was given to the following:-</p> <p><u>Meeting & Service Requirements - Education Cabinet Members 'Spring Meeting' with MfE&WL - Residential 2023</u> <u>1st March – 3rd March, 2023</u></p> <p>RESOLVED that approval be given for Councillor S. Edmunds, Cabinet Member – People and Education to attend.</p> <p><u>2023 Royal Garden Party</u></p> <p>RESOLVED that a representative be approved to attend one of the Royal Garden Parties to be held in London on the 3rd or 9th May, 2023.</p>

	<u>CORPORATE AND PERFORMANCE PORTFOLIO</u>																		
No. 6	<p><u>FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME – 1st MARCH, 2023</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 19th April, 2023 be approved as presented (Option 1).</p>																		
No. 7	<p><u>DRAFT COMMISSIONING AND PROCUREMENT STRATEGY 2023/28</u></p> <p>Consideration was given to the report of the Chief Officer Commercial and Customer.</p> <p>RESOLVED that the report be accepted and the draft Commissioning and Procurement Strategy 2023/2028 be approved (Option 1).</p>																		
No. 8	<p><u>GRANTS TO ORGANISATIONS</u></p> <p>Consideration was given to the report of the Chief Officer Resources.</p> <p>The following grants to organisation were received further to the publication of the report:-</p> <p><u>ABERTILLERY</u></p> <p><u>Abertillery & Six Bells Ward - Councillor J. Holt</u></p> <table> <tr> <td>1.</td> <td>Abertillery Workmens Institute</td> <td>£57</td> </tr> </table> <p><u>Abertillery & Six Bells Ward - Councillor R. Leadbeater</u></p> <table> <tr> <td>1.</td> <td>Abertillery Orpheus Male Voice Choir</td> <td>£100</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2.</td> <td>Abertillery Amateur Dramatic Musical Society</td> <td>£100</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3.</td> <td>Fion Jones</td> <td>£100</td> </tr> <tr> <td>4.</td> <td>Abertillery Bluebirds</td> <td>£100</td> </tr> <tr> <td>5.</td> <td>Ebenezer Food Cupboard</td> <td>£32</td> </tr> </table>	1.	Abertillery Workmens Institute	£57	1.	Abertillery Orpheus Male Voice Choir	£100	2.	Abertillery Amateur Dramatic Musical Society	£100	3.	Fion Jones	£100	4.	Abertillery Bluebirds	£100	5.	Ebenezer Food Cupboard	£32
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4.	Abertillery Bluebirds	£100																	
5.	Ebenezer Food Cupboard	£32																	

BRYNMAWR

Brynmawr Ward - Councillor J. Gardner

1.	Brynmawr Museum	£300
2.	Blaina Cricket Club	£150
3.	Falcon Martial Arts	£200
4.	Brynmawr Historical Society	£300

Brynmawr Ward - Councillor J. Hill

1.	Friends of Parc Nant Y Waun	£158
2.	BGFM	£100
3.	Ebbw Vale Works Museum	£100
4.	Brynmawr FC	£150
5.	Community Hope Project	£150
6.	Ebbw Valley Brass	£150

EBBW VALE

Beaufort Ward - Councillor C. Smith

1.	Ebbw Vale Works Museum	£200
2.	Beaufort Male Voice Choir	£280

Beaufort Ward - Councillor G. Thomas

1.	Beaufort Hearts	£130
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Cwm Ward – Councillors D. Bevan & G. Humphries

1.	Waunlwyd & Victoria Events Committee	£200
2.	Ebbw Valley Brass	£200
3.	Royal British Legion Cwm Branch	£200

Ebbw Vale North Ward - Councillor D. Davies

1.	Willowtown Primary PTA	£150
2.	EVI Pantry	£100

Ebbw Vale North Ward - Councillor J. Morgan

1.	One Life Autism	£500
2.	Tredegar Operatic Society	£200
3.	Ebbw Vale Operatic Society	£200
4.	Toppers School of Dance and Drama	£180

Ebbw Vale South Ward - Councillor C. Bainton

1.	EVI Pantry	£200
2.	Ebbw Valley Brass	£100
3.	Willowtown Primary PTA	£300
4.	A B Boxing	£200
5.	Blaenau Gwent Young Stars	£200
6.	RTB RFC	£130
7.	Glanyrafon Pensioners Hall	£100

Ebbw Vale South Ward - Councillor S. Edmunds

1.	EVI Pantry	£100
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Rassau & Garnlydan Ward - Councillor G. Davies

1.	Rhos y Fedwen Primary School	£200
2.	Acorns Nursery	£100
3.	The Owl Sanctuary	£100

Rassau & Garnlydan Ward - Councillor D. Wiltshire

1.	Garnlydan Community Spirit	£100
2.	Ebbw Vale Works Museum	£80
3.	Beaufort Male Voice Choir	£80
4.	Rassau & Beaufort Bowls	£75
5.	Rassau OAP's	£100
6.	Blaenau Gwent Young Stars	£80
7.	Puddleducks	£200
8.	Ebbw Vale Christmas Lights	£80
9.	Hospice of the Valleys	£80
10.	Rock Chapel	£80
11.	Beaufort RFC	£80
12.	Ebbw Vale Male Voice Choir	£80
13.	Rhos y Fedwen Primary School	£100
14.	Ebbw Vale Cricket Club	£80

15.	Ebbw Vale Netball	£80
16.	Blaenau Gwent Indoor Bowls	£80
17.	Garnlydan AFC	£100

NANTYGLO & BLAINA

Blaina Ward - Councillor L. Winnett

1.	Blaina Cricket Club	£100
2.	Cwmcelyn Angling Club	£100

Blaina Ward - Councillor J. Morgan

1.	Blaina Mens Bowls	£250
2.	Cwmcelyn Methodist Church	£100
3.	Cwmcelyn Angling Club	£100
4.	Aberystroth History and Archaeological Society	£80

TREDEGAR

Sirhowy Ward – Councillors M. Cross & T. Smith & D. Rowberry

1.	Tredeggar Orpheus Male Voice Choir	£100
2.	2167 Squadron Ait Training Corps	£100
3.	Tredeggar Angling Club	£100
4.	Trefil RFC	£200
5.	Trefil Junior RFC	£100
6.	Gwent Area Association Welsh Cob & Pony	£100
7.	Tredeggar Ironsides RFC	£200
8.	Sirhowy Valley Woodlands	£100
9.	Sirhowy Community Centre	£250
10.	Ystrad Deri Community Centre	£250
11.	Horeb Chapel	£50
12.	Sardis Chapel	£50
13.	Ebenezer Welsh Congregational Church	£100
14.	St George's Church	£100
15.	Immaculate Conception Church	£100
16.	Valleys Life After Stroke	£100
17.	Silurian Boxing Club	£100
18.	Tredeggar Junior Netball Club	£100
19.	Tredeggar Women's Institute	£100
20.	Oak Football Club	£100

	<p>21. Tredegar Operatic Society £100</p> <p>22. Tredegar Twinning Association £100</p> <p>23. Brynbach Running Club £100</p> <p>24. Bedwellty Park Bowls £100</p> <p>25. Siloam Chapel £100</p> <p>26. Tredegar Mayors Appeal £100</p> <p>27. Moose International Hall £100</p> <p>28. Blaenau Gwent Otters £100</p> <p>29. Tredegar AFC £100</p> <p>30. Tredegar Business Forum £100</p> <p>RESOLVED accordingly.</p> <p>FURTHER RESOLVED, subject to the foregoing, that the report be accepted and the information contained therein be noted.</p>
	<p><u>PEOPLE AND EDUCATION PORTFOLIO</u></p>
No. 9	<p><u>BLAENAU GWENT ESTYN LOCAL GOVERNMENT EDUCATION SERVICES (LGES) INSPECTION OUTCOME</u></p> <p>Consideration was given to the report of the Corporate Director Education.</p> <p>RESOLVED that the report be accepted and the information contained therein be noted (Option 2).</p>
No. 10	<p><u>BLAENAU GWENT ADMISSIONS POLICY FOR NURSERY AND STATUTORY EDUCATION 2024/25</u></p> <p>Consideration was given to the joint report of the Corporate Director Education, Service Manager Education Transformation and Business Change.</p> <p>RESOLVED that the report be accepted and the policy document be approved (Option 1).</p>

	<p align="center"><u>PEOPLE AND SOCIAL SERVICES PORTFOLIO</u></p>
No. 11	<p><u>REGIONAL PARTNERSHIP UPDATE</u></p> <p>Consideration was given to the report of the Interim Corporate Director Social Services.</p> <p>RESOLVED that the report be accepted and the programme of work by the Regional Partnership Board be supported (Option 1).</p>
	<p align="center"><u>JOINT PLACE AND REGENERATION & PLACE AND ENVIRONMENT PORTFOLIOS</u></p>
No. 12	<p><u>REGENERATION AND COMMUNITY SERVICES PERFORMANCE REPORT</u></p> <p>Consideration was given to the report of the Corporate Director Regeneration and Community Services.</p> <p>The Leader noted that the Place Scrutiny Committee recommended Option 1, and that tourism in Blaenau Gwent be further developed. The Leader asked if an explanation on the specific aspect on developing tourism had been provided.</p> <p>The Cabinet Member – Place and Regeneration noted the substantive report and felt that a great deal of work was already being undertaken around tourism within the Borough and therefore proposed Option 2. The Cabinet Member – Place and Environment concurred that the report contained a great deal of information and felt that an explanation was needed on the reason why focus should be placed on tourism. The Cabinet Member – Place and Environment thereupon seconded Option 2.</p> <p>RESOLVED accordingly.</p> <p>The Leader suggested that in future Scrutiny Committees be asked to provide a more explanatory paragraph on recommendations put forward to Cabinet for Cabinet Members to be fully informed on specifics being recommended.</p> <p>RESOLVED accordingly.</p>

	<p>It was therefore</p> <p>FURTHER RESOLVED, subject to the foregoing that the report be accepted and the information contained therein be noted (Option 2).</p> <p>Councillor H. Trollope left the meeting at this juncture.</p>
	<p><u>PLACE AND ENVIRONMENT PORTFOLIO</u></p>
<p>No. 13</p>	<p><u>UPDATE CEMETERY BURIAL CAPACITY FEBRUARY 2023</u></p> <p>Having regard to the views expressed by the Proper Officer regarding the public interest test, that on balance the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighed the public interest in disclosing the information and that the report should be exempt.</p> <p>RESOLVED that the public be excluded whilst this item of business is transacted as it is likely there would be a disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 14, Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act, 1972 (as amended).</p> <p>Consideration was given to the report of the Team Manager Streetscene.</p> <p>RESOLVED that the report be accepted and the information which contained details relating to the business/financial affairs of persons other than the Authority be agreed. (Option 1)</p>

PEOPLE AND SOCIAL SERVICES PORTFOLIO

No. 14 **BUSINESS CASE TO PURCHASE 2 PROPERTIES FOR USE AS RESIDENTIAL CHILDREN'S HOMES**

Having regard to the views expressed by the Proper Officer regarding the public interest test, that on balance the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighed the public interest in disclosing the information and that the report should be exempt.

RESOLVED that the public be excluded whilst this item of business is transacted as it is likely there would be a disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 14, Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act, 1972 (as amended).

Consideration was given to the report of the Interim Corporate Director Social Services.

It was proposed that Part 1 Option 1 and Part 2 Option 1 be agreed in principle subject to further discussions in connection with future valuation potential. This proposal was seconded.

RESOLVED accordingly.

FURTHER RESOLVED, subject to the foregoing that the report be accepted and the information which contained details relating to the business/financial affairs of persons other than the Authority be agreed (It was proposed that Part 1 Option 1 and Part 2 Option 1 be agreed in principle subject to further discussions in connection with future valuation potential).

Agenda Item 6

Cabinet and Council only

Date signed off by the Monitoring Officer: 30.03.23

Date signed off by the Section 151 Officer: 31.03.23

Committee: **Cabinet**
Date of meeting: **19th April 2023**
Report Subject: **Revenue Budget Monitoring - 2022/2023, Forecast
Outturn to 31st March 2023 (as at 31st December 2022)**
Portfolio Holder: **Cllr S Thomas – Leader of the Council & Cabinet
Member Corporate Overview & Performance**
Report Submitted by: **Rhian Hayden – Chief Officer Resources**

Reporting Pathway								
Directorate Management Team	Corporate Leadership Team	Portfolio Holder / Chair	Governance Audit Committee	Democratic Services Committee	Scrutiny Committee	Cabinet	Council	Other (please state)
	16/02/23	30.03.23			16/03/23	19/04/23		

1. Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 The purpose of the report is to provide Members with the forecast financial outturn position across all portfolios for the financial year 2022/2023 (as forecast at 31st December 2022).

2. Scope and Background

- 2.1 This report provides details on the following:

- Forecast financial position to the end of March 2023 across all portfolios
- Forecast outturn for Fees & Charges
- Forecast of Reserves to be applied during the period

- 2.2 This report forms part of the Council's financial reporting framework to members.

3. Options for Recommendation

The Corporate Overview and Performance Scrutiny Committee recommended Option 1 at its meeting on 16th March 2023.

3.1 Option 1 (Recommended Option)

- Members to consider and provide appropriate challenge to the financial outcomes in the report.
- Note the forecast application of reserves

3.2 Option 2

Members do not accept the report.

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

- 4.1 This report supports the Council Corporate Plan high level priority "An ambitious and innovative council delivering quality services at the right time and in the right place".

5. Implications Against Each Option

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

- 5.1.1 The overall forecast outturn across all portfolios as at 31st December 2022, is an adverse variance of £1.568m. Net transfers from specific reserves (of £1.716m) results in an overall favourable variance of £0.148m.
- 5.1.2 The forecast overall financial position across all portfolios at 31st December 2022 is shown in the table below:

Table 1 – Portfolio Summary

Portfolio/Committee	2022/2023 Revised Revenue Budget	2022/2023 Forecast Outturn @ 31 Dec 2022	Favourable/ (Adverse) Variance	Favourable/ (Adverse) Variance (after Net transfers from Specific Reserves)	Append Ref:
	£m	£m	£m	£m	
Corporate Services & Financial Management & Strategy	17.92	16.77	1.15	1.65	1a
Social Services	49.94	51.01	(1.07)	(0.54)	1b
Education & Leisure	68.31	69.22	(0.91)	(0.37)	1c
Economy	1.79	1.76	0.03	0.04	1d
Environment	29.66	30.42	(0.76)	(0.64)	1e
Planning	1.44	1.45	(0.01)	0.01	1f
Licensing	0.13	0.13	0	0	1f
Total	169.19	170.76	(1.57)	0.15	

- 5.1.3 The forecast includes a number of assumptions, the main ones being:
- 20% uplift to Home to School contractors will continue to March 2023
 - The impact of inflation on prices will continue to March 2023
- 5.1.4 To minimise the forecast overspend the council has implemented a freeze on non-essential recruitment and spend.

Use of Reserves

- 5.1.5 Any adverse variance against the revenue budget will impact on the overall level of the Council's general and specific reserves.
- 5.1.6 The current forecast assumes a net transfer from specific reserves totalling £1.716m and includes:

- £237,280 from the Supporting Additional Capacity Reserve (which includes additional resources for areas such as Health & Safety, Civil Contingencies, Payroll, Decarbonisation and Digital)
- £110,329 from the Election Reserve to cover the cost of the May 2022 Local Elections
- £47,940 from the Community Safety & CCTV Reserve (to support a new Policy Officer for CCTV until the SLA with Caerphilly CBC is established)
- £30,000 from the Discretionary Housing Payments Reserve (to support payment of DHPs to residents in excess of the 2022/23 DWP allocation)
- £72,479 in relation to the Test, Trace and Protect Service (Environmental Health Officers) – part funded from balance on TTP Reserve £4,514 and £67,965 from Covid19 Response & Recovery Reserve
- £56,298 from the Infrastructure Staffing Reserve (to support new Welsh Government Legislation requirements)
- £48,455 from the Homelessness Transitional Funding Reserve (to fund a specialist EHO for empty properties)
- £523,418 from Social Services (relating to displaced grant expenditure, cost of living increases in excess of grant allocation in relation to Early Years Childcare and Legal Fees)
- £545,000 from the Inflation and Service Cost Pressure Reserve in respect of the 20% uplift in Home to School Transport.

5.1.7 Appendix 2 provides an analysis of all forecast use of specific reserves.

5.1.8 The General reserve is forecast to increase by £0.148m, the net impact of use of specific reserves.

Portfolio Analysis

5.1.9 Where a Portfolio is reporting an overall adverse variance an action plan has been developed and is attached at Appendix 4. An analysis of significant adverse variances per Portfolio are detailed below.

5.1.10 Corporate Services – Council Tax Collection (£0.320m adverse variance)

5.1.11 There is currently a cost pressure on Council Tax Collection, due to forecasted increase in the provision for bad debts (at this point in time).

This cost pressure has been offset by a budget virement from the Council Tax Reduction Scheme (CTRS). The underspend on CTRS has arisen due to:-

- The budget incorporated an assumed increase on Council Tax Levels of 4% (in line with the MTFS assumptions) however the actual average Council Tax increase agreed by Council was approx.1% (in respect of Police & Community Councils precepts) and

- The number of claimants claiming CTRS has reduced to pre covid levels (although this will need to be monitored during the year as the Cost of Living Crisis could attract more claimants).

Date	Number of Cases
01/12/22	8,389
01/12/21	8,786
01/12/20	9,263
01/12/19	8,884

5.1.12 **Education – Home to School Transport (£0.608m adverse variance)**

- 5.1.13 The 20% temporary uplift currently being awarded to contractors as a result of the fuel crisis is currently forecast to cost £0.545m for the full financial year. Even though during October / November a fairly consistent reduction in fuel prices had been seen this was replaced by rising fuel costs again in December / January, the temporary uplift will remain until the end of the financial year. This together with additional routes for ALN Learners being required and prior year invoices being higher than expected have all contributed to the overall overspend of £1.153m.

The 20% temporary uplift on Home to School Transport contract prices will be funded from the Inflation and Service Cost Pressure reserve which reduces the cost pressure by £0.545m.

5.1.14 **Environment – Catering (£0.103m adverse variance)**

- 5.1.15 The cost of living crisis is having a significant impact on the cost of provisions for the school meals services, with forecast costs increasing to £761,214, (44%) when compared to 2021/2022 (£528,030).

The Council's largest food supplier is indicating significant cost increases in products e.g. some commodities have increased by as much as 54%, this coupled with increased fuel costs is impacting upon overall costs.

The adverse variance has reduced since the quarter 2 forecast and this is due funding from Welsh Government with regards to Universal Free School Meals (UFSM's) for Nursery and Infant children.

5.1.16 **Environment – Corporate Landlord (£0.104m adverse variance)**

- 5.1.17 The adverse variance is mainly due to forecast expenditure on buildings that have been subject to Community Asset Transfer (CATs) and non-operational buildings as no budget exists and it was assumed when the property was transferred there would be no further costs as the budget was put forward as savings.

5.1.18 **Environment – Waste Services (£0.499m adverse variance)**

5.1.19 This is mainly due to an increase in agency costs due to an increased number of staff required to collect the recycling after the increase in participation during the lockdown period continuing.

It is also due to an overspend on the treatment costs for disposal of residual waste where there is a new contract price which is a £8 per tonne increase, equating to £100,000.

5.1.20 **Social Services (£1.068m adverse variance)**

5.1.21 The forecast is made up of the following variances:-

5.1.22 **Children’s Services - Legal Fees (£0.313m adverse variance)**

The 2022/23 forecast for Legal Fees is currently £1.5m this represents an increase of £296,000 since Quarter 2.

The cost pressure has been reduced by a £400,000 Contribution from the Legal Fees specific reserve. This reserve has now been fully utilised.

Costs are expected to reduce from 2023/24 following the resolution of current caseload of the external provider with new cases being managed by the new provider.

5.1.23 **Children’s Homes (Residential Placements) (£0.745m adverse variance)**

The 2022/23 forecast adverse variance has increased by £496,000 since Quarter 2 as a result of two new placements.

5.1.24 **Adults Services**

Whilst Adult Services are reporting a favourable variance overall there is a £403,000 pressure within Cwrt Mytton and Supported Living Bungalows resulting from the difficulties in recruitment & retention of staff and the need to utilise agency staff to deliver this provision.

Fees & Charges

5.1.25 The 2022/2023 portfolio estimates include income budgets in relation to fees & charges (excluding Council Tax) of £14m across all portfolios. Attached at Appendix 3 is an analysis of income against budget for the financial year for individual portfolios. The forecast provisional outturn is reporting an adverse variance of £0.527m, an improving position when compared to the quarter 2 forecast. The main areas not achieving their income targets are: -

- Sale of Meals in respect of School Catering £0.245m - due to the introduction of UFSM and the resulting reduction in paid meals from September. Grant funding has been received to mitigate this loss of income

- Sale of properties £0.244m & Fees and charges in respect of Care £0.172m partly offset by increased CHC income £0.092

5.1.26 Whilst the analysis of fees and charges is useful, it should not be considered in isolation, as elements of any shortfall within Portfolios can be inextricably linked to underspends in expenditure within the same budget heading. Where this is the case, budget holders should action budget virements to ensure that the income targets reflect more accurately expected income. Likewise, any over achievement in income which offset overspends in expenditure within the same budget, should be treated in the same way.

5.2 ***Risk including Mitigating Actions***

5.2.1 Grants form a significant element of the Council's income and support the delivery of priority services to the people of Blaenau Gwent. There is a risk that a reduction or cessation of grant funding will result in service levels reducing or services no longer being delivered.

5.2.2 A grants register has been developed and is being maintained and will be considered as part of the Medium-Term Financial Strategy.

5.2.3 There is a risk that Action Plans will not address the cost pressures identified.

5.2.4 Action Plans are being developed, identifying actions to mitigate the forecast cost pressures. The Action Plans will be monitored as part of the Budget Monitoring and Reporting Framework and the impact reported to the Corporate Overview & Performance Scrutiny Committee and Cabinet.

5.3 ***Legal***
N/A

5.4 ***Human Resources***
N/A

6. **Supporting Evidence**

6.1 ***Performance Information and Data***

6.1.1 A summary page for each portfolio is contained in Appendices 1a to 1g.

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

6.2.1 The report details the financial implications for the Council in providing services to the communities of Blaenau Gwent.

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

6.3.1 CLT have considered the forecast financial position for 2022/23 (as at 31st December 2022).

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

6.4.1 For new and emerging cost pressures identified during the financial year, budget holders will produce Action Plans to address the cost pressure during the year.

6.4.2 Cost Pressures are also considered as part of the Medium-Term Financial Strategy.

6.5 ***Preventative focus***

6.5.1 Existing, new and emerging cost pressures are considered as part of the annual budget setting process and additional funding awarded where it is likely that the cost pressure will continue into future years.

6.6 ***Collaboration / partnership working***

6.6.1 Accountancy works closely with budget holders during the financial year in producing the financial forecast, identifying cost pressures and in developing Action Plans.

6.7 ***Integration (across service areas)***
N/A

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

6.8.1 The Council is committed to the Decarbonisation Plan to achieve a carbon neutral public sector by 2030.

6.9 ***Integrated Impact Assessment***

7. **Monitoring Arrangements**

7.1 Financial reporting to Corporate Overview & Performance Scrutiny and the Cabinet is carried out on a quarterly basis. Where services are reporting significant cost pressures, there will be a requirement for Budget Holders to develop and implement Action Plans these will be reported on a quarterly basis.

Background Documents / Electronic Links

Appendix 1a – Corporate Services and Financial Management Portfolio

Appendix 1b – Social Services Portfolio

Appendix 1c – Education Portfolio

Appendix 1d – Economy Portfolio

Appendix 1e – Environment Portfolio

Appendix 1f – Planning Committee and Licensing Committee

Appendix 2 – Summary of Reserve Movements 2022/23

Appendix 3 – Fees and Charges

Appendix 4a – Social Services – Action Plan

Appendix 4b – Education – Action Plan

Appendix 4c – Environment – Action Plan

Appendix 5 – Detailed Analysis of Virements Actioned

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CORPORATE SERVICES PORTFOLIO

Item	Revised Estimate 2022/2023	Total Forecast Expenditure to March 2023	Variance Favourable / (Adverse)	Variance Favourable / (Adverse) as at Sept 22
	£	£	£	£
SUMMARY				
<u>DEPARTMENTAL AND OTHER RECHARGEABLE SERVICES</u>				
Corporate Services Department	(86,920)	48,570	(135,490)	(57,179)
Resources Department	0	73,921	(73,921)	(59,614)
Sub Total	(86,920)	122,491	(209,411)	(116,793)
<u>COMMERCIAL SERVICES</u>				
Archives	148,670	153,844	(5,174)	(5,174)
Festival Park	102,570	108,557	(5,987)	(5,987)
Housing Benefit	(116,270)	(101,728)	(14,542)	(14,893)
ICT Service	0	0	0	(23,414)
Cross Cutting	(59,310)	(79,352)	20,042	0
Community Hubs	196,320	202,910	(6,590)	(6,847)
Sub Total	271,980	284,231	(12,251)	(56,315)
<u>LEGAL & CORPORATE COMPLIANCE SERVICES</u>				
Registration of Electors	17,860	17,778	82	82
Conducting Elections	0	0	0	0
Registration of Births, Marriages and Deaths	48,100	83,653	(35,553)	(28,274)
Sub Total	65,960	101,431	(35,471)	(28,192)
<u>GOVERNANCE & PARTNERSHIP SERVICES</u>				
Corporate Management (inc Audit Fees)	109,510	109,522	(12)	(12)
Democratic Representation and Management	1,323,130	1,288,539	34,591	30,673
CCTV Cameras	208,680	208,680	0	(11,570)
Civil Contingencies	106,890	76,172	30,718	9,418
Sub Total	1,748,210	1,682,913	65,297	28,509
<u>RESOURCES SERVICES</u>				
Corporate Management	355,790	282,660	73,130	6,380
Non Distributed Costs	931,850	771,805	160,045	10,046
Apprenticeship Levy	358,430	358,920	(490)	1,880
Council Tax Collection	(1,165,020)	(1,152,637)	(12,383)	(23,773)
Council Tax Reduction Scheme	10,004,370	9,473,267	531,103	167,266
N.N.D.R. Collection	(106,820)	(110,095)	3,275	1,756
Grants and Subscriptions	88,410	88,410	0	0
Cross Cutting Budget	1,085,640	0	1,085,640	583,800
Sub Total	11,552,650	9,712,330	1,840,320	747,355
<u>CORPORATE CHARGES</u>				
Corporate Recharges	4,366,000	4,366,006	(6)	0
Sub Total	4,366,000	4,366,006	(6)	0
CORPORATE SERVICES TOTAL EXPENDITURE	17,917,880	16,269,402	1,648,478	574,564

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SOCIAL SERVICES PORTFOLIO

Item	Revised Estimate 2022/2023	Total Forecast Expenditure to March 2023	Variance Favourable / (Adverse)	Variance Favourable / (Adverse) as at Sept 22
	£	£	£	£
SUMMARY				
<u>SOCIAL SERVICES</u>				
Children's Services - Commissioning and Social Work	3,939,340	4,103,301	(163,961)	(135,035)
Looked After Children	7,487,490	8,523,429	(1,035,939)	(561,260)
Family Support Services	192,370	198,478	(6,108)	(6,108)
Youth Justice	237,580	250,930	(13,350)	(13,350)
Other Children's and Family Services	2,432,020	2,445,825	(13,805)	30,964
Older People Aged 65 or Over	7,154,970	7,037,466	117,504	64,909
Adults Aged Under 65 with a Physical Disability or Sensory Impairment	18,290	17,910	380	80
Adults Aged Under 65 with Learning Disabilities	3,684,090	3,678,512	5,578	(71,879)
Adults Aged Under 65 with Mental Health Needs	571,660	573,222	(1,562)	(11,213)
Other Adult Services	463,570	501,765	(38,195)	(38,912)
Community Care	17,338,860	16,765,501	573,359	336,233
Support Service and Management Costs	934,170	902,798	31,372	23,603
Corporate Recharges	5,487,140	5,487,135	5	5
Social Services COVID-19 Costs	0	0	0	0
SOCIAL SERVICES TOTAL EXPENDITURE	49,941,550	50,486,271	(544,721)	(381,962)

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EDUCATION PORTFOLIO

Item	Revised Estimate 2022/2023	Total Forecast Expenditure to March 2023	Variance Favourable / (Adverse)	Variance Favourable / (Adverse) as at Sept 22
	£	£	£	£
SUMMARY				
SCHOOLS BUDGET				
Individual Schools Budget	50,430,260	50,430,260	0	0
Education Improvement Grant	267,730	267,730	0	0
Other Costs	725,420	736,864	(11,444)	(11,444)
Supporting Special Education Needs	1,730,430	1,690,970	39,460	147,219
<i>Schools Budget Total Expenditure</i>	<u>53,153,840</u>	<u>53,125,824</u>	<u>28,016</u>	<u>135,775</u>
LEA BUDGET				
Strategic Management	2,264,410	2,265,330	(920)	(1,200)
Assuring Access to Schools	2,439,820	3,048,299	(608,479)	(485,894)
Facilitating School Improvement	396,350	402,631	(6,281)	(1,781)
Supporting Special Education Needs	380,730	297,567	83,163	84,618
<i>LEA Budget Total Expenditure</i>	<u>5,481,310</u>	<u>6,013,826</u>	<u>(532,516)</u>	<u>(404,257)</u>
OTHER EDUCATION SERVICES				
Further Education and Training	135,960	131,747	4,213	(9,036)
Youth Service	345,390	343,663	1,727	(24,828)
Other Expenditure	143,850	117,233	26,617	20,775
Education Departmental Budget	195,970	87,734	108,236	62,540
<i>Other Education Services Total Expenditure</i>	<u>821,170</u>	<u>5,352,066</u>	<u>140,793</u>	<u>49,451</u>
CORPORATE CHARGES				
Corporate Support Recharges	4,671,690	4,671,689	1	1
<i>Corporate Charges Total Expenditure</i>	<u>4,671,690</u>	<u>4,671,689</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>
Education Total Expenditure	<u>64,128,010</u>	<u>64,491,716</u>	<u>(363,706)</u>	<u>(219,030)</u>
LEISURE TRUSTS				
LEISURE TRUSTS				
Aneurin Leisure Trust	2,875,550	2,884,833	(9,283)	(9,283)
Awen Leisure Trust	198,900	201,045	(2,145)	(2,145)
<i>Sub Total</i>	<u>3,074,450</u>	<u>3,085,878</u>	<u>(11,428)</u>	<u>(11,428)</u>
RETAINED SERVICES				
Corporate Recharges	1,102,170	1,093,968	8,202	16,942
<i>Sub Total</i>	<u>1,102,170</u>	<u>1,093,968</u>	<u>8,202</u>	<u>16,942</u>
Lesire Trusts Total Expenditure	<u>4,176,620</u>	<u>4,179,846</u>	<u>(3,226)</u>	<u>5,514</u>
EDUCATION PORTFOLIO TOTAL EXPENDITURE	<u>68,304,630</u>	<u>64,491,716</u>	<u>(366,932)</u>	<u>(213,516)</u>

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ECONOMY PORTFOLIO

Item	Revised Estimate 2022/2023	Total Forecast Expenditure to March 2023	Variance Favourable / (Adverse)	Variance Favourable / (Adverse) as at Sept 22
	£	£	£	£
SUMMARY				
DEPARTMENTAL SERVICES				
Economic Strategy and Development - Departmental Budget	92,940	71,956	20,984	(8)
Estates Management - Rechargeable	12,030	125,166	(113,136)	(113,136)
<i>Sub Total</i>	<u>104,970</u>	<u>197,122</u>	<u>(92,152)</u>	<u>(113,144)</u>
ECONOMY SERVICES				
Affordable Housing	0	0	0	0
Aspire	0	0	0	0
Community Benefits Investment	0	0	0	0
CSCS	(10,200)	(540)	(9,660)	(9,687)
Destination Management	10,200	9,359	841	(2)
DRiVE	0	0	0	(1)
Financial Support to Business	4,410	4,410	0	0
General Offices	(24,360)	(63,105)	38,745	38,745
Industrial Land	7,390	10,640	(3,250)	0
Inspire	0	0	0	0
Nursery Units/Misc. Industrial Premises	(793,750)	(876,237)	82,487	82,487
Pentagon	0	0	0	0
Regeneration Projects	5,100	6,179	(1,079)	(1,079)
Resilient Project	0	0	0	0
Estates Management Non Rechargeable	(96,590)	(120,403)	23,813	23,813
<i>Sub Total</i>	<u>(897,800)</u>	<u>(1,029,697)</u>	<u>131,897</u>	<u>134,276</u>
Corporate Recharges	2,583,380	2,583,380	0	0
Total Expenditure	<u>1,790,550</u>	<u>1,750,805</u>	<u>39,745</u>	<u>21,132</u>

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ENVIRONMENT PORTFOLIO

Item	Revised Estimate 2022/2023	Total Expenditure to March 2023	Variance Favourable / (Adverse)	Variance Favourable / (Adverse) as at Sept 22
	£	£	£	£
SUMMARY				
<u>COMMUNITY SERVICES</u>				
<u>DEPARTMENTAL SERVICES</u>				
Environment Department - Corporate Division	179	(67,942)	68,121	41,093
Environmental Services Division	16,402	18,334	(1,932)	6,653
Technical Services - Engineering & Property Management	78,740	33,860	44,880	0
Enforcement	25,280	10,537	14,743	5,860
Sub Total	120,601	(5,211)	125,812	53,606
<u>WASTE COLLECTION</u>				
Household and Trade Waste Collection	666,771	661,224	5,547	(2,602)
Recycling Collection	2,504,126	3,218,606	(714,480)	(299,577)
Bulky Waste Collection	5,948	14,357	(8,409)	(4,275)
Sub Total	3,176,845	3,894,187	(717,342)	(306,454)
<u>WASTE TRANSFER</u>				
Civic Amenity Sites	358,009	287,054	70,955	27,505
HWRC Roseheyworth	319,653	281,875	37,778	33,382
Transfer Station	1,033,557	1,028,284	5,273	44,863
Sub Total	1,711,219	1,597,213	114,006	105,750
<u>WASTE DISPOSAL</u>				
Disposal Of Waste	1,101,830	1,325,204	(223,374)	(150,662)
Recycling Disposal	382,649	44,540	338,109	336,431
Trade Waste Collection, Transfer & Disposal	(13,845)	(3,458)	(10,387)	9,163
Sub Total	1,470,634	1,366,286	104,348	194,932
<u>WASTE SERVICES</u>				
	6,358,698	6,857,686	(498,988)	(5,772)
<u>PUBLIC SERVICES</u>				
County Borough Cleansing	1,190,016	1,203,478	(13,462)	(11,507)
Cemeteries / Crematorium	(159,578)	(132,392)	(27,186)	(33,599)
Grounds Maintenance	1,065,642	1,032,125	33,517	57,697
Countryside Recreation Sites	37,419	37,419	0	0
General Entertainment	2,489	4,690	(2,201)	(1,390)
Sub Total	2,135,988	2,145,320	(9,332)	11,201
<u>FACILITIES MANAGEMENT</u>				
Corporate Landlord	1,746,175	1,849,993	(103,818)	8,789
Corporate Property	30,073	59,358	(29,285)	0
Building Cleaning	317,924	310,266	7,658	(20,737)
Catering Account	311,105	414,216	(103,111)	(457,547)
Appetite For Life	44,585	44,635	(50)	0
School Breakfast Club	438,639	438,638	1	0
Sub Total	2,888,501	3,117,106	(228,605)	(469,495)
<u>HIGHWAYS & ROADS SERVICES</u>				
Highways - Street Care Team	9,010	(7,685)	16,695	6,476
Non Operational Land	1,490	0	1,490	1,490
Licensing (Highway Permits)	(52,211)	(52,093)	(118)	0
Shopping Arcade, Abertillery	2,834	90	2,744	0
Road and Street Works Acts	(16,589)	(26,049)	9,460	0
Multi-Storey Car Parks	262,183	262,764	(581)	0
On Street Parking	1,122	1,122	0	0
Surface Car Parks	32,421	32,482	(61)	0
Public Transport Co-Ordination	924	890	34	0
Bridges	79,145	79,145	0	0
Structural Maintenance (Principal and Other Roads)	184,190	181,586	2,604	(2,016)
Environmental Maintenance (Principal and Other Roads)	19,831	19,831	0	0
Safety Maintenance (Principal and Other Roads)	73,349	73,246	103	(17)
Routine Repairs (Principal and Other Roads)	909,831	941,280	(31,449)	(8,315)
Street Lighting	1,260,143	1,260,143	0	0
Winter Maintenance	402,162	416,936	(14,774)	0
Sub Total	3,169,835	3,183,688	(13,853)	(2,382)

ENVIRONMENT PORTFOLIO

Item	Revised Estimate 2022/2023	Total Expenditure to March 2023	Variance Favourable / (Adverse)	Variance Favourable / (Adverse) as at Sept 22
	£	£	£	£
<u>TRANSPORT SERVICES</u>				
Traffic Orders	(46,841)	(54,869)	8,028	25,705
Highways Adoptions	(9,950)	(8,550)	(1,400)	(1,400)
Traffic / Accident Research	16,001	3,800	12,201	0
Traffic Management	6,895	4,854	2,041	0
Civil Parking Enforcement	2,100	(17,017)	19,117	5,390
Road Safety Education	22,943	18,849	4,094	(1,682)
Crossing Patrols	177,838	175,267	2,571	646
Concessionary fares and Support to Operators	284,395	274,213	10,182	10,183
Local Transport Plans	2,680	788	1,892	0
Home to School Transport	0	0	0	0
Transport and Heavy Plant	139,656	139,656	0	0
<i>Sub Total</i>	<i>595,717</i>	<i>536,991</i>	<i>58,726</i>	<i>38,842</i>
<u>CULTURAL & ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES</u>				
General Administration and Markets	(25,868)	(12,828)	(13,040)	(11,528)
Countryside Programme and Management	1,718	(2,036)	3,754	(450)
Landscaping and Afforestation	20,716	20,716	0	1,806
Reservoirs, Tips, Quarries and Mines	10,333	37,288	(26,955)	(25,000)
Flood Defence And Land Drainage	56,488	34,726	21,762	28,801
ENRaW	0	0	0	0
City Deal	99,144	99,144	0	0
<i>Sub Total</i>	<i>162,531</i>	<i>177,010</i>	<i>(14,479)</i>	<i>(6,371)</i>
COMMUNITY SERVICES TOTAL EXPENDITURE	15,431,871	16,012,590	(580,719)	(380,371)

ENVIRONMENT PORTFOLIO

Item	Revised Estimate 2022/2023	Total Expenditure to March 2023	Variance Favourable / (Adverse)	Variance Favourable / (Adverse) as at Sept 22
	£	£	£	£
<u>PUBLIC PROTECTION</u>				
<u>DEPARTMENTAL SERVICES</u>				
Environmental Health	29,691	79,610	(49,919)	(39,512)
<i>Sub Total</i>	<u>29,691</u>	<u>79,610</u>	<u>(49,919)</u>	<u>(39,512)</u>
<u>CARAVAN SITES</u>				
Cwmcrachen Caravan Site	(41,092)	(24,927)	(16,165)	(5,544)
<i>Sub Total</i>	<u>(41,092)</u>	<u>(24,927)</u>	<u>(16,165)</u>	<u>(5,544)</u>
<u>ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH</u>				
Food Safety	6,395	10,380	(3,985)	1,093
Control of Pollution	9,578	10,161	(583)	(6,780)
Dog Wardens	0	0	0	0
Animal Health and Welfare	23,827	23,827	0	0
Pest Control	63,240	59,973	3,267	3,267
Littering and Dog Control Orders	0	0	0	0
Health and Safety at Work (Commercial Prem.)	1,540	(1,240)	2,780	4,399
<i>Sub Total</i>	<u>104,580</u>	<u>103,101</u>	<u>1,479</u>	<u>1,979</u>
<u>HOUSING SERVICES</u>				
Homelessness	275,616	266,228	9,388	(23,662)
20 Church Street	16,116	16,042	74	(294)
General Properties	(8,160)	(6,642)	(1,518)	(1,518)
Housing Access	69,258	54,098	15,160	12,180
Works in Default	(255)	(1,573)	1,318	32
Disabled Facilities Grants	1,061	0	1,061	1,061
<i>Sub Total</i>	<u>353,636</u>	<u>328,153</u>	<u>25,483</u>	<u>(12,201)</u>
<u>TRADING STANDARDS</u>				
Trading Standards	16,012	23,205	(7,193)	(6,762)
Inspection and Enforcement	4,437	1,330	3,107	3,107
<i>Sub Total</i>	<u>20,449</u>	<u>24,535</u>	<u>(4,086)</u>	<u>(3,655)</u>
PUBLIC PROTECTION TOTAL EXPENDITURE	<u>467,264</u>	<u>510,472</u>	<u>(43,208)</u>	<u>(58,933)</u>
<u>CORPORATE CHARGES</u>				
Fire Service	3,551,477	3,547,672	3,805	3,805
Coroner's Court	125,123	141,560	(16,437)	0
Corporate Recharges	10,080,865	10,080,865	0	0
CORPORATE CHARGES TOTAL EXPENDITURE	<u>13,757,465</u>	<u>13,770,097</u>	<u>(12,632)</u>	<u>3,805</u>
Overall Portfolio Total	<u>29,656,600</u>	<u>30,293,159</u>	<u>(636,559)</u>	<u>(435,499)</u>
Covid-19 Related Expenditure	0	0	0	0
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	<u>29,656,600</u>	<u>30,293,159</u>	<u>(636,559)</u>	<u>(435,499)</u>

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PLANNING COMMITTEE AND LICENSING COMMITTEE

Item	Revised Estimate 2022/2023	Total Forecast Expenditure to March 2023	Variance Favourable / (Adverse)	Variance Favourable / (Adverse) as at Sept 22
	£	£	£	£
PLANNING COMMITTEE SUMMARY				
<u>BUILDING CONTROL</u>				
<u>DEPARTMENTAL SERVICES</u>				
Building Control	10,240	10,238	2	2
<u>BUILDING CONTROL SERVICES</u>				
Building Regulations	19,220	19,219	1	1
Dangerous Structures	23,100	23,099	1	1
<i>Building Control Total Expenditure</i>	<u>52,560</u>	<u>52,556</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>4</u>
<u>DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT</u>				
<u>DEPARTMENTAL SERVICES</u>				
Development Management	16,890	9,425	7,465	7,465
<u>DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT SERVICES</u>				
Dealing with Applications	(202,310)	(202,313)	3	2
Planning Appeals	3,320	3,320	0	(1)
Enforcement	(10)	9	(19)	(19)
<i>Development Management Total Expenditure</i>	<u>(182,110)</u>	<u>(189,559)</u>	<u>7,449</u>	<u>7,447</u>
<u>DEVELOPMENT PLANS</u>				
<u>DEPARTMENTAL SERVICES</u>				
Development Plans	5,080	4,824	256	260
<u>DEVELOPMENT PLANS SERVICES</u>				
Development Plans	100,460	100,460	0	0
<i>Development Plans Total Expenditure</i>	<u>105,540</u>	<u>105,284</u>	<u>256</u>	<u>260</u>
Corporate Recharges	1,465,230	1,465,230	0	0
PLANNING COMMITTEE TOTAL EXPENDITURE	<u><u>1,441,220</u></u>	<u><u>1,433,511</u></u>	<u><u>7,709</u></u>	<u><u>7,711</u></u>

PLANNING COMMITTEE AND LICENSING COMMITTEE

Item	Revised Estimate 2022/2023	Total Forecast Expenditure to March 2023	Variance Favourable / (Adverse)	Variance Favourable / (Adverse) as at Sept 22
	£	£	£	£
LICENSING COMMITTEE SUMMARY				
Licensing	83,590	82,918	672	(1,308)
Internal Recharges	51,170	51,166	4	0
LICENSING COMMITTEE TOTAL EXPENDITURE	134,760	134,084	676	(1,308)

Summary of Reserve Movements 2022-2023

Name of Reserve	Balance	Risk Assessed				Balance	Utilised march provisional out turn		Other Not Included in Management		Balance
	B.Fwd	Increase	Decrease	Adjustment	Forecast Expenditure	C.Fwd	As per Management A/cs		A/c's		
	£	£	£	£	£	£	Actual Expenditure	Anticipated Expenditure	Actual Expenditure	Anticipated Expenditure	
Earmarked for Capital Purposes											
Capital Inflation & Service Cost Pressure	1,000,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,000,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,000,000.00
Corporate Landlord	150,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	150,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	150,000.00
Deminimus Capital Works	101,575.46	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	101,575.46	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	101,575.46
Facilities	118,769.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	118,769.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	118,769.00
Energy Centre	270,383.20	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	270,383.20	0.00	0.00	0.00	70,000.00	340,383.20
Industrial Units	240,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	240,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	240,000.00
IT Infrastructure	225,811.79	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	225,811.79	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	225,811.79
New Operating Model	492,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	492,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	492,000.00
The Hive	419,715.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	419,715.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	419,715.00
WRAP Regional Vehicles	253,359.85	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	253,359.85	0.00	0.00	0.00	24,000.00	277,359.85
Total Earmarked for Capital Purposes:	3,271,614.30	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	3,271,614.30	0.00	0.00	0.00	94,000.00	3,365,614.30
Usable Earmarked Revenue Reserves											
Budget Contingency Fund / Invest to Save	64,351.89	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	64,351.89	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	64,351.89
Business Support Hybrid Model	53,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	53,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	53,000.00
Corporate Landlord Building Rationalisation	73,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	73,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	73,000.00
Covid19 Response & Recovery	1,526,920.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,526,920.00	(67,964.88)	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,458,955.12
Customer Services	95,892.05	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	95,892.05	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	95,892.05
Discretionary Housing Payments	111,865.87	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	111,865.87	0.00	(30,000.00)	0.00	0.00	81,865.87
Displaced Expenditure - Social Services	201,700.52	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	201,700.52	(123,418.00)	0.00	0.00	(10,000.00)	68,282.52
Downsizing & Redundancy	183,038.71	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	183,038.71	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	183,038.71
Election Costs	176,228.83	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	176,228.83	(110,329.00)	0.00	0.00	0.00	65,899.83
Financial Planning / Resilience	3,554,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	3,554,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	3,554,000.00
Future Interest Rate	644,055.89	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	644,055.89	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	644,055.89
General/ Voluntary Sector Grants	27,680.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	27,680.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	27,680.00
ICT	1,388,225.46	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,388,225.46	(16,560.00)	0.00	0.00	(30,546.00)	1,341,119.46
ISB Reserve	117,469.81	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	117,469.81	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	117,469.81
Inflation & Service Cost Pressure	1,361,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,361,000.00	(545,000.00)	0.00	0.00	0.00	816,000.00
Insurance Liabilities	3,198,250.21	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	3,198,250.21	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	3,198,250.21
Invest to Save	1,000,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,000,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,000,000.00
Local / Strategic Development Plans	143,512.54	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	143,512.54	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	143,512.54
Match Funding Regeneration Projects	114,386.57	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	114,386.57	(6,042.50)	0.00	0.00	0.00	108,344.07
Members Local Grants	22,468.79	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	22,468.79	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	22,468.79
Payroll Project Management	23,529.97	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	23,529.97	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	23,529.97
PRC Funding	100,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	100,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	100,000.00
Rail Loan Interest	38,188.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	38,188.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	38,188.00
Re-fit Loan Repayments	263,878.66	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	263,878.66	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	263,878.66
Specialist Commercial Advice (Silent Valley)	72,816.50	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	72,816.50	0.00	0.00	(11,216.00)	0.00	61,600.50
Social Services - Legal Costs	400,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	400,000.00	(400,000.00)	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Social Services - RIF (ICF)	600,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	600,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	600,000.00
Stock Conditions Survey	12,137.34	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	12,137.34	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	12,137.34
Strategic Business Reviews	168,553.27	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	168,553.27	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	168,553.27
Superannuation	600,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	600,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	600,000.00
Supporting Additional Capacity	369,300.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	369,300.00	(157,767.11)	(79,512.69)	0.00	0.00	132,020.20
Taxation	133,913.08	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	133,913.08	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	133,913.08
Technology Park Feasibility Study	26,017.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	26,017.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	26,017.00
Test, Trace, Protect Service	4,514.40	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	4,514.40	(4,514.40)	0.00	0.00	0.00	(0.00)
Transport Oncost	147,470.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	147,470.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	(100,000.00)	47,470.00

Name of Reserve	Balance B.Fwd	Increase	Decrease	Risk Assessed Adjustment	Forecast Expenditure	Balance C.Fwd	Utilised march provisional out turn		Other Not Included in Management		Balance
							As per Management A/cs		A/c's		
							Actual Expenditure	Anticipated Expenditure	Actual Expenditure	Anticipated Expenditure	
£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	
Waste Services Reserve	120,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	120,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	120,000.00
Winter Maintenance	200,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	200,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	200,000.00
Total Usable Earmarked Revenue Reserves:	17,337,365.36	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	17,337,365.36	(1,431,595.89)	(109,512.69)	(11,216.00)	(140,546.00)	15,644,494.78
Unusable Earmarked Revenue Reserves											
Building Control Fees	38,239.34	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	38,239.34	0.00	0.00	(641.00)	0.00	37,598.34
Cardiff Capital Region City Deal	670,361.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	670,361.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	670,361.00
Deposits and Bonds	3,200.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	3,200.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	3,200.00
Land & Property Charges	117,199.90	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	117,199.90	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	117,199.90
LMS Balances	6,213,861.65	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	6,213,861.65	0.00	0.00	0.00	(2,741,846.00)	3,472,015.65
Section 106 Agreements	191,988.51	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	191,988.51	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	191,988.51
SEW Adoption Collaboration	712,028.21	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	712,028.21	0.00	0.00	0.00	(113,491.00)	598,537.21
Social Services - Gwent Regional Development (SP)	40,110.30	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	40,110.30	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	40,110.30
Workforce Development Collaboration	340,124.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	340,124.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	(90,124.00)	250,000.00
Total Unusable Earmarked Revenue Reserves:	8,327,112.91	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	8,327,112.91	0.00	0.00	(641.00)	(2,945,461.00)	5,381,010.91
Revenue Grants and Contributions Unapplied											
All Age School Forum	131,659.01	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	131,659.01	0.00	0.00	0.00	72,270.00	203,929.01
Aneurin Bevan Health Board - Education	18,225.89	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	18,225.89	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	18,225.89
Community Safety & CCTV	71,606.15	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	71,606.15	(24,065.78)	(23,874.22)	0.00	0.00	23,666.15
Contribution to Crematorium Infrastructure Works	63,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	63,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	63,000.00
Discretionary Cost of Living Scheme	897,428.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	897,428.00	0.00	0.00	(365,200.00)	(115,140.00)	417,088.00
Early Action Together Programme	3,196.38	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	3,196.38	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	3,196.38
Early Years Grant	298,277.83	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	298,277.83	0.00	0.00	(75,000.00)	(60,000.00)	163,277.83
Education - Gypsy Travellers	40,804.42	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	40,804.42	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	40,804.42
Flood Risk Management	132,729.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	132,729.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	132,729.00
Head 4 Arts	71,062.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	71,062.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	71,062.00
Homelessness Transitional Funding	140,917.78	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	140,917.78	(2,957.95)	(45,497.05)	0.00	29,813.05	122,275.83
Individual Electoral Register	46,494.30	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	46,494.30	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	46,494.30
Infrastructure Staffing	186,600.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	186,600.00	(42,223.50)	(14,074.50)	0.00	0.00	130,302.00
LEA / ALN Grant	141,379.16	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	141,379.16	0.00	0.00	0.00	(10,000.00)	131,379.16
Participatory Budget	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Period Poverty	77,687.05	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	77,687.05	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	77,687.05
Planning WAG Grant - Planning Committee	2,103.66	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2,103.66	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2,103.66
Environment General Contributions Unapplied	51,172.25	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	51,172.25	(1,468.00)	0.00	0.00	23,425.00	73,129.25
Rights of Way Diversions	20,255.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	20,255.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	20,255.00
Scrutiny Development	7,867.15	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	7,867.15	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	7,867.15
Small & Rural Schools Grant	7,601.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	7,601.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	7,601.00
SMIFFs	2,688.84	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2,688.84	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2,688.84
Syrian Resettlement Programme	184,530.38	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	184,530.38	0.00	0.00	0.00	(8,210.00)	176,320.38
Tai Calon Highways Maintenance (Commuted Sums)	396,058.80	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	396,058.80	(21,183.00)	0.00	0.00	0.00	374,875.80
Youth Service	256,433.34	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	256,433.34	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	256,433.34
Total Revenue Grants and Contributions Unapplied:	3,249,777.39	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	3,249,777.39	(91,898.23)	(83,445.77)	(440,200.00)	(67,841.95)	2,566,391.44
Total:	32,185,869.96	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	32,185,869.96	(1,523,494.12)	(192,958.46)	(452,057.00)	(3,059,848.95)	26,957,511.43
							TRUE	TRUE	TRUE	TRUE	TRUE

Fees and Charges Forecast 2022/2023 (As at December 2022)

Portfolio	Service	Description of Income	Income Source	Revised Estimate 2022/2023	Forecast	Variance Favourable / (Adverse)	Variance Favourable / (Adverse) as at Sept 2022
				£	£	£	£
Fees & Charges							
Corporate Services	Communications	Advertising	Fees & Charges	3,000	2,082	(918)	(918)
Corporate Services	Business Support	External Printing and photocopying charges.	Fees & Charges	8,160	3,237	(4,923)	(4,923)
Corporate Services	Legal Fees	Legal Charges	Fees & Charges	14,330	9,403	(4,927)	(11,174)
Corporate Services	Corporate Support	Land Charges	Fixed - Set Locally	32,150	44,493	12,343	12,343
Economy	General Offices	Rental Income	Fees & Charges	810	33,078	32,268	32,268
Economy	Departmental	Reimbursement of staff costs and receipts for external works	SLA	70,469	38,000	(32,469)	(32,469)
Environment	Household & Trade Waste Collection	Trade Waste Collection & Disposal Income - Commercial Customers	Fees & Charges	0	0	0	0
Environment	Enforcement Team		Fees & Charges	2,030	29,936	27,906	15,627
Environment	Recycling Collection	Recycling Collection & Disposal Income - Commercial Customers	Fees & Charges	0	0	0	0
Environment	Trade Waste	Trade Waste Collection & Disposal Income - Commercial Customers	Fees & Charges	298,818	309,089	10,271	0
Environment	Bulky Waste Collection	Bulky Waste Collection	Fees & Charges	71,690	61,969	(9,721)	(3,480)
Environment	Recycling Disposal	Sale of Recyclate Materials	Fees & Charges	879,384	828,848	(50,536)	(16,939)
Environment	County Borough Cleansing	C&CR - External Cleansing Works	Fees & Charges	220	0	(220)	146
Environment	Cemeteries / Crematorium	Burial Fees	Fees & Charges	494,814	441,814	(53,000)	(39,395)
Environment	Cemeteries / Crematorium	General Properties	Fees & Charges	3,000	3,000	0	0
Social Services	Meals On Wheels	Sale of Meals	Fees & Charges	175,280	150,061	(25,219)	(20,391)
Environment	Grounds Maintenance	Income from Letting of Playing Fields, Ground Rent & Way Leaves	Fees & Charges	76,395	120,994	44,599	54,599
Environment	General Properties	Rental Income	Fees & Charges	8,160	6,642	(1,518)	(1,518)
Environment	Cwmcrachen Caravan Site	Rental	Fees & Charges	113,948	111,096	(2,852)	1,735
Environment	Dog Wardens - now in	Byelaw Enforcement Fees	Fees & Charges	0	0	0	0
Environment	Corporate Landlord	Civic Centre - Rental of Land	Miscellaneous	184	0	(184)	125
Environment	School Catering Service	Sale of Meals		954,054	709,087	(244,967)	(119,375)
Financial Management & Strategy	Accountancy Division	Administration charges for administering Appointeeships	Fees & Charges	26,030	17,507	(8,523)	915
Infrastructure	Technical Services - Engineering & Property Management	Reimbursement of staff costs and receipts for external works	Fees & Charges	427,317	427,317	0	(101,258)
Infrastructure	FEP - Increase in Income	Fees	Fees & Charges	0	0	0	0
Infrastructure	Licensing (Highway Permits)	Skips & Scaffolding Permits	Fees & Charges	52,369	52,369	0	0
Infrastructure	General Administration and Markets	Rental income	Fees & Charges	30,351	12,828	(17,523)	(16,011)
Infrastructure	Traffic Orders	Income from contractors, Welsh Water etc. for road works inspection fees	Fees & Charges	55,307	85,042	29,735	25,705
Infrastructure	Road and Street Works Acts	Inspection fees, section 74's, FPN, coring, Dropped kerbs etc.	Fees & Charges	52,850	90,179	37,329	0
Infrastructure	Highways Adoptions	Highway Searches	Fees & Charges	9,950	8,550	(1,400)	(1,400)
Infrastructure	Multi-storey Carparks	Charge to Coleg Gwent	Fees & Charges	30,000	30,000	0	0
Infrastructure	Civil Parking Enforcement	FPN's	Fees & Charges	105,000	81,658	(23,342)	(15,058)
Infrastructure	Public Transport Co-Ordination	Charge to bus companies for use of Brynmawr Bus Station	Fees & Charges	234	268	34	0

Fees and Charges Forecast 2022/2023 (As at December 2022)

Portfolio	Service	Description of Income	Income Source	Revised Estimate 2022/2023	Forecast	Variance Favourable / (Adverse)	Variance Favourable / (Adverse) as at Sept 2022
				£	£	£	£
Licensing	Hackney Carriages	Licence Fees	Fees & Charges	46,931	43,512	(3,418)	(5,631)
Licensing	Private Hire Vehicles	Licence Fees	Fees & Charges	1,830	1,567	(264)	1,507
Licensing	Scrap Metal	Sale of Scrap Metal	Fees & Charges	600	3,470	2,870	2,502
Planning	Enforcement	Enforcement Fees	Fees & Charges	610	0	(610)	(610)
Planning	Development Plans	Heritage Officer Income	Fees & Charges	0	0	0	0
Social Services	Other Children's and Family Services	Training Fees (Early Years tied in with expenditure which is set to decrease)	Fees & Charges	0	0	0	0
Social Services	Older People aged 65 or over	Fees & Charges in respect of Care (Cwrt Mytton, Home Care, Extra Care & Joint Day Care Unit)	Fees & Charges	598,350	588,299	(10,051)	(36,004)
Social Services	Adults aged under 65 with Learning Disabilities	Fees & Charges in respect of Care (Augusta, Supported Living Bungalows & Community Options)	Fees & Charges	341,150	70,355	(270,795)	(266,056)
Social Services	Adults aged under 65 with Mental Health Needs	Fees & Charges in respect of Care (Vision House & Ysbyty'r Tri Chwm)	Fees & Charges	25,420	1,174	(24,246)	(24,246)
Social Services	Support Service and Management Costs	Fees & Charges in respect of Piper Alarms (IAA)	Fees & Charges	0	0	0	0
			Sub - Total	5,011,195	4,416,924	(594,271)	(569,385)
Fees & Charges - Set Nationally							
Corporate Services	Registration of Births, Marriages and Deaths	Registration of Births, Marriages and Deaths	Fixed - Set Nationally	94,770	86,095	(8,675)	(8,675)
Environment	Food Safety	Hygiene ratings & Health Certificates	Fixed - Set Nationally	2,162	5,685	3,523	11,252
Environment	Control of Pollution	Environmental Permits	Fixed - Set Nationally	17,228	12,437	(4,791)	(6,850)
Environment	Health and Safety at Work (Commercial Prem.)	Petroleum + Tattoo Licences	Fixed - Set Nationally	0	0	0	2,865
Environment	Trading Standards	Explosives Licences	Fixed - Set Nationally	0	0	0	0
Licensing	Licence Fees	Various (Gambling, Premises/ Clubs & Street Trading)	Fixed - Set Nationally	56,968	54,731	(2,238)	(690)
Planning	Dealing with Applications	Planning Application Fees	Fees & Charges	213,360	219,070	5,710	3,518
Planning	Building Regulations	Building Regulation Fees	Fixed - Set Nationally	95,620	95,620	0	0
Social Services	Older People aged 65 or over	CHC Income (Home Care)	Fixed - Set Nationally	0	15,671	15,671	19,671
Social Services	Adults aged under 65 with Learning Disabilities	CHC Income (Augusta House; Supported Living Bungalows; Community Options)	Fixed - Set Nationally	50,000	126,081	76,081	59,500
Social Services	Community Care	Fees & Charges in respect of Care	Fixed - Set Nationally	2,896,975	3,029,811	132,836	76,217
Social Services	Older People aged 65 or over	Sale of Property (Cwrt Mytton)	Fixed - Set Nationally	0	0	0	0
Social Services	Community Care	Sale of Property	Fixed - Set Nationally	292,340	48,283	(244,057)	(276,610)
Social Services	Community Care	CHC Income	Fixed - Set Nationally	0	0	0	0
Social Services	Support Service and Management Costs	CHC Income (Adult Service Managers)	Fixed - Set Nationally	0	0	0	0
			Sub - Total	3,719,423	3,693,484	(25,940)	(119,802)

Fees and Charges Forecast 2022/2023 (As at December 2022)

Portfolio	Service	Description of Income	Income Source	Revised Estimate 2022/2023	Forecast	Variance Favourable / (Adverse)	Variance Favourable / (Adverse) as at Sept 2022
				£	£	£	£
Fees & Charges - In Line with Local Agreements							
Economy	Industrial Land	Ground rent and commercial bookings	Fixed - Set Locally	2,750	520	(2,230)	0
Economy	Nursery Units/Misc. Industrial Premises	Rental income for industrial units	Fixed - Set Locally	808,200	890,726	82,526	82,526
Economy	Estates - Non Rechargeable	Ground Rent	Fixed - Set Locally	145,110	146,172	1,062	(26,910)
Economy	Financial Support to Business	Ground rent and commercial bookings	Fixed - Set Locally	2,650	1,141	(1,509)	0
Economy	CSCS	Charges for Construction Skills Certificates	Fixed - Set Locally	10,200	801	(9,399)	(9,676)
Environment	Corporate Landlord	Little Stars Nursery - Rent (Recovery of costs)	Miscellaneous	8,839	13,287	4,448	4,448
Education	Inter Authority Recoupment	Charges to other Local Authorities for SEN placements within Blaenau Gwent Schools	Fixed - Set Locally	672,290	787,649	115,359	67,220
			Sub - Total	1,650,039	1,840,296	190,257	117,608
			TOTAL - FEES & CHARGES	10,380,657	9,950,704	(429,954)	(571,579)
SLA							
Aneurin Leisure Trust	SLA Income	Provision of Support Services	SLA	213,410	213,410	0	0
Environment	Grounds Maintenance	SLA	SLA	168,220	183,386	15,166	(5,549)
Financial Management & Strategy	Accountancy Division	Support Services SLA with Schools	SLA	185,480	185,480	0	0
Corporate Services	Organisational Development, Payroll & Health & Safety	Support Services SLA with Schools	SLA	319,620	319,620	0	0
Corporate Services	Legal Fees & GDPR	Support Services SLA with Schools	SLA	41,980	41,980	0	0
Corporate Services	Communications	Support Services SLA with Schools	SLA	3,250	3,250	0	0
Corporate Services	Performance (SIMS Support)	Support Services SLA with Schools	SLA	77,270	77,270	0	0
Corporate Services	Business Support (Courier)	Support Services SLA with Schools	SLA	5,770	5,770	0	0
Financial Management & Strategy	Creditors Division	Support Services SLA with Schools	SLA	6,480	6,480	0	0
Corporate Services	ICT	Support Services SLA with Schools	SLA	0	0	0	0
Environment	School Catering	SLA with Schools (excludes Corporate Landlord)	SLA	1,179,391	1,179,391	0	0
Environment	Cleaning Services	SLA with Schools	SLA	1,124,130	1,124,130	0	0
Infrastructure	CPM - Schools Biodiversity SLA	SLA with Schools	SLA	14,566	21,225	6,659	6,059
Infrastructure	Winter Maintenance	SLA with LA's for salt Storage	SLA	13,260	13,260	0	0
			Sub - Total	3,352,827	3,374,652	21,825	510

Fees and Charges Forecast 2022/2023 (As at December 2022)

Portfolio	Service	Description of Income	Income Source	Revised Estimate 2022/2023	Forecast	Variance Favourable / (Adverse)	Variance Favourable / (Adverse) as at Sept 2022
				£	£	£	£
Court Fees/Fixed Penalty Notices/Fines							
Corporate Services	Corporate Services and Strategy	Legal income and land charges. Advertising.	Court Fees/FPN/Fines/Legal	10,000	2,640	(7,360)	(7,360)
Education	Welfare Service	Fixed Penalty Notices	Court Fees/FPN/Fines/Legal	2,190	1,928	(262)	(262)
Environment	Littering and Dog Control Orders -	Income in relation to FPNs	Court Fees/FPN/Fines/Legal	0	0	0	0
Corporate Services	Payroll Division	Attachment Orders	Court Fees/FPN/Fines/Legal	1,020	343	(677)	(677)
Financial Management & Strategy	Council Tax Collection	Court Costs	Court Fees/FPN/Fines/Legal	162,680	162,680	0	0
Financial Management & Strategy	NNDR	Court Costs	Court Fees/FPN/Fines/Legal	1,800	0	(1,800)	(1,800)
Corporate Services	Housing Benefits Account	Admin Penalties	Court Fees/FPN/Fines/Legal	25,000	0	(25,000)	(25,000)
			Sub - Total	202,690	167,591	(35,099)	(35,099)
Consortium Arrangements							
Economy	General Offices	Annual Service & Rental Charge to Torfaen CBC in relation to Archives	Consortium Arrangements	49,970	71,981	22,011	22,011
Environment	Disposal Of Waste	Contribution from SVWS	Consortium Arrangements	110,000	0	(110,000)	(110,000)
Environment	Cemeteries / Crematorium	Crematorium Income - Reallocation of surplus at year end	Consortium Arrangements	41,925	41,925	0	0
Environment	20 Church Street	Housing Advice Centre Contribution	Consortium Arrangements	12,454	13,550	1,096	1,096
Environment	Housing Access	Income from Housing Associations in relation to Administration of the Common Housing Register	Consortium Arrangements	110,760	128,392	17,632	17,632
Environment	Environmental Health	Public Protection Collaboration with Torfaen CC	Consortium Arrangements	0	0	0	0
			Sub - Total	325,109	255,848	(69,261)	(69,261)
Miscellaneous							
Education	Supporting Special Educational Needs	Internal Income - Recovery of pupil lead funding from schools.	Internal Income	104,040	69,296	(34,744)	(34,744)
Corporate Services	Cross Cutting	Rebates - Energy & Randstad	Miscellaneous	32,500	52,542	20,042	0
Corporate Services	Cross Cutting	Purchase Card Income	Miscellaneous	26,810	26,810	0	0
Infrastructure	L&A - Invasive Weeds	Contribution from Caerphilly for Treatment of Knotweed	Miscellaneous	10,200	10,200	0	0
			Sub - Total	173,550	158,848	(14,702)	(34,744)

Action Plan

Social Services

2022/23 Forecast Adverse Variances (as at 31 December 2022)

Appendix 4a

Service Area	2022/2023 Variance at June 2022 Forecast £	2022/2023 Variance at Sept 2022 Forecast £	2022/2023 Variance at Dec 2022 Forecast £	Action Required & Timescale	Financial Impact £	Responsible Officer
Looked After Children	(14,224)	(249,536)	(745,246)	<p>Children's Homes</p> <p><u>Reason for Adverse Variance</u> The reason for the increase in the adverse variance is due to the number of placements increasing by 2 from 12 to 14 since September, one short term placement up to 28th February and one long term placement. An in year budget virement of £140,000 has been unwound and vired back to Independent Fostering Agencies to realign the budget to reflect the latest forecast expenditure.</p> <p>It is common practice to carry out in year temporary virements from underspending areas to overspending areas during the budget monitoring process to align budgets with expenditure.</p> <p><u>Actions</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agreement from the Head of Service (HOS) is required for all residential placements. 		Alyson Ramshaw

Action Plan

Social Services

2022/23 Forecast Adverse Variances (as at 31 December 2022)

Appendix 4a

Service Area	2022/2023 Variance at June 2022 Forecast £	2022/2023 Variance at Sept 2022 Forecast £	2022/2023 Variance at Dec 2022 Forecast £	Action Required & Timescale	Financial Impact £	Responsible Officer
				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Each placement is being reviewed on a monthly basis by the Head of Service with Team Managers. There are a number of preventative services in place, which include the Supporting Change Team and MYST, both initiatives will potentially reduce the number of children within residential placements in the long term. 		
Looked After Children	19,775	(417,014)	(712,546)	<p>Legal Services</p> <p><u>Reason for Adverse Variance</u> The reason for the adverse variance is due to the requirement of using the external provider to finalise existing cases.</p> <p><u>Actions</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> BGCBC has entered an SLA with Caerphilly CBC to provide Children's legal services. This arrangement commenced on 1st April 2022 and will 		Alyson Ramshaw / Andrea Jones

Action Plan

Social Services

2022/23 Forecast Adverse Variances (as at 31 December 2022)

Appendix 4a

Service Area	2022/2023 Variance at June 2022 Forecast £	2022/2023 Variance at Sept 2022 Forecast £	2022/2023 Variance at Dec 2022 Forecast £	Action Required & Timescale	Financial Impact £	Responsible Officer
				<p>mitigate this cost pressure for future years.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A two tier system will remain in place for the current financial year 2022/23 until the existing cases have been finalised by the external provider. All new cases will be dealt with by Caerphilly CBC and will be funded through the SLA. The adverse variance has been alleviated due to the utilisation of the legal fees reserve. 	£0.400m	
Older People (Aged 65 or Over)	(28,375)	(154,383)	(276,354)	<p>Cwrt Mytton</p> <p><u>Reason for Adverse Variance</u> The reason for the adverse variance is due to an increase in staffing costs, in relation to the use of agency staff to cover vacant posts, sickness absences and the pay award.</p> <p><u>Actions</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A staff restructure and recruitment drive is currently being undertaken to 		Hannah Baulch / Joanne Hawkins

Action Plan

Social Services

2022/23 Forecast Adverse Variances (as at 31 December 2022)

Appendix 4a

Service Area	2022/2023 Variance at June 2022 Forecast £	2022/2023 Variance at Sept 2022 Forecast £	2022/2023 Variance at Dec 2022 Forecast £	Action Required & Timescale	Financial Impact £	Responsible Officer
				address the staffing issues currently encountered.		
Older People (Aged 65 or Over)	(69,497)	(135,063)	(127,100)	<p>Supported Living Bungalows</p> <p><u>Reason for Adverse Variance</u> The reason for the adverse variance is due to an increase in staffing costs, in relation to the use of agency staff to cover vacant posts, sickness absences and the pay award.</p> <p><u>Actions</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A staff restructure and recruitment drive is currently being undertaken to address the staffing issues currently encountered. 		

Action Plan

Education

2022/23 Forecast Adverse Variances (as at 31 December 2022)

Appendix 4b

Service Area	2022/2023 Variance at June 2022 Forecast £	2022/2023 Variance at Sept 2022 Forecast £	2022/2023 Variance at Dec 2022 Forecast £	Action Required & Timescale	Financial Impact £	Responsible Officer
Home to School Transport	(501,578)	(506,581)	(1,153,479)	<p><u>Reason for Adverse Variance</u> The reasons for the adverse variance are due to a temporary 20% uplift being awarded to contractors because of the fuel crises, together with additional routes and escorts being required for ALN learners linked to ALN Reform as well as prior year invoices being higher than expected.</p> <p><u>Actions</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The subsequent cost pressure of the 20% uplift for contractors has been alleviated by funding being awarded from the inflation and service cost pressure reserve. • It is difficult to mitigate the remaining overspend within this financial year; however, a cost pressure has been included within the 2023/2024 budget setting process. 	£0.545m	Lynn Phillips

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Action Plan

Environment

2022/23 Forecast Adverse Variances (as at 31st December 2022)

Appendix 4c

Service Area	2022/2023 Variance at June 2022 Forecast £	2022/2023 Variance at Sept 2022 Forecast £	2022/2023 Variance at Dec 2022 Forecast £	Action Required & Timescale	Financial Impact £	Responsible Officer
Catering	(£536,429)	(£457,547)	(£103,135)	<p><u>Reason for Adverse variance</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cost of living increases relating to provisions <p><u>Actions</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The increase in the cost of provisions will be monitored closely and various methods of reducing the costs will be explored. Including looking at alternative products/suppliers, reviewing/reducing menu choices. 		Clive Rogers/ Mike Price
Corporate Landlord	2,477	6,953	(103,818)	<p><u>Reason for Adverse Variance</u></p> <p>Overspends mainly on:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Non – Operational Buildings (forecast overspend £35,000) • CATs (forecast overspend £50,000) <p>This is due to no budgets for non-operational buildings and CATs as it was assumed when the property was transferred there would be no further costs as the budget was put forward as savings.</p>		Clive Rogers/ Mike Price

Action Plan

Environment

2022/23 Forecast Adverse Variances (as at 31st December 2022)

Appendix 4c

Service Area	2022/2023 Variance at June 2022 Forecast £	2022/2023 Variance at Sept 2022 Forecast £	2022/2023 Variance at Dec 2022 Forecast £	Action Required & Timescale	Financial Impact £	Responsible Officer
				<p><u>Actions</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Expenditure and commitments will be monitored and reviewed during the remainder of the financial year and where possible work will be delayed or deferred to 2023/2024 to mitigate the adverse variance. 		
Waste Services	218,604	(5,772)	(498,987)	<p><u>Reason for Adverse Variance</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recycling Collection Agency employee costs (£515k) Recycling Collection Transport Costs (£243k) Treatment costs for the disposal of residual waste (£100k) <p>Agency/Transport - This is based on an increased number of staff and vehicles required to collect the recycling waste, after the increase in participation, during the lockdown period, continuing post covid and therefore the additional staff and vehicles are still required. Continued house building throughout the borough is also having an impact on costs.</p>		Matthew Stent

Action Plan

Environment

2022/23 Forecast Adverse Variances (as at 31st December 2022)

Appendix 4c

Service Area	2022/2023 Variance at June 2022 Forecast £	2022/2023 Variance at Sept 2022 Forecast £	2022/2023 Variance at Dec 2022 Forecast £	Action Required & Timescale	Financial Impact £	Responsible Officer
				<p>This has had a positive impact on the Local Authority Recycling Targets with an estimate of 68% against a target of 64% for the year.</p> <p>The adverse variance has been offset by fees and charges and grant income exceeding the budget by £384,000.</p> <p>Actions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expenditure will be closely monitored for the remainder of the financial year. • A review of budgets and costs is being undertaken. <p>Treatment – there is a new contract price for residual waste disposal which is index linked and has increased by £8 per tonne. This equates to an approximate increase of £100,000 based on the actual tonnage disposed of and an estimate to the end of the year.</p>		

Action Plan

Environment

2022/23 Forecast Adverse Variances (as at 31st December 2022)

Appendix 4c

Service Area	2022/2023 Variance at June 2022 Forecast £	2022/2023 Variance at Sept 2022 Forecast £	2022/2023 Variance at Dec 2022 Forecast £	Action Required & Timescale	Financial Impact £	Responsible Officer
				Actions <ul style="list-style-type: none">• A cost pressure of £100k has been put forward for 2023/2024 as part of the budget setting process.		

Detailed Analysis of Virements Actioned Between September 2022 to December 2022

	Budget Virement Out of Portfolio	Budget Virement Into Portfolio	Budget Virement Within Portfolio	COMMENTS
	£	£	£	
Environment Portfolio				
Corporate Landlord			14,972	Budget realignment to address cost pressure
Multi Storey Car Parks			(14,972)	Budget realignment to address cost pressure
Routine Repairs			30,000	Budget realignment to address cost pressure
Traffic Orders			(30,000)	Budget realignment to address cost pressure
CORPORATE SERVICES				
NDC			(9,070)	Budget realignment to address cost pressure
OD & Payroll			9,070	Budget realignment to address cost pressure
Total	0	0	0	

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Agenda Item 7

Cabinet and Council only

Date signed off by the Monitoring Officer: 30.03.23

Date signed off by the Section 151 Officer: 31.03.23

Committee: **Cabinet**
Date of meeting: **19th April 2023**
Report Subject: **Capital Budget Monitoring, Forecast for 2022/2023
Financial Year (As at 31 December 2022)**
Portfolio Holder: **Cllr S Thomas – Leader & Cabinet Member Corporate
Overview & 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)
	16/02/2023	30.03.23			16.03.23	19.04.23		

1. Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 To provide members with an overview of each Portfolio's actual and forecast capital expenditure against funding approvals for the 2022/2023 financial year, as at 31st December 2022.

2. Scope and Background

- 2.1 This report provides details on the following:

- Forecast financial position to 31st March 2023 across all portfolios
- Details of any significant adverse and/or favourable variances

- 2.2 This report forms part of the councils financial reporting framework.

3. Options for Recommendation

- 3.1 Corporate Overview and Performance Scrutiny Committee recommended Option 1 at its meeting on 16th March 2023.

3.2 Option 1 (Recommended Option)

To accept the report and

- Provide appropriate challenge to the financial outcomes in the report.
- Continue to support appropriate financial control procedures agreed by Council.
- To note the budgetary control and monitoring procedures in place within the Capital Team, to safeguard Authority funding.

3.3 Option 2

Do not accept the report.

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

4.1 This report supports the Forward Looking Corporate Plan 2022/27 as it ensures effective forward financial planning arrangements are in place to support the Council’s financial resilience. This is a key element to achieving “An ambitious and innovative council delivering quality services at the right time and in the right place”

The Capital programme allows the council to invest in connectivity, Community & Decarbonisation measures, to aid us in “Responding to the nature and climate crisis and enable connected communities”.

5. **Implications Against Each Option**

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

5.1.1 The current capital programme is approximately £139m and is funded by: -

WG Grant - £110m
 Other grant funding - £6m
 Council Resources - £23m

It is forecast that expenditure of £71.81m will be incurred on capital projects / schemes during 2022/23, with the remainder allocated for use in future years.

The overall financial position as forecast at 31st December 2022 indicates an underspend of £0.171m against a total in year capital budget of £71.98m.

The overall position across all Portfolios is shown below: -

Total Approvals Q1 (Dec 2022)	Future funding	In year funding	Forecast Expenditure to 31/03/2023	Actual Expenditure to 31/12/2022 (Month 9)	Forecast Variance Underspent / overspent
£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
138,701	66,716	71,985	71,815	25,492	171

5.1.2 Significant variances have or are expected to arise for the following:

The LTF Bus Stop Infrastructure scheme is forecasting an underspend of £242,822, the underspend has occurred as the Contractor was unable to deliver the project within the funding timeframe. This funding will therefore not be claimed from WG.

- 5.1.3 Childcare Offer - Swffryd Scheme has an overspend of £72,248. The overspend has arisen due to increased costs on construction. This includes a temporary access road, surfacing workings, external works play areas including draining and fencing and a retaining wall in association with the aforementioned. Discussions are ongoing with Lead project officers and Welsh Government regarding funding the additional expenditure.
- 5.1.4 There is a high level of uncertainty surrounding the impact inflation will have on construction costs, particularly where contracts have yet to be let / awarded.
- 5.1.5 Technical Services have been proactive in value engineering such as substitution of materials and methods with less expensive alternatives, without sacrificing functionality to ensure contracts are kept within budget.
- 5.1.6 Accountancy is working with Budget holders to ensure early identification of projects at risk of exceeding the budget. Where overspends are identified, budget holders will explore options for funding variation or re-profile.

5.2 Risk including Mitigating Actions

- 5.2.1 Expenditure against external funding approvals needs to be maximised in order to avoid loss of funding. If significant delays in capital expenditure are anticipated or contract costs rise due to the impact of Covid-19, inflation pressures and the cost of living crisis, liaison with funding bodies will be required at the earliest opportunity in order to secure approval for funding re-profile.
- 5.2.2 There is a high level of uncertainty surrounding the impact inflation will have on construction costs, particularly where contracts have yet to be let / awarded. For those contracts which have been let and are on site, Technical Services have been proactive in value engineering such as substitution of materials and methods with less expensive alternatives, without sacrificing functionality to ensure contracts are kept within budget. Where budgets are forecast to be exceeded, project officers are either exploring funding variations or re-profile.
- 5.2.3 If funding re-profile cannot be agreed and capital schemes are not kept within budget, then capital reserves may be committed beyond affordable levels, with the consequence that projects that have not yet commenced may be deferred or not undertaken, so impacting upon future Capital Programmes.
- 5.2.4 If capital schemes do not achieve the required level of expenditure within the correct financial year and further peaks of inflation results in projects facing significant delay, funding may be lost to the Authority and be detrimental to the Authority's chances of securing future funding.
- 5.2.5 The aforementioned risks are mitigated as far as possible through close working relationship with Budget Holders, Technical Services and external funding bodies such as Welsh Government. This ensures that where possible, funding is maximised or funding amendments are secured should the need arise

5.2.6 Where overall funding approvals are likely to be exceeded and additional compensatory funding sources cannot be identified, budget holders will initially report the consequences to the Corporate Leadership Team, including proposals to defer/delete other approved schemes.

5.3 **Legal**

N/A

5.4 **Human Resources**

N/A

6. **Supporting Evidence**

6.1 ***Performance Information and Data***

6.1.2 The Capital Expenditure Report is attached at Appendix 1.

6.1.3 Appendix 2 provides information of funding changes since the second quarter report.

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

6.2.1 The report details the financial implications for the Council in providing capital investment for the communities of Blaenau Gwent.

All forecast overspends and underspends are managed in order that secured funding approvals are not lost and to mitigate any potential adverse impact upon future Capital investment in Blaenau Gwent.

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

The Capital Programme is developed to support the Council's strategic priorities and is considered and agreed by full Council. Corporate Overview & Performance Scrutiny and Cabinet consider the budget monitoring reports on a quarterly basis and provide challenge as appropriate.

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

It is essential that all forecast overspends and underspends are managed in order that secured funding approvals are not lost and to mitigate any potential adverse impact upon the future capital programme.

6.5 ***Preventative focus***

Accountancy will continue their close working relationship with budget holders and external funding bodies to ensure that funding is maximised or funding amendments are secured in future financial years.

Accountancy with Budget holders monitor schemes / projects to ensure early identification of schemes / projects at risk of exceeding the budget. Where potential overspends are identified, budget holders will explore options to mitigate / minimise the forecast overspend.

6.6 ***Collaboration / partnership working***

The Capital Services Team works closely with budget holders in producing the financial forecast and with external funding bodies to ensure that where possible funding is maximised or funding amendments are secured should the need arise.

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

N/A

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

The Council is committed to the Decarbonisation Plan to achieve a carbon neutral public sector by 2030. The Capital Programme currently contains schemes which promote the reduction of carbon emissions such as ReFIT, Electric Vehicle Charge Points, Innovation for Decarbonisation - WBRID and the purchase of Ultra Low Emission Vehicles. New Council buildings should be designed to the latest energy efficiency standards.

6.9 ***Integrated Impact Assessment***

N/A

7. ***Monitoring Arrangements***

The Corporate Leadership Team, Corporate Overview & Performance Scrutiny and Cabinet consider the budget monitoring reports on a quarterly basis and provide challenge as appropriate.

Background Documents /Electronic Links

Appendix 1 – Funding Estimates – Summary

Appendix 2 – Funding Charges

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Management Reports

Reporting Year: and Period: 2023/9

Capital Programme Funding Estimates Summary

<i>Portfolio</i>	<i>Total Funding</i>	<i>In Year Budget</i>	<i>Future Funding</i>	<i>Expenditure To:</i> <i>December 2022</i>	<i>Remaining in Year Budget</i>	<i>Forecast Expenditure</i>	<i>Forecast Variance (Adv)/Fav</i>
Corporate Services Portfolio	1,879,883	867,160	1,012,723	378,638	488,522	867,160	0
Social Services Portfolio	5,805,471	4,676,394	1,129,077	1,767,220	2,983,622	4,750,842	(74,448)
Economy Portfolio	18,419,808	9,225,292	9,194,516	2,721,007	6,504,285	9,225,292	0
Education and Active Living	33,003,263	15,596,392	17,406,871	2,623,914	12,972,478	15,596,392	0
Environment Portfolio	4,707,777	984,140	3,723,637	833,787	150,353	984,140	0
Infrastructure Portfolio	70,519,532	40,098,910	30,420,622	16,936,597	22,919,431	39,856,028	242,882
All Portfolios	4,394,392	534,728	3,859,664	229,728	305,000	534,728	0
Total Capital Funding	138,730,126	71,983,016	66,747,110	25,490,893	46,323,690	71,814,582	168,434

End of Report

Capital Programme - 2022/23 Funding Estimates
Capital Report 2022/23

Management Reports

Reporting Year: and Period: 2023/9

Capital Programme Funding Estimates

<i>Code</i>	<i>Scheme</i>	<i>Total Funding</i>	<i>In Year Budget</i>	<i>Future Funding</i>	<i>Expenditure to: December 2022</i>	<i>Remaining in Year Budget</i>	<i>Forecast Expenditure</i>	<i>Forecast Variance (Adv)/Fav</i>
Corporate Services Portfolio								
Corporate Services								
327102	Corporate Properties H&S and Capital Wo	300,353	59,856	240,497	59,856	0	59,856	0
327103	Civic Centre Decommissioning	666,507	380,304	286,203	54,033	326,271	380,304	0
327104	Democratic & Community Hubs	44,412	0	44,412	0	0	0	0
327106	ICT Roadmap	763,611	322,000	441,611	262,500	59,500	322,000	0
328090	CCTV Upgrade	105,000	105,000	0	2,249	102,751	105,000	0
Corporate Services		1,879,883	867,160	1,012,723	378,638	488,522	867,160	0
Corporate Services Portfolio		1,879,883	867,160	1,012,723	378,638	488,522	867,160	0

Capital Programme - 2022/23 Funding Estimates
Capital Report 2022/23

Management Reports

Reporting Year: and Period: 2023/9

Capital Programme Funding Estimates

Code	Scheme	Total Funding	In Year Budget	Future Funding	Expenditure to: December 2022	Remaining in Year Budget	Forecast Expenditure	Forecast Variance (Adv)/Fav
Social Services Portfolio								
Childrens Services								
323152	Beaufort Road - Extension Training Flat	38,978	38,978	0	32,827	6,151	38,978	0
324719	Flying Start - Cwm 2	30,000	30,000	0	0	30,000	30,000	0
324721	Flying Start - Ebbw Vale North	2,082	2,082	0	0	2,082	2,082	0
324724	Flying Start - Sirhowy Primary	3,840	3,840	0	157	3,684	3,840	0
324728	Flying Start - Blaina ICC	235,000	235,000	0	0	235,000	235,000	0
324735	Flying Start Brynithel FS Centre	606	606	0	0	606	606	0
324736	Flying Start Additional Works	85,153	85,153	0	28,399	56,754	85,153	0
324737	Flying Start Capital (Covid-funding)	12,863	12,863	0	0	12,863	12,863	0
324738	FS Covid Recovery - Cwm Dev. Garden S	109,150	109,150	0	520	108,630	109,150	0
324739	FS Covid Recovery - Scout Hall	49,671	49,671	0	493	49,178	49,671	0
324771	Childcare Offer - Badminton Scheme	1,950,000	1,500,000	450,000	0	1,500,000	1,500,000	0
324772	Childcare Offer - Blaina ICC Scheme	1,001,552	428,936	572,616	4,663	424,273	428,936	0
324773	Childcare Offer - Swfryd Scheme	908,862	908,862	0	971,430	9,680	981,110	(72,248)
324774	Childcare Offer - Small Grants Scheme	280,000	280,000	0	77,961	202,040	280,000	0
324775	Childcare Offer - Brynmawr	0	0	0	0	2,200	2,200	(2,200)
Childrens Services		4,707,757	3,685,141	1,022,616	1,116,450	2,643,139	3,759,589	(74,448)
Adult Services								
323003	Health & Safety	35,121	35,121	0	34,590	531	35,121	0
323005	Tackling Food Poverty - WLGA	34,279	4,535	29,744	4,535	0	4,535	0
323120	Disabled equipment	285,000	285,000	0	179,750	105,250	285,000	0

Page 67

Capital Programme - 2022/23 Funding Estimates
Capital Report 2022/23

Management Reports

Reporting Year: and Period: 2023/9

Capital Programme Funding Estimates

<i>Code</i>	<i>Scheme</i>	<i>Total Funding</i>	<i>In Year Budget</i>	<i>Future Funding</i>	<i>Expenditure to: December 2022</i>	<i>Remaining in Year Budget</i>	<i>Forecast Expenditure</i>	<i>Forecast Variance (Adv)/Fav</i>
323144	ICF Main Capital Programme	75,789	2,205	73,584	2,205	0	2,205	0
323147	Intermediate Care Fund	3,133	0	3,133	0	0	0	0
323149	Better Care Capital Project	13,862	13,862	0	13,491	371	13,862	0
323151	Augusta House - Enablement Pods	463,197	463,197	0	345,291	117,906	463,197	0
323154	WLGA - Care & Support Equipment & Ada	187,333	187,333	0	70,909	116,424	187,333	0
	Adult Services	1,097,714	991,253	106,461	650,771	340,483	991,253	0
	Social Services Portfolio	5,805,471	4,676,394	1,129,077	1,767,220	2,983,622	4,750,842	(74,448)

Capital Programme - 2022/23 Funding Estimates
Capital Report 2022/23

Management Reports

Reporting Year: and Period: 2023/9

Capital Programme Funding Estimates

Code	Scheme	Total Funding	In Year Budget	Future Funding	Expenditure to: December 2022	Remaining in Year Budget	Forecast Expenditure	Forecast Variance (Adv)/Fav
Economy Portfolio								
Tredegar Regeneration								
326163	Tredegar HLF	524,123	0	524,123	0	0	0	0
	Tredegar Regeneration	524,123	0	524,123	0	0	0	0
Ebbw Vale Town Centre								
326191	TRI - Urban Centre Commercial Property I	505,570	505,570	0	376,226	129,344	505,570	0
	Ebbw Vale Town Centre	505,570	505,570	0	376,226	129,344	505,570	0
Valleys Regional Park								
326200	VRP Ebbw Fach Trail	899	0	899	0	0	0	0
326205	VRP - Discovery Gateway	19,778	0	19,778	0	0	0	0
326207	Parc Bryn Bach - Co Working Space	298	0	298	0	0	0	0
	Valleys Regional Park	20,975	0	20,975	0	0	0	0
The Works Site								
325097	Big Arch	960,057	960,057	0	797,174	162,883	960,057	0
325103	Learning Works	37,985	0	37,985	0	0	0	0
325220	Site Investigation Works	19,001	0	19,001	0	0	0	0
	The Works Site	1,017,043	960,057	56,986	797,174	162,883	960,057	0
Other Regeneration								
326006	Tech Valley s Initiative	403,604	0	403,604	0	0	0	0

Capital Programme - 2022/23 Funding Estimates
Capital Report 2022/23

Management Reports

Reporting Year: and Period: 2023/9

Capital Programme Funding Estimates

Code	Scheme	Total Funding	In Year Budget	Future Funding	Expenditure to: December 2022	Remaining in Year Budget	Forecast Expenditure	Forecast Variance (Adv)/Fav
326180	Lime Avenue Business Park	427,485	24,702	402,783	24,702	0	24,702	0
326181	Lime Avenue Employment park	2,495,101	0	2,495,101	0	0	0	0
326182	Box Works	8,445	8,445	0	8,445	0	8,445	0
326183	Regain 2	6,522,177	5,122,418	1,399,759	1,122,322	4,000,096	5,122,418	0
326184	Brexit Schemes	267,071	0	267,071	0	0	0	0
326193	TRI - Town Centre COVID-19 recovery ad:	488,710	6,225	482,485	6,225	0	6,225	0
326194	TT - Trinity Chapel & Abertillery Librar	1,150,388	1,150,388	0	0	1,150,388	1,150,388	0
326225	Heat Networks Project	17,385	0	17,385	0	0	0	0
326227	Innovation for Decarbonisation - WBRID	209,365	209,365	0	209,365	0	209,365	0
326251	Constrained Units	190,000	0	190,000	0	0	0	0
326252	Constrained Units - Roseheyworth	149,309	142,900	6,409	49,850	93,050	142,900	0
326265	Victoria Business Park - Development	8,747	0	8,747	0	0	0	0
326266	Brynmaur Retail Development	747,929	747,929	0	209	747,720	747,929	0
326267	Blaenau Gwent Digital	36,218	35,887	331	35,887	0	35,887	0
326268	Covid Recovery for Town Centres	55,902	18,133	37,769	18,133	0	18,133	0
326269	HiVE – Hi Value Engineering Centre - Mor	2,951,095	70,107	2,880,988	70,107	0	70,107	0
326271	Land Release Fund - Pithead Baths	223,166	223,166	0	2,363	220,804	223,166	0
	Other Regeneration	16,352,097	7,759,665	8,592,432	1,547,607	6,212,058	7,759,665	0
	Economy Portfolio	18,419,808	9,225,292	9,194,516	2,721,007	6,504,285	9,225,292	0

Capital Programme - 2022/23 Funding Estimates
Capital Report 2022/23

Management Reports

Reporting Year: and Period: 2023/9

Capital Programme Funding Estimates

Code	Scheme	Total Funding	In Year Budget	Future Funding	Expenditure to: December 2022	Remaining in Year Budget	Forecast Expenditure	Forecast Variance (Adv)/Fav
Education and Active Living								
Education Services								
324125	Education Minor Works	5,360	5,360	0	4,401	959	5,360	0
324138	Education Capital Maintenance	250,281	250,281	0	244,723	5,558	250,281	0
324141	Bryn Bach - Kitchen Rep & Classroom ren	30,000	30,000	0	0	30,000	30,000	0
324143	Rhos-y-fedwyn - Refurbishment	3,945	3,945	0	1,053	2,892	3,945	0
324144	St Marys - Refurbishment	187,270	187,270	0	12,979	174,291	187,270	0
324145	Tredegar Comp - Food & Technology	30,070	30,070	0	6,579	23,491	30,070	0
324146	Deighton - Kitchen	57,851	57,851	0	0	57,851	57,851	0
324147	Tredegar Comp Upgrade Services and Ac	3,450	3,450	0	0	3,450	3,450	0
324148	Coed y Garn Roof & Remedial Works	58,261	58,261	0	12,250	46,011	58,261	0
324149	Brynbach Primary Disabled Adaptations	60,061	60,061	0	15,312	44,749	60,061	0
324151	Tredegar Comp Upgrade Electrical Supply	10,625	10,625	0	0	10,625	10,625	0
324152	Brynmawr Refurbishment	171,198	171,198	0	90,639	80,560	171,198	0
324154	Abertillery Learning Community	193	193	0	0	193	193	0
324156	River Centre Boiler	3,367	3,367	0	0	3,367	3,367	0
324161	Pen Y Cwm - Refurbishment Works	54,133	54,133	0	7,597	46,536	54,133	0
324166	Beaufort Hill Boiler	98,274	98,274	0	411	97,863	98,274	0
324167	Soffryd Boiler	100,000	100,000	0	62,411	37,589	100,000	0
324168	St Marys Boiler	49,213	49,213	0	822	48,391	49,213	0
324171	Abertillery LC Doors	60,025	60,025	0	49,145	10,880	60,025	0
324172	Brynmawr Foundation Doors	41,982	41,982	0	39,975	2,007	41,982	0
324174	River Centre Windows/Ventilation	95,401	95,401	0	94,686	715	95,401	0

Page 71

Capital Programme - 2022/23 Funding Estimates

Capital Report 2022/23

Management Reports

Reporting Year: and Period: 2023/9

Capital Programme Funding Estimates

Code	Scheme	Total Funding	In Year Budget	Future Funding	Expenditure to: December 2022	Remaining in Year Budget	Forecast Expenditure	Forecast Variance (Adv)/Fav
324175	River Centre Classroom and Toilets	50,000	50,000	0	17,541	32,459	50,000	0
324179	Ebbw Fawr Internal Remodelling	100,000	100,000	0	35,626	64,374	100,000	0
324180	Tredegar Urgent Works IT suite staff roo	75,000	75,000	0	9,834	65,166	75,000	0
324182	CFS - Brynmawr Running Track	120,000	120,000	0	0	120,000	120,000	0
324183	Swffryd	120,000	120,000	0	0	120,000	120,000	0
324184	Tredegar Path	35,000	35,000	0	25,682	9,318	35,000	0
324185	Glanhowy Ramp	100,000	100,000	0	850	99,150	100,000	0
324186	Roseheyworth Primary - Reboiling	100,000	100,000	0	60,210	39,790	100,000	0
324201	Class Size - Willowtown	75,001	75,001	0	48,500	26,501	75,001	0
324203	Period Poverty	5,028	5,028	0	0	5,028	5,028	0
324207	St. Josephs s106	35,000	35,000	0	8,545	26,455	35,000	0
324250	Electrical Upgrade - Blaen y Cwm	106,794	106,794	0	106,794	0	106,794	0
324251	Electrical Upgrade - Georgetown	29,652	29,652	0	26,119	3,533	29,652	0
324252	Electrical Upgrade - Glanhowy	29,401	29,401	0	24,707	4,694	29,401	0
324253	Universal Free School Meals Equipment	371,370	371,370	0	270,304	101,066	371,370	0
324255	Electrical Kitchen Upgrade-Brynmawr RC	124,379	124,379	0	4,350	120,029	124,379	0
324256	Electrical Kitchen Upgrade-Ystruth Prima	74,472	74,472	0	1,840	72,632	74,472	0
324257	Electrical Kitchen Upgrade-Roseheyworth	15,000	15,000	0	590	14,410	15,000	0
324258	Electrical Kitchen Upgrade-Willowtown Pr	15,000	15,000	0	1,720	13,280	15,000	0
324259	Electrical Kitchen Upgrade-St Illydds P	15,000	15,000	0	205	14,795	15,000	0
324260	Electrical Kitchen Upgrade-Sofrydd Prima	80,787	80,787	0	98	80,689	80,787	0
324261	Electrical Kitchen Upgrade-Tillery Campu	15,000	15,000	0	66	14,935	15,000	0
324262	Electrical Kitchen Upgrade-St Marys CIW	19,346	19,346	0	9,663	9,683	19,346	0

Capital Programme - 2022/23 Funding Estimates
Capital Report 2022/23

Management Reports

Reporting Year: and Period: 2023/9

Capital Programme Funding Estimates

Code	Scheme	Total Funding	In Year Budget	Future Funding	Expenditure to: December 2022	Remaining in Year Budget	Forecast Expenditure	Forecast Variance (Adv)/Fav
324263	Electrical Kitchen Upgrade-St Josephs Pr	15,000	15,000	0	267	14,733	15,000	0
324264	Electrical Kitchen Upgrade-Ysgol Bro Hel	15,000	15,000	0	1,790	13,210	15,000	0
324266	Electrical Kitchen Upgrade-Deighton Prim	77,581	77,581	0	960	76,621	77,581	0
324267	Electrical Kitchen Upgrade-All saints RC	15,000	15,000	0	12,054	2,946	15,000	0
324268	Electrical Kitchen Upgrade-Rhosyfedwen I	15,000	15,000	0	6,943	8,057	15,000	0
324519	Digital 2030 Capital Grant - Post 16	4,621	0	4,621	0	0	0	0
324530	ALN	355,541	333,242	22,299	0	333,242	333,242	0
324532	Ebbw Fawr ASD	3,890	0	3,890	0	0	0	0
324534	ALN - Penycwm	26,353	26,353	0	26,353	0	26,353	0
324535	ALN - River Centre	22,104	22,104	0	22,104	0	22,104	0
324560	Schools IT Infrastructure	2,809	2,809	0	0	2,809	2,809	0
324580	Brynmawr 3G Pitch	173,004	173,004	0	138,038	34,966	173,004	0
324743	21st Century Schools Six Bells Project	326,624	326,624	0	93,847	232,777	326,624	0
324750	Band B - Welsh Medium New Build	9,853,337	5,433,331	4,420,006	36,425	5,396,906	5,433,331	0
324751	Band B - New Primary Ebbw Fawr Valley	8,569,508	4,895,000	3,674,508	519,329	4,375,671	4,895,000	0
324752	Band B - Secondary Remodelling Brynma	3,110,503	176,686	2,933,817	0	176,686	176,686	0
324753	Band B - Secondary Remodelling Abertille	3,197,316	200,000	2,997,316	0	200,000	200,000	0
324754	Band B - Secondary Remodelling Tredega	3,196,970	200,000	2,996,970	0	200,000	200,000	0
324755	Band B - Welsh Medium Remodelling Bro	751,111	431,058	320,053	310,358	120,700	431,058	0
324756	Band B - Rhosyfedwen	75,992	75,992	0	78,802	(2,810)	75,992	0
Education Services		32,889,454	15,515,974	17,373,480	2,543,497	12,972,477	15,515,974	0

Active Living Services

Capital Programme - 2022/23 Funding Estimates
Capital Report 2022/23

Management Reports

Reporting Year: and Period: 2023/9

Capital Programme Funding Estimates

<i>Code</i>	<i>Scheme</i>	<i>Total Funding</i>	<i>In Year Budget</i>	<i>Future Funding</i>	<i>Expenditure to: December 2022</i>	<i>Remaining in Year Budget</i>	<i>Forecast Expenditure</i>	<i>Forecast Variance (Adv)/Fav</i>
329088	Bryn Bach Park Roof	12,439	0	12,439	0	0	0	0
329089	Abertillery LC Demolition	952	0	952	0	0	0	0
329092	ALC - Changing Room Refurbishment	20,000	0	20,000	0	0	0	0
329095	AWPOG - Play Equipment	49,850	49,850	0	49,850	0	49,850	0
329097	Play Equipment	30,568	30,568	0	30,568	0	30,568	0
	Active Living Services	113,809	80,418	33,391	80,418	0	80,418	0
	Education and Active Living	33,003,263	15,596,392	17,406,871	2,623,914	12,972,478	15,596,392	0

Capital Programme - 2022/23 Funding Estimates
Capital Report 2022/23

Management Reports

Reporting Year: and Period: 2023/9

Capital Programme Funding Estimates

Code	Scheme	Total Funding	In Year Budget	Future Funding	Expenditure to: December 2022	Remaining in Year Budget	Forecast Expenditure	Forecast Variance (Adv)/Fav
Environment Portfolio								
Environmental Services								
327039	Kerbside Collections	2,052	0	2,052	0	0	0	0
327044	AHP Waste Collections	52,380	0	52,380	0	0	0	0
327045	BRC Decommissioning Project	191,777	0	191,777	0	0	0	0
327046	Repair Cafe	1,066	0	1,066	0	0	0	0
327061	CATS	80,000	0	80,000	0	0	0	0
327065	Re:Fit	2,070,071	6,803	2,063,268	6,803	0	6,803	0
327067	Market Hall - Asbestos Removal	18,606	0	18,606	0	0	0	0
327068	Cemeteries Investment Programme	9,137	0	9,137	0	0	0	0
327070	WRAP Cymru Capital Funding	3,792	0	3,792	0	0	0	0
327071	Education Centre	297,265	297,265	0	240,200	57,065	297,265	0
327074	New Vale HWRC Refurbishment Works	145,439	0	145,439	0	0	0	0
327080	Cemetery Capacity - Cefn Golau Tredegar	327,000	2,954	324,046	2,954	0	2,954	0
327081	Cemetery Capacity - Dukestown Tredegar	218,834	1,500	217,334	1,500	0	1,500	0
327082	Cemetery Capacity - Brynmawr	133,334	1,500	131,834	1,500	0	1,500	0
327083	Cemetery Capacity - Brynithel Abertillr	96,334	3,250	93,084	3,250	0	3,250	0
327090	Fly Tipping CCTV	961	0	961	0	0	0	0
327110	Allotment Support Grant	30,698	25,576	5,122	2,314	23,262	25,576	0
	Environmental Services	3,678,746	338,848	3,339,898	258,520	80,328	338,848	0
Housing Environmental Health								
328221	Remediation of Contaminated Land/Dereli	102,564	0	102,564	0	0	0	0

Page 75

Capital Programme - 2022/23 Funding Estimates
Capital Report 2022/23

Management Reports

Reporting Year: and Period: 2023/9

Capital Programme Funding Estimates

<i>Code</i>	<i>Scheme</i>	<i>Total Funding</i>	<i>In Year Budget</i>	<i>Future Funding</i>	<i>Expenditure to: December 2022</i>	<i>Remaining in Year Budget</i>	<i>Forecast Expenditure</i>	<i>Forecast Variance (Adv)/Fav</i>
350510	Improvement grants - new scheme	608,254	432,554	175,700	432,554	0	432,554	0
350550	Support for Independent Living	159,283	139,186	20,097	68,261	70,925	139,186	0
350560	Empty Property Grants	158,930	73,552	85,378	73,552	0	73,552	0
350570	167 Lewis Street	0	0	0	900	(900)	0	0
	Housing Environmental Health	1,029,031	645,292	383,739	575,267	70,025	645,292	0
	Environment Portfolio	4,707,777	984,140	3,723,637	833,787	150,353	984,140	0

Capital Programme - 2022/23 Funding Estimates
Capital Report 2022/23

Management Reports

Reporting Year: and Period: 2023/9

Capital Programme Funding Estimates

Code	Scheme	Total Funding	In Year Budget	Future Funding	Expenditure to: December 2022	Remaining in Year Budget	Forecast Expenditure	Forecast Variance (Adv)/Fav
Infrastructure Portfolio								
Engineering Services								
328149	SRIC - Tredegar Footway Improvements	25,000	25,000	0	25,000	0	25,000	0
328280	Coal Tip Safety	200,700	200,700	0	1,341	199,359	200,700	0
328315	Local Transport Fund - Project Retention	16,020	0	16,020	0	0	0	0
328318	Active Travel Fund	783,487	783,362	125	125,740	657,622	783,362	0
328323	Resilient Roads Fund	79,001	79,001	0	74,671	4,330	79,001	0
328340	LTF Metro Plus	1,956,837	1,956,837	0	104,456	1,852,381	1,956,837	0
328344	LTF Bus Stop Infrastructure	387,813	387,813	0	144,931	0	144,931	242,882
328346	Bus Infrastructure Fund	100,000	100,000	0	8,364	91,636	100,000	0
328360	Rail Infrastructure Programme	66,293,022	36,000,000	30,293,022	16,406,163	19,593,837	36,000,000	0
328370	20mph Core Allocation	230,054	230,054	0	0	230,054	230,054	0
Engineering Services		70,071,934	39,762,767	30,309,167	16,890,666	22,629,219	39,519,885	242,882
Highways Network Management								
328063	Bridge Strengthening Works	1,857	0	1,857	0	0	0	0
328270	Highways Improvement Works	165,918	165,918	0	43,264	122,654	165,918	0
328334	LGBI - Trinant Hall	11,402	2,667	8,735	2,667	0	2,667	0
328404	Flood Damage - Emergency Repairs	828	0	828	0	0	0	0
328405	Aberbeeg Road Repairs	100,035	0	100,035	0	0	0	0
328406	Small Scale Works Grant	167,558	167,558	0	0	167,558	167,558	0
Highways Network Management		447,598	336,143	111,455	45,931	290,212	336,143	0

Page 77

Capital Programme - 2022/23 Funding Estimates
Capital Report 2022/23

Management Reports		Capital Programme Funding Estimates						
<i>Reporting Year: and Period: 2023/9</i>								

<i>Code</i>	<i>Scheme</i>	<i>Total Funding</i>	<i>In Year Budget</i>	<i>Future Funding</i>	<i>Expenditure to: December 2022</i>	<i>Remaining in Year Budget</i>	<i>Forecast Expenditure</i>	<i>Forecast Variance (Adv)/Fav</i>
	Infrastructure Portfolio	70,519,532	40,098,910	30,420,622	16,936,597	22,919,431	39,856,028	242,882

Page 78

Capital Programme - 2022/23 Funding Estimates
Capital Report 2022/23

Management Reports

Reporting Year: and Period: 2023/9

Capital Programme Funding Estimates

Code	Scheme	Total Funding	In Year Budget	Future Funding	Expenditure to: December 2022	Remaining in Year Budget	Forecast Expenditure	Forecast Variance (Adv)/Fav
All Portfolios								
All Portfolios								
300300	City Deal	3,662,700	0	3,662,700	0	0	0	0
303990	OS Capital Admin/Design & Supervision	524,000	524,000	0	219,000	305,000	524,000	0
321112	Disabled Access - Special Programme	10,728	10,728	0	10,728	0	10,728	0
324672	The Company Shop - Tred	196,964	0	196,964	0	0	0	0
All Portfolios		4,394,392	534,728	3,859,664	229,728	305,000	534,728	0
All Portfolios		4,394,392	534,728	3,859,664	229,728	305,000	534,728	0

Capital Programme - 2022/23 Funding Estimates
Capital Report 2022/23

Management Reports				Capital Programme Funding Estimates				
<i>Reporting Year: and Period: 2023/9</i>								

<i>Code</i>	<i>Scheme</i>	<i>Total Funding</i>	<i>In Year Budget</i>	<i>Future Funding</i>	<i>Expenditure to: December 2022</i>	<i>Remaining in Year Budget</i>	<i>Forecast Expenditure</i>	<i>Forecast Variance (Adv)/Fav</i>
Total Capital Funding		138,730,126	71,983,016	66,747,110	25,490,893	46,323,690	71,814,582	168,434

End of Report

Page 80

Information on Capital Funding Changes 2022/23
New Approvals and/or material Funding Changes in Quarter Three

APPENDIX 2

Portfolio	Cost Centre	Scheme	Amount (£)	Funding Body	Type	Additional Information
Corporate Services						
	328090	CCTV Upgrade	105,000	Blaenau Gwent	Capital Programme	RCCO from CCTV Budget
	327103	Civic Centre Decommissioning	-327,000	Blaenau Gwent	Capital Programme	RCCO not required as contract forecast to underspend heavily against original budget
Social Services						
	324771	Childcare Offer - Badminton Scheme	450,000	Welsh Government	Childcare Offer	Transfer of funding between schemes as agreed with Welsh Government due to the Brynmawr project being aborted.
	324772	Childcare Offer - Blaina ICC Scheme	-100,000	Welsh Government	Childcare Offer	
	324773	Childcare Offer - Soffryd Scheme	182,230	Welsh Government	Childcare Offer	
	324775	Childcare Offer - Brynmawr	-532,230	Welsh Government	Childcare Offer	
	324774	Childcare Offer - Small Grants Scheme	280,000	Welsh Government	Childcare Offer	
Economy						
	326183	Regain 2	1,399,759	Welsh Government	Economy, Skills and Natural Resources	Additional WG funding approval
	326184	Brexit Schemes	-142,900	Welsh Government	Brexit Economic Stimulus	Transfer of funds to project
	326227	Innovation for Decarbonisation - WBRID	8,125	Welsh Government	Decarbonisation and Energy	Additional WG funding received
	326252	Constrained Units - Roseheyworth	142,900	Welsh Government	Brexit Economic Stimulus	Transfer of funds to project
Education, Active Living and Learning						
	324138	Education Capital Maintenance	69,912	Welsh Government	Education Capital Maintenance	Virement to individual projects
	324139	Education Capital Maintenance 20/21	-52,826	Welsh Government	Education Capital Maintenance	Virement to individual projects
	324142	Georgetown Windows & Boiler Replacement	-6,206	Welsh Government	Education Capital Maintenance	Transfer of funding between projects
	324152	Brynmawr Canopy	90,000	Welsh Government	Education Capital Maintenance	Allocation of grant from Education Maintenance Fund
	324157	Tredegar Comprehensive Kitchen Electrics	-48,273	Welsh Government	Education Capital Maintenance	Transfer of funding between projects
	324167	Soffryd Boiler	50,000	Welsh Government	Education Capital Maintenance	Transfer of funding between projects
	324168	St Marys Boiler	-50,000	Welsh Government	Education Capital Maintenance	Transfer of funding between projects
	324170	Deighton Fire Alarm	-11,453	Welsh Government	Education Capital Maintenance	Transfer of funding between projects
	324186	Roseheyworth Primary - Reboiling	50,000	Welsh Government	Education Capital Maintenance	Allocation of funds from community focused schools to individual project
	324201	Class Size - Willowtown	69,557	Welsh Government	Education Capital Maintenance	Transfer of funding between projects
	324206	Georgetown S106	-69,557	Welsh Government	Education Capital Maintenance	Transfer of funding between projects
	324250	Electrical Upgrade - Blaen y Cwm	5,113	Welsh Government	Universal Free School Meals	Transfer to individual projects within the UFSM scheme
	324252	Electrical Upgrade - Glanhwy	19,638	Welsh Government	Universal Free School Meals	Transfer to individual projects within the UFSM scheme
	324253	Universal Free School Meals Equipment	-386,545	Welsh Government	Universal Free School Meals	Transfer to individual projects within the UFSM scheme
	324255	Electrical Kitchen Upgrade-Brynmawr RC Primary	124,379	Welsh Government	Universal Free School Meals	Transfer to individual projects within the UFSM scheme
	324256	Electrical Kitchen Upgrade-Ystruth Primary	74,472	Welsh Government	Universal Free School Meals	Transfer to individual projects within the UFSM scheme
	324257	Electrical Kitchen Upgrade-Roseheyworth Campus	15,000	Welsh Government	Universal Free School Meals	Transfer to individual projects within the UFSM scheme
	324258	Electrical Kitchen Upgrade-Willowtown Primary	15,000	Welsh Government	Universal Free School Meals	Transfer to individual projects within the UFSM scheme
	324259	Electrical Kitchen Upgrade-St Illtydds Primary	15,000	Welsh Government	Universal Free School Meals	Transfer to individual projects within the UFSM scheme
	324261	Electrical Kitchen Upgrade-Tillery Street Campus	15,000	Welsh Government	Universal Free School Meals	Transfer to individual projects within the UFSM scheme
	324264	Electrical Kitchen Upgrade-Ysgol Bro Helyg	15,000	Welsh Government	Universal Free School Meals	Transfer to individual projects within the UFSM scheme
	324266	Electrical Kitchen Upgrade-Deighton Primary	77,581	Welsh Government	Universal Free School Meals	Transfer to individual projects within the UFSM scheme
	324267	Electrical Kitchen Upgrade-All saints RC primary	15,000	Welsh Government	Universal Free School Meals	Transfer to individual projects within the UFSM scheme
	324268	Electrical Kitchen Upgrade-Rhosyfedwen Primary	15,000	Welsh Government	Universal Free School Meals	Transfer to individual projects within the UFSM scheme
	324530	ALN	-48,457	Welsh Government	ALN	Transfer to individual projects within the ALN scheme
	324534	ALN - Penycwm	26,353	Welsh Government	ALN	Transfer to individual projects within the ALN scheme
	324535	ALN - River Centre	22,104	Welsh Government	ALN	Transfer to individual projects within the ALN scheme
	324752	Band B - Secondary Remodelling Brynmawr	-23,314	Welsh Government	Sustainable Communities for Learning	Transfer to individual projects within the Band B scheme
	324756	Band B - Rhosyfedwen	23,314	Welsh Government	Sustainable Communities for Learning	Transfer to individual projects within the Band B scheme
Environment						

327080	Cemetery Capacity - Cefn Golau Tredegar	-200,028	Blaenau Gwent	Capital Programme	Funding duplicated in 20/21. Already included in slippage so should not have been included in USB
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Infrastructure

328340	LTF Metro Plus	1,184,500	Welsh Government	Local Transport Fund	New WG Approval
328406	Small Scale Works Grant	167,558	Welsh Government	Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management Grants,	New WG Approval

It should noted that the funding changes detailed above will not balance to total funding changes between Q2 to Q3

Agenda Item 8

Cabinet and Council only

Date signed off by the Monitoring Officer: 12.04.23

Date signed off by the Section 151 Officer:

Committee: **Cabinet**

Date of meeting: **19th April 2023**

Report Subject: **Business Rates Relief – Retail, Leisure and Hospitality Rates Relief – 2023/24**

Portfolio Holder: **Cllr S Thomas, Leader & Cabinet Member Corporate & 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)
31/03/23	06.04.23	12.04.23				19.04.23		

1. Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 The purpose of the report is for the Cabinet to consider and adopt, on behalf of the Council, the Retail, Leisure and Hospitality Rates Relief – 2023/24 scheme (RLHRR), as a section 47 discretionary rate relief for 2023/24.

2. Scope and Background

- 2.1 In recent years, the Welsh Government have provided grant funding to Local Authorities in order for them to consider delivering the Retail Leisure and Hospitality Rate Relief schemes for certain businesses within their area.
- 2.2 Blaenau Gwent Council adopted these discretionary schemes.
- 2.3 To assist businesses in the sectors that were most affected by the COVID pandemic and now the cost of living crisis, the Minister for Finance and Local Government announced the Welsh Government would extend grant funding to provide the RLHRR scheme for 2023/24.
- 2.4 The Minister also announced that the 2023-24 scheme would be more generous than the 2022/23 scheme and afford qualifying ratepayers 75% relief against their rate liability (compared to 50% previously).
- 2.5 Therefore, retail, leisure and hospitality ratepayers in Wales can receive 75% non-domestic rates relief for the duration of 2023-24. Like the scheme announced by the UK Government, the Welsh Government's Retail, Leisure and Hospitality Rates Relief scheme will be capped at £110,000 per business across Wales.
- 2.6 The full criteria and guidance for the operation and delivery of the scheme can be accessed by the link detailed in section 8 of this report.

2.7 Welsh Government have confirmed the provisional funding allocation for Blaenau Gwent for 2023/24, is £1.8M to allow delivery of the scheme.

2.8 In order that assistance may be given to ratepayers, the Council must resolve to adopt the Welsh Government prescribed scheme as a discretionary rate relief scheme in line with s47 of the Local Government Finance Act 1988.

3. **Options for Recommendation**

3.1 **Option 1**

That Cabinet resolves not to implement the Retail, Leisure and Hospitality Rates Relief – 2023/24 scheme as set out in the guidance in appendix 1.

3.2 **Option 2(preferred option)**

That Cabinet adopts the Retail, Leisure and Hospitality Rates Relief – 2023/24 scheme on behalf of the Council, to supplement the Council's discretionary rate relief scheme.

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

4.1 The adoption of the Retail, Leisure and Hospitality Rates Relief – 2023/24 scheme would support the Council Priority, 'Empowering and supporting communities to be safe, independent and resilient', in offering financial support to businesses in the borough during the cost of living crisis.

5. **Implications Against Each Option**

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

5.1.1 **Option 1**

There will be no financial implications for the Council.

5.1.2 **Option 2**

An initial £1.8M of grant funding will be provided by Welsh Government as a section 31 grant in order for the RLHRR scheme to be delivered.

5.2 ***Risk including Mitigating Actions***

Option 1

5.2.1 Failure to adopt the scheme will result in an inability to award financial assistance under the RLHRR scheme to qualifying local business within Blaenau Gwent.

Option 2

5.2.2 Welsh Government withdraw their provisional funding offer.

5.3 ***Legal***

5.3.1 The Council must resolve to adopt a discretionary relief scheme in accordance with s47 of the Local Government Finance Act 1988.

5.4 **Human Resources**

5.4.1 The administration of the scheme will be absorbed and delivered within existing staff resources.

6. **Supporting Evidence**

6.1 **Performance Information and Data**

6.1.1 For 2022/23, 145 businesses have currently benefited from the 2022/23 RLHRR scheme totalling circa £530,000.

6.2 **Expected outcome for the public**

6.2.1 Adoption of the relief scheme will reduce financial burdens on qualifying businesses and aid their economic recovery from the pandemic and provide support during 2023/24 for Cost of Living pressures.

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

6.3.1 Details of the scheme will be published on the Authority's website and via the appropriate social media channels.

6.3.2 Due to the £110,000 relief cap and declarations required in respect of the Subsidy Control Act 2022, businesses will need to complete an online registration in order to be considered for relief.

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

6.4.1 The availability of the Retail, Leisure and Hospitality Rates Relief scheme is dependent on Welsh Government decision to offer such a scheme in future years.

6.5 **Preventative focus**

6.5.1 Not applicable to this report

6.6 **Collaboration / partnership working**

6.6.1 Each individual local authority in Wales must adopt this scheme in order to consider application from businesses. Applications will then be assessed and awarded by the Revenues section.

6.7 **Integration (across service areas)**

6.7.1 Not applicable to this report

6.8 **Decarbonisation and Reducing Carbon Emissions**

6.8.1 Not applicable to this report

6.9 ***Integrated Impact Assessment***

- 6.9.1 In adopting the RLHRR scheme 2023/24, the Council will be able to assist all qualifying businesses within Blaenau Gwent that apply for RLHRR in 2023/24 and aid the businesses sustainability.
- 6.9.2 If the scheme is not adopted, qualifying businesses within Blaenau Gwent will not be able to receive the rate relief in 2023/24 which may have a detrimental effect on the Socio-Economic status of Blaenau Gwent.

7. **Monitoring Arrangements**

- 7.1 The Revenue section will monitor the potential for qualification for the Retail, Leisure and Hospitality Rates Relief scheme during the financial year, and will notify and consider applications from ratepayers where appropriate.

Background Documents / Electronic Links

[Non-Domestic Rates – Retail, Leisure and Hospitality Rates Relief in Wales – 2023-24 | Business Wales \(gov.wales\)](#)

Agenda Item 9

Cabinet and Council only

Date signed off by the Monitoring Officer: 30.03.23

Date signed off by the Section 151 Officer: 31.03.23

Committee: **Cabinet**
Date of meeting: **19th April 2023**
Report Subject: **Progress Report Contracts over £500k**
Portfolio Holder: **Cllr Helen Cunningham, Deputy Leader / Cabinet Member Place and Environment**
Report Submitted by: **Clive Rogers, Head of 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)
22/02/2023	23/02/2023	30.03.23			16/03/2023	19.04.23		

1. Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 The purpose of the report is to provide Members with updated information on the progress of capital projects over £500,000 in cost, undertaken within the Authority and, where appropriate, seek the necessary approval required under the Contract Procedural Rules to additional expenditure incurred on a particular project.

2. Scope and Background

- 2.1 The report is required to inform Members of the progress with these capital works projects, and also to satisfy the reporting requirements of Contract Procedural Rules. Appendix 1 includes each major contract with financial details and commentary update. The report is presented to Members on a six monthly basis, informing them of progress on delivering key projects.
- 2.2 Members of the Corporate Overview and Performance Scrutiny Committee have requested that they be kept informed of the progress of projects being undertaken within the Authority, particularly where contracts have been affected by additional costs or time overruns.
- 2.3 Contract Procedural Rules also require reports to be presented to Cabinet seeking approval for additional expenditure if the funding budget is not available and/or excessive time period over-runs have been experienced.

3. Options for Recommendation

- 3.1 The report has been presented to RCSLT and CLT.
- 3.2 The Corporate Overview Scrutiny Committee considered the report on 16th March 2023 and recommended Option 1 to Cabinet.

3.3 **Option 1**

Members to accept the information included within the report.

Option 2

Members to not accept the report.

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

The report has been developed to satisfy the requirements of the Contract Procedural Rules, and supports the key priorities identified in the Corporate Plan.

5. **Implications Against Each Option**

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

The financial positions of individual contracts are shown in the attached schedule Appendix 1.

5.2 ***Risk including Mitigating Actions***

The risks associated with not completing a contract within budget or time scale could have a financial and negative reputational impact on the Council.

Where the financial risks associated with these projects have impacted on the capital programme allocations they would have previously been subject to review and approval by CLT and Council.

5.3 ***Legal***

There are no legal implications associated with this report.

5.4 ***Human Resources***

There are no staffing implications associated with this report.

6. **Supporting Evidence**

6.1 ***Performance Information and Data***

There are four current contracts valued over £500,000 and of these the risk assessed performance shows:-

- Blue – one contract
- Green – two contracts
- Amber – one contract

In respect of the one contract risk assessed blue, the project has been completed on site. Delays and additional costs were incurred on the project due to meeting the Cadw specification requirements for a Grade 2 listed structure.

Regarding the two contracts risk assessed as green. The two projects are currently on site and progressing to programme. Both contracts are within their funding budget allocations.

Regarding the one contract risk assessed amber. The project was constructed during the Covid19 pandemic which has impacted significantly on the contract progress and the contractor's performance on site. The contractor is currently on site attending to the defective work.

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

The Contracts Over £500k support the development and/or redevelopment of buildings and infrastructure across the Blaenau Gwent authority, thus providing better facilities and highways for use by the community and members of the public.

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

Where relevant, consultation, engagement and involvement with the public and other interested parties have been carried out as part of delivery requirements of the capital projects.

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

The investment in property and infrastructure across Blaenau Gwent is identified to ensure sustainability for the future, removing redundant and substandard facilities, improving highway infrastructure, and providing new modern facilities to meet the service requirements and wellbeing of future generations.

6.5 ***Preventative focus***

Investing in capital projects will prevent problems exacerbating with our property and infrastructure, by making prudent decisions to invest now rather than in the future when the costs are likely to be higher through further deterioration and inflation.

6.6 ***Collaboration / partnership working***

The works undertaken are in collaboration with a number of partner funding agencies, e.g. WG Sustainable Communities for Learning.

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

The works undertaken impact on a number of service areas across the Council such as education, regeneration, infrastructure and corporate landlord.

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

The projects all have to be designed to meet the current standards and regulations regarding reducing carbon emissions and achieving the zero carbon agenda where possible.

6.9 ***Integrated Impact Assessment (IIA)***

An IIA is not relevant to the content of this progress report, as there are no decisions required, policy reviews or policy implementation.

7. **Monitoring Arrangements**

- 7.1 The Contracts Over £500k are routinely monitored within the service areas and six-monthly reports on progress with contracts will be provided to Corporate Overview and Performance Scrutiny Committee.

Background Documents /Electronic Links

- *Appendix 1 – Contracts Over £500k*

PROGRESS REPORT TO COMMITTEE – CONTRACTS OVER £500,000

Red (R)	There are significant issues with the project in respect of cost time or scope risks and the matter has to be reported to Corporate Management Team and/or Executive Committee for consideration and approval.	R
Amber (A)	There are issues with the project, in respect of cost, time or scope risks, and the matter can be resolved at project officer team level.	A
Green (G)	The project is progressing as planned, to original/revised budget allocation, scope and programme.	G
Blue (B)	The project is complete within approved original/revised budget allocation, scope and contractually agreed timescales.	B

DEFINITIONS

- A** - Name of Project.
- B** - The amount of funding allocated to the project.
- C** - Amount of the contract approved in accordance with the Authority’s Contract Procedure Rules.
- D** - The estimated final cost of the project.
- E** - Estimated underspend/overspend of contract comparing the Funding Budget (B) and Anticipated Final Cost (D)
- F** - The date at which the contractor takes possession of the site.
- G** - The date included within the contract for completion of the project.
- H** - The date at which the project is actually completed for use by the Authority.
- I** - The number of weeks the project has been delayed after the contract complete date.

PROGRESS REPORT TO COMMITTEE – CONTRACTS OVER £500,000

Project Title (A)	Funding Budget (B)	Contract Cost (C)	Anticipated Final Cost (D)	Underspend/ (Overspend) (E)	Contract Start Date (F)	Contract Complete Date (G)	Anticipated Complete Date (H)	Contract Delay (I)	Comments	RAGB Rating
New Glyncod Primary School and Childcare Facility	£13,052,468.11	£13,052,468.11	£13,052,468.11	£Nil	31/10/2022	12/01/2024	12/01/2024	Nil	The site set up has been established, ecology mitigation works and drainage diversion works to the Indoor Bowls Centre have been completed, groundworks and the works to the new entrance road are progressing. A delay with approvals for the Welsh Water main sewer diversion works may affect the works programme. The implications are currently being reviewed with the contractor.	G
New speculative offices, 'Regain 2', Mill Lane, The Works, Ebbw Vale	£5,645,042.90	£5,645,042.90	£5,645,042.90	£Nil	03/10/2022	01/08/2023	01/08/2023	Nil	The contract is progressing well and is on programme with the foundations, structural steel frame, floors, roof and drainage all installed to date. The original ex-Thales (NDEC) design is changed to a speculative 2 office configuration and the contractor's quotation for that change is awaited – due mid-March. Current advice from the contractor indicated no increase to the overall cost of the project and still contained within the budget approved by WG.	G

PROGRESS REPORT TO COMMITTEE – CONTRACTS OVER £500,000

Project Title	Funding Budget	Contract Cost	Anticipated Final Cost	Underspend/ (Overspend)	Contract Start Date	Contract Complete Date	Anticipated Complete Date	Contract Delay	Comments	RAGB Rating
Lime Avenue – Business & Box units	£7,440,000.00	£6,508,033.00	£7,440,000.00	£Nil	02/03/2020	16/11/2020	Business Units Completion 16/07/2021 (Actual) Box Units Anticipated Completion 12/05/2023	Business Units – 35 weeks Box -130 weeks	<p>Business Units were handed over on 16/07/21. Progress on this project was significantly affected during the Covid19 Pandemic. The contractor is currently attending to roof defects on the units.</p> <p>Progress on the project was significantly affected by the Covid19 Pandemic. Latest contractor's programme advises completion of the Box units by mid-May 2023. The contractor is currently attending to defects on the units.</p> <p>The contractor has committed to rectifying all defective work at their cost.</p> <p>The additional cost incurred above the original contract cost was as a direct result of the design development of the Box Units to meet the client's requirement after the first stage contract award. The second stage part of the contract involved detail design of the Box Units phase to meet the client's requirements, which resulted in an increase in the overall project costs. The increase in costs were reported to and approved by the SPB in accordance with the authority's procurement rules.</p>	A

Page 93

PROGRESS REPORT TO COMMITTEE – CONTRACTS OVER £500,000

Project Title	Funding Budget	Contract Cost	Anticipated Final Cost	Underspend/ (Overspend)	Contract Start Date	Contract Complete Date	Anticipated Complete Date	Contract Delay	Comments	RAGB Rating
									The additional funding required for the project has been agreed with WG.	
Remedial works at Newtown Bridge Ebbw Vale	£1,202,825.55	£1,016,174.61	£1,202,825.55	£Nil	04/01/2022	01/07/22	02/09/2022	9 weeks	<p>Contract complete on site.</p> <p>Newtown Bridge is Grade II listing. A contract was to undertaken for strengthening work to the arch in the form of steel reinforcement and also the installation of interstitial grouting to the arch ring to provide a water-controlled barrier. Both repair methods were initially approved and accepted by Cadw and Listed Building Approval granted.</p> <p>However, on commence of onsite trials of the repair method Cadw were not satisfied with the aesthetic appearance of the repairs and would not accept them as they believe they are not within keeping of the original fabric of the arch. Cadw subsequently specified additional requirements be made to the repair method to improve the overall aesthetics of the repair. This resulted in the additional time and costs to the project</p>	B

PROGRESS REPORT TO COMMITTEE – CONTRACTS OVER £500,000

Project Title	Funding Budget	Contract Cost	Anticipated Final Cost	Underspend/ (Overspend)	Contract Start Date	Contract Complete Date	Anticipated Complete Date	Contract Delay	Comments	RAGB Rating
									The additional funding required for the project was met from the Highways Capital Improvements Programme in respect of the Big Arch project	

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Agenda Item 10

Cabinet and Council only

Date signed off by the Monitoring Officer: 31.03.23

Date signed off by the Section 151 Officer: 31.03.23

Committee: **Cabinet**

Date of meeting: **19th April 2023**

Report Subject: **Local Air Quality Progress Report – 2022 (For 2021)**

Portfolio Holder: **Cllr Helen Cunningham – Deputy Leader/ Cabinet Member - Place & Environment**

Report Submitted by: **David Thompson – Service Manager, Public Protection**

Reporting Pathway								
Directorate Management Team	Corporate Leadership Team	Portfolio Holder / Chair	Governance Audit Committee	Democratic Services Committee	Scrutiny Committee	Cabinet	Council	Other (please state)
28.2.23	02.03.23	30.03.23			March 2023	19.04.23		

1. Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 To inform members of the findings of the Local Air Quality Progress Report produced in fulfilment of the statutory requirements of Part IV of the Environment Act 1995 for the calendar year of 2021.

2. Scope and Background

- 2.1 The 2022 Air Quality Progress Report for Blaenau Gwent CBC was submitted to Welsh Government in September 2022, in accordance with their required timetable. The report contains the latest air quality data for the calendar year of 2021 applicable to the County Borough and provides current information relating to any new local developments or issues that may have an impact on air quality.
- 2.2 The report was accepted by Welsh Government in December 2022. WG fed back that the report is well structured, detailed and provides the information specified in the guidance.
- 2.3 The Environmental Health Section carries out air quality monitoring at 27 locations within the borough for Nitrogen Dioxide. The results indicated that the Nitrogen Dioxide levels at each of the monitoring locations were considerably below the national air quality objective for Nitrogen Dioxide in 2021.
- 2.4 Air Quality in Blaenau Gwent continues to be generally good. As in previous years, the report concludes that it is unlikely that any of the air quality objectives that the Council are required to have regard to, are being exceeded or will be exceeded within the Borough and therefore there is no need for any further Detailed Assessment for any pollutant nor a need to declare an Air Quality Management Area (AQMA).

3. Options for Recommendation

3.1 That Members note the content of the 2022 Air Quality Progress Report for Blaenau Gwent CBC in relation to the continued monitoring and ongoing review of air quality within Blaenau Gwent by the Environmental Health Section in fulfilment of the Authority's statutory duties in compliance with Part IV of the Environment Act 1995.

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

4.1 This is a statutory duty in accordance with Part IV of the Environment Act 1995.

4.2 This work supports the achievement of the Blaenau Gwent Corporate Plan 2022-27, the Well-being objectives and plan, Decarbonisation Plan, Green Infrastructure and Active Travel Plans & Strategies.

5. **Implications Against Each Option**

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

All costs relating to undertaking this work and producing the report are met from existing Environmental Health budgets.

5.2 ***Risk including Mitigating Actions***

This is a statutory duty in accordance with Part IV of the Environment Act 1995. Local authorities are required to review and assess air quality within their areas. Failure to do so will result in both significant legal and reputational risks.

5.3 ***Legal***

This air quality work is carried out to ensure the Authority complies with its statutory duties.

5.4 ***Human Resources***

All work relating to the fulfilment of the Authority's statutory obligations with regards to Part IV of the Environment Act 1995 will continue to be undertaken by existing Officers within the Environmental Health Section.

6. **Supporting Evidence**

6.1 ***Performance Information and Data***

6.1.1 The 2022 Air Quality Progress Report is the latest in the series of reports produced in fulfilment of the Authority's statutory duty with respects to Local Air Quality Management. The full report is available on the Authority's website and the pdf document at the end of this report.

6.1.2 The current National Air Quality Standards to which the Authority must have regard to relate to the following pollutants: Benzene, 1,3 Butadiene, Carbon

Monoxide, Particulate Matter (PM₁₀) & (PM 2.5), Lead, Sulphur Dioxide and Nitrogen Dioxide. Each pollutant has an evidenced adverse health impact above certain levels, the standards reflect levels at which the risk of such adverse health impacts are minimised.

6.1.3 The current 2022 report contains the latest air quality monitoring data for the calendar year of 2021 applicable to the County Borough and provides current information relating to any new local developments or issues that may have an impact upon air quality. Officers have concluded that it is unlikely that the impact of these will result in a potential exceedance of any of the UK National Air Quality Objectives within the Borough.

6.1.6 In 2022, consideration has been given to the impact of the proposed Ciner glass manufacturing facility on the Rassau Industrial Estate, Ebbw Vale will have on air quality. (This facility will require a Part A2 environmental permit from Blaenau Gwent CBC to operate in compliance with emission limits.)

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

This report will reassure the public that the air quality within our borough is of a good standard.

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

Air quality monitoring is carried out at a variety of locations including domestic properties, schools and community buildings and all of the monitoring results and air quality reports are available on the council's website.

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

By ensuring we maintain good air quality within the borough we are protecting the public health of future generations.

6.5 ***Preventative focus***

The Environmental Health Section take proactive steps to prevent the deterioration of our air quality by working closely with the Authority's planning section to identify developments and industrial processes prior to their introduction.

6.6 ***Collaboration / partnership working***

Planning & Environmental Health section work closely together to monitor developments in the area that may have an impact on air quality.

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

This report does not impact on other service areas.

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

This work compliments the above agendas. No adverse impacts

6.9 ***Integrated Impact Assessment***

No adverse impacts

7. **Monitoring Arrangements**

7.1 This work will continue to be monitored by the environmental health section and routinely reported annually.

Background Documents /Electronic Links

- *Appendix 1 - BGCBC 2022 Air Quality Progress report (pdf embedded below)*



BG.ENVH.AQR.PR.202
2.pdf



Blaenau Gwent CBC 2022 Air Quality Progress Report

In fulfilment of Part IV of the Environment Act 1995
Local Air Quality Management

Date: September 2022

Information	Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council
Local Authority Officer	Tim Griffin
Department	Environmental Health Section- Environmental Protection Team
Address	Anvil Court, Church Street, Abertillery, NP13 1DB.
Telephone	01495 357813
E-mail	Tim.Griffin@blaenau-gwent.gov.uk
Report Reference Number	BG/ENVH/AQR/PR/2022
Date	September 2022

Executive Summary: Air Quality in Our Area

Air Quality in Blaenau Gwent

This progress report is the latest in a series of reports relating to air quality and has been compiled and published by Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council. The report contains the latest air quality data for the calendar year of 2021 applicable to the County Borough, and provides current information relating to any new local developments or issues that may have an impact on air quality.

The UK's National Air Quality Strategy sets air quality objectives for seven key pollutants which Local Authorities are legally required to have regard to. These include Benzene, 1,3 Butadiene, Carbon Monoxide, Lead, Nitrogen Dioxide, Particulate Matter (PM₁₀) & (PM 2.5) and Sulphur Dioxide. The sources of these pollutants vary but include emissions to atmosphere from a variety of industrial processes, energy generation, domestic and industrial combustion and road traffic.

Local authorities are obliged to periodically review the air quality within their area to determine the risk of the air quality objectives set out in the national strategy being exceeded. If a Local Authority identifies a risk of any of the objectives being exceeded within its area, then they must proceed to a Detailed Assessment for that pollutant and declare an air quality management area (AQMA).

Much of the traditional coal and steel industry that historically populated the Borough has been replaced by a diverse industrial base comprising of businesses such as pharmaceuticals, battery and computer systems, electronic and high tech engineering companies. The closure of much of the heavy industry in the area has had an adverse impact on the local economy but conversely it has meant the removal of significant sources of air pollution.

The previous reports produced by Blaenau Gwent CBC have concluded that it is unlikely that any of the air quality objectives that the Council are required to have

LAQM Annual Progress Report 2022

regard to, are being exceeded or will be exceeded within the Borough and therefore no Detailed Assessment for any pollutant has been carried out to-date. Blaenau Gwent CBC has not declared any AQMA's.

This 2022 air quality progress report **does not** identify the need for Blaenau Gwent CBC to proceed to a Detailed Assessment for any of the seven pollutants identified in the UK's National Air Quality Strategy.

The next Air Quality Progress Report for the County Borough of Blaenau Gwent is scheduled to be published in September 2023.

Actions to Improve Air Quality

Blaenau Gwent CBC has not declared any air quality management areas (AQMA) within our borough and so as a result has not had to produce an air quality action plan.

The environmental health section continues to work closely with other internal council departments, such as planning control, to monitor and review developments that may impact on local air quality. We also continue to regulate a variety of industrial processes that hold environmental permits. We also respond and deal with air quality pollution incidents and smoke nuisance complaints.

Local Priorities and Challenges

Blaenau Gwent CBC aims to continue to protect the public health of people living in Blaenau Gwent by maintaining good levels of air quality within our area. This is being done by carrying out additional air quality monitoring at a number of sensitive locations including schools within our borough. The results from these new monitoring locations are reported in this air quality progress report.

How to Get Involved

Further information on air quality within the Blaenau Gwent area can be found by visiting the air quality section of the council's website:

<http://www.blaenau-gwent.gov.uk/en/resident/environmental-health/pollution/air-quality/>

Or by contacting us directly at:

Environmental Health Section, Environmental Protection Team, Blaenau Gwent CBC,
Anvil Court, Church Street, Abertillery, NP13 1DB.

Telephone: 01495 3557813 Email: environmental.health@blaenau-gwent.gov.uk

Table of Contents

Executive Summary: Air Quality in Our Area	i
Air Quality in Blaenau Gwent.....	i
Actions to Improve Air Quality	ii
Local Priorities and Challenges	ii
How to Get Involved	iii
1 Actions to Improve Air Quality.....	1
Previous Work in Relation to Air Quality	1
Air Quality Management Areas.....	4
Implementation of Action Plans	1
2 Air Quality Monitoring Data and Comparison with Air Quality Objectives	2
Summary of Monitoring Undertaken in 2021.....	2
2.1.1 Automatic Monitoring Sites	2
2.1.2 Non-Automating Monitoring Sites	2
2021 Air Quality Monitoring Results.....	10
Comparison of 2021 Monitoring Results with Previous Years and the Air Quality Objectives	15
2.1.3 Nitrogen Dioxide (NO ₂)	15
2.1.4 Particulate Matter (PM ₁₀)	18
2.1.5 Particulate Matter (PM _{2.5}).....	18
2.1.6 Other Pollutants Monitored	18
Summary of Compliance with AQS Objectives as of 2021.....	18
3 New Local Developments	19
Road Traffic Sources (and Other Transport).....	19
Industrial / Fugitive or Uncontrolled Sources / Commercial Sources.....	19
Other Sources	20
Planning Applications	20
4 Policies and Strategies Affecting Airborne Pollution	23
Local / Regional Air Quality Strategy	23
Air Quality Planning Policies.....	23
Local Transport Plans and Strategies.....	23
Active Travel Plans and Strategies	24
Local Authorities Well-being Objectives.....	27
Green Infrastructure Plans and Strategies.....	27
Climate Change Strategies.....	28
5 Conclusion and Proposed Actions.....	29

Conclusions from New Monitoring Data.....	29
Conclusions relating to New Local Developments	29
Other Conclusions.....	29
Proposed Actions	29
References	30
Appendices	31
Appendix A: Monthly Diffusion Tube Monitoring Results.....	32
Appendix B: A Summary of Local Air Quality Management	35
Purpose of an Annual Progress Report	35
Air Quality Objectives	35
Appendix C: Air Quality Monitoring Data QA/QC.....	37
QA/QC of Diffusion Tube Monitoring	37
Diffusion Tube Bias Adjustment Factors	37
NO ₂ Fall-off with Distance from the Road.....	38
QA/QC of Automatic Monitoring	38
Appendix D: Blaenau Gwent boundary area and diffusion tube location plan	40
Appendix E: Individual location plans for all diffusion tubes within Blaenau Gwent 2021	41
Glossary of Terms	69

Tables

Table 1.2- Reports produced by Blaenau Gwent CBC as a result of previous rounds of local air quality review and assessment.

Table 2.1- Details of non-automatic monitoring sites for 2021.

Table 2.2- Results of nitrogen dioxide diffusion tubes for 2021

Table 2.3- Results of nitrogen dioxide diffusion tubes for 2013 through to and including 2021.

Table 3.1- Applications for Major Developments Received and Approved During 2021

Figures

Figure 1- Measured levels of nitrogen dioxide for 2021 compared with the air quality objective.

Figure 2- Measured levels of nitrogen dioxide for 2014-2021 compared with the air quality objective.

1 Actions to Improve Air Quality

Previous Work in Relation to Air Quality

Table 1.2 provides a comprehensive list of the reports produced by Blaenau Gwent CBC as a result of previous rounds of review and assessment of the air quality within the Borough, and summarises the main findings of each report.

Table 1.2 - Reports Produced by Blaenau Gwent CBC as A Result of Previous Rounds of Local Air Quality Review and Assessment

Report	Review And Assessment Undertaken & Conclusions	Year Published
1999 First Stage Review and Assessment	Initial screening of industrial, transport and other significant sources of air pollution within the Borough. Concluded that it is unlikely that there will be failure to achieve any of the air quality objectives.	1999
2003 Updating and Screening Assessment	In-depth review of any matters which may have changed since the last review and assessment which may lead to a risk of an air quality objective being exceeded. Concluded no significant changes and therefore unlikely that there will be failure to achieve any of the air quality objectives.	2003
2004 Progress Report	Review of any matters which may have changed since the last review and assessment which may lead to a risk of an air quality objective being exceeded. Concluded no significant changes and therefore unlikely that there will be failure to achieve any of the air quality objectives.	2004
2005 Progress Report	Review of any matters which may have changed since the last review and assessment which may lead to a risk of an air quality objective being exceeded. Concluded no significant changes and therefore unlikely that there will be failure to achieve any of the air quality objectives.	2005

2006 Updating and Screening Assessment	In-depth review of any matters which may have changed since the last review and assessment which may lead to a risk of an air quality objective being exceeded. Concluded no significant changes and therefore unlikely that there will be failure to achieve any of the air quality objectives.	2006
2007 Progress Report	Review of any matters which may have changed since the last review and assessment which may lead to a risk of an air quality objective being exceeded. Concluded no significant changes and therefore unlikely that there will be failure to achieve any of the air quality objectives.	2007
2008 Progress Report	Review of any matters which may have changed since the last review and assessment which may lead to a risk of an air quality objective being exceeded. Concluded no significant changes and therefore unlikely that there will be failure to achieve any of the air quality objectives.	2008
2009 Updating and Screening Assessment	In-depth review of any matters which may have changed since the last review and assessment which may lead to a risk of an air quality objective being exceeded. Concluded no significant changes and therefore unlikely that there will be failure to achieve any of the air quality objectives.	2009
2010 Progress Report	Review of any matters which may have changed since the last review and assessment which may lead to a risk of an air quality objective being exceeded. Concluded no significant changes and therefore unlikely that there will be failure to achieve any of the air quality objectives.	2010
2011 Progress Report	Review of any matters which may have changed since the last review and assessment which may lead to a risk of an air quality objective being exceeded. Concluded no significant changes and therefore unlikely that there will be failure to achieve any of the air quality objectives.	2011
2012 Updating and Screening	In-depth review of any matters which may have changed since the last review and assessment which may lead to a risk of an air quality objective being exceeded. Concluded no significant	2012

Assessment Report	changes and therefore unlikely that there will be failure to achieve any of the air quality objectives.	
2013 Progress Report	Review of any matters which may have changed since the last review and assessment which may lead to a risk of an air quality objective being exceeded. Concluded no significant changes and therefore unlikely that there will be failure to achieve any of the air quality objectives.	2013
2014 Progress Report	Review of any matters which may have changed since the last review and assessment which may lead to a risk of an air quality objective being exceeded. Concluded no significant changes and therefore unlikely that there will be failure to achieve any of the air quality objectives.	2014
2015 Updating and Screening Assessment Report	In-depth review of any matters which may have changed since the last review and assessment which may lead to a risk of an air quality objective being exceeded. Concluded no significant changes and therefore unlikely that there will be failure to achieve any of the air quality objectives.	2015
2016 Progress Report	Review of any matters which may have changed since the last review and assessment which may lead to a risk of an air quality objective being exceeded. Concluded no significant changes and therefore unlikely that there will be failure to achieve any of the air quality objectives.	2016
2017 Progress Report	Review of any matters which may have changed since the last review and assessment which may lead to a risk of an air quality objective being exceeded. Concluded no significant changes and therefore unlikely that there will be failure to achieve any of the air quality objectives.	2017
2018 Progress Report	Review of any matters which may have changed since the last review and assessment which may lead to a risk of an air quality objective being exceeded. Concluded no significant changes and therefore unlikely that there will be failure to achieve any of the air quality objectives.	2018

2019 Progress Report	Review of any matters which may have changed since the last review and assessment which may lead to a risk of an air quality objective being exceeded. Concluded no significant changes and therefore unlikely that there will be failure to achieve any of the air quality objectives.	2019
2020 Progress Report	Review of any matters which may have changed since the last review and assessment which may lead to a risk of an air quality objective being exceeded. Concluded no significant changes and therefore unlikely that there will be failure to achieve any of the air quality objectives.	2020
2021 Progress Report	Review of any matters which may have changed since the last review and assessment which may lead to a risk of an air quality objective being exceeded. Concluded no significant changes and therefore unlikely that there will be failure to achieve any of the air quality objectives.	2021

Air Quality Management Areas

Air Quality Management Areas (AQMAs) are declared when air quality is close to or above an acceptable level of pollution (known as the air quality objective (Please see Appendix A)). After declaring an AQMA the authority must prepare an Air Quality Action Plan (AQAP) within 18 months setting out measures it intends to put in place to improve air quality to at least the air quality objectives, if not even better. AQMA(s) are seen by local authorities as the focal points to channel resources into the most pressing areas of pollution as a priority.

Blaenau Gwent CBC currently does not have any AQMAs.

Implementation of Action Plans

Blaenau Gwent CBC has not declared any air quality management areas and as a result has not published an air quality action plan.

2 Air Quality Monitoring Data and Comparison with Air Quality Objectives

Summary of Monitoring Undertaken in 2021

2.1.1 Automatic Monitoring Sites

Blaenau Gwent CBC does not currently undertake any automatic monitoring of any of the pollutants relevant to the UK National Air Quality Objectives.

2.1.2 Non-Automating Monitoring Sites

Blaenau Gwent CBC undertook diffusion tube monitoring at 27 sites throughout the Borough during 2021, the details of which are presented in Table 2.1. A map indicating the approximate location of each current monitoring site within the borough is provided in Appendix D and individual maps for each monitoring location is provided in Appendix E to this report.

The diffusion tubes are exposed for four week periods in accordance with the National NO₂ exposure calendar. Gradko Environmental was used to analyse and provide data from all of the NO₂ diffusion tubes within Blaenau Gwent during 2021.

Gradko Environmental used the 50% TEA in Acetone method to prepare the diffusion tubes for analysis and have indicated that they are following the procedures set out in the Harmonisation Practical Guidance. It has also been confirmed that Gradko Environmental demonstrated satisfactory performance in the Air- PT scheme for the period of 2021.

Blaenau Gwent CBC does not currently undertake a co-location study for its NO₂ diffusion tube monitoring, in previous years the 'National' bias adjustment factor has been used for

the results of the monitoring undertaken during each specific year. The bias adjustment factor for Gradko Environmental for 2021 was 0.82.

A full audit of all monitoring sites used by Blaenau Gwent CBC was undertaken in September 2021. The audit identified that monitoring was no longer required at two of established monitoring locations. These locations were BGBC-07 and BGBC-23 as we established that the measured levels of nitrogen dioxide at both sites were continuously below the air quality objective.

Monitoring at the new locations identified below began in January 2022.

- BGBC-40- 1 Waterloo Terrace, Cwm Ebbw Vale.
- BGBC-41- 8 Briar Close, Rassau, Ebbw Vale.
- BGBG-42- Rhos Y Fedwen Primary School, Honeyfield Road, Rassau, Ebbw Vale.
- BGBC-43- 37 Pen Y Craig, Rassau, Ebbw Vale.

Table 2.1 – Details of Non-Automatic Monitoring Sites

Site Name	LA Reference	Site Type	Location	Easting (X) / Northing (Y)	OS Grid Map Reference	Pollutants Monitored	Within AQMA?	Relevant Exposure? (Y/N with distance (m) to relevant exposure)	Height between 2 to 4 m? (Y/N)	Distance to kerb of nearest road (N/A if not applicable)	Worst-case Location ?	WAQF Start Date
BGBC-01	S1	Near Road	The Darren, Daren-felen Road, Brynmawr	X 319538 Y 211956	SO1911NE	NO ₂	N	Y (on facade)	Y	8m	Y	Jan 1995
BGBC-04	S4	Urban Background	22 Parkhill, Beaufort, Ebbw Vale	X 317298 Y 211287	SO1711SW	NO ₂	N	Y (10m)	Y	N/A	N/A	Jan 1995
BGBC-05	A3	Urban Background	Willow Tree Bungalow, Aberbeeg	X 321139 Y 201114	SO2101SW	NO ₂	N	Y (1m)	Y	10m	N/A	Jan 1995
BGBC-07	A1	Urban Background	Aberbeeg Medical Centre, Aberbeeg	X 320942 Y 202011	SO2002SE	NO ₂	N	Y (18m)	Y	25m	N/A	Nov 1995
BGBC-13	T2	Roadside	3 Kings Arms Cottages, Trefil, Tredegar	X 312012 Y 212782	SO1212NW	NO ₂	N	Y (on facade)	Y	4m	Y	Oct 2000

BGBC-16	A5	Near road	49 Aberbeeg Road, Aberbeeg	X 321430 Y 202672	SO2102NW	NO ₂	N	Y (on façade)	Y	7m	Y	Oct 2005
BGBC-18	BT1	Roadside	Welfare Hall, Beaufort Hill, Ebbw Vale	X 317543 Y 211688	SO1711NE	NO ₂	N	Y (on façade)	Y	5m	Y	Oct 2005
BGBC-19	BT2	Roadside	42 Beaufort Rise, Ebbw Vale	X 316670 Y 211597	SO1611NE	NO ₂	N	Y (on facade)	Y	3m	Y	Oct 2005
BGBC-20	TR1	Roadside	122 Beaufort Road, Tredegar	X 314858 Y 210240	SO1410SE	NO ₂	N	Y (on façade)	Y	5.5m	Y	Oct 2005

BGBC-21	TR2	Other - Nearest residential premises to busy roundabout on Heads of Valley Road (A465)	14 Bryn Rhosyn, Merthyr Road, Tredegar	X 312846 Y 210586	SO1210NE	NO ₂	N	Y (on façade)	Y	35m	Y	Oct 2005
BGBC-22	BR1	Near road	2 King Street, Brynmawr	X 319562 Y 212128	SO1912SE	NO ₂	N	Y (on façade)	Y	6m	Y	Nov 2005
BGBC-23	C4	Near road	Cwm Conservative Club, Mill Terrace, Cwm	X 318453 Y 205308	SO1805SW	NO ₂	N	Y (on façade)	Y	6m	Y	Jan 2010
BGBC-24	T5	Roadside	4 Glen View, Nantybwich, Tredegar	X 313145 Y 210769	SO1310NW	NO ₂	N	Y (on façade)	Y	5m	Y	Jan 2010
BGBC-25	E1	Near road	Red Rose Care Centre, Park Road, Ebbw Vale	X 316996 Y 207898	SO1607NE	NO ₂	N	Y (on façade)	Y	8m	Y	Jan 2010
BGBC-26	E2	Other – near road where this is an increase in traffic expected	2 The Dingle, Ebbw Vale	X 316980 Y 209842	SO1609NE	NO ₂	N	Y (on façade)	Y	10m	Y	Jan 2010

		due to major works nearby										
BGBC-27	G1	Other – near road where an increase in traffic expected due to major works nearby	Tyn y Rhyn, Llangynidr Road, Ebbw Vale	X 316720 Y 212796	SO1612NE	NO ₂	N	Y (on façade)	Y	11m	Y	Jan 2014
BGBC-28	R1	Other – near road where an increase in traffic expected due to major works nearby	1 Coates Row, Rassau, Ebbw Vale	X 314488 Y 211642	SO1411NW	NO ₂	N	Y (on façade)	Y	20m	Y	Jan 2014
BGBC-29	n/a	Other- nearest residential properties to new industrial process.	10 Ivy Close, Rassau, Ebbw Vale.	X 315331 Y 211938	SO1511NW	NO ₂	N	Y (on façade)	Y	N/A	Y	Jan 2018
BGBC-30	n/a	Other- nearest residential properties to new industrial process.	8 Annes Court, Ebbw Vale.	X 316010 Y 210183	SO1610NW	NO ₂	N	Y (on façade)	Y	N/A	Y	Jan 2018
BGBC-31	n/a	Other- nearest residential	18 Maes Morgan, Tredegar.	X 312674 Y 210974	SO121ONE	NO ₂	N	Y (on façade)	Y	N/A	Y	Jan 2018

		properties to new industrial process.										
BGBC-32	n/a	School	Ebbw Fawr Learning Campus, Primary School, Ebbw Vale.	X 317392 Y 208313	SO1708SW	NO ₂	N	Y	Y	15m	Y	Jan 2018
BGBC-34	n/a	School	Georgetown Primary School, Oakfield Road, Tredegar.	X 314838 Y 208257	SO1408SE	NO ₂	N	Y	Y	13m	Y	Jan 2018
BGBC-35	n/a	School	Brynbach Primary School, Merthyr Road, Tredegar.	X 313061 Y 210466	SO1310SW	NO ₂	N	Y	Y	9m	Y	Jan 2018
BGBC-36	n/a	School	St Mary's RC Primary School, Brynmawr.	X 319229 Y 211601	SO1911NW	NO ₂	N	Y	Y	10m	Y	Jan 2018
BGBC-37	n/a	School	Abertillery Learning Campus, Tillery Street, Abertillery.	X 321893 Y 204604	SO2104NE	NO ₂	N	Y	Y	54m	Y	Jan 2018
BGBC-38	n/a	School	Deighton Primary School, Stockton Way, Tredegar.	X 313914 Y 209839	S01309NE	NO ₂	N	Y	Y	10m	Y	Jan 2020

BGBC-39	n/a	School	Six Bells Primary Campus, Abertillery Learning Community, Six Bells Road, Six Bells, Abertillery,	X 322050 Y 202976	SO2202NW	NO ₂	N	Y	Y	21m	Y	Jan 2020
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2021 Air Quality Monitoring Results

Table 2.2 – Annual Mean NO₂ Monitoring Results (µg/m³)

Site Name	Location	Within AQMA?	Monitoring period (months)	Data Capture 2021 %	Annual Mean Concentrations 2021 (µg/m ³) Adjusted for bias (0.82)	Air Quality Objective Annual Mean for Nitrogen Dioxide (µg/m ³)
BGBC-01	The Darren, Daren-felen Road, Brynmawr	N	12	100	12.01	40
BGBC-04	22 Parkhill, Beaufort, Ebbw Vale	N	12	100	5.79	40
BGBC-05	Willow Tree Bungalow, Aberbeeg	N	12	100	9.94	40
BGBC-07	Aberbeeg Medical Centre, Aberbeeg	N	12	100	10.67	40
BGBC-13	3 Kings Arms Cottages, Trefil, Tredegar	N	12	100	3.78	40
BGBC-16	49 Aberbeeg Road, Aberbeeg	N	12	100	14.81	40
BGBC-18	Welfare Hall, Beaufort Hill, Ebbw Vale	N	12	100	12.27	40
BGBC-19	42 Beaufort Rise, Ebbw Vale	N	12	100	16.11	40
BGBC-20	122 Beaufort Road, Tredegar	N	12	100	17.25	40

BGBC-21	14 Bryn Rhosyn, Merthyr Road, Tredegar	N	12	100	9.20	40
BGBC-22	2 King Street, Brynmawr	N	12	100	9.85	40
BGBC-23	Cwm Conservative Club, Mill Terrace, Cwm	N	12	100	9.97	40
BGBC-24	4 Glen View, Nantybwich, Tredegar	N	12	100	10.34	40
BGBC-25	Red Rose Care Centre, Park Road, Ebbw Vale	N	12	92	8.83	40
BGBC-26	2 The Dingle, Ebbw Vale	N	12	100	11.02	40
BGBC-27	Tyn y Rhyn, Llangynidr Road, Ebbw Vale	N	12	100	6.16	40
BGBC-28	1 Coates Row, Rassau, Ebbw Vale	N	12	100	6.60	40
BGBC-29	10 Ivy Close, Rassau, Ebbw Vale.	N	12	100	5.75	40
BGBC-30	8 Annes Court, Ebbw Vale.	N	12	100	6.20	40
BGBC-31	18 Maes Morgan, Tredegar.	N	12	100	4.86	40
BGBC-32	Ebbw Fawr Learning Campus, Primary School, Ebbw Vale.	N	12	92	6.54	40
BGBC-34	Georgetown Primary School, Oakfield Road, Tredegar.	N	12	100	6.54	40

BGBC-35	Brynbach Primary School, Merthyr Road, Tredegar.	N	12	100	8.19	40
BGBC-36	St Mary's RC Primary School, Brynmawr.	N	12	100	8.65	40
BGBC-37	Abertillery Learning Campus, Tillery Street, Abertillery.	N	12	75	5.89	40
BGBC-38	Deighton Primary School, Stockton Way, Tredegar	N	12	100	6.80	40
BGBC-39	Six Bells Primary Campus, Abertillery Learning Community, Six Bells Road, Six Bells, Abertillery,	N	12	92	7.92	40

Notes:

Exceedances of the NO₂ annual mean objective of 40µg/m³ are shown in **bold**.

NO₂ annual means exceeding 60µg/m³, indicating a potential exceedance of the NO₂ 1-hour mean objective are shown in **bold and underlined**.

Figure 1: Measured levels of Nitrogen Dioxide in 2021 compared with AQO

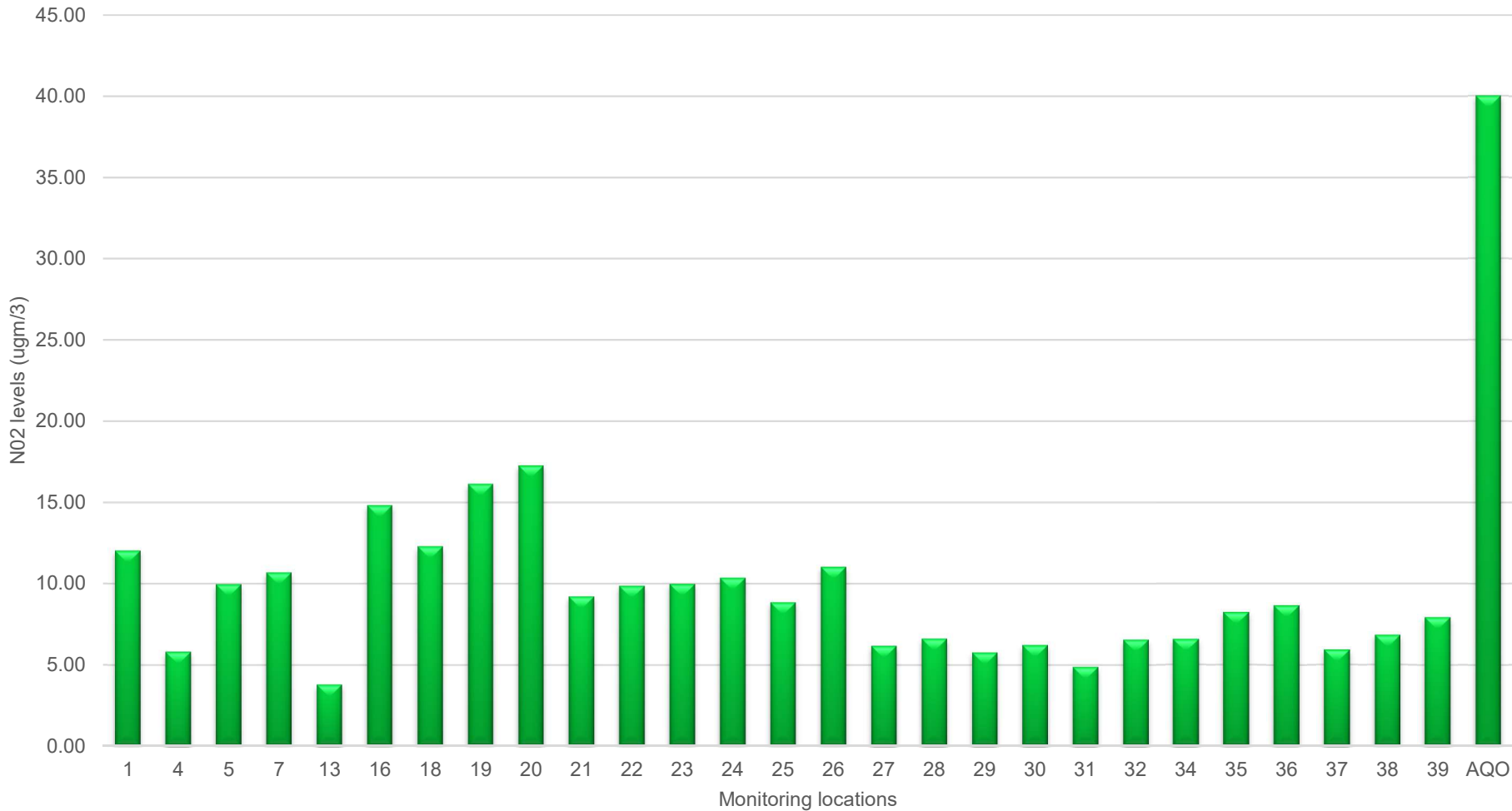
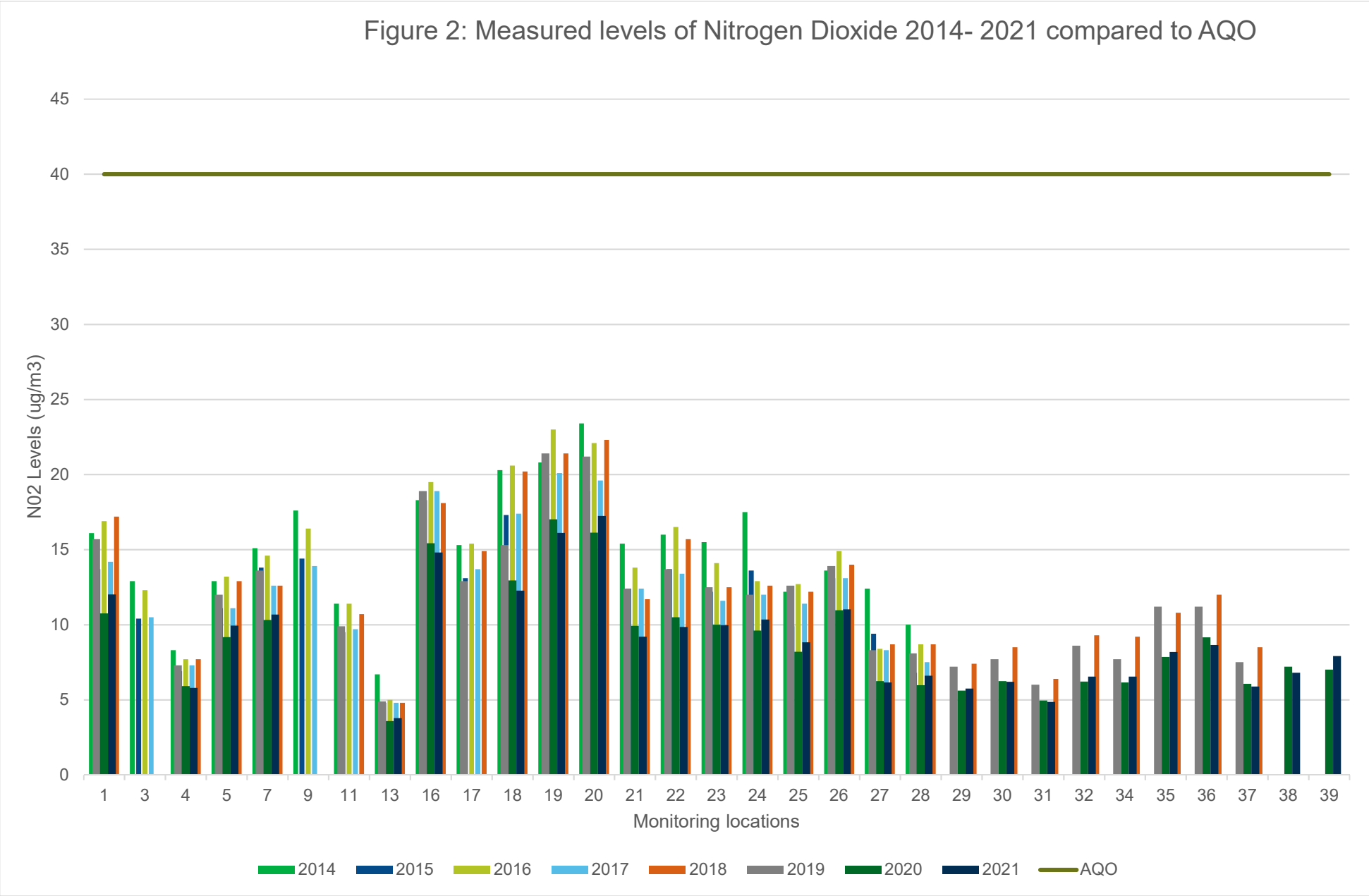


Figure 2: Measured levels of Nitrogen Dioxide 2014- 2021 compared to AQO



Comparison of 2021 Monitoring Results with Previous Years and the Air Quality Objectives

2.1.3 Nitrogen Dioxide (NO₂)

Blaenau Gwent CBC does not currently undertake any automatic monitoring for nitrogen dioxide.

Diffusion Tube Monitoring Data

A summary of the results obtained from the Nitrogen Dioxide diffusion monitoring undertaken at the 27 sites within the Borough for the period of 2021 is presented in Table 2.2. Full details of the monthly mean values for each site are provided in Appendix A to this report.

None of the results from the diffusion tube monitoring are based on triplicate or collocated tubes, the results are based on 12 months' worth of data for the calendar year 2021, none of the data has been annualised.

Table 2.3 provides a comparison of the results for the period of 2021 with the results of previous years monitoring (where available) for the years 2013 - 2021. The 2021 results identify that there has been an increase in the measured levels of nitrogen dioxide at fifteen of the twenty-seven monitoring locations when compared with the 2020 levels. This is likely a result of the impact of the covid 19 pandemic. The other twelve monitoring locations recorded decreases when compared to the previous year's monitoring results.

Table 2.3 Results of Nitrogen Dioxide Diffusion Tubes for 2013 through to and including 2021.

Site Name	Annual Mean Concentrations ($\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$)								
	2013 Adjusted for bias (0.87)	2014 Adjusted for bias (0.97)	2015 Adjusted For bias (0.87)	2016 Adjusted for bias (1.03)	2017 Adjusted for bias (0.96)	2018 Adjusted for bias (0.89)	2019 Adjusted for bias (0.89)	2020 Adjusted For Bias (0.82)	2021 Adjusted for bias (0.82)
BGBC-01	17	16.1	13.7	16.9	14.2	17.2	15.7	10.75	12.01
BGBC-03	13.1	12.9	10.4	12.3	10.5	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
BGBC-04	9.5	8.3	6.9	7.7	7.3	7.7	7.3	5.92	5.79
BGBC-05	13.6	12.9	11.1	13.2	11.1	12.9	12	9.18	9.94
BGBC-07	14.8	15.1	13.8	14.6	12.6	12.6	13.6	10.32	10.67
BGBC-09	17.4	17.6	14.4	16.4	13.9	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
BGBC-11	11.9	11.4	9.5	11.4	9.7	10.7	9.9	n/a	n/a
BGBC-13	6.6	6.7	4.8	5	4.8	4.8	4.9	3.58	3.78
BGBC-16	20	18.3	18.3	19.5	18.9	18.1	18.9	15.43	14.81
BGBC-17	16.2	15.3	13.1	15.4	13.7	14.9	12.9	n/a	n/a
BGBC-18	20.5	20.3	17.3	20.6	17.4	20.2	15.3	12.94	12.27
BGBC-19	20.3	20.8	19.8	23	20.1	21.4	21.4	17.02	16.11
BGBC-20	22.6	23.4	18.9	22.1	19.6	22.3	21.2	16.13	17.25
BGBC-21	15.5	15.4	12.4	13.8	12.4	11.7	12.4	9.93	9.20
BGBC-22	15.7	16	13.7	16.5	13.4	15.7	13.7	10.50	9.85
BGBC-23	14.3	15.5	12.2	14.1	11.6	12.5	12.5	10.00	9.97
BGBC-24	16.6	17.5	13.6	12.9	12	12.6	12	9.61	10.34
BGBC-25	14.4	12.2	9.9	12.7	11.4	12.2	12.6	8.20	8.83
BGBC-26	14.2	13.6	13.1	14.9	13.1	14	13.9	10.97	11.02
BGBC-27	n/a	12.4	9.4	8.4	8.3	8.7	8.3	6.24	6.16
BGBC-28	n/a	10	6.8	8.7	7.5	8.7	8.1	5.98	6.60

BGBC-29	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	7.4	7.2	5.62	5.75
BGBC-30	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	8.5	7.7	6.24	6.20
BGBC-31	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	6.4	6	4.96	4.86
BGBC-32	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	9.3	8.6	6.22	6.54
BGBC-34	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	9.2	7.7	6.15	6.54
BGBC-35	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	10.8	11.2	7.85	8.19
BGBC-36	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	12	11.2	9.16	8.65
BGBC-37	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	8.5	7.5	6.06	5.89
BGBC-38	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	7.20	6.80
BGBC-39	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	7.01	7.92

2.1.4 Particulate Matter (PM₁₀)

Blaenau Gwent CBC does not currently undertake any monitoring for particulate matter (PM₁₀).

2.1.5 Particulate Matter (PM_{2.5})

Blaenau Gwent CBC does not currently undertake any monitoring for particulate matter (PM_{2.5}) and have no plans to do so in the near future.

2.1.6 Other Pollutants Monitored

Blaenau Gwent CBC does not currently undertake any monitoring for any other pollutants.

Summary of Compliance with AQS Objectives as of 2021

Blaenau Gwent CBC has examined the results from monitoring in the borough. Concentrations are all below the Objectives, therefore no further action is required.

3 New Local Developments

Road Traffic Sources (and Other Transport)

Blaenau Gwent CBC confirms that there are no new/ newly identified narrow congested streets with residential properties close to the kerb or busy streets where people may spend one hour or more close to traffic. Also there are no new/newly identified roads with high flows of buses and/or HGVs.

Blaenau Gwent CBC confirms that there are no new/newly identified busy junctions or roads with significantly changed traffic flows within the local authority area. Also there are no new bus stations within the local authority area.

Industrial / Fugitive or Uncontrolled Sources / Commercial Sources

Blaenau Gwent CBC confirms that there are no new or proposed industrial installations for which an air quality assessment has been carried out and there are no existing industrial installations where emissions have increased substantially or new relevant exposure has been introduced. Blaenau Gwent CBC also confirms that there are no new or significantly changed installations with no previous air quality assessment within the local authority area.

Blaenau Gwent CBC confirms that there are no major fuel (petrol) storage depots, no new petrol stations or no poultry farms within the local authority area.

Blaenau Gwent CBC confirms that there are no new potential sources of fugitive or uncontrolled particulate matter, new landfill sites, quarries, unmade haulage roads on industrial sites or waste transfer stations within the local authority area.

Blaenau Gwent CBC confirms that there are no new biomass combustion plant and there are no areas of significant domestic solid fuel burning within the local authority area.

Other Sources

Blaenau Gwent CBC confirms that there are no new or newly identified local developments which may have an impact on air quality within the Local Authority area.

Blaenau Gwent CBC confirms that all the following have been considered:

- Road traffic sources
- Other transport sources
- Industrial sources
- Commercial and domestic sources
- New developments with fugitive or uncontrolled sources.

Planning Applications

Each planning application is judged on its merits and due regard is given to the Planning Policy Wales document regarding Air Quality published by the Welsh Government, and other relevant guidance.

A link to the Local Development Plan (LDP) is available at-

<http://www.blaenau-gwent.gov.uk/en/resident/planning/>

The Planning Division classify applications that are received into minor and major developments in accordance with the Welsh Office Planning Statistics guidance. Major developments are classified as being the following:

- major dwelling is 10 or more dwellings or if an outline application 0.5 hectares

- For other types of applications major equates to 1000m² floor area or 1 hectare if the application is in outline

Table 3.1: Applications for Major Developments Received and Approved During 2021

Planning Reference	Type of development	Location	Potential Impact on Local Air Quality
C/2021/0137	Proposed Construction of New Council Centre of Operations and Ancillary Infrastructure	A4046 FROM A467 TO MARINE STREET, CWM, EBBW VALE	low
C/2020/0201	Proposed residential development and associated works	Steelworks Road, Ebbw Vale	Low
C/2021/0172	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 features, for grazing and nature conservation & reinstatement of the rights of way, cycle routes and temporary access point.	Ben Wards Fields, Brynmawr	Low

Major Planning Applications Approved 2021

None of the above major planning applications that were received and approved in 2021 were considered to have a potential negative impact on air quality within the Blaenau Gwent area.

Major Planning Applications 2022

In 2022 Blaenau Gwent CBC has received and approved planning application for a glass bottle manufacturing plant on the Rassau Industrial Estate, Ebbw Vale, which has been identified as having the potential to impact on local air quality.

4 Policies and Strategies Affecting Airborne Pollution

Local / Regional Air Quality Strategy

Blaenau Gwent CBC has a Departmental Air Pollution Control Policy and Procedure document to facilitate the management of Air Quality with the Borough.

Blaenau Gwent CBC has not developed an air quality strategy and at this time does not propose to do so as all of our monitoring locations are significantly below the air quality standards.

Blaenau Gwent CBC actively participates in the work of the Welsh Air Quality Forum which assists in co-ordinating the management of Air Quality at an all Wales level amongst the 22 Local Authorities and other partners.

Further information regarding the work of the Welsh Air Quality Forum is available at

<http://www.welshairquality.co.uk/>

Air Quality Planning Policies

Blaenau Gwent CBC does not have a specific air quality planning policy however it is outlined as a development management policy within the Local Development Plan that 'the proposal does not result in airborne emissions which have an unacceptable effect on the health, amenity or natural environment of the surrounding area, taking into account cumulative effects of other proposed or existing sources of air pollution in the vicinity.'

Local Transport Plans and Strategies

Local Authorities are now required to produce individual transport plans however the South East Wales Valleys Authorities (Blaenau Gwent, Caerphilly, Merthyr Tydfil, Rhondda Cynon Taff and Torfaen) got together produced a joint plan that was published in January 2015.

The South East Wales Valleys Local Transport Plan (January 2015) can be viewed at the following website:

<http://www.rctcbc.gov.uk/EN/Resident/ParkingRoadsandTravel/Travel/TransportSchemesandPolicies/TransportPolicyandlocalTransportPlan.aspx>

The local transport plan sets down the vision and objectives for transport in the SE Wales Valleys area and provides a short and long term programme for interventions to work towards achieving these goals. The short term programme sets down those schemes that are priorities for 5 years up to 2020. The longer term programme identifies aspirations up to 2030.

Part of the process of the development of the Local Transport Plan requires the production of a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) which will give consideration to air quality issues.

The Strategic Environmental Assessment Baseline Study Report and Scoping Report are also available at the above website.

Active Travel Plans and Strategies

Blaenau Gwent CBC has recently updated its Active Travel Network Map (ATNM), which has expanded on the previous edition (previously referred to as the INM). The updated proposed ATNM was recently approved by Welsh Government (August 2022). The routes shown on the map have been prioritised (short, medium and long term) and Blaenau Gwent CBC will improve these routes to increase active travel connectivity throughout the borough and reduce the reliance on cars for short purposeful journeys. Below are the maps from 2017 and 2022 to show the comparison of the network between the two editions and the location of the proposed routes:

INM 2017

Timed Out | Explore Maps | DataMapWales

datamap.gov.wales/active-travel/map#/ | Gmail | YouTube | Maps

BETA | Give feedback

Llywodraeth Cymru Welsh Government | Cymraeg

Data Map Wales | **Active travel** | Jessica Norris | Sign out

DataMapWales > Active travel > Map

Search by location name

Active Travel Map

Filter layers

- Point Data
- Routes**
- Route Section
- Existing Routes
- Future Routes
- Base Survey
- Ancillary Data
- Snapshot Data

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Scale: 1 : 100000

Page 137

ATNM 2022:

The screenshot displays the 'DataMapWales Active travel' web application. At the top, there is a navigation bar with a 'BETA' label and a 'Give feedback' button. Below this is the Welsh Government logo and a 'Cymraeg' button. The main header features the 'DataMapWales Active travel' logo and a user profile for 'Jessica Norris' with a 'Sign out' button. The central part of the screen is dominated by a topographic map of Blaenau Gwent, overlaid with numerous colorful routes (pink, blue, orange, green) representing different travel paths. A search bar at the top right of the map area is labeled 'Search by location name'. On the left side, a 'Filter layers' menu is visible, listing categories such as 'Point Data', 'Routes', 'Route Section', 'Existing Routes', 'Future Routes', 'Base Survey', and 'Ancillary Data'. The bottom of the map shows a scale of 1:100000 and a timestamp of 01/09/2022.

Page 138

Blaenau Gwent CBC successfully bid for a grant from the Active Travel Fund to improve some of its routes in 2022/23, and there are several schemes that are currently underway to improve routes to make walking and cycling safer and easier for residents and visitors of Blaenau Gwent.

It is proposed that additional grant funding will be bid for in early 2023 to continue Blaenau Gwent CBC's active travel programme.

Local Authorities Well-being Objectives

Air quality was considered as part of the local well-being assessment carried out by the Blaenau Gwent Public Service Board which has resulted in well-being objective number 3 being introduced which is- "Blaenau Gwent wants to look after and protect its natural environments." The key steps identified by the Blaenau Gwent Public Services Board in order to meet this objective include-

- Lead on taking action against climate change through the delivery of a carbon positive project.
- Promote active travel to reduce our collective carbon footprint.
- Make Blaenau Gwent a cleaner, greener place where nature can thrive.

Green Infrastructure Plans and Strategies

Working collaboratively over the past 12 months the 5 local Authorities in Greater Gwent (Blaenau Gwent, Torfaen, Monmouthshire, Caerphilly and Newport) along with partners in the private and third sector have continued deliver on two programmes funded by the Welsh Government's Enabling Natural Resources and Wellbeing (ENRaW) fund. The first of these programs *A Resilient Greater Gwent* has promoted resilient ecosystems and sustainable communities through green infrastructure enhancements and the second *Gwent Green Grid Partnership* (GGGP) has supported woodland management, ecology, access, landscape projects and wellbeing projects. The Local Nature Partnership have also helped steer funding for Local Places for Nature and countryside access improvements have been delivered under the Access Improvement Grant. Further collaborative bids building on the

GGGP are presently in development and will carry Green Infrastructure enhancements forward into the future.

Climate Change Strategies

Blaenau Gwent CBC has developed a decarbonisation plan detailing how we aim to be carbon neutral by 2030. The plan can be accessed via the link to the Blaenau Gwent CBC website below. An example of a practical implementation of this plan is the purchase and use of electric vehicles in our highways department.

<https://www.blaenau-gwent.gov.uk/en/council/policies-plans-strategies/decarbonisation-plan-2020-2030/>

5 Conclusion and Proposed Actions

Conclusions from New Monitoring Data

Blaenau Gwent CBC has examined the results from monitoring in the Borough of Blaenau Gwent for the period of 2021. Concentrations are all below the relevant UK National Air Quality Objectives.

Conclusions relating to New Local Developments

Blaenau Gwent CBC has assessed all new or significantly changed sources in the Borough and relevant new or significantly changes sources in nearby Local Authority areas and has concluded that it is unlikely that the impact of these will result in a potential exceedance of any of the UK National Air Quality Objectives within the Borough.

Other Conclusions

This report has not identified the need to proceed to a Detailed Assessment for any pollutant relevant to the UK National Air Quality Objectives.

Proposed Actions

Blaenau Gwent CBC will continue to monitor for Nitrogen Dioxide subject to the continuous review and assessment of the existing and newly identified monitoring sites for the calendar year of 2023.

It is proposed that the results of monitoring carried out during the calendar year of 2022 will be presented in the 2023 Air Quality Progress Report which will be prepared as part of the Updating and Screening Assessment process.

References

Blaenau Gwent CBC, all previous reports produced as part of the air quality review process. <https://www.blaenau-gwent.gov.uk/en/resident/environmental-health/pollution/air-quality/>

Blaenau Gwent CBC, Decarbonisation plan 2020-30. <https://www.blaenau-gwent.gov.uk/en/council/policies-plans-strategies/decarbonisation-plan-2020-2030/>

DEFRA, (2022), Local Air Quality Management - Technical Guidance LAQM.TG(22), DEFRA.- <https://laqm.defra.gov.uk/air-quality/featured/uk-regions-exc-london-technical-guidance/>

Air PT Scheme results for Laboratory- <https://laqm.defra.gov.uk/air-quality/air-quality-assessment/ga-gc-framework/>

National Bias Adjustment Factors- <https://laqm.defra.gov.uk/air-quality/air-quality-assessment/national-bias/>

Appendices

Appendix A: Monthly Diffusion Tube Monitoring Results

Appendix B: A Summary of Local Air Quality Management

Appendix C: Air Quality Monitoring Data QA/QC

Appendix D: Blaenau Gwent CBC boundary area and diffusion tube location plan

Appendix E: Individual location plans for all diffusion tubes within Blaenau Gwent for 2020

Appendix A: Monthly Diffusion Tube Monitoring Results

Table A.1 – Full Monthly Diffusion Tube Results for 2021 ($\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$)

Site ID	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Raw Data	Bias Adjusted (0.82) and Annualised ⁽¹⁾	Distance Corrected to Nearest Exposure ⁽²⁾
BGBC-01	16.39	17.30	13.12	17.48	13.98	13.62	13.89	8.74	20.89	12.33	15.00	13.11	14.65	12.01	n/a
BGBC-04	11.05	9.68	6.62	5.93	4.71	4.71	4.21	7.71	6.66	7.07	8.77	7.73	7.07	5.79	n/a
BGBC-05	18.05	12.59	12.37	12.68	10.62	9.63	10.30	5.43	13.17	12.07	14.91	13.80	12.13	9.94	n/a
BGBC-07	18.79	15.84	12.33	12.11	11.34	9.49	9.92	7.45	11.77	13.06	18.69	15.52	13.02	10.67	n/a
BGBC-13	6.05	7.17	4.29	3.69	4.03	3.68	3.23	3.35	4.43	4.56	5.23	5.57	4.61	3.78	n/a
BGBC-16	24.29	17.54	18.41	14.94	16.65	15.25	15.42	15.23	18.02	19.29	24.16	17.66	18.07	14.81	n/a
BGBC-18	13.54	17.76	14.73	13.73	12.85	12.34	11.88	16.75	17.68	13.52	18.74	16.12	14.97	12.27	n/a
BGBC-19	21.65	24.68	20.28	20.92	22.00	18.35	18.67	4.04	22.83	20.32	21.05	20.97	19.65	16.11	n/a
BGBC-20	21.62	27.31	16.69	22.59	21.34	22.33	21.99	5.19	26.79	22.13	22.07	22.41	21.04	17.25	n/a
BGBC-21	14.02	13.46	12.87	13.26	9.29	9.43	10.19	5.35	11.28	11.53	13.74	10.40	11.23	9.20	n/a
BGBC-22	16.59	12.69	10.29	12.50	10.52	9.00	9.92	5.86	14.12	12.47	17.77	12.53	12.02	9.85	n/a

Site ID	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Raw Data	Bias Adjusted (0.82) and Annualised ⁽¹⁾	Distance Corrected to Nearest Exposure ⁽²⁾
BGBC-23	16.15	15.14	12.82	10.82	12.07	9.11	9.63	5.78	12.13	12.27	15.08	14.89	12.16	9.97	n/a
BGBC-24	14.69	16.15	11.16	8.93	9.82	9.25	8.57	21.13	12.60	13.91	11.26	13.93	12.62	10.34	n/a
BGBC-25	13.55	10.62	9.14	10.39	9.94	10.18	x	8.10	12.56	11.62	12.68	9.71	10.77	8.83	n/a
BGBC-26	20.45	16.02	13.30	11.68	11.29	9.59	9.66	5.97	13.05	15.19	18.11	16.99	13.44	11.02	n/a
BGBC-27	9.61	9.40	7.78	6.96	6.69	7.12	6.47	4.82	7.34	7.60	8.18	8.30	7.52	6.16	n/a
BGBC-28	10.84	10.55	7.76	7.35	5.73	7.14	6.00	6.04	14.30	6.50	7.12	7.34	8.06	6.60	n/a
BGBC-29	11.35	9.09	8.24	6.53	5.38	5.23	5.25	4.73	6.04	6.65	7.57	8.14	7.02	5.75	n/a
BGBC-30	11.91	8.81	8.09	8.11	5.20	6.20	5.98	3.80	8.05	7.30	8.27	9.16	7.57	6.20	n/a
BGBC-31	7.44	8.54	5.75	4.36	4.42	4.40	4.00	8.00	5.35	5.81	5.01	8.10	5.93	4.86	n/a
BGBC-32	12.07	11.13	8.26	x	6.11	5.35	5.42	3.46	7.50	8.71	10.88	8.93	7.98	6.54	n/a
BGBC-34	11.87	9.14	7.62	7.27	5.54	4.91	4.72	12.56	6.71	7.97	9.05	8.39	7.98	6.54	n/a
BGBC-35	13.24	10.96	10.00	11.12	6.87	8.58	8.39	8.77	10.67	9.96	11.18	10.11	9.99	8.19	n/a
BGBC-36	14.22	11.19	11.37	10.29	9.24	7.48	8.16	6.92	11.37	11.36	12.54	12.59	10.56	8.65	n/a
BGBC-37	12.27	9.61	x	6.70	5.64	5.21	5.11	3.43	x	8.20	x	8.56	7.19	5.89	n/a

Site ID	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Raw Data	Bias Adjusted (0.82) and Annualised ⁽¹⁾	Distance Corrected to Nearest Exposure ⁽²⁾
BGBC-38	12.83	11.22	7.27	7.13	7.12	7.16	5.96	4.57	8.38	8.27	9.88	9.76	8.30	6.80	n/a
BGBC-39	17.73	10.27	9.31	8.48	6.74	6.29	x	5.37	7.63	9.63	12.84	12.02	9.67	7.92	n/a

Notes:

Exceedances of the NO₂ annual mean objective of 40µg/m³ are shown in **bold**.

NO₂ annual means exceeding 60µg/m³, indicating a potential exceedance of the NO₂ 1-hour mean objective are shown in **bold and underlined**.

(1) See Appendix C for details on bias adjustment and annualisation.

(2) Distance corrected to the nearest relevant public exposure

(3) x = tube missing.

Appendix B: A Summary of Local Air Quality Management

Purpose of an Annual Progress Report

This report fulfils the requirements of the Local Air Quality Management (LAQM) process as set out in the Environment Act 1995 and associated government guidance. The LAQM process places an obligation on all local authorities to regularly review and assess air quality in their areas and to determine whether or not the air quality objectives are being achieved. Where exceedances occur, or are likely to occur, the local authority must then declare an Air Quality Management Area (AQMA) and prepare an Air Quality Action Plan (AQAP) within 18 months of declaration setting out the measures it intends to put in place in pursuit of the objectives. Action plans should then be reviewed and updated where necessary at least every five years.

For Local Authorities in Wales, an Annual Progress Report replaces all other formal reporting requirements and have a very clear purpose of updating the general public on air quality, including what ongoing actions are being taken locally to improve it if necessary.

Air Quality Objectives

The air quality objectives applicable to LAQM in Wales are set out in the Air Quality (Wales) Regulations 2000, No. 1940 (Wales 138), Air Quality (Amendment) (Wales) Regulations 2002, No 3182 (Wales 298), and are shown in Table B.1.

The table shows the objectives in units of microgrammes per cubic metre $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ (milligrammes per cubic metre, mg/m^3 for carbon monoxide) with the number of exceedances in each year that are permitted (where applicable).

Table B.1 – Air Quality Objectives Included in Regulations for the Purpose of LAQM in Wales

Pollutant	Air Quality Objective: Concentration	Air Quality Objective: Measured as	Date to be achieved by
Nitrogen Dioxide (NO₂)	200µg/m ³ not to be exceeded more than 18 times a year	1-hour mean	31.12.2005
Nitrogen Dioxide (NO₂)	40µg/m ³	Annual mean	31.12.2005
Particulate Matter (PM₁₀)	50µg/m ³ , not to be exceeded more than 35 times a year	24-hour mean	31.12.2010
Particulate Matter (PM₁₀)	40µg/m ³	Annual mean	31.12.2010
Sulphur dioxide (SO₂)	350µg/m ³ , not to be exceeded more than 24 times a year	1-hour mean	31.12.2004
Sulphur dioxide (SO₂)	125µg/m ³ , not to be exceeded more than 3 times a year	24-hour mean	31.12.2004
Sulphur dioxide (SO₂)	266µg/m ³ , not to be exceeded more than 35 times a year	15-minute mean	31.12.2005
Benzene	16.25µg/m ³	Running annual mean	31.12.2003
Benzene	5µg/m ³	Annual mean	31 12 2010
1,3 Butadiene	2.25µg/m ³	Running annual mean	31.12.2003
Carbon Monoxide	10.0mg/m ³	Maximum Daily Running 8-Hour mean	31.12.2003
Lead	0.25µg/m ³	Annual Mean	31.12.2008

Appendix C: Air Quality Monitoring Data QA/QC

QA/QC of Diffusion Tube Monitoring

- Gradko Environmental provided and analysed all of our diffusion tubes in 2020 using the 50% TEA in Acetone method. They demonstrated satisfactory performance in the Air PT scheme.
- The same diffusion tube supplier (Gradko Environmental) was used for the full calendar year for all monitoring sites.
- The monitoring has been completed in adherence with the 2021 Diffusion Tube Monitoring Calendar.

Diffusion Tube Annualisation

All diffusion tube monitoring locations within Blaenau Gwent CBC recorded data capture of 75% therefore it was not required to annualise any monitoring data. In addition, any sites with a data capture below 25% do not require annualisation.

Diffusion Tube Bias Adjustment Factors

Blaenau Gwent CBC have applied a national bias adjustment factor of 0.82 to the 2021 monitoring data. A summary of bias adjustment factors used by Blaenau Gwent CBC over the past five years is presented in Table C.1.

Table C.1 – Bias Adjustment Factor

Year	Local or National	If National, Version of National Spreadsheet	Adjustment Factor
2021	National	6/22	0.82
2020	National	03/21	0.82
2019	National		0.89
2018	National		0.89
2017	National		0.96
2016	National		1.03

NO₂ Fall-off with Distance from the Road

No diffusion tube NO₂ monitoring locations within Blaenau Gwent CBC required distance correction during 2021.

QA/QC of Automatic Monitoring

Blaenau Gwent CBC does not undertake any automatic monitoring.

Database_Diffusion_Tube_Bias_Factors_v06_22-FINAL - Excel

Griffin, Tim

National Diffusion Tube Bias Adjustment Factor Spreadsheet

Spreadsheet Version Number: 06/22

Follow the steps below in the correct order to show the results of relevant co-location studies

Data only apply to tubes exposed monthly and are not suitable for correcting individual short-term monitoring periods

Whenever presenting adjusted data, you should state the adjustment factor used and the version of the spreadsheet

This spreadsheet will be updated every few months; the factors may therefore be subject to change. This should not discourage their immediate use.

The LAQM Helpdesk is operated on behalf of Defra and the Devolved Administrations by Bureau Veritas, in conjunction with contract partners AECOM and the National Physical Laboratory.

Spreadsheet maintained by the National Physical Laboratory. Original compiled by Air Quality Consultants Ltd.

This spreadsheet will be updated at the end of September 2022

LAQM Helpdesk Website

Step 1: Select the Laboratory that Analyses Your Tubes from the Drop-Down List

Step 2: Select a Preparation Method from the Drop-Down List

Step 3: Select a Year from the Drop-Down List

Step 4: Where there is only one study for a chosen combination, you should use the adjustment factor shown with caution. Where there is more than one study, use the overall factor² shown in blue at the foot of the final column.

If a laboratory is not shown, we have no data for this laboratory.

If a preparation method is not shown, we have no data for this method at this laboratory.

If a year is not shown, we have no data².

If you have your own co-location study then see footnote³. If uncertain what to do then contact the Local Air Quality Management Helpdesk at LAQMHelpdesk@bureauveritas.com or 0800 0327953

Analysed By ¹	Method ²	Year ²	Site Type	Local Authority	Length of Study (months)	Diffusion Tube Mean Conc. (Dm) (µg/m ³)	Automatic Monitor Mean Conc. (Cm) (µg/m ³)	Bias (B)	Tube Precision ³	Bias Adjustment Factor (A) (Cm/Dm)
2914	50% TEA in Acetone	2021	UB	Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council	11	23	19	22.2%	G	0.82
2930	50% TEA in acetone	2021	UB	Middlesbrough	12	18	14	32.6%	G	0.75
2956	50% TEA in acetone	2021	R	London Borough of Richmond upon Thames	12	24	21	15.1%	G	0.87
2957	50% TEA in acetone	2021	B	London Borough of Richmond upon Thames	9	16	13	21.5%	G	0.82
2971	50% TEA in acetone	2021	KS	Marylebone Road Intercomparison	10	52	41	24.2%	G	0.81
2981	50% TEA in acetone	2021	R	Reading Borough Council	12	30	26	15.9%	G	0.86
2998	50% TEA in acetone	2021	R	Merton Council	9	50	32	55.4%	G	0.64
3001	50% TEA in acetone	2021	UB	Wandsworth Council	11	29	26	9.8%	G	0.91
3016	50% TEA in acetone	2021	R	LB Newham	11	29	23	26.6%	G	0.79
3017	50% TEA in acetone	2021	KS	London Borough of Croydon	12	48	39	23.4%	G	0.81
3384	50% TEA in acetone	2021		Overall Factor² (16 studies)					Use	0.82

Footnote: ¹For Casella Stanger/Bureau Veritas (NOT Bureau Veritas Labs) use Gradko 50% TEA in Acetone. ²For Casella Seal/GMSS/Casella CRE/Bureau Veritas Labs/Eurofins/ use Environmental Scientific Groups.

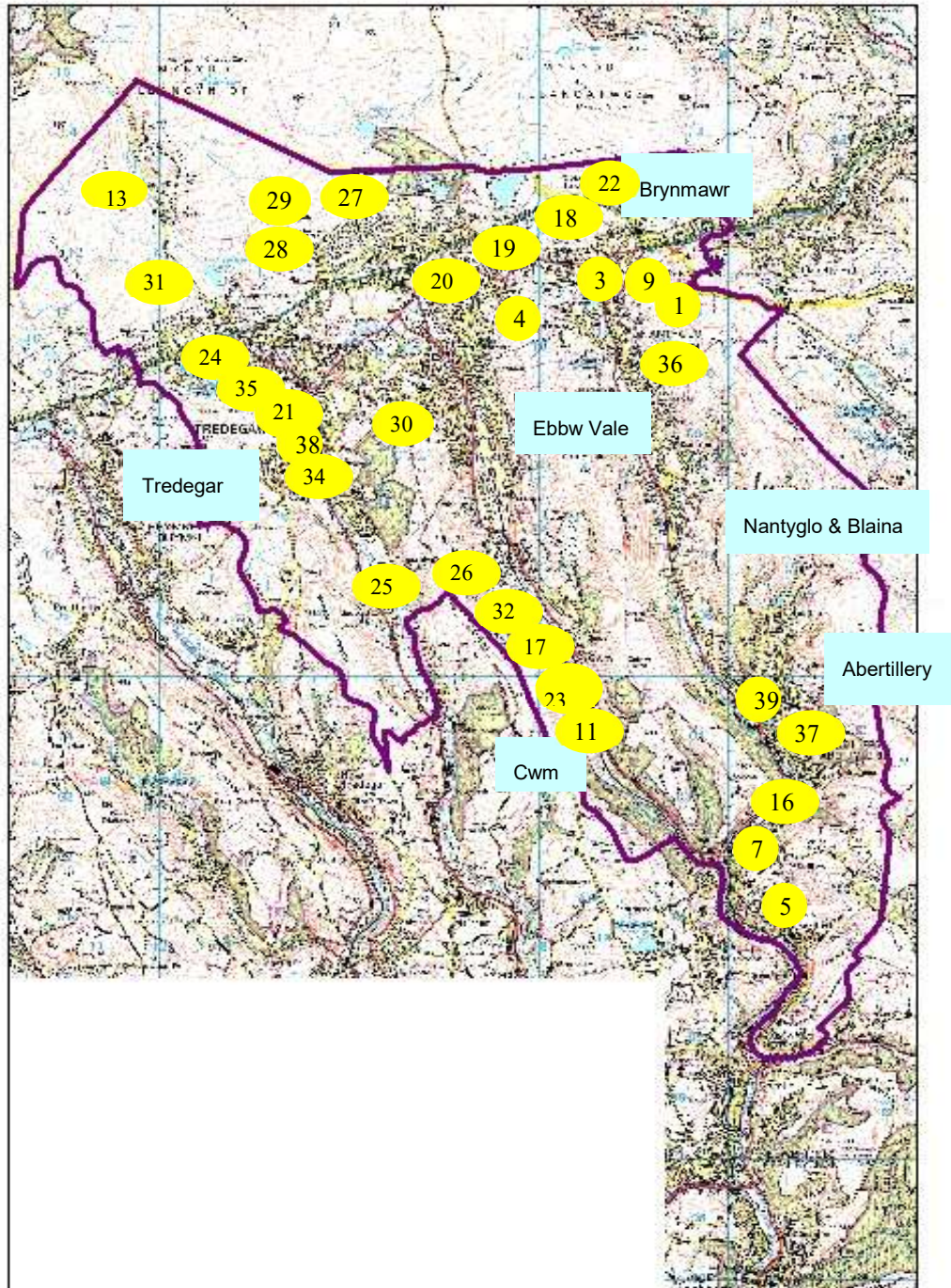
Collocation Data Revisions

Ready 17 of 3383 records found

Activate Windows
Go to Settings to activate Windows

Rain off and on 09:42 06/09/2022

Appendix D: Blaenau Gwent boundary area and diffusion tube location plan



**Appendix E: Individual location plans for all diffusion tubes
within Blaenau Gwent 2021**

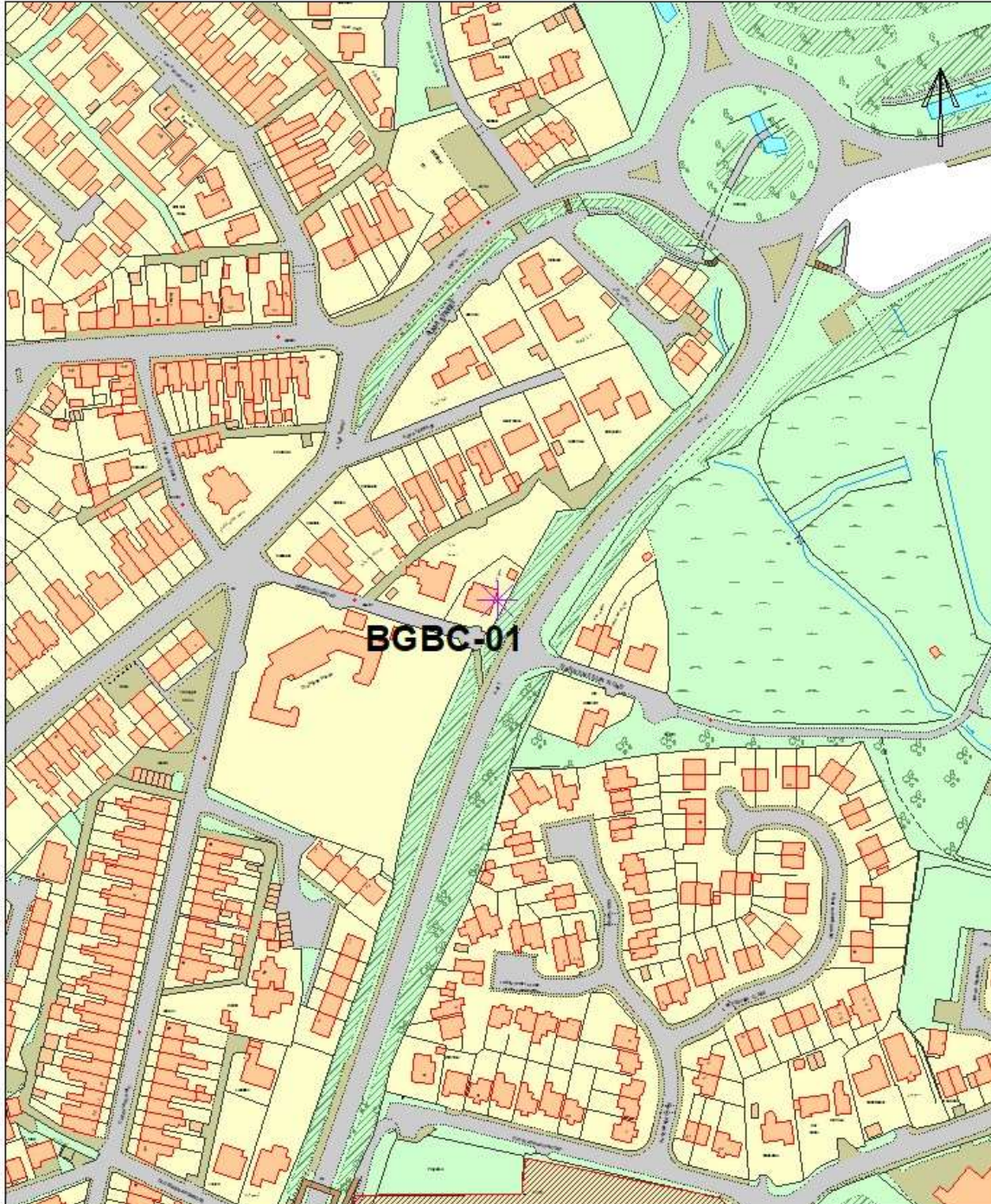


Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council

Location: BGBC-01- The Darren, Daren-felen Road, Brynmawr

Easting: 319540 **Northing:** 211953

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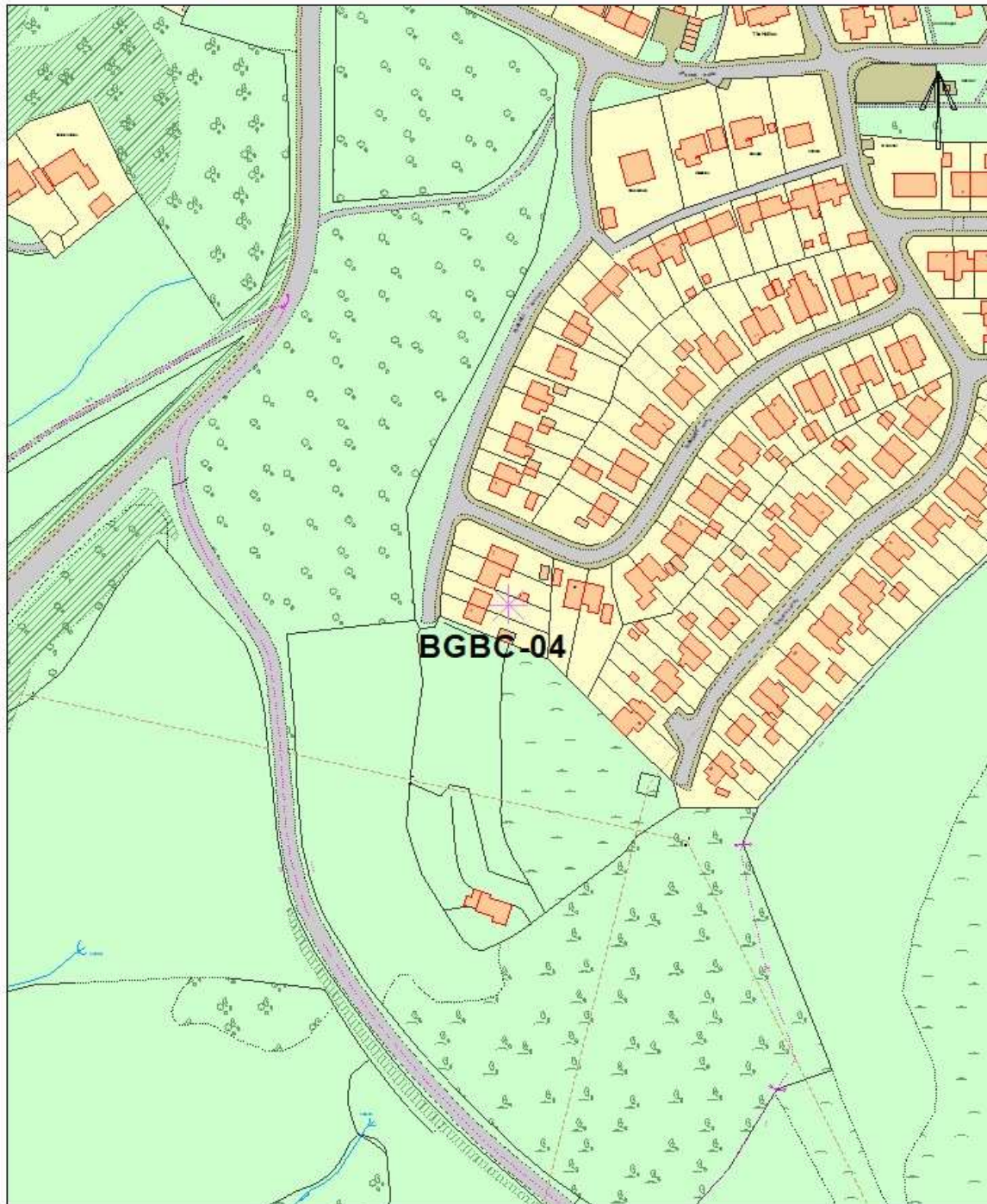


Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council

Location: BGBC-04- 22 Parkhill, Beaufort, Ebbw Vale

Easting: 317307 **Northing:** 211285

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Y mae atgynhychu heb awdurdod yn torri Hawffr faint y Goron a gall arwain at erlyniad neu achosion sifil. BGBC - LA09002L



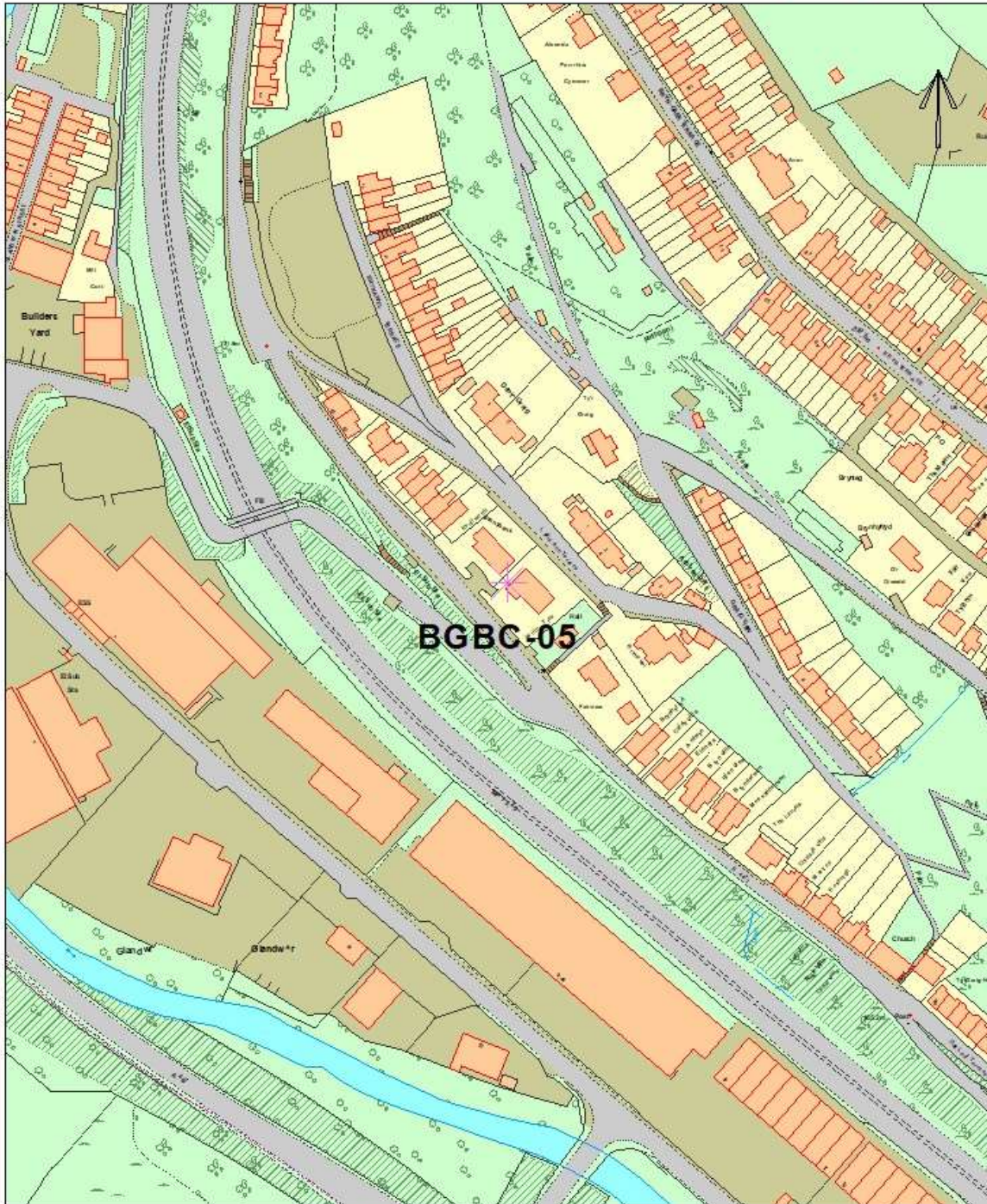


Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council

Location: BGBC-05- Willow Tree Bungalow, Aberbeeg

Easting: 321132 Northing: 201113

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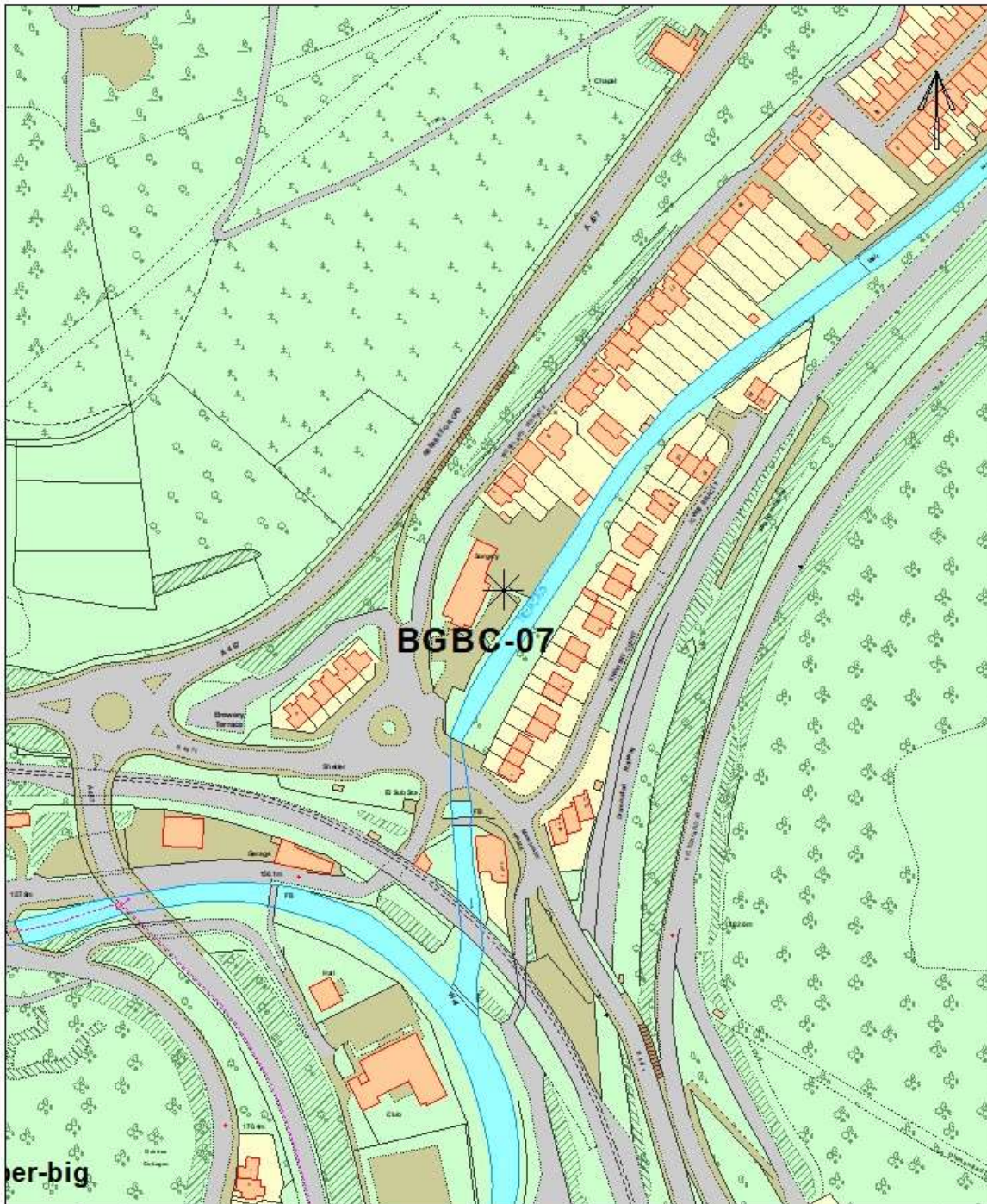


Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council

Location: BGBC-07 - Aberbeeg Medical Centre, Aberbeeg

Easting: 320969 Northing: 202021

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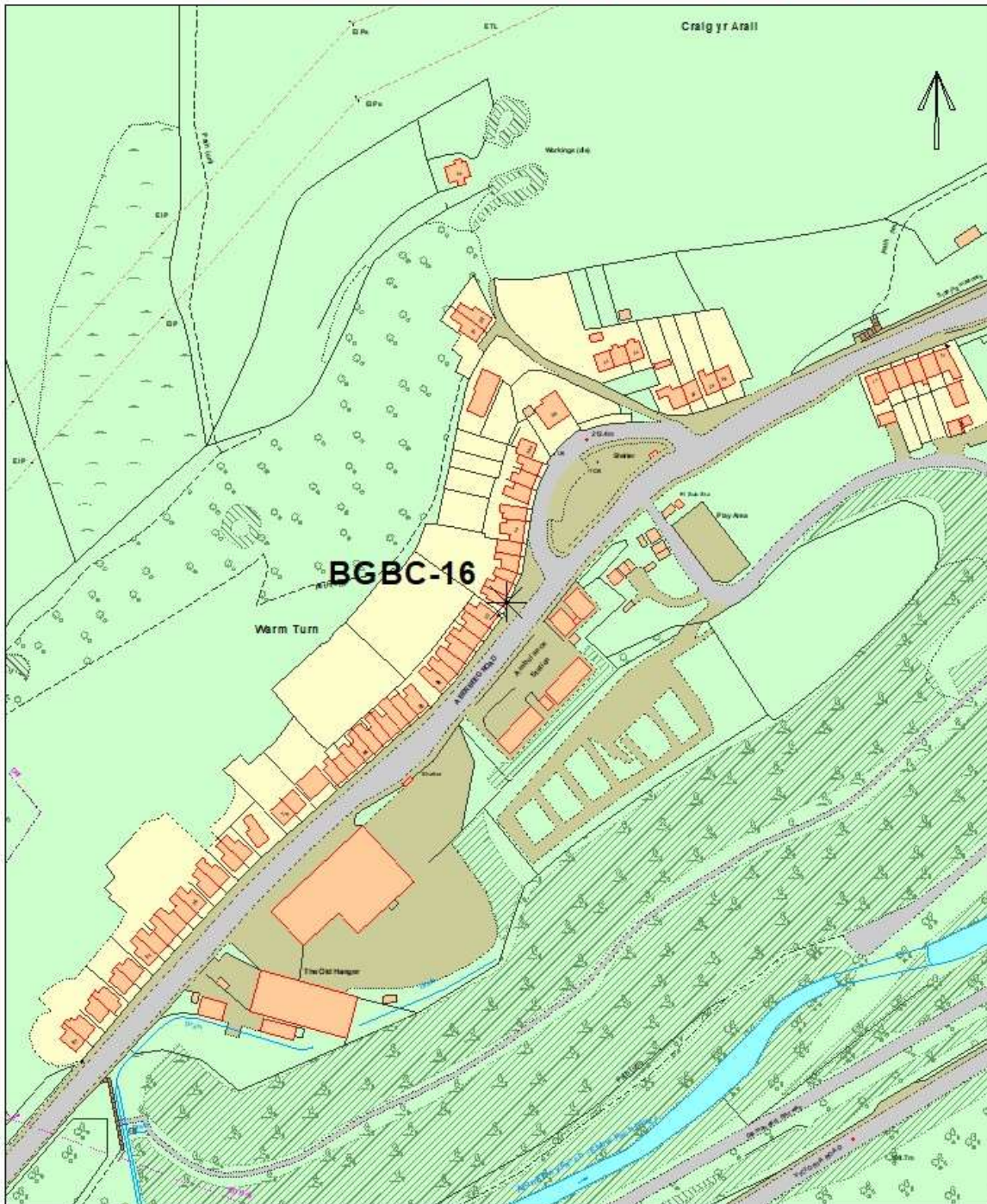


Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council

Location: BGBC-16- 49 Aberbeeg Road, Aberbeeg

Easting: 321432 **Northing:** 202667

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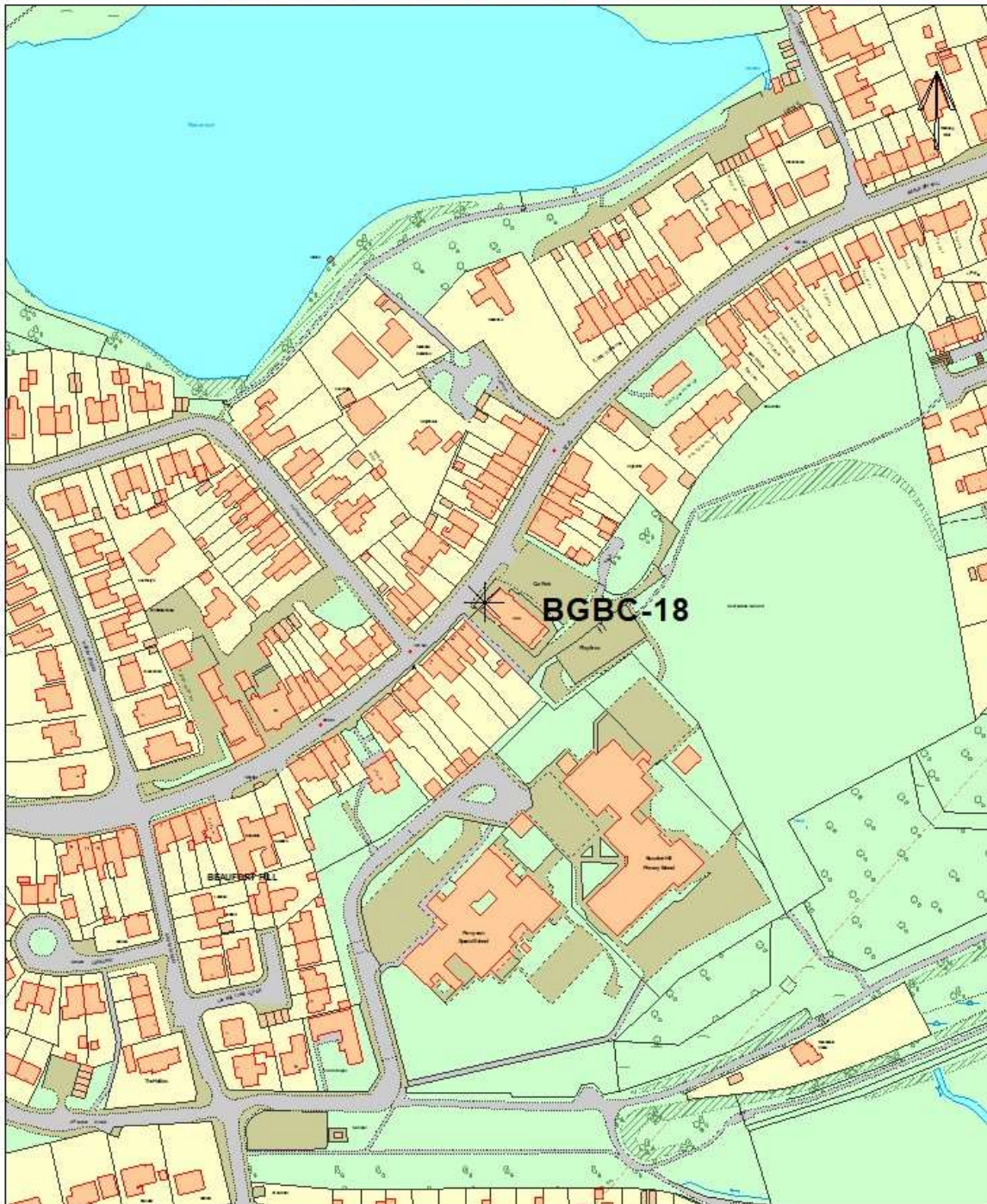


Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council

Location: BGBC-18- Welfare Hall, Beaufort Hill, Ebbw Vale

Easting: 317543 Northing: 211693

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Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council

Location: BGBC-19- 42 Beaufort Rise, Ebbw Vale

Easting: 316672 **Northing:** 211595

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Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council

Location: BGBC-20- 122 Beaufort Road, Tredegar

Easting: 314854 Northing: 210235

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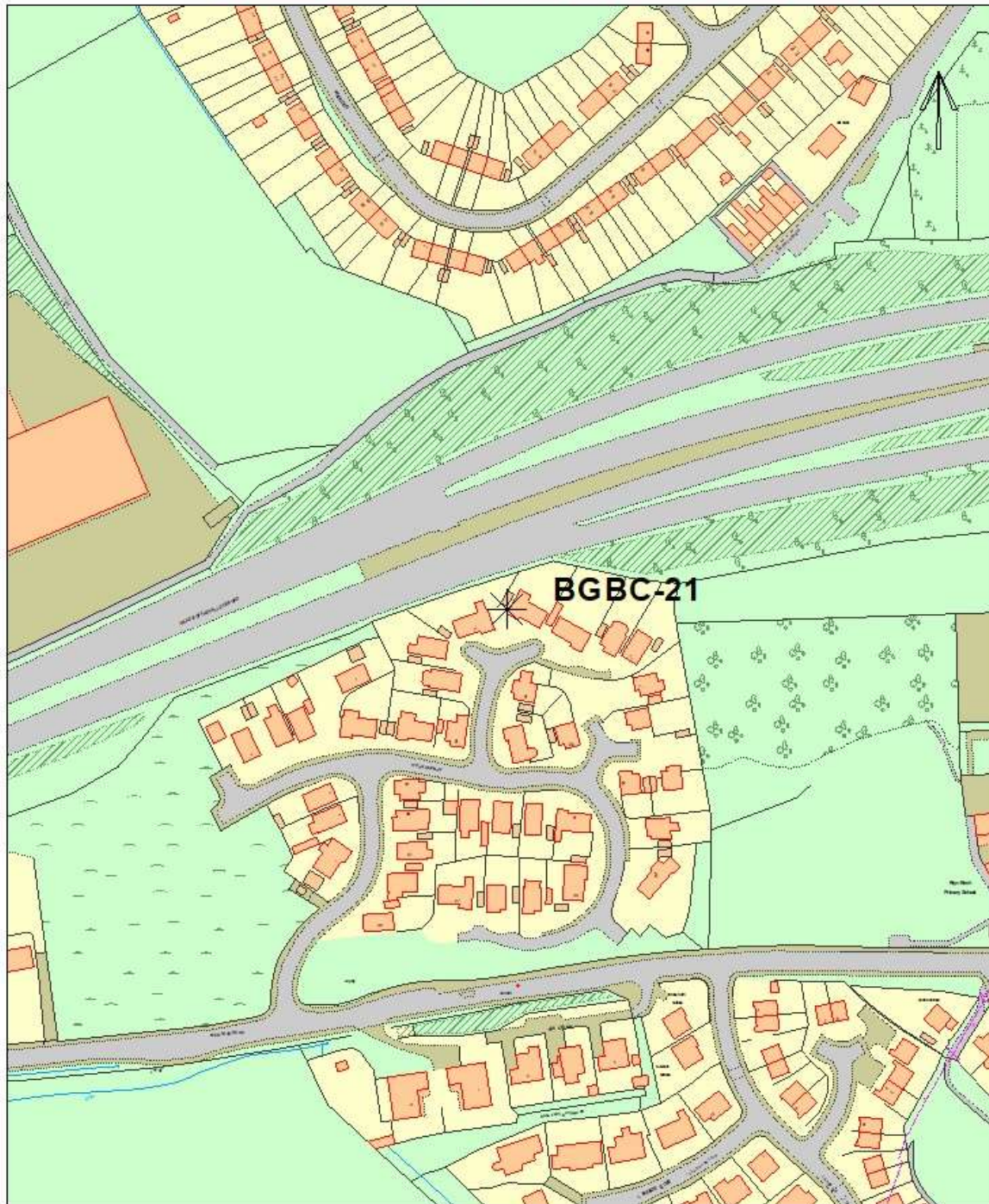


Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council

Location: BGBC-21- 14 Bryn Rhosyn, Merthyr Road, Tredegar

Easting: 312842 **Northing:** 210590

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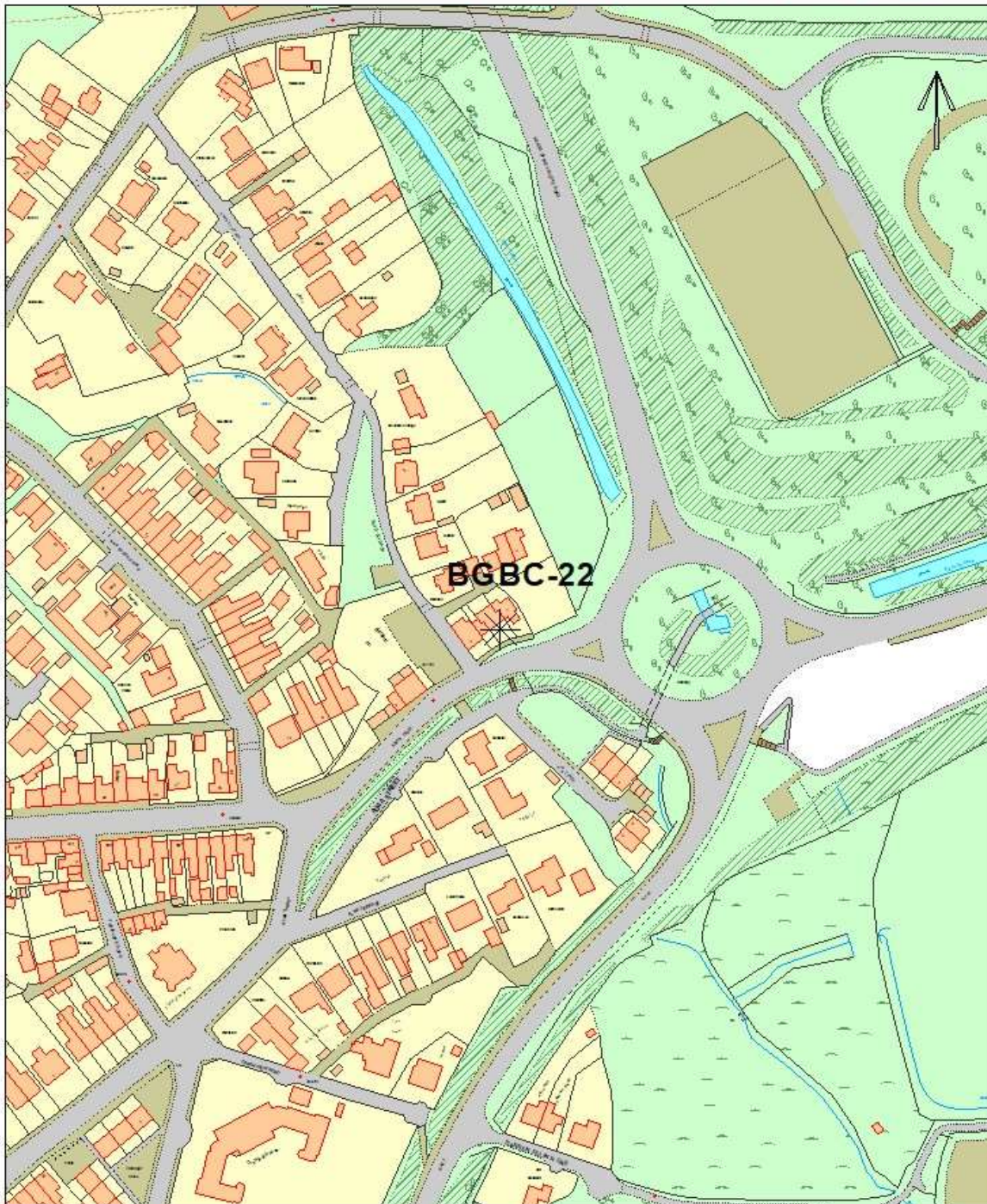


Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council

Location: BGBC-22- 2 King Street, Brynmawr

Easting: 319561 Northing: 212138

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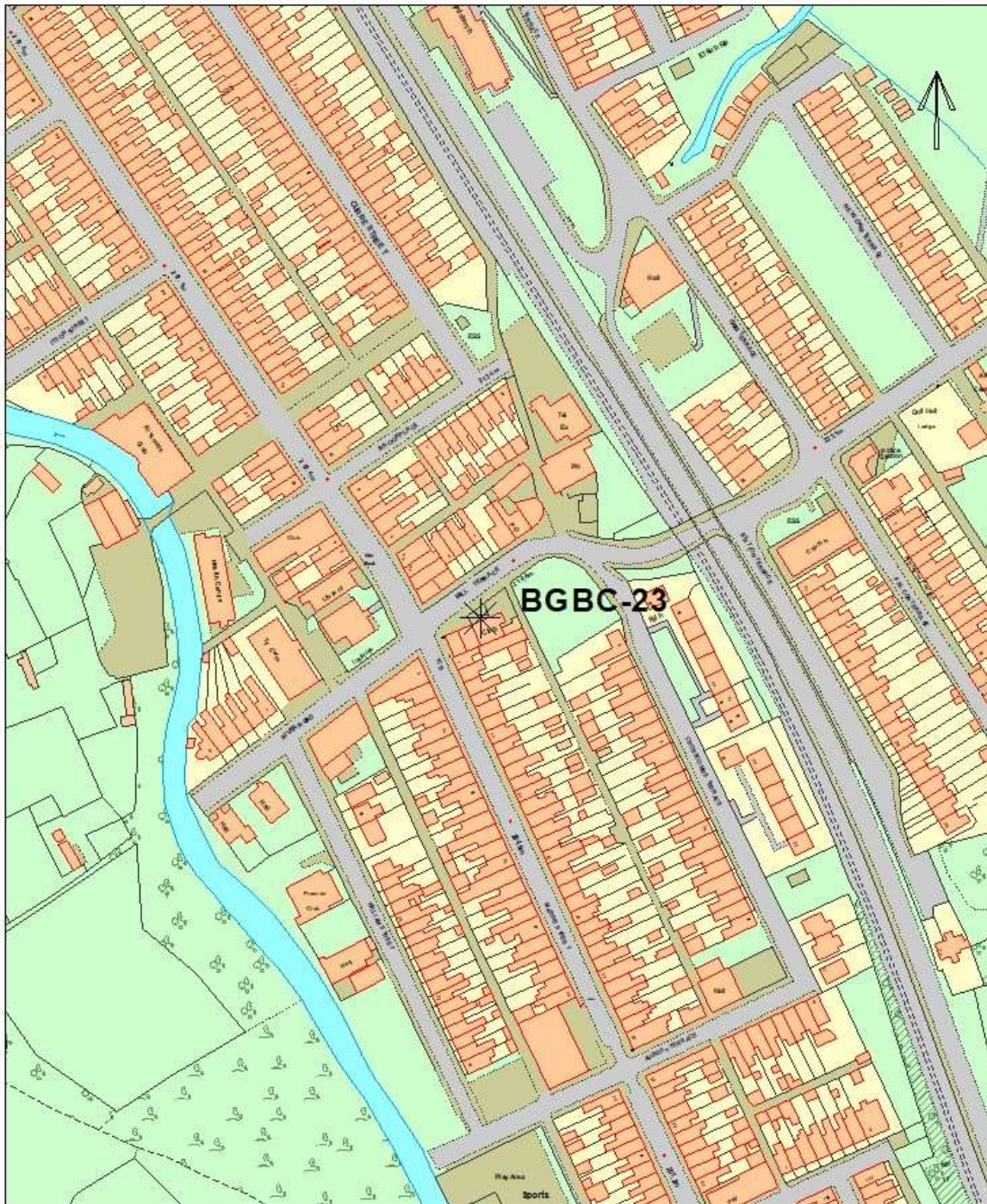


Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council

Location: BGBC-23- Cwm Conservative Club, Mill Terrace, Cwm

Easting: 318459 **Northing:** 205313

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Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council

Location: BGBC-24-4 Glen View, Nantybwich, Tredegar

Easting: 313147 Northing: 210770

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Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council

Location: BGBC-25- Red Rose Care Centre, Park Road, Ebbw Val

Easting: 316990 **Northing:** 207896

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Y mae atgynhychu heb awdurdod yn tori Hawffraint y Goron a gall arwain at erlyniad neu achosion sifil. BGBC - LA09002L*



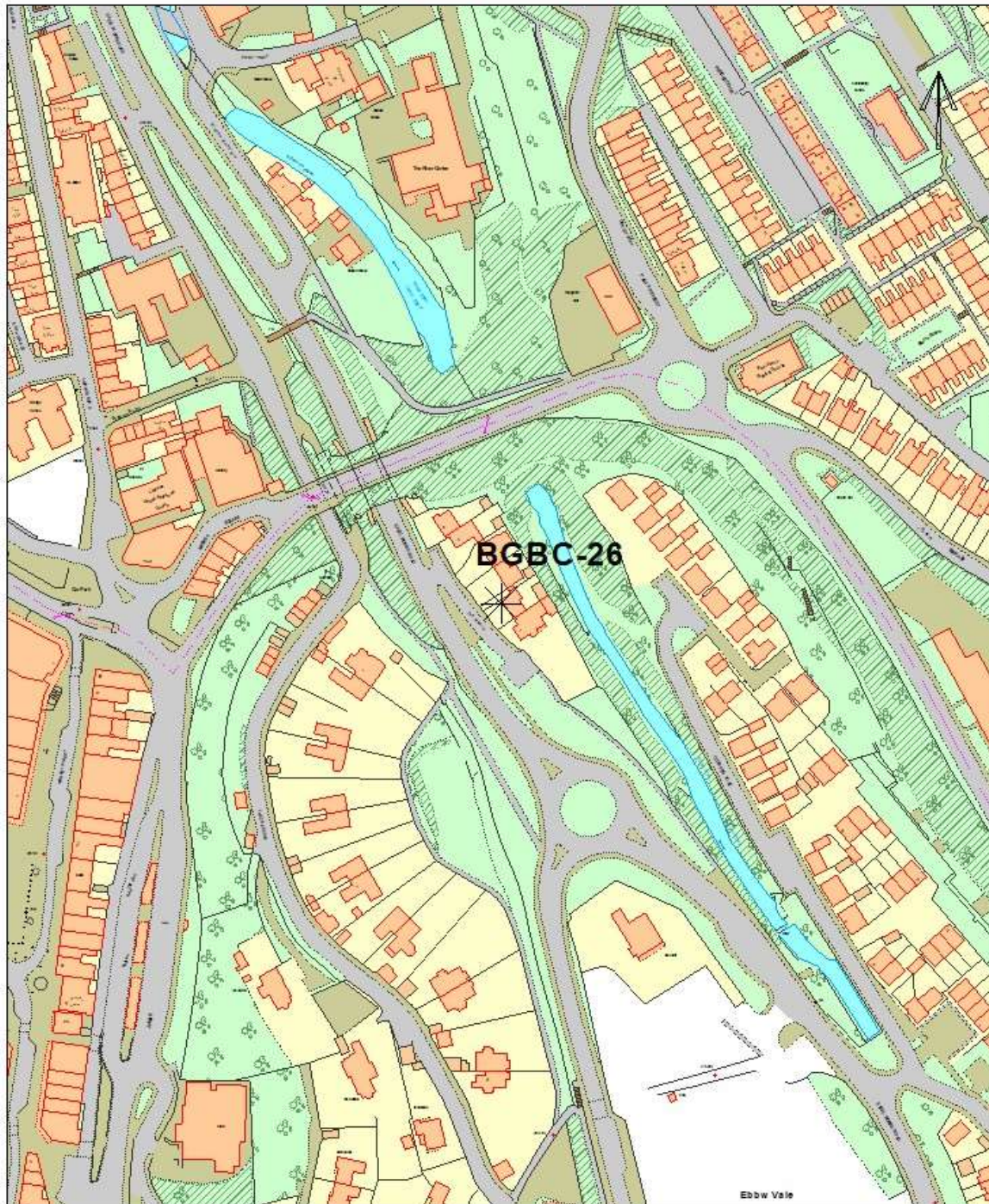


Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council

Location: BGBC-26- 2 The Dingle, Ebbw Vale

Easting: 316979 Northing: 209842

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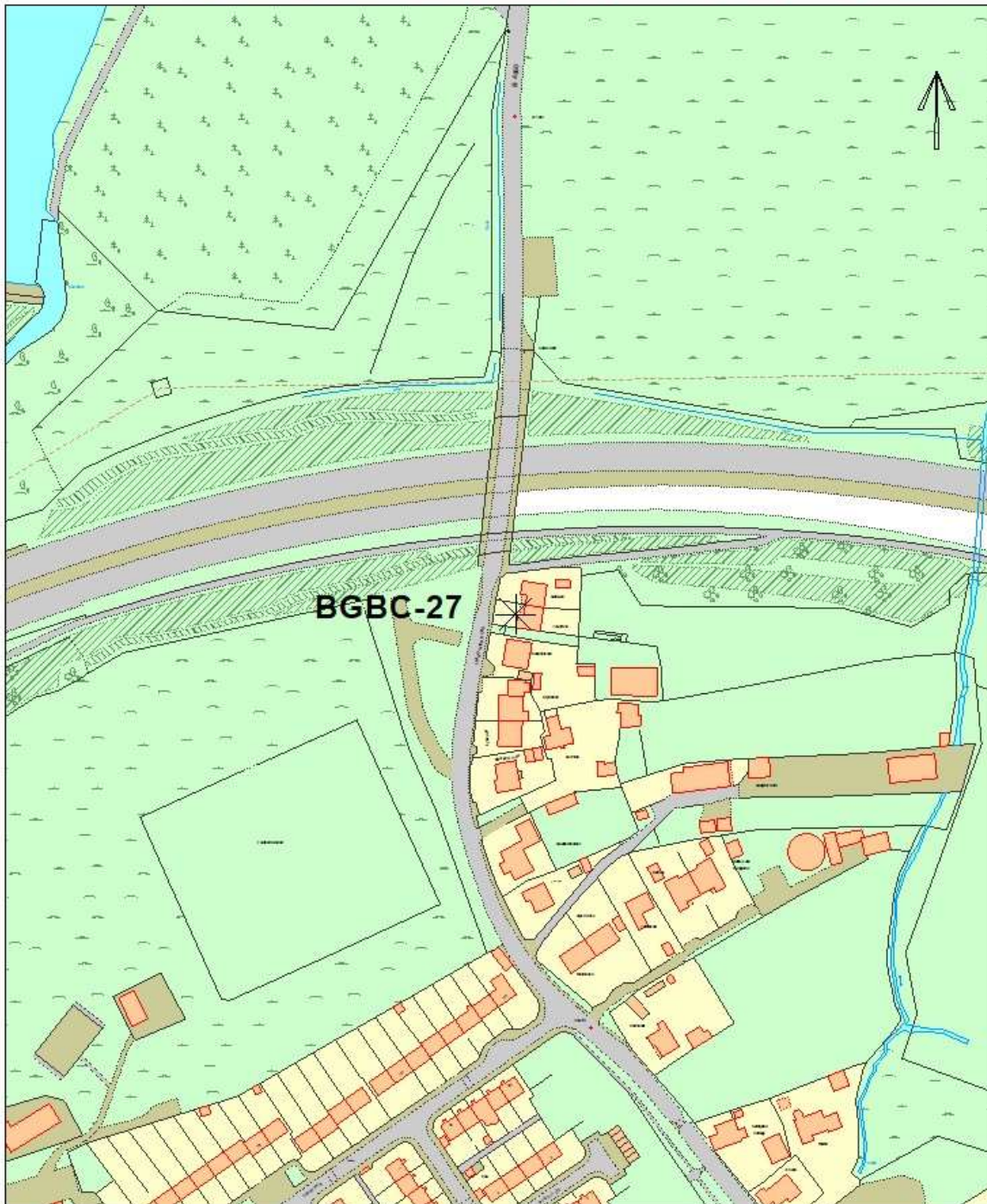


Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council

Location: BGBC-27 - Tyn y Rhyn, Llangynidr Road, Ebbw Vale

Easting: 316712 **Northing:** 212801

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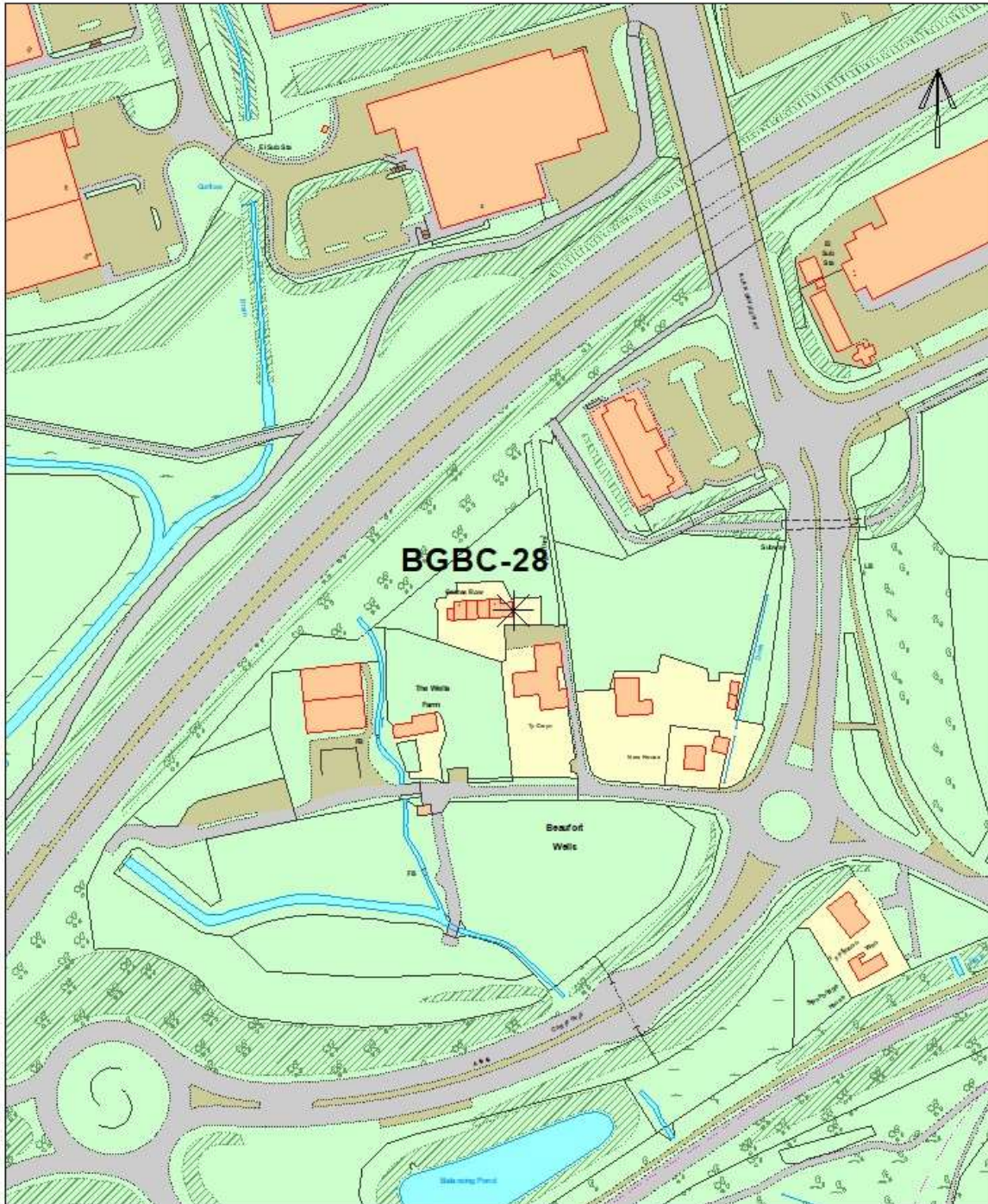


Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council

Location: BGBC-28- 1 Coates Row, Rassau, Ebbw Vale

Easting: 314491 **Northing:** 211644

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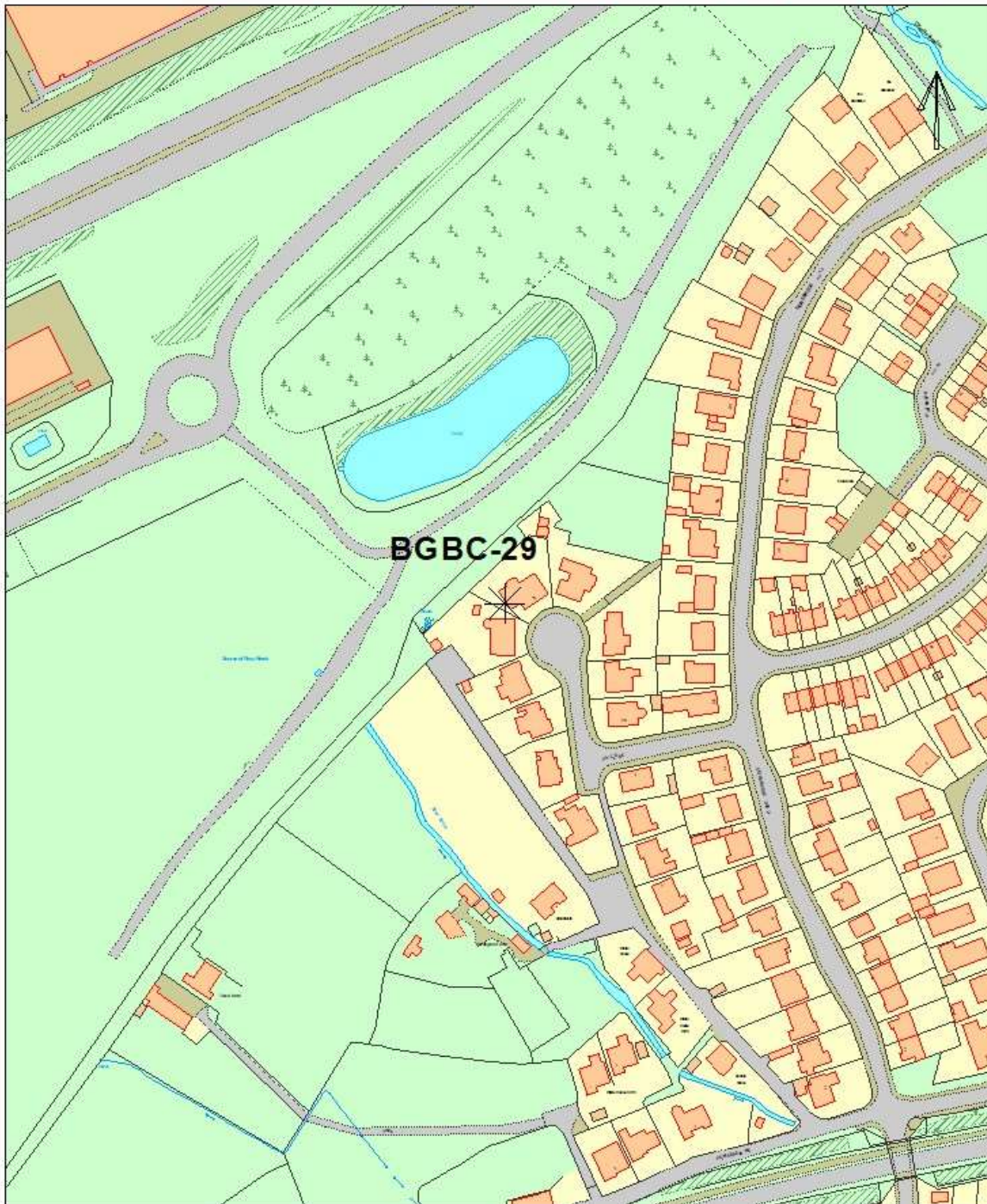


Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council

Location: BGBC-29- 10 Ivy Close, Rassau, Ebbw Vale.

Easting: 315323 Northing: 211938

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Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council

Location: BGBC-30- 8 Annes Court, Ebbw Vale.

Easting: 316005 **Northing:** 210184

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Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council

Location: BGBC-31- 18 Maes Morgan, Tredegar.

Easting: 312664 **Northing:** 210970

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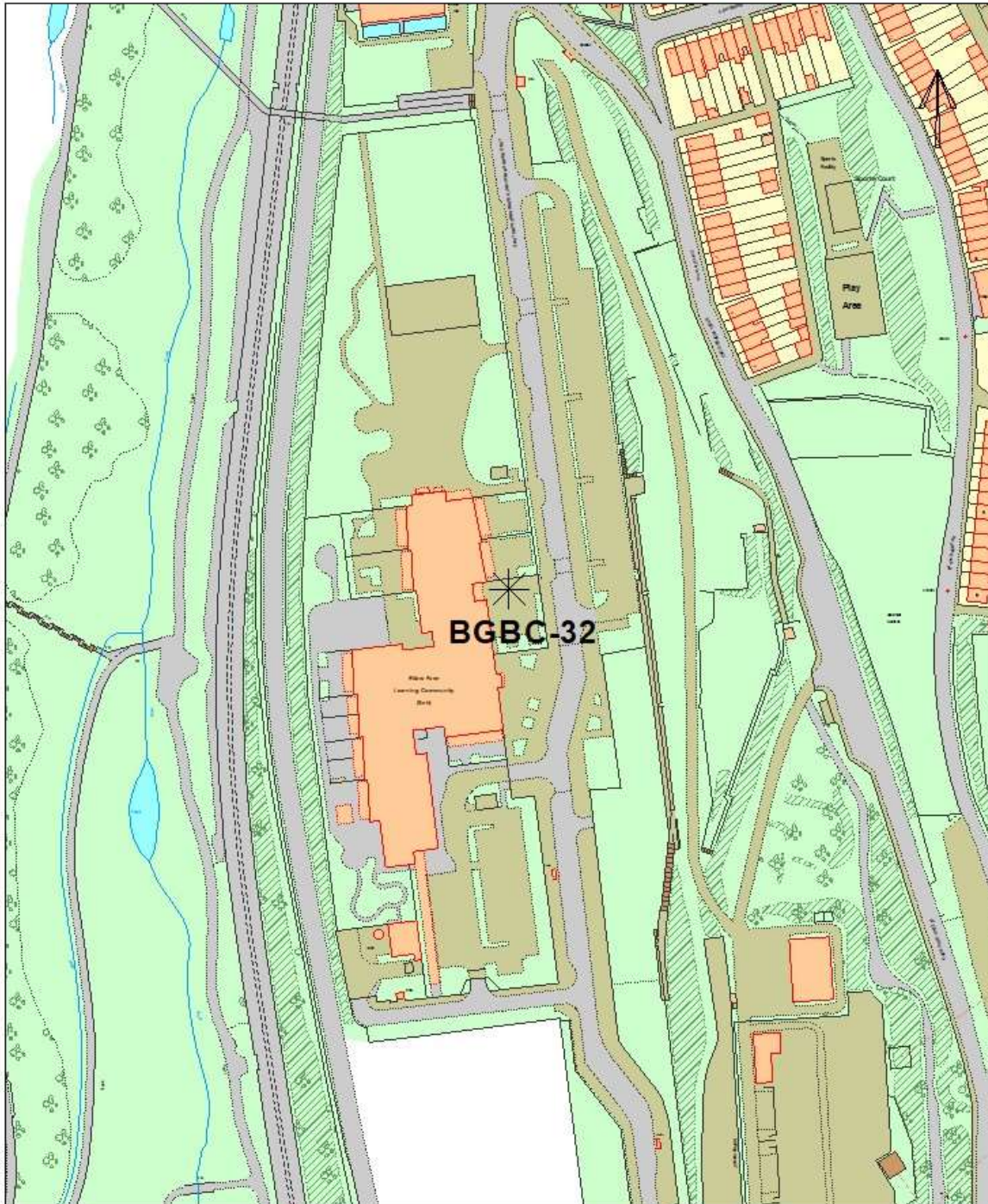


Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council

Location: BGBC-32- Ebbw Fawr Learning Campus, Primary School

Easting: 317389 **Northing:** 208312

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Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council

Location: BGBC-34- Georgetown Primary School, Oakfield Road,

Easting: 314842 **Northing:** 208255

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Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council

Location: BGBC-35- Brynbach Primary School, Merthyr Road, Tr

Easting: 313056 **Northing:** 210464

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Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council

Location: BGBC-36- St Mary's RC Primary School, Brynmawr.

Easting: 319229 **Northing:** 211595

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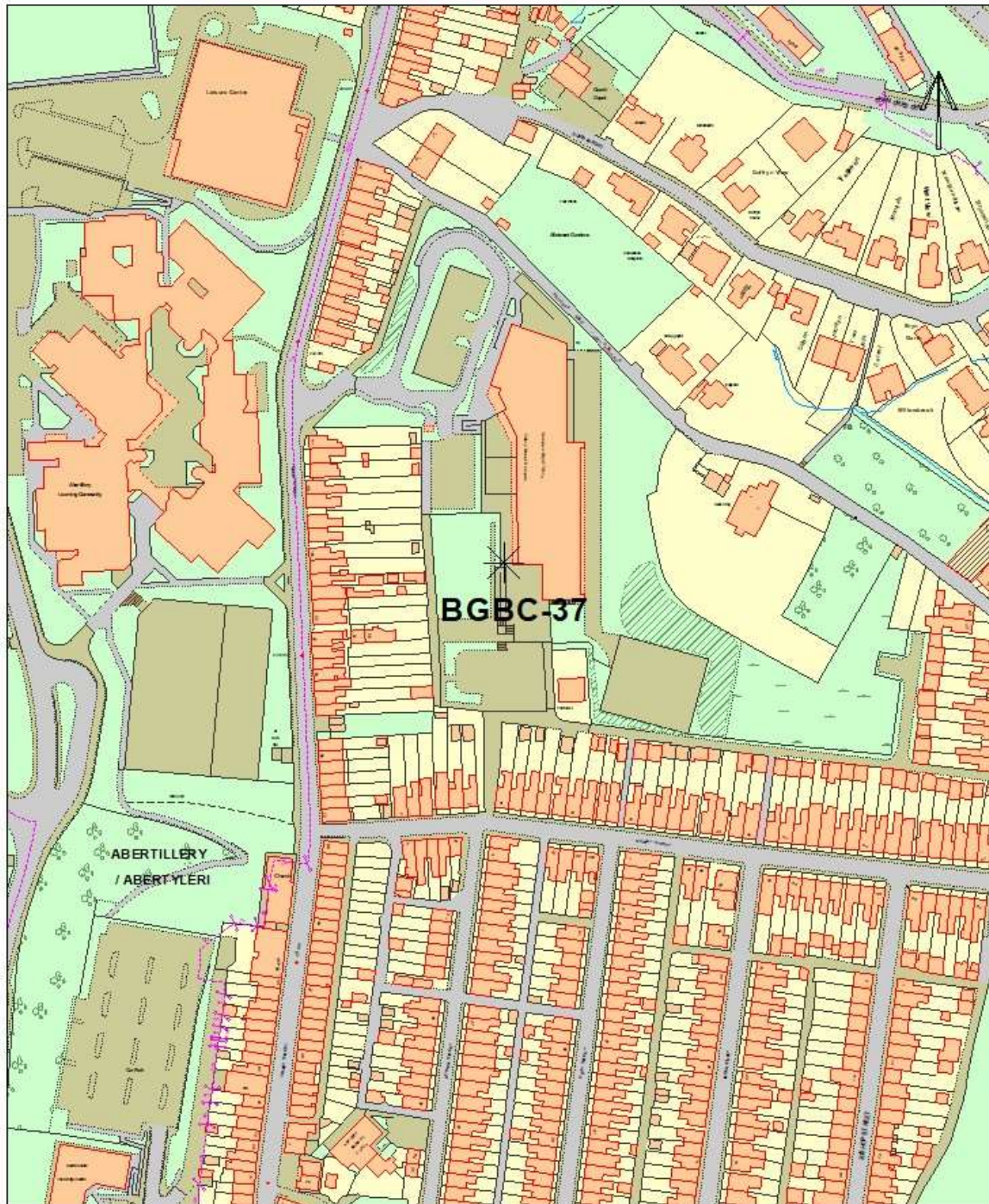


Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council

Location: BGBC-37 - Abertillery Learning Campus, Tillery Stre

Easting: 321892 Northing: 204585

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Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol . **Blaenau Gwent** . County Borough Council

Richard Crook BSc, DipTP, MBA, MRTPI
 Corporate Director Environment and Regeneration / Cyfarwyddwr Corfforaethol yr Amgylchedd ac Adfywio

PROJECT	BGBC-38
TITLE	Deighton Primary School,
E:	Stockton Way, Tredegar



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Date : 22/09/2021 Map Reference : SO1309NE Scale : 1:2000



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Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol . **Blaenau Gwent** . County Borough Council

Richard Crook BSc, DipTP, MBA, MRTPI
Corporate Director Environment and Regeneration / Cyfarwyddwr Corfforaethol yr Amgylchedd ac Adfywio

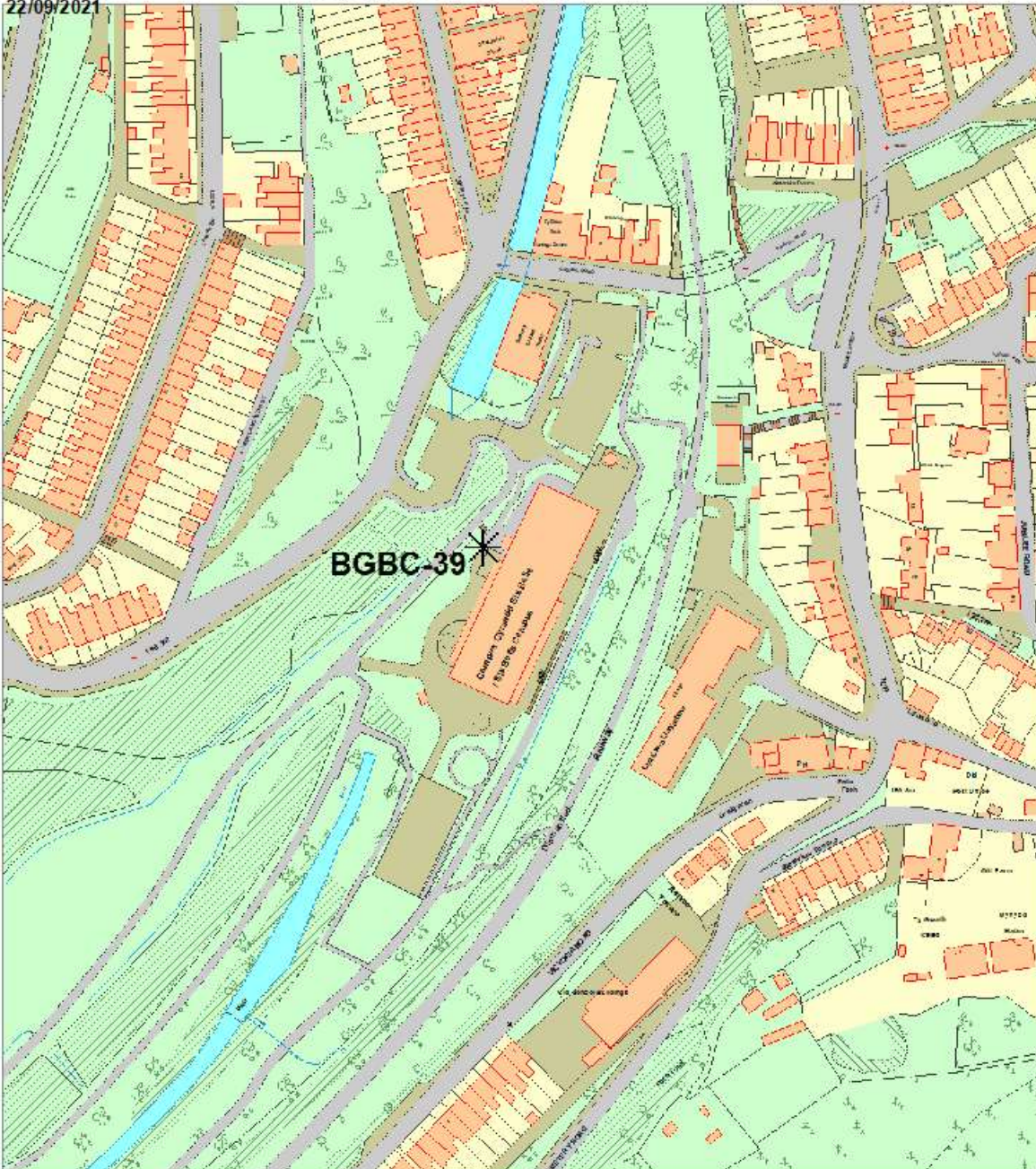
PROJECT	BGBC-39
TITLE	Six Bells Primary Campus
E:	Six Bells Road, Abertillery,



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Date : 22/09/2021 Map Reference : SO2202NW Scale : 1:1800



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Glossary of Terms

Abbreviation	Description
AQAP	Air Quality Action Plan - A detailed description of measures, outcomes, achievement dates and implementation methods, showing how the LA intends to achieve air quality limit values'
AQMA	Air Quality Management Area – An area where air pollutant concentrations exceed / are likely to exceed the relevant air quality objectives. AQMAs are declared for specific pollutants and objectives
APR	Air quality Annual Progress Report
AURN	Automatic Urban and Rural Network (UK air quality monitoring network)
Defra	Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
DMRB	Design Manual for Roads and Bridges – Air quality screening tool produced by Highways England
FDMS	Filter Dynamics Measurement System
LAQM	Local Air Quality Management
NO ₂	Nitrogen Dioxide
NO _x	Nitrogen Oxides
PM ₁₀	Airborne particulate matter with an aerodynamic diameter of 10µm (micrometres or microns) or less
PM _{2.5}	Airborne particulate matter with an aerodynamic diameter of 2.5µm or less
QA/QC	Quality Assurance and Quality Control
SO ₂	Sulphur Dioxide

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Agenda Item 11

Cabinet and Council only

Date signed off by the Monitoring Officer: 31.03.23

Date signed off by the Section 151 Officer: 31.03.23

Committee: **Cabinet**

Date of meeting: **19th April 2023**

Report Subject: **ECO4 Flexible Eligibility - Memorandum of Understanding and Joint 'Statement of Intent'**

Portfolio Holder: **Cllr. Helen Cunningham, Executive Member for Place and Environment**

Report Submitted by: **Mark Congreve, Team Manager – Housing Solutions**

Reporting Pathway								
Directorate Management Team	Corporate Leadership Team	Portfolio Holder / Chair	Governance Audit Committee	Democratic Services Committee	Scrutiny Committee	Cabinet	Council	Other (please state)
✓	✓	30.03.23				✓		

1. **Purpose of the Report**
 - 1.1 The purpose of this report is to inform members of the agreement to work in partnership with the Cardiff Capital Region (CCR) and EDF, who through an agreed Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) are the energy supplier chosen to work within the Gwent region.
 - 1.2 To outline the adoption and implementation of CCR's "Joint Statement of Intent" that enables the Council to participate in the most recent iteration of the Energy Company Obligation (ECO) scheme known as ECO4 and the Local Authority Flexible Eligibility Energy Company Obligation (ECO Flex).
2. **Scope and Background**
 - 2.1 ECO4 Flex is Energy Company Obligation (ECO) funding which is a requirement placed on energy companies over a certain size to help improve domestic energy performance in the homes of the most fuel poor and low energy efficiency performing households across the country through a retrofit programme of insulation measures. The 'Flexible Eligibility' element to the scheme allows councils to set their own criteria to extend the funding outside of the normal rules of ECO (usually based on qualifying benefits). Funding is available only to property owners or privately rented tenants.
 - 2.2 Blaenau Gwent has participated in the previous iteration known as ECO3 Flex through an Executive Committee Member Decision on the 26th September 2018 (Visit [here](#) for full report – item 13). One-Hundred and Thirty-Four households benefited from measures, mainly the replacement of boilers, but other measures also included cavity wall installation, internal wall Installation, first time central heating, upgrading electrical heaters and loft installation.
 - 2.3 On this occasion, Blaenau Gwent's participation is in partnership with the 10 local authorities that make up the [Cardiff Capital Region \(CCR\)](#). Although

the MOU does allow for local authorities to work outside the Partnership. The Council also intends to do this (please refer to paragraphs 2.10.5 and 2.11.1 to 2.11.9 - ECO4 Flex Joint Statement of Intent).

2.4 ECO4 aligns with both CCR ambitions and the Council's ambitions (as per the Corporate Plan)

- Alleviating fuel poverty
- Energy Efficiency retrofit of the domestic housing stock to contribute to CCR net-zero targets.

2.5 **Fuel Poverty**

- Welsh Government predicts 45% of Welsh households could be living in fuel poverty this winter (despite the energy efficiency price cap and other support measures being in place).

2.6 **Energy Efficiency Retrofit**

2.6.1 Currently there are 476,000 properties which register EPC D or below across CCR:

- CCR target to reduce the number of properties rated an EPC D or below to less than 7000 by 2035.
- Target to retrofit 42,000 hard to treat homes with internal or external insulation by 2035.

112,000 homes currently heated by fossil fuels:

- Target to install 33,000 low carbon heat pumps into existing properties by 2035.
- Prioritise replacement of oil, LPG, and solid fuel heating systems.

2.7 For Blaenau Gwent for Non-Gas (properties without a gas grid connection) we obtained data from the [Non Gas Map](#) and for information in relation to Energy Performance Certificates (EPC) from the ([Housing: Census 2021 in England and Wales - Office for National Statistics](#)). However, the following caveat should be noted. The data below is derived from data collated from 2011 – 2016 and 2021. As a result, the data is not robust and is used only for a very broad analysis:

- just over 17% of properties are Off-Gas. (5,628 approximately properties).
- 684 properties use electric heaters.
- Approximately 225 properties are heated by fossil fuels.
- 163 properties use oil or LPG as their source of heating fuel.
- 173 properties have no form of central heating.
- Just over 43% of properties have an EPC registered.
- Approximately 9,755 properties register an EPC rating of D and below.
- Approximately 4,699 properties register an EPC rating of E and below (the likely target for installers).

- 2.8 A report presented to the CCR Cabinet on 29 November 2021 presented an opportunity to maximise the eligibility and funding for the region that would enhance the delivery of ECO programmes within the region. CCR Cabinet agreed to establish an ECO flex Working Group, create a CCR Flexible Eligibility 'Statement of Intent' and Memorandum of Understanding and to undertake market testing to select an energy company partner for delivery of the scheme.
- 2.9 Following a selection process, it was agreed at the ECO Working Group meeting that CCR would work with EON and EDF (both allocated 5 local authorities), based on prior working relationships. The agreed allocations are as follows:
- EDF: Blaenau Gwent, Caerphilly, Newport, Monmouthshire, and Torfaen.
 - EON: Bridgend, Cardiff, Merthyr Tydfil, Rhondda Cynon Taf and the Vale of Glamorgan.
- 2.10 **Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) (See Appendix 1)**
- 2.10.1 There is agreement between the local authorities that make up the CCR region and the energy companies, that they will work together to maximise the delivery of ECO4 Flex through a Memorandum of Understanding document to be ratified and signed by each local authority. The attached Memorandum of Understanding gives a broad understanding of the following:
- the key objectives of the project.
 - the principles of collaboration; and
 - the respective roles and responsibilities the parties will have during the project.
- 2.10.2 However, a fundamental objective of the MOU is to provide a non-binding agreement. The fact that it is a non-binding agreement means that it has flexibility to allow each authority to work both simultaneously with and independently from the partnership to deliver the scheme within their own region. (See clause 9 of the document).
- 2.10.3 ECO4 differs from ECO3 in that ECO4 will take a whole house multi measure approach to achieve an upgrade of a property's energy efficiency rating by 2 SAP bands. ECO4 will target properties in the lowest SAP bands, D to G and not on the gas grid (off gas). Measure could include those more expensive ones such as solar panel and heat source pumps, etc. ECO3 concentrated on single measures and properties that were on the gas grid.
- 2.10.4 ECO is divided into two parts. Customers can qualify for the main ECO scheme if they live in energy inefficient housing and are in receipt of certain means tested benefits. The following benefit criteria is for owner occupied or private rented properties only

Benefits eligible for ECO4 funding are: -

- Income-based Job Seekers Allowance
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- Income Support
- Pension Credit Guarantee Credit
- Working Tax Credit
- Child Tax Credit
- Universal Credit
- Housing Benefit
- Pension Credit Savings Credit
- Child Benefit (income thresholds apply)

2.10.5 However, since 2017, suppliers can meet a proportion of their obligations (50% for ECO4), by installing measures for households that meet broader fuel poverty and vulnerability criteria set out in a Local Authority Statement of Intent (Sol). This is known as Local Authority Flexible Eligibility (LA Flex). Therefore, in effect this part of the ECO4 obligation enables Local Authorities to widen the eligibility criteria for ECO4 funding and to tailor energy efficiency schemes to their respective area. Under ECO4 Flex, a participating Local Authority can refer private tenure households that it considers to be living in fuel poverty or on a low income and vulnerable to the effects of living in a cold home.

2.11.1 **ECO4 Flex Joint ‘Statement of Intent’ (See Appendix 2)**

2.11.2 The Statement of Intent sets out the flexible eligibility criteria for the ECO4 scheme from April 2022 – March 2026 on behalf of the 10 Local Authorities in the CCR.

2.11.3 The attached ‘Statement of Intent’ sets out the extended criteria on eligibility and the process by which householders can access the funding. The drafting of the Statement has followed the Department for Business, Energy & Industrial (BEIS) Strategy’s document ‘Energy Company Obligation: ECO4 Guidance V1’, produced by Ofgem (Office of Gas and Electricity Markets).

2.11.4 The scheme acts in a similar way to Welsh Government run schemes such as Nest and Arbed. For a household to claim funding they must qualify via one of the three routes listed below:

Route 1:	Household income – EPC (D – highly unlikely to be viable for installers), E, F and G with an income cap of £31,000 across the UK regardless of region, property size or number of occupants.
Route 2:	Proxy targeting – combination of 2 pre-selected proxies to evidence a household is low income along with a household in EPC rating E, F or G.
Route 3:	NHS/Health referrals – Those who could be severely impacted by the effects of living in a cold home that have respiratory,

	cardiovascular, limited mobility or immune suppressed conditions.
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2.11.5 If using Route 2 (Proxy Targeting) - there are five proxies that further widen the eligibility criteria so that more vulnerable households can access the scheme. Households must meet a combination of two of the following proxies, however proxies 1 and 3 cannot be used together.

Table 1 - Route 2 (Proxy Targeting)

Proxy 1*	Homes in Lower Super Output Area (LSOA) decile 1-3 on the Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation 2019.
Proxy 2	Householders receiving a Council Tax rebate (rebates based on low income only, excluding single person rebates).
Proxy 3*	Householders vulnerable to the effects of living in a cold home as identified in the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) Guidance. Only one from the list can be used, excludes the proxy 'low income'.
Proxy 4	A householder receiving free school meals due to low-income.
Proxy 5	A household referred to the LA for support by their energy supplier or Citizen's Advice because they have been identified as struggling to pay their electricity and gas bills.

(*Note that proxies 1 and 3 cannot be used together)

2.11.6 The final decision on whether a household receives a measure under ECO flexible eligibility or other ECO funding stream will rest with the energy supplier (EDF) or their agent/contractor (Zing Energy). Qualification in the statement of intent or the declaration by Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council will not guarantee installation of any measures.

2.11.7 Energy suppliers and/or their agents involved with flexible eligibility surveys will comply with the Data Protection Act and they will need to undertake work in accordance with Ofgem requirements and act in accordance with industry best practice in relation to consumer care and quality standards.

2.11.8 The adoption and publication of the Statement of Intent (on the Blaenau Gwent website) enables the Council to move forward and approve any eligible households. For each household/application the Council must check that:

- The property is eligible, and
- The household is eligible i.e., meets one of the four eligibility criteria.

2.11.9 In addition to the Council verifying evidence to demonstrate eligibility, it must provide signed 'declarations' to Ofgem for each approved applicant and to the installer to certify that the household qualifies for the energy efficiency measure(s). The installer will subsequently confirm in due course what works (if any) are completed to eligible properties. Ofgem will link the information from the declarations with information from suppliers about works completed at a property.

3. **Options for Recommendation**

3.1 That Members note the content of the report in relation to the implementation of ECO4 Flex in the borough.

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

4.1. Corporate Plan 2022-27

- Respond to the nature and climate crisis and enable connected communities - Blaenau Gwent Council greatly reduces its carbon emissions, provides an environment which supports growth and well-being and connects communities.
- An ambitious and innovative council delivering quality services at the right time and in the right place - Blaenau Gwent Council works in partnership to provide high quality services to meet local need and improve the quality of life and wellbeing within the community.

4.1.2 Local Authorities have statutory responsibilities under the Housing Act 2004 to keep the housing conditions in their area under review with a view to identifying any action that may need to be taken. Where relevant health and safety hazards are identified, the local authority has duties and/or powers to intervene. The additional responsibilities under the Energy Efficiency (Private Rented Property) (England and Wales) Regulations 2015 means substandard F and G rated properties should not be placed on the rental market.

5. **Implications Against Each Option**

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

5.1.1 The funding stream for the scheme is provided direct from the Energy Suppliers (EDF) under the provisions of the Energy Company Obligation (ECO) and the local authority will not be expected to provide any additional funding.

5.1.2 The authority will receive an administration fee of £150 for reviewing each application for eligibility.

5.2 ***Risk including Mitigating Actions***

5.2.1 Reputational risk- the risk for the authority is low energy suppliers are responsible for the scheme and for the quality of the works undertaken. Suppliers will need to demonstrate excellent customer service and complaints procedures.

5.3 **Legal**

5.3.1 The scheme is completely funded by the Energy Companies Obligations (ECO). Therefore, the scheme doesn't fall into the remit of state aid requirements.

5.4 **Human Resources**

5.4.1 The application process and collating the information will be carried out by Zing Energy. Following this, the assessment of the Eco Flex 'declarations' will be undertaken by local authority staff in the community hubs if demand is relatively low. However, it is difficult at this stage to be precise about the level of resource required as that depends to a large degree on the uptake rate from the public. Should demand increase there could be a need to increase resources to meet that demand.

6. **Supporting Evidence**

6.1 **Performance Information and Data**

6.1.1 The previous ECO3 Flex scheme saw One-Hundred and Thirty-Four households benefit from one or more energy measures; a breakdown of the type of measures can be seen in the table below:

Boiler Replacement	122
Cavity Wall Insulation	15
Internal Wall Installation	4
Electrical Storage Heater	3
Loft Insulation	25
First Time Central Heating	5

6.1.2 To evaluate the success of Blaenau Gwent's participation in the proposed ECO4 Flex scheme the following data will be collected by Zing Energy:

- Level of demand
- Identification of vulnerability of the household
- Identification of the type of property and measure(s) installed
- The cost of the measure(s) installed.
- The likely savings/per year of fuel energy.
- The likely CO2/yr kg saving

6.2 **Expected outcome for the public**

6.2.1 Energy efficiency measures will be available to all qualifying households as set out in the Statement of Intent at Appendix 2. Qualifying criteria mainly centres around lower household incomes, health vulnerabilities, and risk of fuel poverty. The scheme is designed to reduce inequalities in terms of living standards, health, and wellbeing.

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

6.3.1 Relevant internal colleagues (Public Protection, Legal and Corporate Compliance and Customer Experience & Transformation) have been consulted on the content of this report and associated appendices.

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

6.4.1 The Council made the decision several years ago to withdraw discretionary private sector housing funding, such as renovation grants. There are, therefore, no alternative grant funding streams available to householders to improve their properties.

6.4.2 ECO4 Flex will build on existing schemes available through the Council that mitigate against socio economic disadvantage. Such services include:

- Empty Property Loans (Houses to Homes)
- Home Improvement Loans
- Disability Facilities Grants

6.4.3 It is the expectation of Welsh Government that the Council supports the implementation of the ECO4 Flex scheme to support low income and vulnerable households.

6.5 ***Preventative focus***

6.5.1 The scheme will contribute to better housing conditions and the prevention of public health problems related to poor housing.

6.6 ***Collaboration / partnership working***

6.6.1 The scheme will be run in partnership with the Local Authority, EDF Energy, Zing Energy, and the Cardiff Capital Region (CCR).

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

6.7.1 The scheme will contribute to relevant social services, well-being, and regeneration agendas.

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

6.8.1 ECO4 Flex will provide additional grant funding to help low-income households living in homes with poor energy efficiency to access energy efficiency improvement measures and help reduce CO2 emissions.

6.9 ***Integrated Impact Assessment***

6.9.1 The Integrated Impact Assessment has been completed and no negative implications were identified (See Appendix 3).

7. ***Monitoring Arrangements***

7.1 The scheme will be monitored by Public Protection Managers and by way of relevant reports to the Corporate Director of Regeneration & Community Services, CLT, Scrutiny and Executive Committee, as necessary.

7.2 ***Background Documents /Electronic Links***

Appendix 1 Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)

Appendix 2 Joint Statement of Intent for ECO4

Appendix 3 Integrated Impact Assessment (IIA)

- Web-link [Private Sector Housing Renewal Policy](#)
- Web-link [Energy Company Obligation ECO4 Guidance: Delivery v1.1](#)
- Web-link [Zing Energy](#)
- Web-link [Housing Act 2004](#)
- Web-link [The Regulatory Reform \(Housing Assistance\) \(England and Wales\) Order 2002](#)
- Web-link [The Energy Efficiency \(Private Rented Property\) \(England and Wales\) Regulations 2015](#)
- Web-link [National Institute for Health and Care Excellence \(NICE\) Guidance](#)
- Web-link [Housing Health & Safety Rating System \(HHSRS\)](#)

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DATED

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

Between

BLAENAU GWENT COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL (1)

CAERPHILLY COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL (2)

MONMOUTHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL (3)

NEWPORT CITY COUNCIL (4)

TORFAEN COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL (5)

**THE COUNTY COUNCIL OF THE CITY AND COUNTY OF CARDIFF ON BEHALF OF
THE CARDIFF CAPITAL REGION CITY DEAL (6)**

and

EDF ENERGY CUSTOMERS LIMITED (7)

This agreement is dated [DATE]

Parties

- (1) Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council of Municipal Offices, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale, Gwent NP23 6XB
 - (2) Caerphilly County Borough Council of Penallta House, Tredomen Park, Ystrad Mynach, Hengoed CF82 7PG
 - (3) Monmouthshire County Council of County Hall, The Rhadyr, Usk, NP15 1GA
 - (4) Newport City Council of Civic Centre, Newport NP20 4UR; and
 - (5) Torfaen County Borough Council of Civic Centre, Pontypool NP4 6YB
- Together referred to as “**the Councils**” and individually as “**a Council**”
- (6) The County Council of the City and County of Cardiff on behalf of the Cardiff Capital Region City Deal of County Hall, Atlantic Wharf, Cardiff CF10 4UW (“**CCR**”)
 - (7) EDF Energy Customers Limited, registered in England with company number 02228297 whose registered office is at 90 Whitfield Street, London, W1T 4EZ (**Energy Supplier**)

Each **Council**, **CCR** and the **Energy Supplier** being a **Party** and together they are the **Parties**.

1. Background

- 1.1 ECO4 is an energy efficiency scheme which places a legal obligation on energy suppliers to deliver energy efficiency and heating measures to the least energy efficient domestic homes occupied by low income and vulnerable and fuel poor households in order to improve their energy efficiency and reduce fuel poverty.
- 1.2 One route to identify the households described in paragraph 1.1 is the Energy Company Obligation 4 Local Authority Eligibility Flexibility Scheme otherwise known as ECO4 Flex in which a participating local authority can identify and refer households it considers eligible for ECO4.
- 1.3 The Cardiff Capital Region City Deal (CCRCDD) is comprised of the ten Local Authorities that make up South East Wales including the Councils. The ten Local Authorities of the CCRCDD intend to work together to agree a Cardiff Capital Region joint Flexible Eligibility ‘Statement of Intent’ in order to participate in the ECO4 Flex.
- 1.4 The Energy Supplier is an energy supplier subject to the legal obligation to deliver those measures set out in paragraph 1.1 and can deliver up to 50% of its obligation through the ECO4 Flex route.

1.5 Subject to the Councils participation in ECO4 Flex, the Parties have agreed to work together to maximise the delivery of the Energy Company Obligation 4 Local Authority Eligibility Flexibility Scheme otherwise known as ECO4 Flex (“**the Project**”) within the administrative areas of the Councils.

1.6 The Parties wish to record the basis on which they will collaborate with each other on the Project. This Memorandum of Understanding (“**MoU**”) sets out the:

1.6.1 the key objectives of the Project;

1.6.2 the principles of collaboration; and

1.6.3 the respective roles and responsibilities the Parties will have during the Project.

2. Key objectives of the Project

2.1 The aim of the Project is to assist with the installation of measures to improve energy efficiency for fuel poor private households that will generate savings for customers and helps the Energy Supplier to meet its legal obligation under ECO4.

2.2 The referral process for the Project, as set out in paragraph 5.4, will help the Energy Supplier meet its obligation under ECO4 and will also help CCR and the Councils with their goals of decarbonising housing stock and reducing fuel poverty across the Cardiff Capital Region.

3. Principles of Collaboration

3.1 The Parties agree to adopt the following principles when carrying out the Project (**Principles**):

3.1.1 collaborate and co-operate. Establish and adhere to the provisions of this MoU to ensure delivery of the Project.

3.1.2 be accountable. Take on, manage and account to each other for performance of the respective roles and responsibilities set out in this MoU.

3.1.3 be open. Communicate openly about major concerns, issues or opportunities relating to the Project.

3.1.4 learn, develop and seek to achieve full potential. Share information, experience, materials and skills to learn from each other and develop effective working practices, work collaboratively to identify solutions, eliminate duplication of effort, mitigate risk and reduce cost.

3.1.5 adhere to statutory requirements, guidance and best practice.

3.1.6 act in good faith to support achievement of the Project and compliance with these Principles.

4. Project Governance

4.1 CCR through the ECO Flex Working Group shall have oversight of this MoU and shall monitor the Parties performance of their respective obligations under this MoU.

4.2 CCR shall report to the CCR Regional Cabinet on the number of measures installed as well as the type of measures and within which Council's administrative areas under the Project and ECO4.

5 Roles and Responsibilities

5.1 The Parties shall undertake the following roles and responsibilities to deliver the Project.

The Councils

5.2 The Councils shall agree a Joint Statement of Intent, to be prepared by CCR, which shall be published on the Councils' websites in order for the Councils to participate in the Project.

5.3 Following publication of the Joint Statement of Intent, the Councils shall be responsible for producing and signing all declarations for their respective administrative areas and liaising with OFGEM unless they have agreed to delegate authority to do so to another Council in which case it shall be that Council's responsibility.

5.4 Each Council shall:

- 5.4.1 Provide any available data relating to housing stock within their individual administrative area to the Energy Supplier through appropriate data sharing agreements to be entered into outside of this MoU;
- 5.4.2 Assist and collaborate with the Energy Supplier on resident and local community engagement;
- 5.4.3 Allow the use of co-branded marketing material (approved by all parties prior to its use or issue) and issue this through agreed channels;
- 5.4.4 Direct any resident that enquires about the Project to the Energy Supplier's designated installer(s) in the first instance so the designated installer(s) can provide advice and assessment for eligibility for ECO4.
- 5.4.5 Help to raise awareness of the Project and the referral routes with the health service, third sector and other community organisations;
- 5.4.6 Direct any local installers to contact the Energy Supplier in the event that they wish to on-board to be approved as an ECO4 Flex installer in the area.

THE ENERGY SUPPLIER

5.5 The Energy Supplier shall report on the number of installations and types of measures installed within the administrative areas of the Councils under the Project and under the other routes of ECO4 to the Councils and CCR on a monthly basis.

5.6 The Energy Supplier is committed to providing funding for ECO4 and arranging the installation of measures via their installer network within eligible homes under the Project within the administrative areas of the Council and shall endeavour to maximise the delivery of the Project and Supplier Flex within the Council's administrative areas

5.7 The Energy Supplier shall notify CCR and the Councils accordingly if there are categories of vulnerable households within the administrative areas of the Councils which require a flexible approach to eligibility under the Project.

5.8 The Energy Supplier shall ensure that the quality and competency of their supply chain and subsequent works to homes meet Trustmark (PAS2035) standards and any other standards set out in the guidance produced on ECO4.

CCR

5.9 CCR shall be responsible for co-ordinating the relationship between the Councils and the Energy Supplier by:

5.9.1 Arranging meetings which shall take place on a monthly basis either virtually or in-person;

5.9.2 Co-ordinating publicity materials;

5.9.3 Preparing reports to CCR Regional Cabinet on the Project.

All Parties

5.10 Subject to paragraph 5.11, no Party shall make any press announcements or publicise this MoU or the Project or any part thereof in any way unless the press announcements or publicity has been agreed between all the Parties first. Where a Party fails to comply with this paragraph 5.10, any of the other Parties shall have the right to terminate this MoU with immediate effect. For the avoidance of doubt, the Energy Supplier shall have no right to terminate this MoU in respect of CCR and/or the Councils exercising their rights under paragraph 5.11.

5.11 CCR and the Councils shall be entitled to publicise this MoU in accordance with any legal obligation on CCR and the Councils or otherwise, including any examination of this MoU by the Auditor.

5.12 Any communication to members of the public about the Project must be agreed between all Parties in advance. The Energy Supplier shall take all reasonable steps to ensure the observance of the provisions of this paragraph by its installers.

5.13 The Parties agree that where data (including personal data) is required to be shared between two or more of the Parties in connection with the Project, then those Parties shall enter into a data sharing agreement which shall govern the sharing of that data between those Parties. No such data shall be shared until a data sharing agreement has been entered into between the relevant Parties.

5.14 The Parties acknowledge that this MoU may need to be reviewed and any necessary changes made to this MoU in accordance with paragraph 7 (variation).

6 Term and Termination

6.1 This MoU shall commence on the date of signature by all Parties and shall expire on the earlier of 31st March 2026 or the completion of the Project, unless otherwise terminated in accordance with this MoU.

6.2 Any Party may terminate this MoU by giving at least three (3) months' notice in writing to the other Parties at any time.

7 Variation

7.1 No variation of this MoU shall be valid or effective unless it is in writing, refers to this MoU and is duly signed or executed by the Parties (or their authorised representatives).

7.2 If there are any changes in regional or national policies, including but not limited to any changes to the regulations on ECO4 which affect the Project, CCR and/or the Councils reserves the right to amend this MoU in accordance with paragraph 7.1.

8 Charges and Liabilities

8.1 Except as otherwise provided, the Parties shall each bear their own costs and expenses incurred in complying with their obligations under this MoU.

8.2 Only to the extent permissible by law, each Party shall not be liable to any other Party for any losses or liabilities caused by its actions or the actions of its employees . Each Party shall remain liable for any loss or liabilities it suffers as a result of this MoU.

8.3 For the avoidance of doubt, neither CCR nor the Councils are appointing the Energy Supplier or their installers to install any measures or carry out any works on eligible properties under the Project. The Energy Supplier agrees that there shall be no liability or responsibility on the part of the Councils or CCR for any works or measures installed on eligible properties under the Project by the Energy Supplier or their installers.

9 Status

9.1 This MoU is not intended to be legally binding, and no legal obligations or legal rights shall arise between the Parties from this MoU. The Parties enter into the MoU intending to honour all their obligations.

9.2 Nothing in this MoU is intended to, or shall be deemed to, establish any partnership or joint venture between the Parties, constitute any Party as the agent of any other Party, nor authorise any of the Parties to make or enter into any commitments for or on behalf of any other Party.

9.3 The Energy Supplier acknowledges that, in entering into this MoU, no volume guarantee has been granted by CCR or the Councils for the Project

and that the CCR and/or the Councils reserve the right to enter into other contracts or arrangements with other energy suppliers or other third parties in respect of ECO4 Flex, ECO4 and/or any non-ECO4 schemes or projects acting jointly or separately.

10 Governing law and jurisdiction

10.1 This MoU shall be governed by and construed in accordance with the Laws of England and Wales as it applies in Wales and each Party agrees to submit to the exclusive jurisdiction of the courts of England and Wales.

This MoU has been entered into on the date stated at the beginning of it

Signed by

for and on behalf of **Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council**

Name:

Job Title:

Date:

Signed by

for and on behalf of **Caerphilly County Borough Council**

Name:

Job Title:

Date:

Signed by

for and on behalf of **Monmouthshire County Council**

Name:

Job Title:

Date:

Signed by

for and on behalf of **Newport City Council**

Name:

Job Title:

Date:

Signed by

for and on behalf of **Torfaen County Borough Council**

Name:

Job Title:

Date:

Signed by

for and on behalf of **The County Council of the City and County of Cardiff on behalf of the Cardiff Capital Region City Deal**

Name:

Job Title:

Date:

Signed by

for and on behalf of **EDF Energy Customers Limited**

Name:

Job Title:

Date:

Joint Statement of Intent for ECO4

Cardiff Capital Region City Deal ECO4 Flexible Eligibility Statement of Intent

Between:

BLAENAU GWENT COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

CAERPHILLY COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

THE COUNTY COUNCIL OF THE CITY AND COUNTY OF CARDIFF

MERTHYR TYDFIL COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

MONMOUTHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

NEWPORT CITY COUNCIL

RHONDDA CYNON TAFF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

TORFAEN COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL

Publication Date: XX/XX/XXXX

Version Number: 1.0

Publication on website: _____

Introduction and Background

The Cardiff Capital Region City Deal Regional Cabinet (CCRCD) agreed to pursue a regional approach to Energy Company Obligation 4 scheme (ECO) in November 2021 as the scheme had not been utilised effectively across the 10 Local Authorities during previous iterations of ECO.

This statement sets out the flexible eligibility criteria for the ECO4 scheme from April 2022 – March 2026 on behalf of the 10 Local Authorities which make up the Cardiff Capital Region (CCR) Economic Area in Southeast Wales: BLAENAU GWENT COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL, BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL, CAERPHILLY COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL, THE COUNTY COUNCIL OF THE CITY AND COUNTY OF CARDIFF, MERTHYR TYDFIL COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL, MONMOUTHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL, NEWPORT CITY COUNCIL, RHONDDA CYNON TAFF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL, TORFAEN COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL AND THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL.

.ECO4 is a UK Government requirement for energy companies to support households in fuel poverty, and reducing carbon emissions within the housing stock, by installing energy efficiency measures. The flexible approach for Local Authorities (LAs) to identifying fuel poor and vulnerable households who may benefit from heating and energy saving measures is referred to as “ECO4 Flex”.

The CCR and its member authorities welcomes the introduction of the ECO4 Flex eligibility routes as it is seen as a key staple of improving the heat and energy efficiency of the homes of those in fuel poverty or that are vulnerable to the cold.

Identifying Eligible Households

Route 1 (Low-Income):

SAP bands D-G owner-occupied households and private rented sector E-G households with an income less than £31,000. This cap applies irrespective of the property size, composition, or region.

Route 2 (Combined Proxy Eligibility):

SAP bands E-G for owner-occupied households and private rented sector households that meet a combination of two of the following proxies (Table 1):

Proxy 1*)	Homes in Lower Super Output Area (LSOA) decile 1-3 on the Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation 2019.
Proxy 2)	Householders receiving a Council Tax reduction (reduction based on low income only, excluding single person reduction).
Proxy 3*)	Householders vulnerable to the effects of living in a cold home as identified in the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) Guidance. Only one from the list can be used, excludes the proxy 'low income'.
Proxy 4)	A householder receiving free school meals due to low-income.
Proxy 5)	A household referred to the LA for support by their energy supplier or Citizen's Advice because they have been identified as struggling to pay their electricity and gas bills.

(*Note that proxies 1 and 3 cannot be used together*)

Route 3 (NHS Referral):

SAP bands D-G households that have been identified by their doctor or GP as lowincome and vulnerable, with an occupant whose health conditions may be impacted further by living in a cold home. These health conditions may be cardiovascular, respiratory, immunosuppressed, or limited mobility related.

This is because the Council has identified a positive correlation between households who suffer from long-term health conditions and living off a low-income, with living in poorly insulated homes.

Route 4 (Bespoke Targeting)

SAP band D-G households that are referred under Route 4: Bespoke Targeting. Suppliers and LAs can submit an application to BEIS where they have identified a low income and vulnerable household, who are not already eligible under the exiting routes.

Declaration and evidence check confirmation

All potentially eligible households should apply through XXXXXX Council or one of their approved ECO installers to ensure that they can either benefit from the scheme or be assessed for eligibility under any other relevant programme. The officer below will be responsible for checking and verifying declarations and associated evidence submitted on behalf of the local authority:

Name: XXXX XXXX

Job Title: XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

Telephone: XXXXX XXXXXX

Email: XXXXXX@XXXXX.gov.uk

CEO or dedicated responsible person mandatory signature

The XXXXXX Council will administer the scheme according to BEIS' ECO4 Order and will identify eligible households via Ofgem's application process. The CEO of the Council will oversee the process of identifying eligible households under ECO4 Flex. The eligibility information will be stored securely in line with the Council's data protection policy, Information Commissioner's Office Data Sharing Code, and BEIS guidance.

Signature: XXXXXX

Name: XXXX XXXX

Job Title: CEO/ dedicated responsible person

Date of signature: XX/XX/XXXX

For any general enquires relating to this Sol, please contact XXXXXX@XXXXX.gov.uk

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Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council - Integrated Impact Assessment (ECO4 Flex)

All decisions, policy reviews or policy implementation will now require a completed Integrated Impact Assessment.

- Section 1-Equality Act 2010 (Statutory Duties) (Wales) Regulations 2011
- Section 2-Socio-economic Duty – Sections 1 to 3 of the Equality Act 2010
- Section 3-Corporate Plan
- Section 4-Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015
- Section 5-Welsh Language (Wales) Measure 2011
- Section 6-Children’s Right “The Right Way”
- Section 7-Community Safety
- Section 8 Armed Forces
- Section 9-Data
- Section 10-Consultations Statutory Consultation Doctrine of Legitimate Expectation and Gunning Principles
- Section 11-Monitoring
- Section 12-Decision of proposal

Lead Officer	Head of Service	Service Area & Department	Date
Mark Congreve	David Thompson	Housing & Environmental Health - Public Protection	22.02.23

Briefly outline the proposal indicating what change or decision is to be made, also provide any documentation that may be used to support this.
What is the proposal that needs to be assessed?

This is a proposal to seek approval for adoption of an updated “statement of intent”, the signed governance document allowing delivery of the Energy Company Obligation, ECO4 Flex grant scheme in Blaenau Gwent. ECO4 Flex is a scheme by which energy companies invest funding to upgrade boilers and insulation measures in qualifying dwellings (identified by the proposed statement of intent). Blaenau Gwent have been allocated an energy partner (Zing Energy) who specialise in delivery of programmes designed to address fuel poverty in Wales. The Council will receive a fee of £150 from Zing Energy to cover council administrative costs associated with the process and to generate a sustainable income stream for the lifetime of the project. This will not be a council managed scheme and all activity regarding funding viability will be undertaken by Zing Energy who will be working at their own discretion but following national guidance issued by OFGEM.

Section 1 Outline how the proposal will impact on any people or groups of people with protected characteristics, please refer to the Equalities Act 2010 (Wales) for further information Equality Act 2010: guidance - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk) and the EHRC guidance The Essential Guide to the Public Sector Equality Duty: EHRC Briefly outline below if there will be any positive or negative impacts as a result of the proposal being considered.			
Protected characteristics	Will the proposal have any positive impacts on those with a protected characteristics?	Will the proposal have any negative impacts on those with a protected characteristics?	Outline how the proposal could maximise any positive impacts or minimise any negative impact. Please indicate any views evidence you have that supports this.
Age (<i>people of all ages</i>)	Yes	No	Better targeted support to those individuals in greatest need living in poorly insulated properties (D, E, F & G EPC rated) will contribute to a more positive impact.
Disability (<i>people with disabilities/ long term conditions</i>)	Yes	No	As above.
Gender Reassignment (<i>anybody who's gender identity or gender expression is</i>	Yes	No	As above.

<i>different to the sex they were assigned at birth)</i>			
Marriage or Civil Partnership (<i>people who are married or in a civil partnership</i>)	Yes	No	As above.
Pregnancy and Maternity (<i>women who are pregnant and/or on maternity leave</i>)	Yes	No	As above.
Race (<i>people from black, Asian and minority ethnic communities and different racial backgrounds</i>)	Yes	No	As above.
Religion or Belief (<i>people with different religions and beliefs including people with no beliefs</i>)	Yes	No	As above.
Sex (<i>women and men, girls and boys and those who self-identify their gender</i>)	Yes	No	As above.

Sexual Orientation <i>(lesbian, gay, bisexual, heterosexual, other)</i>	Yes	No	As above.
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NOTE: Section 2 only needs to be completed if proposals are of a strategic nature or when reviewing previous strategic decisions. See page 6 of the Preparing for the Commencement of the Socio-economic Duty Welsh Government Guidance.

Section 2 Socio-economic Duty (Strategic Decisions Only) <i>The Welsh Governments Socio-economic Duty provides a framework in order to ensure tackling inequality is at the forefront of decision making.</i>			
.Please consider the below vulnerable groups and consider how the proposal could affect them:			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➢ Single parents and vulnerable families ➢ People with low literacy/numeracy ➢ Pensioners ➢ Looked after children ➢ Homeless people ➢ Carers ➢ Armed Forces Community ➢ Students ➢ Single adult households ➢ People misusing substances ➢ People who have experienced the asylum system ➢ People of all ages leaving a care setting ➢ People living in the most deprived areas in Wales (WIMD) ➢ People involved in the criminal justice system 			
Socio Economic disadvantage definitions.	Will the proposal have a positive, negative or neutral impacts on the below?	How could you mitigate the negative impacts outlined?	Please highlight any evidence that has been considered.
Low Income / Income Poverty <i>(cannot afford to maintain regular payments such as bills, food, clothing, transport etc.)</i>	Positive	No Impact Expected	Residents in receipt of savings on heating & fuel bills will also have greater levels of disposable income they may use to provide a boost to the local economy.


Low and/or No Wealth (<i>enough money to meet basic living costs and pay bills but have no savings to deal with any unexpected spends and no provisions for the future</i>)	Positive	No Impact Expected	As Above.
Material Deprivation (<i>unable to access basic goods and services i.e. financial products like life insurance, repair/replace broken electrical goods, warm home, hobbies etc.</i>)	Positive	No Impact Expected	As Above.
Area Deprivation (<i>where you live (rural areas), where you work (accessibility of public transport) Impact on the environment?</i>)	Positive	No Impact Expected	As Above
Socio-economic Background (<i>social class i.e. parents education, employment and income</i>)	Positive	No Impact Expected	Previous iterations of the ECO Schemes have supported people in the community to live fulfilled lives, providing greater levels of disposable





			income. In turn, safeguarding the environment is key to ensuring communities and future generations can thrive.
Socio-economic Disadvantage <i>(What cumulative impact will the proposal have on people or groups because of their protected characteristic(s) or vulnerability or because they are already disadvantaged)</i>	Neutral	No Impact Expected	

Section 3-Corporate Plan <i>Please outline any Corporate Plan linkages of the proposal -BG Corporate Plan 22-27</i>	
Priority 1 - Maximise learning and skills for all to create a prosperous, thriving, resilient Blaenau Gwent	
Priority 2 - Respond to the nature and climate crisis and enable connected communities	Carbon emissions will be reduced from domestic properties by upgrading homes with more efficient heating systems. Home energy efficiency will be improved via increased insulation & better use of technology such as heating controls. Services previously unavailable will be provided to communities, enabling residents to do more for themselves i.e., upgrading of heating systems.

Priority 1 - Maximise learning and skills for all to create a prosperous, thriving, resilient Blaenau Gwent	
Priority 3 - An ambitious and innovative council delivering quality services at the right time and in the right place	
Priority 4 - Empowering and supporting communities to be safe, independent and resilient	

Section 4-Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 – The Five Ways of Working (ICLIP)
Sustainable development principles. The WBFG Act requires the Council to consider how any proposal improves the economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales using the five ways of working as a baseline)

Five Ways of Working	How have you used the Sustainable Development Principles in forming the proposal?
<p>Long Tern</p> 	<p>Consider the long-term impact of the proposal on the ability of communities to secure their well-being.</p> <p>The scheme facilitates replacement of inefficient heating appliances and installation of energy efficiency measures such as insulation, reducing carbon emissions from domestic property. This in turn makes buildings more energy efficient and reduces likelihood of residents suffering from fuel poverty and securing their well-being.</p>

<p>Prevention</p> 	<p>Consider how the proposal is preventing problems from occurring or getting worse</p> <p>Report to agree to work in partnership with the Cardiff Capital Region CCR) and EDF through an agreed Memorandum of Understanding and to adopt and implement CCR’s joint “Statement of Intent” that will allow the Council to participate in the ECO4 Flex Scheme, thereby allowing vulnerable Blaenau Gwent residents experiencing fuel poverty access to funding under the Energy Company Obligation (ECO) Scheme should create conditions for this to happen.</p>
<p>Integration</p> 	<p>Consider how your proposal will impact on other services provided in our communities (these might be Council services or services delivered by other organisations or groups)</p> <p>The impact of ECO4 Flex being unavailable in Blaenau Gwent will place additional pressure on statutory services (i.e., Environmental Health, Housing) provided by the Council.</p>
<p>Collaboration</p> 	<p>Consider how you are working with Council services or services delivered by other organisations or groups in our communities.</p> <p>The report sets out the different partners engaged in this work (BG’s Customer Experience & Transformation Dept, EDF, CCR and Zing Energy).</p>
<p>Involvement</p> 	<p>Consider how you involve people who have an interest in this proposal and ensure that they represent the diversity of our communities.</p> <p>The council will not be actively involved in delivery of the scheme and will only take a minor administrative role. Impact on communities will be positive regarding reducing carbon emissions from domestic housing and reducing likelihood of residents suffering from fuel poverty. It will also positively impact the local economy providing Zing Energy make use of local contractors to undertake installation</p>

	<p>measures. Impact on communities could be negative regarding existing established business should ECO funding providers take away local trade. Mitigation: Specifying Zing Energy use local contractors will contribute to a more positive impact on the local economy.</p>
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How does your proposal link to the Welsh Governments Priorities for Wales? Please indicate below.

- A PROSPEROUS WALES** ... an innovative, productive and low carbon society which recognises the limits of the global environment and therefore uses resources efficiently and proportionately (including acting on climate change); and which develops a skilled and well-educated population in an economy which generates wealth and provides employment opportunities, allowing people to take advantage of the wealth generated through securing decent work.

The ECO Flex scheme will provide energy benefits to domestic property, whilst safeguard local jobs and growing regional income.

2. **A RESILIENT WALES ...** a nation which maintains and enhances a biodiverse natural environment with healthy functioning ecosystems that support social, economic and ecological resilience and the capacity to adapt to change (for example climate change). Think about how your activity will have regard to protecting and enhancing biodiversity.

Adoption of ECO4 Flex will improve efficiency of dwellings and help reduce climate change by lowering carbon emissions from domestic property.

3. **A HEALTHIER WALES ...** a society in which people's physical and mental well-being is maximised and in which choices and behaviours that benefit future health are understood.

Blaenau Gwent residents at risk of fuel poverty may benefit from heating & insulation upgrades, delivering affordable warmth, improving health & wellbeing for young, elderly & disabled residents alike.

4. **A MORE EQUAL WALES ...** A society that enables people to fulfil their potential no matter what their background or circumstances (including their socio economic background and circumstances).

The environment and climate crisis is a leveller – we are all responsible – we can all make a difference.

5. A WALES OF COHESIVE COMMUNITIES ... attractive, viable, safe and well-connected communities.

ECO4 Flex will support people in the community to live fulfilled lives, providing greater levels of disposable income. In turn, safeguarding the environment is key to ensuring communities and future generations can thrive.

6. A WALES OF VIBRANT CULTURE AND THRIVING ... a society that promotes and protects culture, heritage and the Welsh language, and which encourages people to participate in the arts, and sports and recreation.

Our involvement in the Cardiff City Region Deal alongside 9 other LA's is uniquely Welsh – but pitches towards being world leading in areas of competitive strength. This enables a strong reflection on our rich culture and heritage which is drawn from our natural environment and resources.

7. A GLOBALLY RESPONSIBLE WALES ... a nation which, when doing anything to improve the economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales, takes account of whether doing such a thing may make a positive contribution to global well-being.

The report is a demonstration of a Local Authority and CCR-wide responsibility to Wales.

Section 5-Welsh Language (Wales) Measure 2011 and Welsh Language Standards

(The Welsh Language Measure 2011 and the Welsh Language Standards require the Council to have 'due regard' for the positive or negative impact that any proposal may have on opportunities to use the Welsh language. [Welsh Language Standards](#))



Requirement	Does the proposal have any positive, negative or neutral	What can be done to mitigate any negative impacts?	Please demonstrate any evidence used to form this opinion.
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	impacts in regards to the below?		
<p>Compliance with the Welsh Language Standards. <i>Specifically Standards 88 - 93</i></p>	Positive	The Statement of Intent and All promotional material will be provided in Welsh and English and any requests for information will be available in Welsh and English.	The Census data indicates a growing proportion of Welsh language users in Blaenau Gwent. The ability of residents to use and engage through the medium of Welsh will form a key part of the ECO4 Flex implementation.
<p>What opportunities are there to promote the Welsh Language? <i>e.g. status, use of Welsh language services, use of Welsh in everyday life in work / community</i></p>	Positive	There will be a range of opportunities to promote the Welsh language, through promotional material.	The Census data indicates a growing proportion of Welsh language users in Blaenau Gwent. The ability of residents to use and engage through the medium of Welsh will form a key part of the ECO4 Flex implementation.
<p>What opportunities are there for a person or person to use the Welsh Language? <i>e.g. staff, residents and visitors</i></p>	Positive	All persons will be able to use the Welsh language through engagement with the Council	The Census data indicates a growing proportion of Welsh language users in Blaenau Gwent. The ability of residents to use and engage through

		and Energy Supplier (Zing Energy).	the medium of Welsh will form a key part of the ECO4 Flex implementation.
Has the Welsh Language been considered in order to treat the Welsh language no less favourably than the English language?	Positive	All persons will be able to use the Welsh language through engagement with the Council and Energy Supplier (Zing Energy).	The Census data indicates a growing proportion of Welsh language users in Blaenau Gwent. The ability of residents to use and engage through the medium of Welsh will form a key part of the ECO4 Flex implementation.

Section 6 – Children’s Rights Approach - [The Right Way](#)

The Children’s Rights Approach – The Right Way is a framework for working with children, grounded in the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC). It places the UNCRC at the core of planning and service delivery and integrates children’s rights into every aspect of decision-making, policy and practice. The Right Way focuses on three main them Participation, Provision and Protection.

Protected characteristics	Will the proposal have any positive impacts on the Children’s Rights Approach?	Will the proposal have any negative impacts on the Children’s Rights Approach?	Outline how the proposal could maximise any positive impacts or minimise any negative impact. Please indicate any views evidence you have that supports this.
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Participation (child or young person as someone who actively contributes to society as a citizen)			
Provision (the basic rights of children and young people to survive and develop)			
Protection (children and young people are protected against exploitation, abuse or discrimination)			

Section 7– Community Safety

Duty to Consider Crime and Disorder Implications

Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 places a duty on the local authority to exercise its various functions with due regard to the likely effect of the exercise of those functions on, and the need to do all that it reasonably can to prevent, crime and disorder, anti-social and other behaviour adversely affecting the local environment, the misuse of drugs, alcohol and other substances, re-offending and serious violence.

Impacts	Will the proposal have any positive impacts on crime and disorder?	Will the proposal have any negative impacts on crime and disorder?	Outline how the proposal could maximise any positive impacts or minimise any negative impact. Please indicate any views evidence you have that supports this.
Crime (consider impact on each: victims, offenders and neighbourhoods)			
Anti-Social Behaviour and behaviour adversely affecting the local environment (consider impact on each: victims, offenders, neighbourhoods and green spaces)			
Misuse of drugs, alcohol and other substances (Think vulnerable children, adults, families and communities)			
Re-offending (Think young people and adults, victims, families, communities)			

Serious Violence (Think vulnerable young people, vulnerable adults, victims, families, communities)			
Counter Terrorism (People and places that are vulnerable to terrorism or violent extremism)			
Community Cohesion (Asylum seekers, Migrants, Victims or Hate Crime, Community tensions)			

Section 8- Armed Forces Covenant Duty AFC Draft Statutory Guidance - Final.pdf			
Impacts	Will the proposal have any positive impacts on the armed forces community?	Will the proposal have any negative impacts on the armed forces community?	Outline how the proposal could maximise any positive impacts or minimise any negative impact. Please indicate any views evidence you have that supports this.

<p>Health</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provision of services • Planning and funding • Co-operation between bodies and professionals <p>These healthcare functions are within scope of the Duty in the following settings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NHS Primary Care services, including general practice, community pharmacies, NHS dental, NHS optometry services and public health screening services. • NHS Secondary Care services, including urgent and emergency care, hospital and community services, specialist care, mental health services, and additional needs services (as applicable). 			

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local authority-delivered healthcare services, including sexual health services and drug and alcohol misuse services 			
<p>Education</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Admissions • Educational attainment and curriculum • Child wellbeing • Transport • Attendance • Additional needs support • Use of Service Pupil Premium funding (England only) <p>These education functions are within scope of the Duty in compulsory education settings, that is, primary, secondary, and, for England only, compulsory further education. The Duty does not cover nursery (early years education), higher education, or other voluntary adult education settings</p>			

<p>Housing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Allocations policy for social housing • Tenancy strategies (England only) • Homelessness • Disabled Facilities Grants 			
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<p>Section 9-Data-Please outline any data or evidence that has been used to develop the proposal, this can be previous consultations, local/national data, pilot projects, reports, feedback from clients etc.</p>		
<p>Data/evidence –What data/evidence was used? - provide any links.</p>	<p>What were the key findings?</p>	<p>How has the data/evidence informed this proposal?</p>
<p>This is not a scheme / project developed by the local authority (Please click the link below for further info).</p> <p>Obligated suppliers are required to deliver measures under ECO4 and, where a supplier fails to meet the requirements of the ECO4 Order, Ofgem may take enforcement action. The Energy Company Obligation Order 20222 , or the “ECO4” scheme, covers the period from 1 April 2022 until 31 March 2026.</p> <p>ECO4 Flex is a household referral mechanism within the wider ECO4 Scheme which enables Councils to widen the eligibility</p>	<p>Currently there are 476,000 properties which register EPC D or below across Cardiff Capital Region (CCR):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CCR target to reduce the number of properties rated an EPC D or below to less than 7000 by 2035. • Target to retrofit 42,000 hard to treat homes with internal or external insulation by 2035. 	<p>Welsh Government predicts 45% of Welsh households could be living in fuel poverty this winter (despite the energy efficiency price cap and other support measures being in place).</p> <p>The Energy Company Obligation focuses on supporting low-income and vulnerable and fuel poor households through installation of insulation and heating measures. This policy aims to reduce fuel poverty and energy bills in the long-term and reduce carbon emissions.</p>

<p>criteria for ECO, allowing them to tailor energy efficiency schemes to their respective sector.</p> <p>Web-Link - Ofgem (ECO4)</p>	<p>112,000 homes currently heated by fossil fuels:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Target to install 33,000 low carbon heat pumps into existing properties by 2035. • Prioritise replacement of oil, LPG, and solid fuel heating systems. 	<p>Under ECO4 Flex, a participating LA can refer private tenure households that it considers to be living in fuel poverty or on a low income and vulnerable to the effects of living in a cold home.</p>
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Are there any data or information gaps and if so what are they and how do you intend to address them?

Not currently known – this will be identified as the scheme progresses.

Section 10-Consultation. Please provide details of consultation undertaken to support the proposal. Please consider the Gunning Principles: -

Principle 1: Consultation must take place when the proposals are still at a formative stage. You must not have already made up your mind.

Principle 2: Sufficient reasons must be put forward to allow for intelligent consideration and response. Have people been given the information and opportunity to influence?

Principle 3: Adequate time must be given for consideration and response. Is the consultation long enough bearing in mind the circumstances?

Principle 4: The product of consultation must be conscientiously taken into account when finalising the decision

Briefly describe any planned consultations or consultations that have been carried out to date. Please consider the above principles.

Please consider the following questions; -

- 1. Who did you consult?**
- 2. When did the consultation take place and was adequate time given for a response?**
- 3. Was there enough information provided to respond effectively?**
- 4. What were the findings?**
- 5. Have the findings been considered in regards to the decision?**

Please see Section 9.

Section 11-Monitoring and Review

How will the implementation of the proposal be monitored, including the impacts or changes made?

Feedback from frontline staff involved in operation of the grant, councillor feedback and reviewing of any scheme complaints over time.

What monitoring tools will be used?

- Customer Satisfaction data.
- Scheme data, to include:
 - Level of demand
 - Identification of vulnerability of the household
 - Identification of the type of property and measure(s) installed
 - The cost of the measure(s) installed.
 - The likely savings/per year of fuel energy.
 - The likely CO2/yr kg saving

How will the results be used for future development?

To initiate changes to the current process of delivery.
 To inform the adoption and implementation of any future iterations of ECO Funding.

How and when will it be reviewed?

The scheme will be monitored by Public Protection Managers and by way of relevant reports, including a review of the IIA to the Corporate Director of Regeneration & Community Services, CLT, Scrutiny and Executive Committee, as necessary.

Who is responsible for ensuring this happens?	Mark Congreve, Team Manager – Housing Solutions
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Section 12 - Decision

Using the information you have gathered from sections 1-9 please state in the table below whether you are able to proceed with the proposal.

Continue with the proposal in its current form	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
Continue with proposal but take into account reasonable steps to mitigate any negative impacts of the proposal	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Page 229

Name of person completing the IIA	
Name:	Mark Congreve
Job Title:	Team Manager – Housing Solutions
Date:	22 nd February 2023

Head of Service Approval	
Name:	David Thompson

Job Title:	Service Manager – Public Protection		
Signature:	D Thompson	Date:	22nd February 2023

Please contact Policy & Partnerships should you require any further advice or guidance on completing your assessment via lissa.friel@blaenau-gwent.gov.uk or emma.scherptong@blaenau-gwent.gov.uk.

Agenda Item 12

Cabinet and Council only

Date signed off by the Monitoring Officer:

Date signed off by the Section 151 Officer:

Committee: **Cabinet**
Date of meeting: **19 April 2023**
Report Subject: **Brynmawr Placemaking Plan**
Portfolio Holder: **Cllr J. Morgan, Executive Member for
Regeneration and Economic Development**
Report Submitted by: **Amy Taylor, Team Manager Regeneration
Opportunities**

Reporting Pathway								
Directorate Management Team	Corporate Leadership Team	Portfolio Holder / Chair	Governance Audit Committee	Democratic Services Committee	Scrutiny Committee	Cabinet	Council	Other (please state)
x	x				14.03.23	19.04.23		

1. Purpose of the Report

- 1.1. To present and seek endorsement of the Brynmawr Placemaking Plan from Scrutiny Committee.

2. Scope and Background

- 2.1. The Brynmawr Placemaking Plan aims to direct change and investment in Brynmawr town centre over the next ten years and is intended for use by Blaenau Gwent CBC as a 'roadmap' for future regeneration in the town centre, with a view to inspiring renewed economic growth and vitality in and around the town centre, and function as Supplementary Planning Guidance for Local Development Plan (LDP).
- 2.2. The Placemaking Plan highlights opportunities to diversify the town centre to support existing business and facilities and to create the conditions to attract new enterprise. These opportunities have been considered in the context of available funding and delivery streams, and the particular economic conditions of Brynmawr.
- 2.3. Brynmawr like many towns across the UK has faced extremely challenging times because of the increase in online shopping and the economic challenges from the Covid-19 pandemic. Although, Brynmawr has been fortunate in the last
- 2.4. Town centres remain important focal points of communities and are increasingly becoming places to live, centres of community and cultural activity, a focus for public services such as health and education, and the location of new co-working spaces. They are more than the extent of designated retail areas. Town centres are the most accessible parts of our towns and should be the focus of growth and regeneration.
- 2.5. 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 Brynmawr.

- 2.6. The Council secured funding from the Welsh Government's Transforming Towns Programme to commission consultants to develop a Placemaking Plan for Brynmawr in line with other studies that have been developed or are currently in development for the 5 main town centres.
- 2.7. The work undertaken by Arup 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.
- 2.9. Placemaking Plans are a mechanism introduced by the Welsh Government for communities to engage creatively with the planning process and for planners to support in place-making initiatives with local people. The Placemaking agenda was developed in conjunction with the Design Commission for Wales with a pledge to:
- Involve the local community in the development process.
 - Choose sustainable locations for new development.
 - Prioritise walking, cycling and public transport.
 - Create well defined, safe, and welcoming streets and public spaces.
 - Promote a sustainable mix of uses to make places vibrant.
 - Value and respect the positive qualities and identity of existing places.
- 2.10. The primary focus of the Placemaking Plan for Brynmawr 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).
- 2.11. The core of the study area is centred on cross town routes of Market Square, Bailey Street, Davies Street, Worcester Street, Beaufort Street and King Street. There are four 'threshold spaces' that define the entry and exit points of the Town Centre. Both the Stagecoach and Boilerhouse buildings remain in private ownership, although have been integral to future considerations as part of a scoping exercise within the Brynmawr Placemaking Plan.
- 2.12. The overall purpose of the Brynmawr Placemaking Plan is:
- To highlight development and redevelopment opportunities that will increase the viability, vitality and functionality of Brynmawr town centre and implement measures that will act as a catalyst for private sector investment and plan a

comprehensive range of development projects suitable for applications for Transforming Towns funding.

- To direct change and investment in Brynmawr town centre over the next five years. It is intended for use by Blaenau Gwent CBC as a 'roadmap' for future regeneration in the town centre, with a view to inspiring renewed economic growth and vitality. in the town centre. The plan highlights opportunities to diversify the town centre to support existing business and facilities and to create the conditions to attract new enterprise.
- Brynmawr is a compact town surrounded by a residential area, making it an ideal candidate for the 15-minute town concept. With an enviable combination of urban and rural qualities, access to beautiful landscapes and a strong community, Brynmawr has some of the base ingredients to improve the life of residents and visitors alike, this is a core principle for the strategy for Brynmawr.

- 2.13. The overarching vision is for Brynmawr to be a 15-minute neighbourhood, where everything you need is within a 15-minute walk of your home. This model for self-sufficient, sustainable town centre offers improved access to nature, employment, housing diversity, amenity and services while reducing car dependency, supporting active travel, and strengthening sense of community and place.
- 2.14. The 15-minute City concept has recently been proposed in some English cities, e.g Oxfordshire.
- 2.15. The idea of a '15-minute City' is that everything a person needs should be within a 15-minute walk or cycle from any point in the city. This includes work, shopping, education, healthcare, leisure, and any other amenities needed for everyday lives. The concept dates to the 1980s and has influenced urban planning for the last forty years. More recently it has been combined with Low Emission Vehicle policies to tackle climate change.
- 2.16. From 2024, drivers in Oxford will be encouraged to travel around the city by using the ring road or using public transport, rather than by just driving through it. In a very similar system to Low Traffic Neighbourhoods, the council will hand out fines to those using city-centre roads at certain times. The new policy doesn't stop you from travelling anywhere, but it does limit where and when you can use a car.
- 2.17. The council plans to cut car use and traffic congestion by placing strict rules on car journeys. Under the new proposals, if any of Oxford's 150,000 residents drives outside of their designated district more than 100 days a year, he or she could be fined £70.
- 2.18. Although we support the basic principles of being able to get everything, we need to support our everyday lives within a 15-minute walk or cycle away from our home, we do not intend to consider putting punitive measures in place to stop businesses, residents, and visitors from using all forms of transport to visit our towns or further afield.

- 2.19. We will promote and encourage residents and visitors to shop locally using sustainable forms of transport and active travel. We will also work to provide infrastructure to support those wishing to utilise Low Emission Vehicles. If residents chose not to use these forms of transport, they will not face any negative impacts e.g. financial penalties.
- 2.20. The overarching vision is supported by six themes which act as a guide for future development and change in Brynmawr supporting its transformation:
- **Community:** creating a shared ethos of enterprise and fostering a strong inclusive community. Brynmawr's engaged and passionate community is one of its greatest strengths. This theme would support the diversification of the town centre, whilst also supporting well-being of the community.
 - **Circularity:** directing sustainable growth and meaningful change. Adaptive re-use of existing buildings are major opportunities, as well as more strategic ambitions around low-carbon economy, local business and reducing waste.
 - **Connectivity:** improving active transport and links across the town centre. Improved pedestrian and cycle movements within the town will be important for connecting the community and local businesses. It can also provide benefits to health and well-being, air quality and the natural environment. Digital connectivity also benefits local business by creating opportunities for advertising and reaching out to a wider audience.
 - **Economy:** uplifting local business and the foundational economy. This could be through opportunities for training, upskilling and collaboration particularly within the foundational economy, with support for start-ups and social enterprise. Flexible public spaces can also be beneficial, supporting Brynmawr's existing markets and events.
 - **Health and Well-being:** supporting a healthy and happy community in Brynmawr. Re-shaping the physical environment by promoting active travel and taking advantage of Brynmawr's access to wider landscapes including the Brecon Beacons will have positive impacts on the future health and well-being of the community.
 - **Creating a destination:** diversifying what Brynmawr has to offer to attract visitors. Varying the offer in terms of uses, activities and calendar of events will create an enhanced sense of place for the community and raise the town centre profile.
- 2.21. Within the draft Brynmawr Placemaking Plan a number of possible projects have been identified to support the Council in transforming the town and delivering upon the vision. It must be recognised that Brynmawr has been fortunate in attracting considerable private sector investment in recent years, with the likes of Costa Coffee and the recently developed former NMC retail site, which was supported financially by the Welsh Government.

- 2.22. The placemaking plan has identified several possible projects which could act as catalysts for regeneration and help realise the vision for Brynmawr. These include:
- Stagecoach Site.
 - Beaufort Street.
 - The Boiler House (Grade II listed).
 - Market Square and bus station.
 - Active Travel routes.
 - Improved pedestrian linkages between Lakeside and the Town Centre.
 - Environmental enhancements.
 - Introduction of public art.
- 2.23. 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.
- 2.24. More detailed information is contained in sections 5.0 to 5.2 within the Place Making document that has been included as background paper to this report (**Appendix One**).
- 2.25. It should be noted that some of the opportunities for key buildings identified within the placemaking plan will include building currently in private ownership. The role of the placemaking plan is to identify the possible future role of key buildings within the context of the rest of the town centre and where possible we will engage with existing owners to explore their future plans for buildings in their ownership. The detail around these potential opportunities will be explored further during development of the delivery plan and will involve further discussions with building owners and partners.

Urban Place and Highways Plan

- 2.26. An Urban Place and Highways Plan has also been undertaken by Arup as part of the commission and to prepare a Strategic Outline Case, in accordance with the requirements for Stage One WeITAG, aimed at improvements to the Blaina Road corridor in Brynmawr, to the south of the town centre.

'WeITAG is the Welsh Transportation appraisal guidance, which helps plan transport programmes, policies and projects.'

The guidance was developed "with the intention that it is applied to all transport strategies, plans and schemes being promoted or requiring funding from the Welsh Assembly Government".

- 2.27. The study area comprises the following strategic sites and connections between them:
- Lakeside Retail Park including access to neighbouring communities;
 - Former NMC brownfield site (consented development for retail)

- Stagecoach Depot Site (3a) and Austin & Sons Vehicle Repair Garage (3b) to the rear of the site and linkages to the neighbouring Warwick Road Park and housing estate;
 - Auto Links Garage across Lake Road;
 - 5. Roundabout on Blaina Road and linking to Blaen-Afon Road;
 - Former GP Surgery site on Blaina Road;
 - The Boiler House, Grade II Listed heritage building;
 - Costa Coffee Shop, Blaina Road;
 - Vacant Brownfield Site (9i) and Petrol Station (9ii), Blaina Road; and
 - Improvement to the lakeside environment, including access to the waterside and enhancement of the Pump House as a local landmark should be considered as a local stopping point and feature of the landscape.
- 2.28. The Council has also commissioned further development of the WelTAG process with Stage 2 being completed and a Stage 3 currently under consideration. A Stage 3 WelTAG would focus on the delivery of detailed design options for the schemes proposed under earlier stages.

3. Options for Recommendation

- 3.1. This report was considered at the Place Scrutiny Committee on the 14 March 2023, and a member queried the 15-minute neighbourhood concept. The scope and background to this report has been updated in response to this query.
- 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 for us to achieve our overall vision.

Option 1 – Do Nothing

- 3.3. 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 any further work to support redevelopment/refurbishment of the Town.

Option 2 – Endorse the Placemaking Plan

- 3.4. Endorse the Brynmawr 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. At the Place Scrutiny Committee held on 14 March 2023, an Elected Member queried whether the 15-minute neighbourhood mentioned in this report and in the placemaking plan was the same as the '15-minute City' concept that has recently been proposed in some English Cities e.g. Oxfordshire.

- 3.6. The idea of a '15-minute City' is that everything a person needs should be within a 15-minute walk or cycle from any point in the city. This includes work, shopping, education, healthcare, leisure, and any other items needed for everyday lives.
- 3.7. Although we support the principles of promoting the idea of being able to get everything, we need to support our everyday lives within a 15-minute walk or cycle away from our home, we do not wish to put measures in place to stop businesses, residents, and visitors from using all forms of transport to visit our towns.

Preferred Option

- 3.8. The preferred option is Option Two. This will enable the projects that will support achievement of the core ambitions to be developed in greater detail as part of the Delivery Plan. Such projects are likely to be eligible to apply for funding through the Transforming Towns funding.
- 3.9. 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.
- 3.10. A placemaking approach will be taken for all towns across Blaenau Gwent, with the Ebbw Vale and Tredegar plans already having been adopted as policy, with the Abertillery and Blaina plans currently in development.
- 3.11. The preferred option was considered and supported by the Place Scrutiny Committee on 14th March 2023.

4. Evidence of how 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.

Local Development Plan

- 4.4. The Placemaking Plan will play a key role alongside the replacement Local Development Plan that is being prepared for Blaenau Gwent. 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 and function as Supplementary Planning Guidance for Local Development Plan (LDP). 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.

Well-Being Plan – ‘The Blaenau Gwent We Want’ (2018-2023)

- 4.5. 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.

- 4.6. 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 2022/27

- 4.7. The vision of Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council:

‘Blaenau Gwent – a place that is fair, open and welcoming to all by working with and for our communities’

- 4.8. The Corporate Plan 2022/27 sets out an ambitious programme of activity for the Council over the next five years. The Corporate Plan 2022/27 priorities are:

- *Respond to the nature and climate crisis and enable connected communities* – we aim to greatly reduce carbon emissions and provide an environment which supports growth and well-being and connects communities
- *An ambitious and innovative council delivering quality services at the right time and in the right place* – working in partnership to provide high quality services to meet local need, and improve the quality of life and well-being within the community
- *Empowering and supporting communities to be safe, independent, and resilient* – increasing resilience of communities, where everyone is welcome and safe which minimises dependency and maximises independence

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 Brynmawr 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.
- 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 recommendations to establish a maintenance budget.

Risk including Mitigating Actions

- 5.7. Option 1 – if no further action is taken there is risk that vacant 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 because 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. Without match funding to develop projects there is a risk that they will be unable to be developed further.

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. The town centre health check, which can be found on page 26 of the Placemaking Plan, is a study of the existing physical, social, and economic conditions and historic trends of Brynmawr town centre. It draws on both published data and findings from site visits and analysis including knowledge from the previous Brynmawr masterplan and WelTAG study. The key findings and opportunities from the baseline study are detailed below:
- The current Blaenau Gwent Local Development Plan has identified sustainable growth and regeneration opportunities in Brynmawr, including sustainable economic growth, quality housing and complimentary roles around tourism and mixed-use development.
 - The key interventions from the WelTAG Stage 1 study (2021-2022) were to divert traffic away from town centre, reinforce active travel, enhance public transport, focusing on buses, and explore potential for meanwhile uses.
 - The town centre and new Lakeside Retail Park are disconnected by roads physically and experientially. Businesses in the town centre face strong competition for footfall and trade from the new retail park. At present Lakeside Retail Park is a self-contained attraction with weak pedestrian links and little customer spill over to the town centre. It is a major draw to Brynmawr, but the challenge is to attract some of these customers into the town centre
 - There has been a sustained decrease in footfall in the town centre which presents a real challenge. There must therefore be a focus on projects and measures that will attract people into the centre.
 - The Gross Value Added (GVA) for Blaenau Gwent has been increasing over the past 10 years with manufacturing constituting the largest proportion of GVA, followed by real estate activities. Yet the underlying economic performance lags behind large areas of Wales and the UK.

- Despite being surrounded by beautiful landscapes such as The Brecon Beacons and The Valleys, the relationship is peripheral, and the town centre lacks green spaces.
- The vacancy rate in the retail submarket in Blaenau Gwent is low, compared to Cardiff and other towns in Blaenau Gwent. However, the drop off in business rates is a trigger for action to help town prosperity

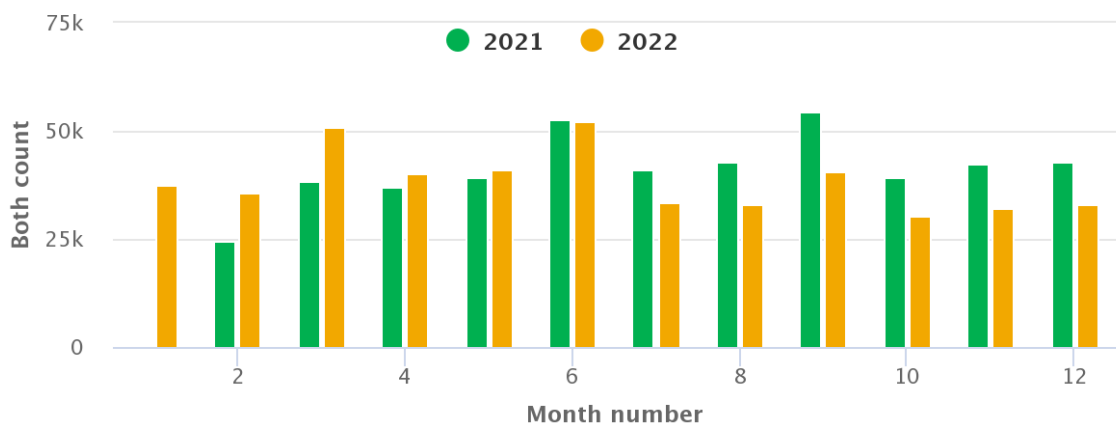
6.2. Town Centre footfall was declining prior to the COVID-19 pandemic which resulted in complete lockdowns in early 2020. Some footfall data from Brynmawr is shown below:

Month	Year	Footfall	Change (%)
March	2018	39,454	
	2019	39,863	+1.04%
	2021	7,684	-80.72%
	2022	10,176	+32.43%

Footfall in March 2022 was 74.21% lower than the footfall that the town saw in March 2018. Whilst we saw an increase in footfall between March 2021 and March 2022 of 32.43 percentage points the footfall for Brynmawr did not return to preCOVID-19 pandemic levels.

6.3. More recent data from November and December 2022 shows footfall is still struggling to return to pre-pandemic levels. Footfall for the week of the Christmas Light switch-on in 2022 was 7,495 compared to 11,028 for the same week the previous year. Likewise, footfall for the week of the Santa Express in 2022 was 7,241 compared to the same week in 2021 when footfall was 8,601.

Annual Performance



6.4. The graph above shows footfall performance by month for 2021 and 2022. It should be noted that the last COVID-19 restrictions did not end in Wales until May 2022. Footfall data between June and December 2022 each month was lower than its corresponding month in 2021.

Expected outcome for the public

- 6.5. 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.
- 6.6. Active travel routes between the town and sites such as the lakeside retail areas need improvement. Improved active travel will provide greater accessibility for residents and visitors to move within the area.

Involvement (consultation, engagement, participation)

- 6.7. 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**).
- 6.8. 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. The Council's Regeneration Department intend to undertake further public consultation in early summer 2023 to ascertain public perception on proposals identified within the attached Placemaking Plan for Brynmawr
- 6.9. Stakeholders that have formed part of the engagement to date include:
 - The Council (Officers and Elected Members)
 - Welsh Government
 - Brynmawr Business Forum
 - Gwent Police
 - Local businesses
 - Stagecoach (as part of the WelTAG process)
 - Design Commission for Wales
 - Tech Valleys
- 6.10. The initial engagement has supported the assessment of issues and opportunities that face Brynmawr, namely being:
 - Lack of public transport with no rail connection and poor bus connections
 - Heavy traffic and vehicle dominance roads with lack of public realm and green infrastructure
 - Lack of connection between 'old' and 'new' town
 - Maintenance of buildings and shop fronts need updating and modernising
 - Lack of night-time economy
 - There is the threat of not addressing the issues and lack of action as the town needs regeneration or will get left behind
 - Competing with the neighbouring towns has led footfall to dramatically decrease
 - There is a lack of developable space within the compact town
 - Perception of Brynmawr is tainted with the increase of anti-social behaviour.

Thinking for the Long term (forward planning)

- 6.11. 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

- 6.12. 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

- 6.13. Many of the projects that will be identified to deliver on our core ambitions for Brynmawr 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.

Integration (across service areas)

- 6.14. 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

- 6.15. Blaenau Gwent declared a Climate Emergency in 2020 and as a Council we have committed towards achievement of net zero carbon emissions by 2030.
- 6.16. 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.
- 6.17. Creating high quality green spaces in the town centre will help with decarbonisation and offsetting carbon emissions. It will also help improve air quality.
- 6.18. The Stagecoach building may be considered for demolition and site clearance to form a green urban area, which could be used to offset carbon emissions of businesses that operate within the town. They can also help improve air quality.
- 6.19. New build projects 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.
- 6.20. 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.

7. Monitoring Arrangements

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

8. Background Documents /Electronic Links

- *Appendix One – Brynmawr Town Centre Placemaking Plan*

However, Oxfordshire County Council also recently announced traffic-reducing measures throughout the city. From 2024, drivers in Oxford will be encouraged to travel around the city by using the ring road or using public transport, rather than by just driving through it. In a very similar system to Low Traffic Neighbourhoods, the council will hand out fines to those using city-centre roads at certain times. The new policy doesn't stop you from travelling anywhere, but it does limit where and when you can use a car.

The council plans to cut car use and traffic congestion by placing strict rules on car journeys. Under the new proposals, if any of Oxford's 150,000 residents drives outside of their designated district more than 100 days a year, he or she could be fined £70.



Brynmawr Placemaking Plan

Stage 2 Report

Jan 2023

ARUP

ARUP

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Prepared by Arup on behalf of
Blaenau Gwent County Borough
Council

This report takes into account the particular instructions and requirements of our client. It is not intended for and should not be relied upon by any third party and no responsibility is undertaken to any third party. In preparing this report we are relying on information contained in reports supplied by the client and third parties, as stated throughout the document. We have relied in particular on the accuracy and completeness of such reports and accept no liability for any error or omission in this statement to the extent the same results from error or omission in the other consultants' reports.

Please note, proposals on private land require further discussions with private landowners.

This report is intended to be viewed and printed as an A4 double-sided document with cover page.

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Contents

1.	Executive Summary	
1.1	Executive summary	8
2.	Sustainability	
2.1	Sustainable growth	12
3.	Understanding Brynmawr	
3.1	Learning from the past	18
3.2	Placemaking Overview	20
3.3	Socio economic baseline	22
3.4	Transport baseline	24
3.5	Town centre Health check	26
3.6	Engagement Summary	28
3.7	Learning from elsewhere	30
3.8	Planning context	32
4.	A Vision for Brynmawr	
4.1	A Twenty First Century Valleys Market Town	36
4.2	A 15 Minute Neighbourhood	38
4.3	Objectives	40
5.	The Placemaking Plan	
5.1	Areas of change	44
5.2	Key projects	54
5.3	Phasing and delivery summary	88
6.	Conclusions and Next Steps	
6.1	Conclusions and Next Steps	74



1. Brynmawr Town Centre

Introduction

In October 2021 Arup was commissioned by Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council to produce a strategic Placemaking Plan that will provide a basis for future, strategic decision making in Brynmawr town centre and act as an evidence base to support Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council Officers with future regeneration funding applications.

PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

The Placemaking Plan aims to direct change and investment in Brynmawr town centre over the next five year. It is intended for use by Blaenau Gwent CBC as a 'roadmap' for future regeneration in the town centre, with a view to inspiring renewed economic growth and vitality in the town centre. The plan highlights opportunities to diversify the town centre in order to support existing business and facilities and to create the conditions to attract new enterprise. These opportunities have been considered in the context of available funding and delivery streams, and the particular economic conditions of Brynmawr.

BACKGROUND TO THE STUDY:

THE CHALLENGE

Brynmawr faces similar challenges to many of Wales and the UK's towns and cities. The rapid onset of digital retail, remote working and services in the wake of Covid-19 is transforming the way urban centres operate. From a position of having to use our centres to access services such as banks and retail we now need to want

to visit these places. This profound shift has led to a reduced need and lack of viability for physical retail and commercial spaces in town centres. In Brynmawr, this is coupled with the growth of the Lakeside Retail Park (to the south of the town centre), which has further drawn visitors away from the centre, and created a new retail destination. Lower than average spending power in Brynmawr and competing centres such as Merthyr Tydfil and further afield Cardiff have amplified the issue.

As a result of these changes the vitality of the town centre is likely to become more fragile and precarious without intervention. Yet a vibrant town centre remains essential to our sense of local pride, identity and as the basis of sustainable communities. To achieve this, Brynmawr will need to adapt, experiment and evolve, to capitalise on existing characteristics and opportunities for the town centre.

APPROACH: INNOVATION

Over recent decades public investment has typically been the subject of 'fixed-state' masterplans where the ultimate end goal is rarely realised due to the inherent complexity of aligning funding, local politics, delivery and long term stewardship.

The principle behind this plan is to drive sustainable change through local innovation; testing and trailing ideas in accordance with clear objectives. This incremental and more fluid approach embraces rapid experimentation to demonstrate to the public what change can look like and to test ideas in real time without committing to potentially high cost and high-risk interventions



2. Usk High Street

In doing so valuable lessons will be learned which will drive further innovation and reshape our thinking. It allows budding enterprises a lower risk pathway to growth by creating low-cost shared environments to operate from.

SOCIAL ENTERPRISE

In Brynmawr, the private sector does not operate with the same level of activity or deploy the same level of investment compared to areas of higher disposable incomes or higher visitor numbers. Basing this plan solely on the premise of private investment could be a risk.

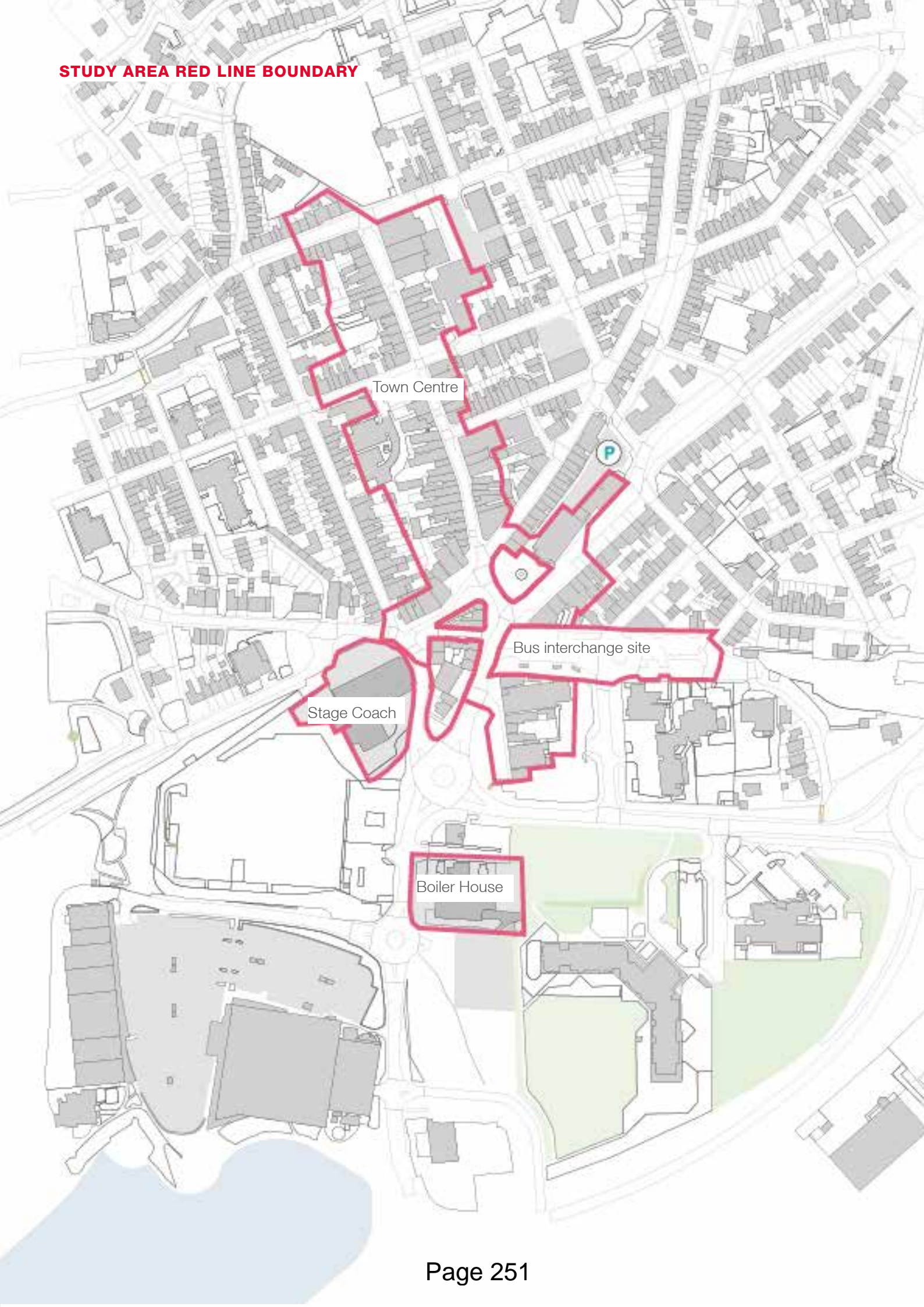
However, the onus does not need to be solely on public funding. There is a strong sense of community and local ambition for change in Brynmawr. Making a plan work for Brynmawr means working with the community to give a platform to local 'place' champions and to secure broad buy-in.

From the height of industrialisation where the 'penny in the pound' approach created the first schools, hospitals and libraries in the valleys to the Brynmawr furniture makers of the early C20th, social enterprise is part of the fabric of society in the valleys. Moving forward social enterprise can again be the driving force to reshape Brynmawr and deliver wider societal, economic and environmental benefits.

WHOLE TOWN APPROACH

The focus of this study is identified on the plan overleaf. In order to fully realise the potential of this area, a broader perspective has been applied which looks beyond these immediate confines. This is to ensure that opportunities to link change in the central area of Brynmawr with the wider area are understood. The second key aspect of this approach is the application of integrated place-making. This means exploring opportunities not through one particular lens such as transport but through multiple lenses including ecology, placemaking and sustainable transport and health to deliver multiple benefits from each intervention.

STUDY AREA RED LINE BOUNDARY



1.1 Executive summary

Communities today are facing unprecedented challenges. Climate change, recovering from a global pandemic, the exponential growth of digital technologies, the rise in the cost of living, and national political uncertainty all pose challenges to our people and places. There is a need to consider new ways of thinking to adapt to these challenges, and ensure the health and resilience of our towns and cities.

Brynmawr faces its own challenges. The decline of the high street and decreasing footfall over the years has been detrimental to the local independent businesses, and has subsequently affected the vitality of the town centre. This has in turn had an effect on the wider community. The emergence of a new retail park on the edge of town and the gradual shift to online shopping, particularly in a post-pandemic world, are further factors in this decline. The town faces a fundamental decision – what is the future of local businesses and what type of town will Brynmawr be?

Despite these challenges, Brynmawr benefits from significant advantages. These include its historic character, beautiful natural surroundings, access to a wider landscape, accessibility via new road infrastructure and, most importantly, an engaged local community. These are all ingredients that will help Brynmawr confront the challenges it faces. In addition, major assets such as The Boiler House and a rich history in social enterprise could play an invaluable role in the regeneration of the town.

The over arching vision is for Brynmawr to be a 15-minute neighbourhood, where everything you need is within a 15-minute walk of your home. This model for a self-sufficient, sustainable town centre offers improved access to nature, employment, housing diversity, amenity and services, while reducing car

dependency, supporting active travel and strengthening sense of community and place. Brynmawr already has the basic building blocks for this approach, and could provide a benchmark for other towns of a similar scale and character. These basic principles can transform Brynmawr into a vibrant, resilient town making it a benchmark for other towns of similar scale and character.

This over arching vision is supported by six themes which act as a guide for future development and change in Brynmawr, supporting its transformation into a 21st Century Valleys Market Town:

- **Community:** creating a shared ethos of enterprise and fostering a strong and inclusive community. Brynmawr's engaged and passionate community is one of its greatest strengths. This is coupled with its historic links to social enterprise and community ventures, such as the Market Hall Cinema. This theme would support the diversification of the town centre, while also supporting wellbeing of the community.
- **Circularity:** directing sustainable growth and meaningful change. Adaptive re-use of existing buildings such as the Boiler House and the Stagecoach building are major opportunities, as well as more strategic ambitions around a low-carbon economy, local business and reducing waste.
- **Connectivity:** improving active transport and links across the town centre. Improved pedestrian and cycle movements within the town will be important for connecting the community and local businesses. It can also provide benefits to health and well-being, air quality and the natural environment. Digital connectivity also benefits local trade by creating opportunities for advertising and reaching out to a wider audience.

- **Economy:** uplifting local business and the foundational economy. This could be through opportunities for training, upskilling and collaboration particularly within the foundational economy, with support for start-ups and social enterprise. Flexible public spaces can also be beneficial, supporting Brynmawr's existing markets and events.
- **Health and wellbeing:** supporting a healthy and happy community in Brynmawr. Placemaking plays a crucial role in people's lifestyle choices and activity. Brynmawr, like many other places in Wales, suffers from illness related to inactive lifestyles and poor dietary habits. Re-shaping the physical environment by promoting active travel and taking advantage of Brynmawr's access to wider landscapes including the Brecon Beacons will have positive impacts on the future health and well-being of the community.
- **Creating a destination:** Diversifying what Brynmawr has to offer to attract visitors. Varying Brynmawr's offer in terms of uses activities and calendar of events will create an enhanced sense of place for the community and raise the town centre profile. This, in turn, will attract a broader range of people and larger scale investments in the future.

The Placemaking Plan has identified a number of possible projects which could act as catalysts for regeneration and help realise this vision for Brynmawr. In the report, different levels of intervention are explored to demonstrate their potential in the short to medium to long time periods.

The Boiler House is one of Brynmawr's major assets with its industrial heritage as part of the Dunlop Rubbery factory. The Grade II listed

building has the potential to be refurbished into a new community space focusing on food based social enterprise. This type of project can create meaningful employment, education and social activity. Located on the edge of the town centre, its iconic structure and exciting new programmes could be a major draw into the town centre.

Beaufort Street, considered the main high street, will be an important part of the town centre revitalisation. Physical interventions such as general building façade improvements, wayfinding, lighting, planting and sustainable urban drainage will help lift the high street environment. These could be supported by non-physical interventions such as business collaboration and a website.

The Market Square is at the heart of the town centre and has significant ties to Brynmawr's heritage and culture. There is a real opportunity to celebrate this space as a public place of gathering especially for community events, street markets and festivals throughout the year.

The bus station in its current form is oversized for its purpose and lacks character. It requires definition which can be created with the help of tree planting, SuDS, improved lighting, street furniture and shelter.

The stagecoach building is an opportunity for renovation. Whether the building is reused or not, there are some key opportunities on this strategic site which revolve around recreation, and support for employment and upskilling.

Ideas for a new park have also been explored with two possible locations – enhancing the existing Welfare Park or creating a new park at the heart of the town centre. In either option, the aim is to bring the landscape into town, providing a diverse range of indoor and outdoor community spaces.



A woman with short brown hair and glasses, wearing a bright green long-sleeved sweater and a patterned skirt, is looking at a display of purple flowers in a shop. The shop has colorful streamers hanging from the ceiling and warm lighting. The text "2. Sustainability" is overlaid in white on the image.

2. Sustainability

2.1 Sustainable growth

A TRANSITION IN THINKING AND THE PURSUIT OF DE-CARBONIZATION

In 2019 the Welsh Government declared a 'climate emergency' recognising the need for urgent action to combat the effects of global climate change. The target for Wales as a country to transition to net zero by 2050 requires pragmatic thinking around transitioning to de-carbonization.

Fundamentally, the impacts of climate change and the pursuit of net-zero will change the way in which we live, move around and require new ways in which to respond to waste management energy production and food supply chains.

At a global and national level, the guidance, policy, and legislation to direct decisions makes clear the need for sustainability in its broadest sense.

THE DIMENSIONS OF SUSTAINABILITY

Sustainability is not just for the pursuit of environmental 'green' policy but, it needs to be addressed in terms of long term economic sustainability whilst also maintaining and strengthening the social and cultural value of an area. This includes building upon Brynmawr residents strong pride in their community and the cultural impact of Brynmawr being one of the Valleys' only true market towns.

The Placemaking plan in Brynmawr provides an opportunity to respond at a town level, to global challenges through meaningful change within a rural community.

- Responding to a global issue on a local level to create local resilience associated with a changing climate (local flood issues, warmer summers, wetter winters, more extreme weather events)
- Impacts of climate change on economics (access to goods and services including availability of good and fluctuating prices associated with long distant supply chain)
- Issue of localised habitat loss, urban heat impacts and mitigation of these

SUCCESS THROUGH INNOVATION

Through innovative development and design guidance which carefully considers the impacts of climate change on social, economic, environmental, and cultural dimensions, Brynmawr can demonstrate how to begin to address the challenges we face.

This approach forms the basis for the strategies and recommendations included within this Masterplan document. This document assists Brynmawr in securing its long term sustainability through guidance and interventions that are specific to the unique challenges and opportunities contained within the town.

In a broad sense the project opens up the opportunity for a countering the issues of climate change through innovative solutions which work towards the same goals. Implementation of Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems and a achieving an increase in net habitat and urban tree canopy along with adaptive re-use of buildings create the opportunity for Brynmawr to produce a truly innovative approach not yet seen within the area.

Innovation within the community is a key theme through Brynmawr's history and continuing this

tradition by upskilling the existing population, the creation of quality jobs and better utilisation of local supply chains, whilst supporting local businesses in more efficient business practices such as a reduction of single use plastics. All of these processes feed into the broad theory of the Circular Economy.

Strengthening the physical and economic resilience of Brynmawr will aid in securing long term sustainability for the area. It is key these links between the physical and economic elements of Brynmawr are to be strengthened which will improve the community's connection to the town centre.



GLOBAL

In response to the Paris Accord on Climate Change, The United Nations Sustainable Development Goals provide a blueprint at the highest level to direct decision-making towards environmental, political, social and economic sustainability.

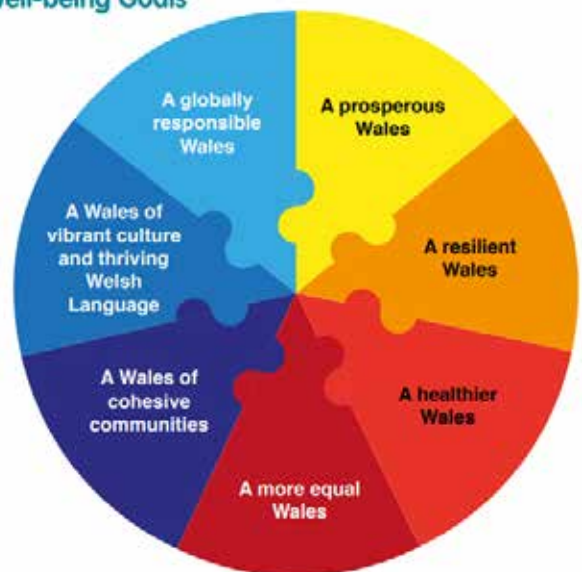
For Brynmawr, nine of the goals have been identified by Arup as being particularly relevant in steering the project.



NATIONAL

The Well-being of Future Generations Act (Wales) 2015 offers a radically different way of approaching development and change. The Act enshrines in law the need to consider the impact of our decisions on future generations. Central to the act are the seven goals and of equal importance, the five ways of working which set out the means for public bodies to achieve the goals. This is a unique piece of legislation that provides us with an unprecedented means of working differently toward a common goal.

Well-being Goals



Five Ways of working

- Long-term - Balancing short and long-term needs.
- Integration - Considering impacts on all goals.
- Involvement - Ensuring representative diversity
- Collaboration - Working together.
- Prevention - Preventing problems occurring or worsening.



Planning Policy Wales 10 identifies National Sustainable Placemaking Outcomes that should be used to inform the preparation of development plans and the assessment of proposals.

The five outcomes are:

- Creating and Sustaining Communities;
- Making Best Use of Resources;
- Maximising Environmental Protection and Limiting Environmental Impact;
- Growing Our Economy in a Sustainable Manner;
- Facilitating Accessible and Healthy Environments.

This considers how sites should be designed and delivered, through their full life cycle, including a wide range of socio-economic and infrastructure considerations beyond the site boundary.

‘Prosperity for All: A Low Carbon Wales 2019’ sets out Wales’ commitment to tackling climate change; cutting emissions while moving towards a low carbon economy. The plan includes Sector Emissions Pathways, including strategies across buildings, transport and energy.



1894

MARKET HALL CINEMA
Y FARMER

al Fish Bar

MARKET HALL CINEMA





3. Understanding Brynmawr

3.1 Learning from the past

A TRADITION OF COMMUNITY PRIDE

Establishing an understanding of Brynmawr's history and heritage is a key factor in shaping a new and prosperous future. The people of Brynmawr are proud of their town's heritage and identity.

It was one of many communities that was shaped by the industrial boom in the nineteenth century. It has strong connections to traditional industries with a history of mining, ironworks, and manufacturing.

The population grew rapidly in the early nineteenth century due to the requirement for an increase in housing caused by Nantyglo ironworks. As these natural resources began to be exhausted the population of the town began to decline.

A HISTORY OF INNOVATION

One of Brynmawr's notable stories is its history in social enterprise. To alleviate the issues of unemployment and poverty caused by the Depression in the 1920's, a group of Quakers attempted to help the local community by providing work and practical help.

Aided by volunteers from the community, the idea of crafts and industries was established, providing work and food for the unemployed, improving the local environment and helping establish social and cultural clubs for all ages.

The most successful social venture was the furniture workshops. Brynmawr Furniture

Makers employed youths and school leavers and provided them with training in furniture making skills. The business flourished and established a name for itself across England and Wales.

A key historical feature of the site is the Boiler House building, which is Grade II listed building and the last remaining remnant of the former Dunlop Semtex Factory which was engineered by Ove Arup prior to his rise to international prominence for his innovative work on the Sydney Opera House.

THE SOUTH WALES VALLEYS TRUE MARKET TOWN

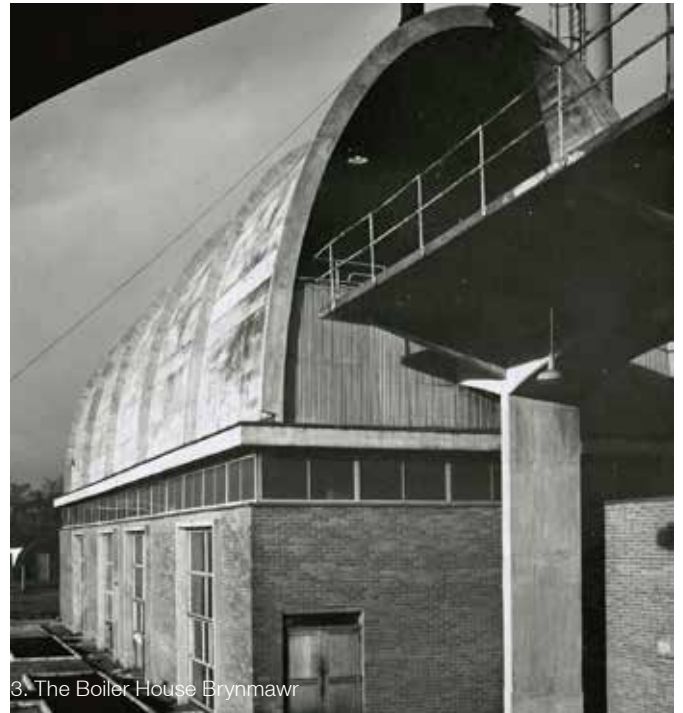
In the past Brynmawr was a market town that held regular markets and festivals around the Market Square and what used to be the Market Hall.

The Market Hall since converted into a cinema and theatre, is an important community anchor in the town. Although markets and events still take place in the town centre, it lacks the spirit it once possessed. Amongst the people of Brynmawr there is a strong positive feeling towards bringing this tradition back to life.

There is a key opportunity for Brynmawr to retain key elements of its former character and realise its potential as a 21st century Valleys market town. This proud town can move towards the next stage in its history whilst maintaining its connection to its past.

“It needs connectivity so old and new are stitched together - it needs a natural flow”

- Comments by BGCBC noted during SWOT session on Feb 3rd 2022



3. The Boiler House Brynmawr



4. The Old Furniture Factory, Brynmawr

3.2 Placemaking Overview

ECOSYSTEM OF TOWNS IN BLAENAU GWENT

At a strategic level, the town centres themselves have an important role to play in ensuring Blaenau Gwent is an attractive place to live, work, do business and invest in within a wider strategy for the area as a whole.

The Blaenau Gwent Town Centres Strategy Report was created by Nash Partnership in 2018 to set out the strategy for the 5 centres of Blaenau Gwent. The report had a number of outcomes and objectives. The report along with our own study and observations form and shape Brynmawr for the future in the context of the 5 towns eco-system. Along with the 5 towns of the “eco-system” Brynmawr should also be considered in the context of larger settlements slightly further afield. These being Abergavenny to the east and Merthyr Tydfil to the west.

The focus on the development of Brynmawr should view it within the context of the 5 towns. The challenge for Brynmawr isn't to compete with the other towns in the area but instead to find its place and grow with the other towns. There is the opportunity for Brynmawr to complement the other towns, rather than compete against them.

COMMUNITY FACILITIES

There has been significant stakeholder engagement by both Nash Partnership in the creation of their report and also by Arup. The key themes from stakeholders were consistent in both cases. There is a clear community feeling that there needs to be an increase in support for community facilities.

BEAUFORT STREET

Feedback from engagement pointed to dissatisfaction amongst the community with the uses and quality of the high street with many feeling there were too many hot food takeaway and that metal roller shutters had a significantly detrimental impact upon the streetscape. Improving the quality of built environment to attract better land uses would improve the general sentiment toward the High Street.

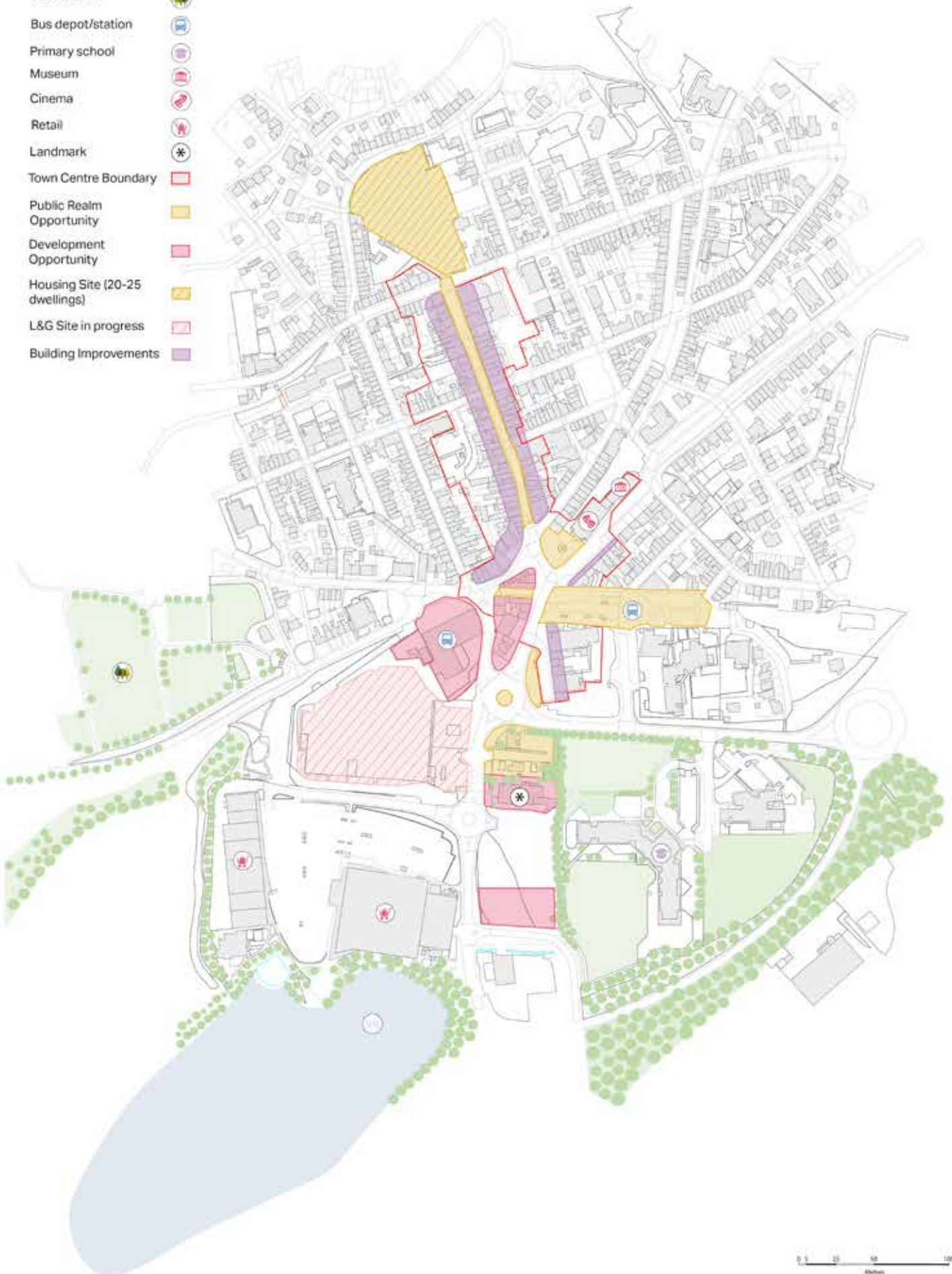
TOWN CONTEXT

Currently the town is disconnected with little sense of continuity between the ‘old’ and the ‘new’. The former includes the retail along Beaufort Street, Market Square and the latter consisting of the retail park to the south. The complex layout of roads which intersect in the centre of the town create severance and impinge on the potential to redevelop the area into a coherent ‘place’. Despite these challenges a number of attributes exist from a centrally located bus interchange, local schools, health facilities and a the Grade II Listed Boiler House.

LOCATION OF INTERVENTIONS & OPPORTUNITIES

Key

- Water reservoir 
- Public Park 
- Bus depot/station 
- Primary school 
- Museum 
- Cinema 
- Retail 
- Landmark 
- Town Centre Boundary 
- Public Realm Opportunity 
- Development Opportunity 
- Housing Site (20-25 dwellings) 
- L&G Site in progress 
- Building Improvements 



3.3 Socio economic baseline

Due to low-income levels the potential for spending within the town centre is constrained. However, with the right type of interventions and development, its vitality and wellbeing across social, economic, environmental, and cultural dimensions can be greatly improved.

The fact that local communities experience social and economic disadvantage with lower levels of pay should not be a reason to write off opportunities for future regeneration and change. Regardless of economic and social background, all members of the community seek leisure, entertainment, engagement, and a sense of belonging in the place they live. Therefore, tailoring proposals for change to this demography is key to achieving a positive outcome.

The Gross Value Added (GVA) for Blaenau Gwent has been increasing over the past 10 years with manufacturing constituting the largest proportion of GVA, followed by real estate activities. Yet the underlying economic performance lags behind large areas of Wales and the UK.

In the following chapters, ideas that address key gaps in the market are explored in addition to opportunities that could encourage footfall to support existing businesses in Brynmawr. It is also acknowledged that broad societal trends such as online shopping and large retail parks challenge the vitality of town centres, particularly in a post-covid era. The key to overcoming these challenges is to offer what is missing, an interactive, dynamic new market town with a sense of community and place.

£23,300

Mean average equivalised disposable annual household income, Brynmawr

Before housing costs. Income estimates for small areas, England and Wales: financial year ending 2018, ONS

13%

Blaenau Gwent areas in Most deprived 10% of Welsh LSOAs

Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation 2019, StatsWales

5,530

Population of Brynmawr

2011 Census, ONS

15%

of the population of Brynmawr were employed in personal services in 2011. This was followed by 14% in elementary occupations and 13% skilled trades



3.4 Transport baseline

Main access to Brynmawr is via the road network. The new Heads of the Valleys Road (A465) running east to west towards the northern edge of town has created connections to wider areas. The A467 from the south and the A4047 running east to west are linked to the Heads of the Valleys Road and are gateways to the town centre. However, the town is dominated by vehicular movement which is detrimental to the success and wellbeing of the town centre. There is an opportunity to fully capitalise on the A465 connection and divert through-traffic away from the town centre.

The old town centre and the new Lakeside Retail Park are disconnected by roads physically and experientially. It also provides an expanse of free parking, which is contrasted by the relative lack of parking in the central town area. It is not just a pedestrian route that is required, but an environment that creates a high quality pedestrian experience.

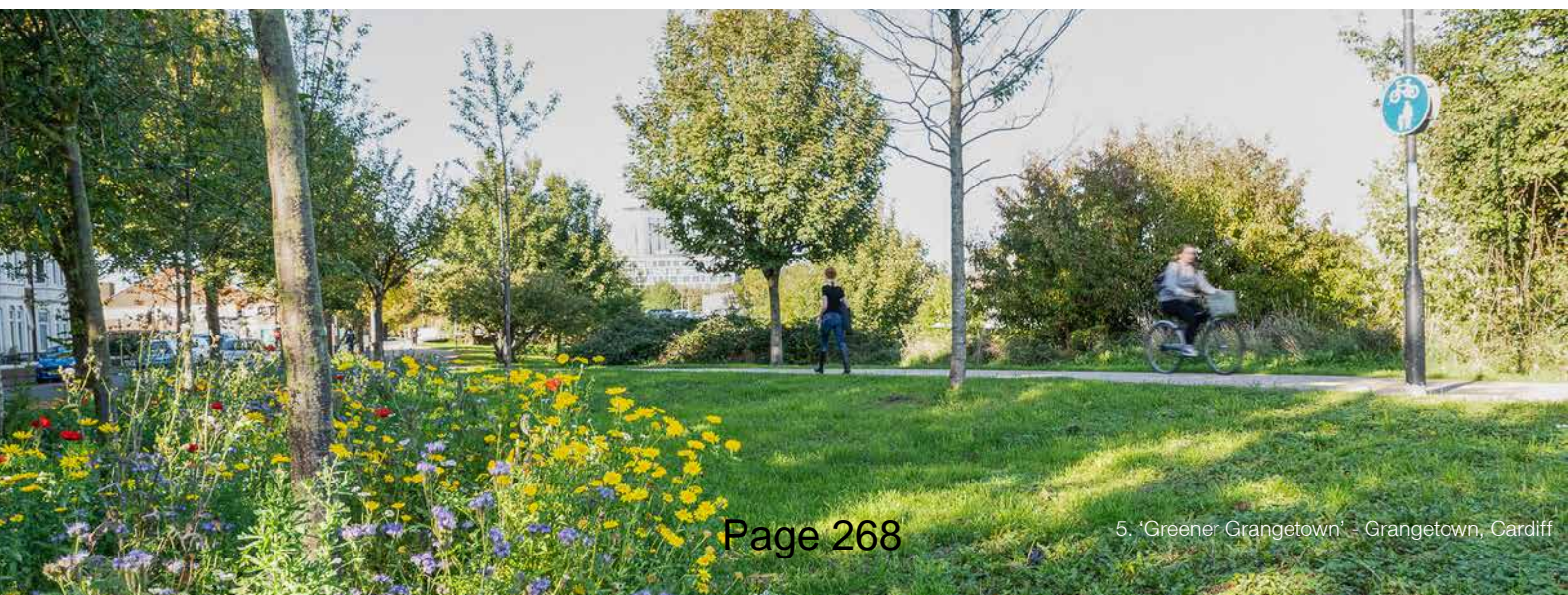
The town does benefit from a bus service connecting the town to Cwmbran, Forgeside, Merthyr Tydfil, Ebbw Vale, Newport and Abergavenny. However, feedback from engagement suggest they tend to be infrequent and inaccessible. The closest train station is 4 miles away in Ebbw Vale.

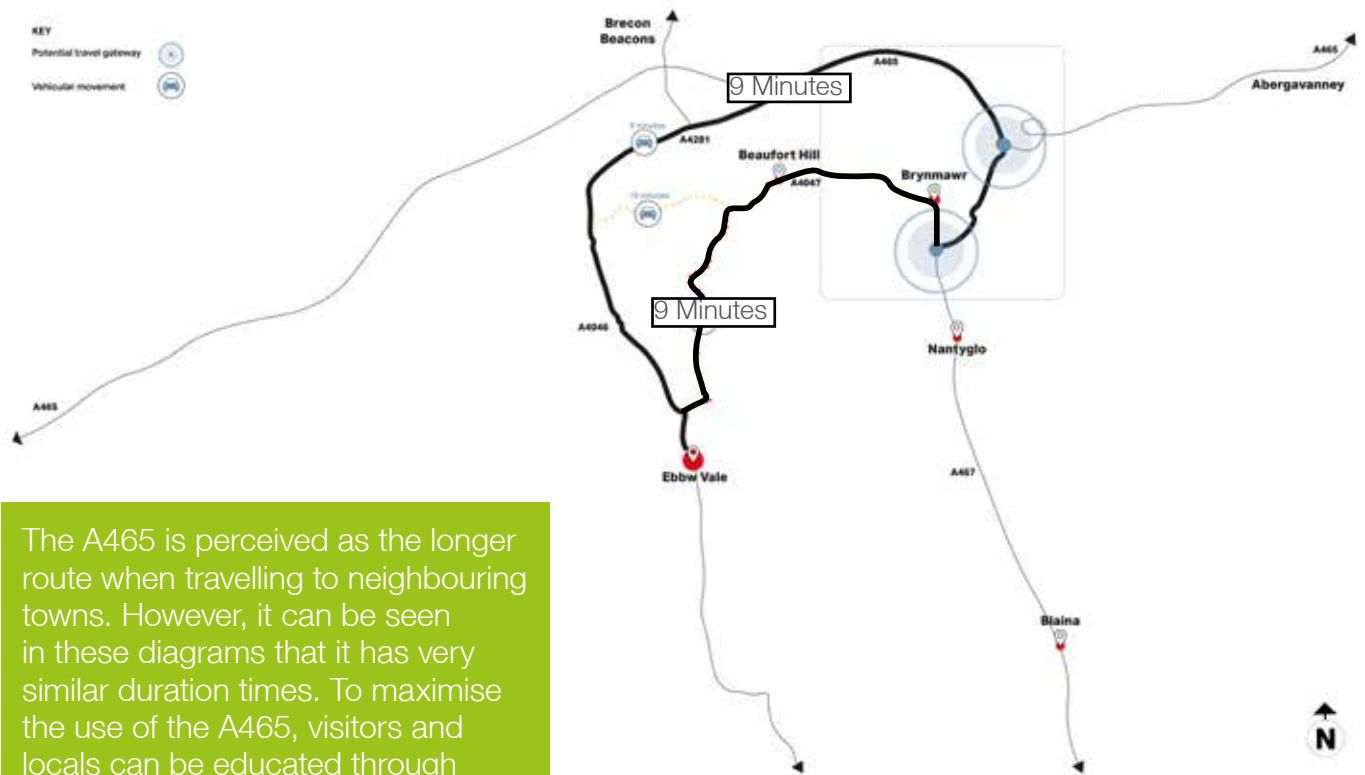
Our approach works in conjunction with the WelTag Stage 1 assessment completed by Arup in 2021 as well as the newly appointed WelTag Stage 2 assessment. The key interventions in the WelTag Stage 1 report are grouped into four areas. These are:

- Active travel interventions designed to improve the quality of walking and cycling
- Public transport interventions that focus on buses and the existing Brynmawr bus station
- Highways interventions that seek to change the layout of roads and car parks and
- Meanwhile uses that seek to make the best use of vacant or poor-quality development sites.

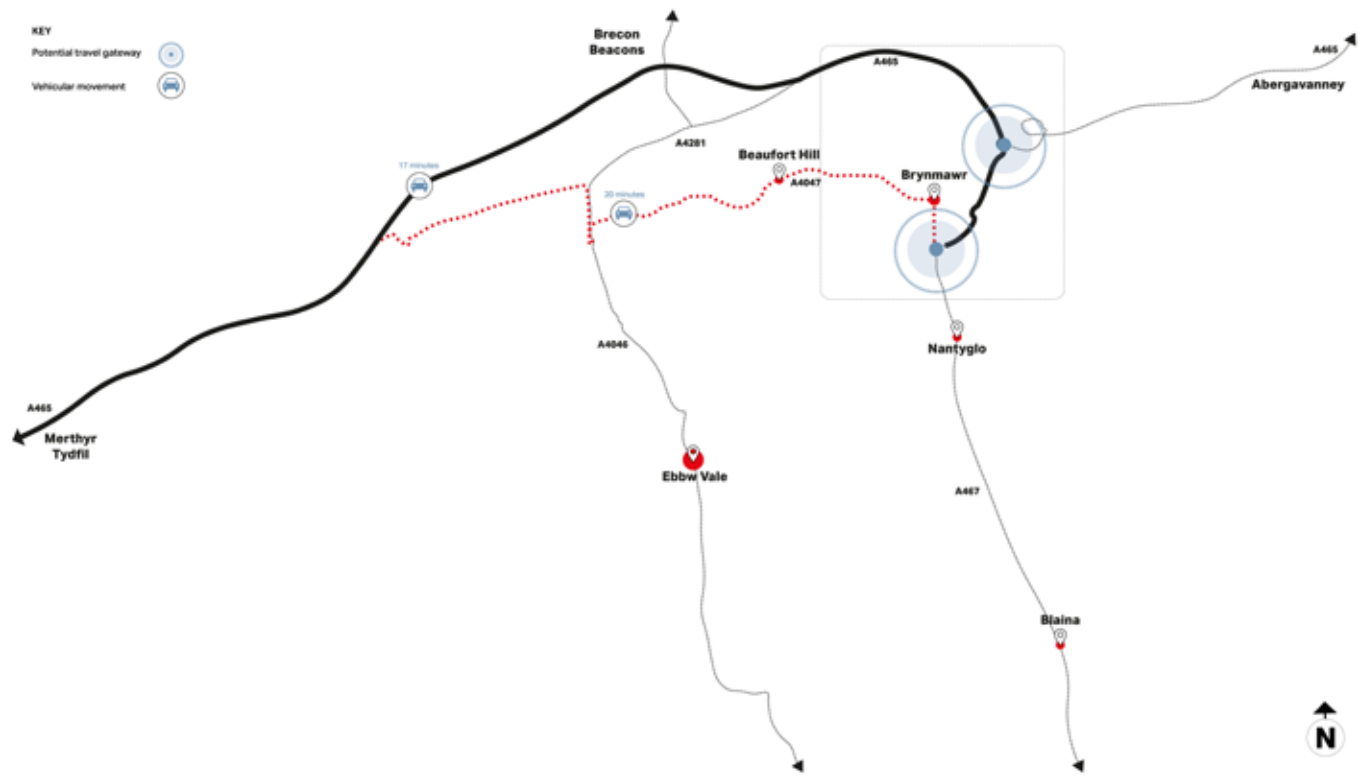
There are several ways to reduce traffic pressures within the town centre area. Some ideas include 20mph speed limits, pedestrian priority spaces, surface material changes, planting, and physical public realm features. Another bold, yet successful, method is bringing the town centre to life by planning temporary road closures for events throughout the year.

WelTag Stage 2 will work alongside this placemaking plan and both projects will be integrated with each other.





The A465 is perceived as the longer route when travelling to neighbouring towns. However, it can be seen in these diagrams that it has very similar duration times. To maximise the use of the A465, visitors and locals can be educated through potential travel gateways that consist of more prominent signage and wayfinding at key entry/exits into town.



3.5 Town centre Health check

The town centre health check is a study of the existing physical, social, and economic conditions and historic trends of Brynmawr town centre. It draws on both published data and findings from site visits and analysis including knowledge from the previous Brynmawr masterplan and WelTAG study.

The key findings and opportunities from the baseline study are detailed below.

BASELINE SUMMARY

- The current Blaenau Gwent Local Development Plan has identified sustainable growth and regeneration opportunities in Brynmawr, including sustainable economic growth, quality housing and complimentary roles around tourism and mixed-use development.
- The key interventions from the WelTag Stage 1 study (2021-2022) were to divert traffic away from town centre, reinforce active travel, enhance public transport, focusing on buses, and explore potential for meanwhile uses.
- The town centre and new Lakeside Retail Park are disconnected by roads physically and experientially. Businesses in the town centre face strong competition for footfall and trade from the new retail park. At present Lakeside Retail Park is a self-contained attraction with weak pedestrian links and little customer spill over to the town centre. It is a major draw to Brynmawr, but the challenge is to attract some of these customers into the town centre.
- There has been a sustained decrease in footfall in the town centre which presents a real challenge. There must therefore be a focus on projects and measures that will attract people into the centre.

- The Gross Value Added (GVA) for Blaenau Gwent has been increasing over the past 10 years with manufacturing constituting the largest proportion of GVA, followed by real estate activities. Yet the underlying economic performance lags behind large areas of Wales and the UK.
- Despite being surrounded by beautiful landscapes such as The Brecon Beacons and The Valleys, the relationship is peripheral, and the town centre lacks green spaces.
- The vacancy rate in the retail sub-market in Blaenau Gwent is low, compared to Cardiff and other towns in Blaenau Gwent. However, the drop off in business rates is a trigger for action to help town prosperity.
- The Market Hall Cinema, being one of the oldest in the UK, and the market square are some of Brynmawr's attractive features and play a significant role in its future.

OPPORTUNITIES

- Reducing car dominance and supporting active travel and public transport, principally by maximising new access to the A465.
- Adopting a 'one town' approach which links the old and new
- Bringing the landscape into the town and the town to the landscape. It is important to explore opportunities such as access to nature, tourism and ways in which both The Brecon Beacons and The Valleys are experienced.
- The town requires a real focus on initiatives to strengthen a culture in which the town centres are seen as the focal points for their communities and to develop those aspects in which the town centres are able to have

a competitive edge over out of town stores and on-line retailing and services. A principal advantage of the town centres is the sense of identity and pride they can offer in a shared 'community space'.

- Attracting people of all ages throughout the week and evenings and expand the Brynmawr events calendar.
- Support and celebrate the independents as a differentiator.
- Create destinations such as The Boiler House or a destination park.

- Build on Brynmawr's rich history of social enterprise.
- Take a health-led approach in determining the nature and location of change.
- Unlock land for new uses, such as the NMC Factory and Bus Depot.
- 'Cross-sell' Brynmawr with BGCBC's and other towns as an 'ecosystem of towns' rather than in isolation.
- Bring people on the journey through engagement and ambition.



3.6 Engagement Summary

Engagement was undertaken through one-to-one phone discussions with Brynmawr businesses, and virtual workshops with a range of stakeholders and community groups. This dialogue produced a great deal of local knowledge, suggestions for action and offers of help.

At the inception of the project a workshop was held with BGCBC councilors. The virtual workshop was held using an online whiteboard tool (Miro) where stakeholders were presented with an overview of the baseline data and the opportunity.

Through a swot exercise, stakeholder feedback from each session identified the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats of

Brynmawr which helped create a summary of key themes and ideas to take forward as design principles. A summary of the common points that have emerged during the stakeholder engagement sessions is illustrated below. Overall, the stakeholders were able to ascertain the scale of opportunity and vision for Brynmawr with key themes evolving around connectivity and community. There was a clear consensus around the idea of rediscovering what Brynmawr has to offer and building on its rich history through a curation of events and destinations.

What is important and works well?

- There was a strong consensus around the sense of community where the locals are considered to be extremely loyal and actively engaged
- Brynmawr has a rich history as a market town and features the oldest cinema in Wales
- Brynmawr is part of an ecosystem of towns where it is strategically placed in the wider network with new road infrastructure and easy access to nature (Parc Nant Y Wan/ Brecon Beacons)
- The vast number of independent businesses and the variety Brynmawr town centre has to offer along the high street result in low vacancy rates

Comments by BGCBC noted during SWOT session 3rd February 2022

“Loyalty”

“Togetherness”

“Houses don’t have gardens” - What did people do in lockdown?

“Market is not used enough”

“You are able to take your time in Brynmawr”

Issues & concerns

- There is a lack of public transport with no rail connection and poor bus connections
- Heavy traffic and vehicle dominance roads with lack of public realm and green infrastructure
- Lack of connection between 'old' and 'new' town
- Maintenance of buildings and shop fronts need updating and modernising
- Lack of night-time economy
- There is the threat of not addressing the issues and lack of action as the town needs regeneration or will get left behind
- Competing with the neighbouring towns has led footfall to dramatically decrease
- There is a lack of developable space within the compact town
- Perception of Brynmawr is tainted with the increase of anti-social behaviour

Opportunities

- The cross-selling of towns within Blaenau Gwent would aid Brynmawr in having to compete with its neighbours
- Creating destinations/events which would increase footfall and revitalise town centre
- Encourage a community approach to get the local people onboard as well as upskilling through social enterprise
- Introducing sustainable travel with better transport links and access



3.7 Learning from elsewhere

One way of ensuring an effective approach for Brynmawr is to look at relevant case studies and learn from their success.

TREORCHY, WALES

Treorchy, a Welsh market town in the Rhondda Valley, won the UK's 'High Street of the Year' award in 2019. The former mining town was praised for its community led cultural events and the digital training offered to support local businesses. Where previously there was no online platform, a new Visit Treorchy website now gives local businesses a greater online presence, while a strategic partnership provides digital training and support to local entrepreneurs.

Year-round cultural events led by the community such as an outdoor cinema, an arts festival and an annual Christmas parade also increased footfall dramatically.

Another innovative initiative is their 'Hop, Shop and Save' scheme which offers advertising space on local buses in return for high street discounts to bus users. This not only encourages the use of public transport but also improves air quality in the town centre and increases footfall for the local businesses, most of which are independently owned.



7. Treorchy High Street, The Guardian

BLOQS, LONDON

BLOQS is an open access factory in London, transformed from an under used industrial shed into a flexible pay-as-you-go workshop. It is a professional makerspace for entrepreneurs and professional makers such as carpenters, furniture makers, designers, builders, tailors, and sculptors to name a few. It is a collaborative, creative space where people can fabricate products with on-site equipment. In addition to the space and equipment, it provides training of new skills, a café for social space, a place to network and a chance to be part of the makers community.

This example is relevant to the Stagecoach site highlighting opportunities for renovation. It is also linked to Brynmawr's history in furniture making and other crafts.



8. BLOQS, The Guardian

TY PAWB, WREXHAM

Ty Pawb is a cultural community space where arts and markets come together under one roof. This cohabitation is a celebration of Wrexham's cultural heritage and the importance of markets within its identity.

The building is a transformation of a failing covered market and multi-storey car park from the 1990s. Today it accommodates new facilities including art galleries, market stalls, performance space, learning centres, studios, offices, cafes and bars. Ty pawb has had a great impact on the community helping regenerate the town centre and provide an alternative to the out-of-town retail parks and ailing high street. With a diverse mix of spaces and activities, it attracts a wide audience including national and international visitors.

This example can also be applied to the Stagecoach building. This approach can provide a space for the community to come together and create a destination for visitors. It builds on the significance of markets in Brynmawr, its strong sense of community and offers a place for social, economic and leisure activities.

ALTRINCHAM MARKET, CHESHIRE

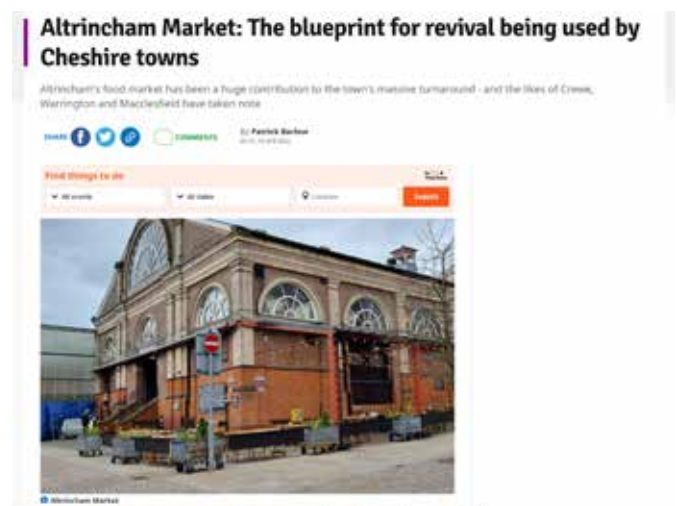
Altrincham is a traditional market town in Cheshire dating back to 1290. The new Trafford Shopping Centre nearby, increasing business rates and parking charges led to the decline of its high street. Businesses disappeared and Altrincham recorded the highest shop vacancy rates in the UK.

Today Altrincham has been reinvented into a modern market town and is one of the most sought-after places to live in the country. The catalyst for regeneration was the refurbishment of the Market House, which is now a lively food hall with some of the area's best local food vendors. The market also offers stalls selling clothes and crafts. The year-round activities and events offer a great variety for locals and visitors increasing footfall substantially.

The Boiler House is the perfect candidate to follow in Altrincham's footsteps. In the following chapters we will explore how The Boiler House can become a thriving food destination in The Valleys.



9. Ty Pawb, Wrexham Council News



10. Altrincham Market, Cheshire Live

3.8 Planning context

The traditional role of town centres as places to buy and sell, founded on attributes of the clustering of and access to goods and services has been eroded by online retailing and service provision and out of town shopping facilities. The future role of the town centres and the mix of services, facilities, and experiences they can provide is therefore a key issue.

PLANNING POLICY WALES

The key principles for the planning system in Wales are established by Planning Policy Wales (PPW). The key theme from PPW is People and Places: Achieving Well-being Through Placemaking – Using placemaking as a tool for the planning system to output sustainable Places which improve well-being of communities.

PPW has to be used in three stages.

1. Assessing plans or proposals against the Strategic and Spatial Choices issues and the national sustainable placemaking outcomes. This stage is to ensure that opportunities are correctly identified and any potentially required mitigation measures are included.
2. Assessing whether plans or proposals contribute to Active & Social Places, Productive and Enterprising Places and Distinctive & Natural Places. The merits of the proposal need to be considered whether they are in the public interest.
3. Ensuring the strategy or proposal aids in contributing to either sustaining or the creation of sustainable places.

PPW's raison d'être is to ensure good design which contributes to the viability and sustainability of places.

THE BLAENAU GWENT LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN (LDP)

The Blaenau Gwent Local Development Plan (LDP) was adopted in November 2012. Relevant policies for Brynmawr are as follows:

STRATEGIC POLICIES

- SP1 Northern Strategy Area – Sustainable Growth and Regeneration, where Brynmawr District Town Centre will explore opportunities to develop complementary roles around tourism; and support mixed-use development.
- SP4 Delivering Quality Housing – provision is made for the development of 3,907 new dwellings within the wider authority area by 2021.
- SP8 Sustainable Economic Growth – 50ha of employment land is allocated to meet the wider authority area's need by 2021.

POLICY DESIGNATIONS

- EMP2 Employment Area Protection – sites identified on the policy map are protected for employment use in line with their status in the employment hierarchy (EMP2.7; EMP2.8; EMP2.9; EMP2.17 and EMP2.19).
- ENV2 Special Landscape Areas – SLAs are located to the southeast, southwest and northeast of Brynmawr (Eastern Ridge and Mynydd James; Mynydd Carn-y-Cefn and Cefn yr Arail; and Beaufort Common).
- ENV3 Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC) – multiple SINC are

located around the settlement boundary of Brynmawr.

SITE ALLOCATIONS

- Housing Allocations are located within the settlement boundary of Brynmawr (H1.6; H1.7; H1.10, HC1.23, HC1.24, HC1.25) – these are for between 12 – 45 housing units respectively. An allocation exists within Brynmawr for Gypsy Traveller Accommodation (see GT1 – which is allocated to accommodate 6 pitches).
- MU3 NMC Factory and Bus Depot – land is allocated at the NMC factory for mixed-use development including 60no. New homes, and to act as an active link between the Town Centre and Lakeside Retail Park.
- T1 Cycle Routes – two cycle routes are located within Brynmawr, the HoV route linking Nine Arches Tredegar to Brynmawr (T1.1) and Brynmawr to Blaenavon (T1.8).
- T3 Safeguarding of Disused Railway Infrastructure – disused railway infrastructure east of Brynmawr will be protected from development that would compromise its future transport use.
- T4 Improvements to Bus Services – improvements are identified as part of a Bus Priority Scheme along the Brynmawr to Newport Bus Corridor (T4.1) and at the Brynmawr Bus Interchange (T4.2).
- T6 Regeneration Led Highway Improvements – land is allocated for the dualling of the A465 Heads of the Valleys Road (Tredegar to Brynmawr) (T6.1) to the east of Brynmawr settlement boundary.
- ENV4 Land Reclamation Schemes – a land reclamation scheme is proposed at Cwmcraehen, Brynmawr (ENV4.3).



11. Planning Policy Wales



12. Blaenau Gwent LDP



An architectural rendering of a vibrant, multi-level community courtyard. The scene is filled with diverse people of various ages and abilities, including those using wheelchairs and canes. Large, stylized trees in shades of orange, yellow, and purple are scattered throughout the space. In the foreground, there are several colorful benches (yellow, orange, and pink) and a parking lot with white lines. A modern building with a glass facade and a balcony is visible in the background. The overall atmosphere is one of a welcoming and inclusive public space.

4. A Vision for Brynmawr

4.1 A Twenty First Century Valleys Market Town

The vision for Brynmawr will mark a new chapter in the rich history of social enterprise and community led change that has defined the Welsh valleys.

The retail centre will be rapidly diversified to attract new visitors across the day and week and make it a place people want to use and not just need to use. Brynmawr will become a 15-minute neighbourhood which will bring new services, destinations, jobs, leisure and parks to the centre of the community. It will embrace innovation to adapt existing buildings and spaces and become renowned for experimentation and creative reuse. At the centre of this will be a renewed focus on the role of Brynmawr as one of the few true market towns in the valleys by breathing new life into the Market Square.

In doing so Brynmawr will rediscover its place as one of the few true market towns within the Welsh Valleys.



4.2 A 15 Minute Neighbourhood

15 MINUTE NEIGHBOURHOOD

What if we could access our daily needs within a 15-minute walk from our front door? The concept which has been adopted across Paris is becoming an increasingly important one within the built environment industry.

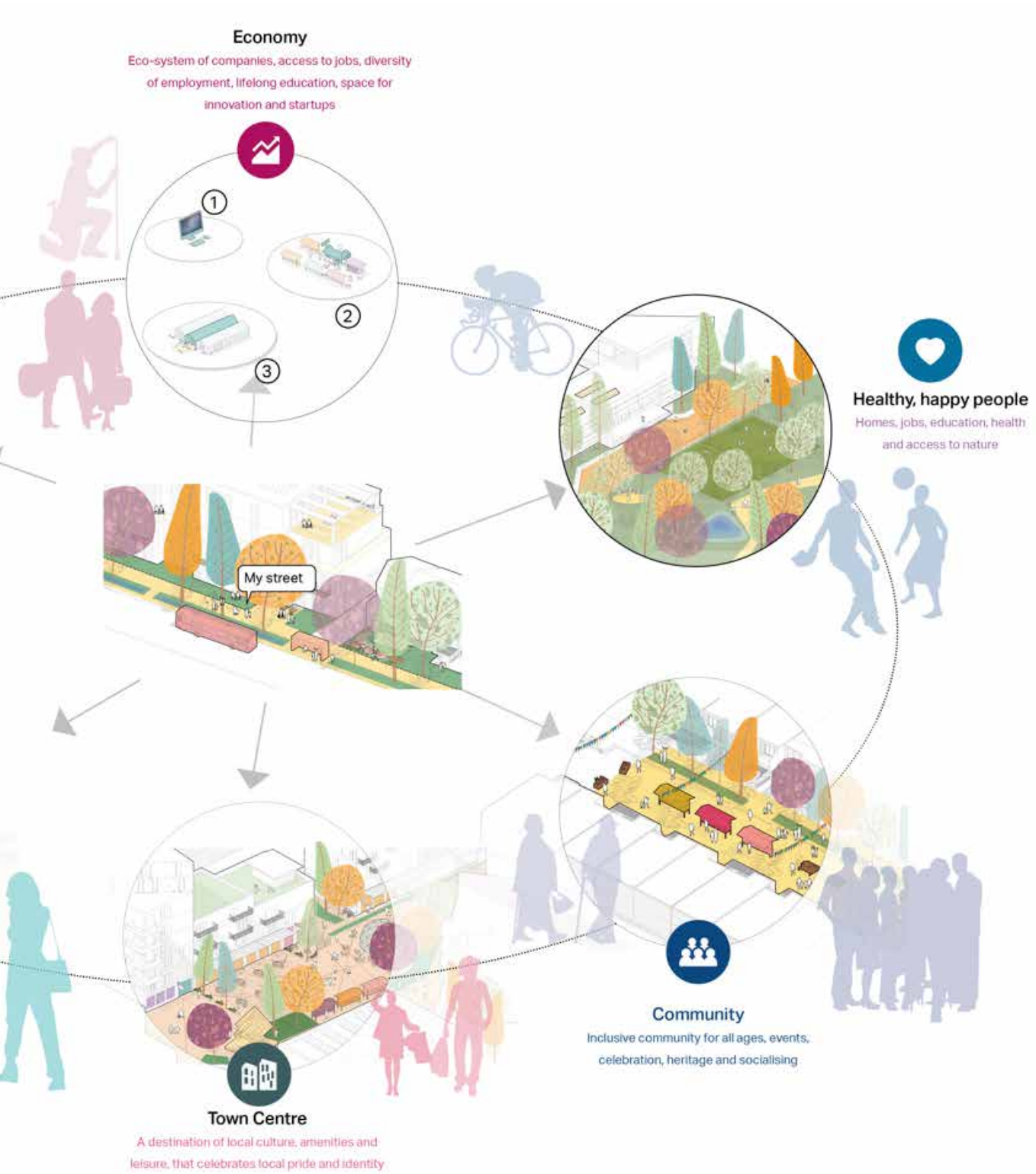
There are six principles which are the stepping stones for creating a self-sufficient town and a great place to live, work and visit. By providing improved access to open space and nature, improving the mix of employment types, encouraging a broader offer of amenities and services, reinforcing the strong sense of community, with a diverse offer of homes whilst supporting sustainable movement, a liveable, vibrant, and resilient town will be the outcome.

Living within a 15-minute neighbourhood means there is less car dependency, a more active community with an improved physical, social and economic life.

Brynmawr is a compact town surrounded by a residential area, making it an ideal candidate for the 15-minute town concept. With an enviable combination of urban and rural qualities, access to beautiful landscapes and a strong community, Brynmawr has some of the base ingredients to improve the life of residents and visitors alike, this is a core principle for the strategy for Brynmawr.



The 15-minute town



4.3 Objectives

Empowering
the local
community

Embedding
Circularity

Step Change
to Sustainable
mobility

WHATS DRIVING THE CHANGE?

Sense of community is a major strength in Brynmawr reflected in a cultural history of shared endeavour, expressed for example through the Market Hall Cinema. It's therefore essential the future evolution of the towns builds upon and nurtures local assets.

Circularity is a model based around the sharing, reusing and readaption of resources. The towns within the local area all grew on the basis of servicing carbon-based extraction and production, but now need to forge a new economy that is founded upon low carbon output and associated stewardship of the natural environment.

Improving the quality of the pedestrian and cycle environment within the locality improves connections to the town centre and reduces car dependency. Opportunities to improve not just routes but also facilities and services for active travel.

FACILITATING THE CHANGE

To diversify the centre and drive change there needs to be an ethos of enterprise. This entails enterprise as a creative endeavour, finding new and effective ways of doing things that bring improvements to the town centres and their contribution to wider well-being. There are already good examples of this approach such as social enterprises, Market Hall Cinema in Brynmawr and EVi in Ebbw Vale.

Involving young people in town centre projects will be important, ensuring that their concerns and aspirations are addressed and to help reduce vandalism and anti-social behaviour, an issue frequently raised throughout engagement.

Adaptive re-use of the Boiler House and its renovation to a beneficial use is important to safeguard an element of the town's identity and because of the opportunities it presents for a use that can help bring people to the town. The use should be one that can be run as a community initiative.

The Circular economy theme also looks towards better utilisation of local supply chains and supporting local businesses to promote themselves, and also reduce waste such as plastic. Improving the quality of the offering within the local area reduces the need to travel and improves the local economy of Brynmawr.

Active travel connectivity and, connectivity of the community and local businesses. Soft interventions such as supporting local businesses to improve their social and digital media presence, providing outlets to publicise positive stories and events are cost effective ways at improving the local economy and connecting businesses with customers beyond the passing trade, creating a destination of the town centre.



WHATS DRIVING THE CHANGE?

There is the opportunity to upskill the local population and provide new types of spaces to entice more business to town centre.

Brynmawr like many areas of Wales suffers from significant levels of chronic illness often associated with sedentary lifestyles and poor diet. Placemaking has a significant role to play in improving health and well-being by reshaping the physical environment to encourage more active lifestyles and positive community interaction.

Creating a sense of place that is unique to Brynmawr needs to be facilitated further than physical interventions, there is a need for a greater number of uses and activities.

FACILITATING THE CHANGE

There is potential for a work hub to capitalise on this creative energy and sense of independence to enable existing residents to live and work in the town. A work hub enables this, and can support start-ups, provide training space and create jobs.

A major positive asset to the area is the green corridors and abundance of landscape surrounding the town, including the Brecon Beacons. These landscape features are highly valued by the community and is a striking feature for visitors unfamiliar with these valley towns. There are opportunities to improve this further. Connections to nature are proven to be significant to well-being.

Developing a programme of events and a social calendar which caters for social activity, family attractions and places for young people will prove transformative for the town centres social character. Other opportunities such as a 24-hour economy, and deregulation to allow for outdoor dining are interventions worthy of investigation to create a distinct sense of place.

Flexible space allows opportunities for other uses such as street markets showcasing local traders selling local goods and produce. Such markets can cater for the local demographic and attract new custom from beyond the town. Re-establishing Brynmawr as a true market town.

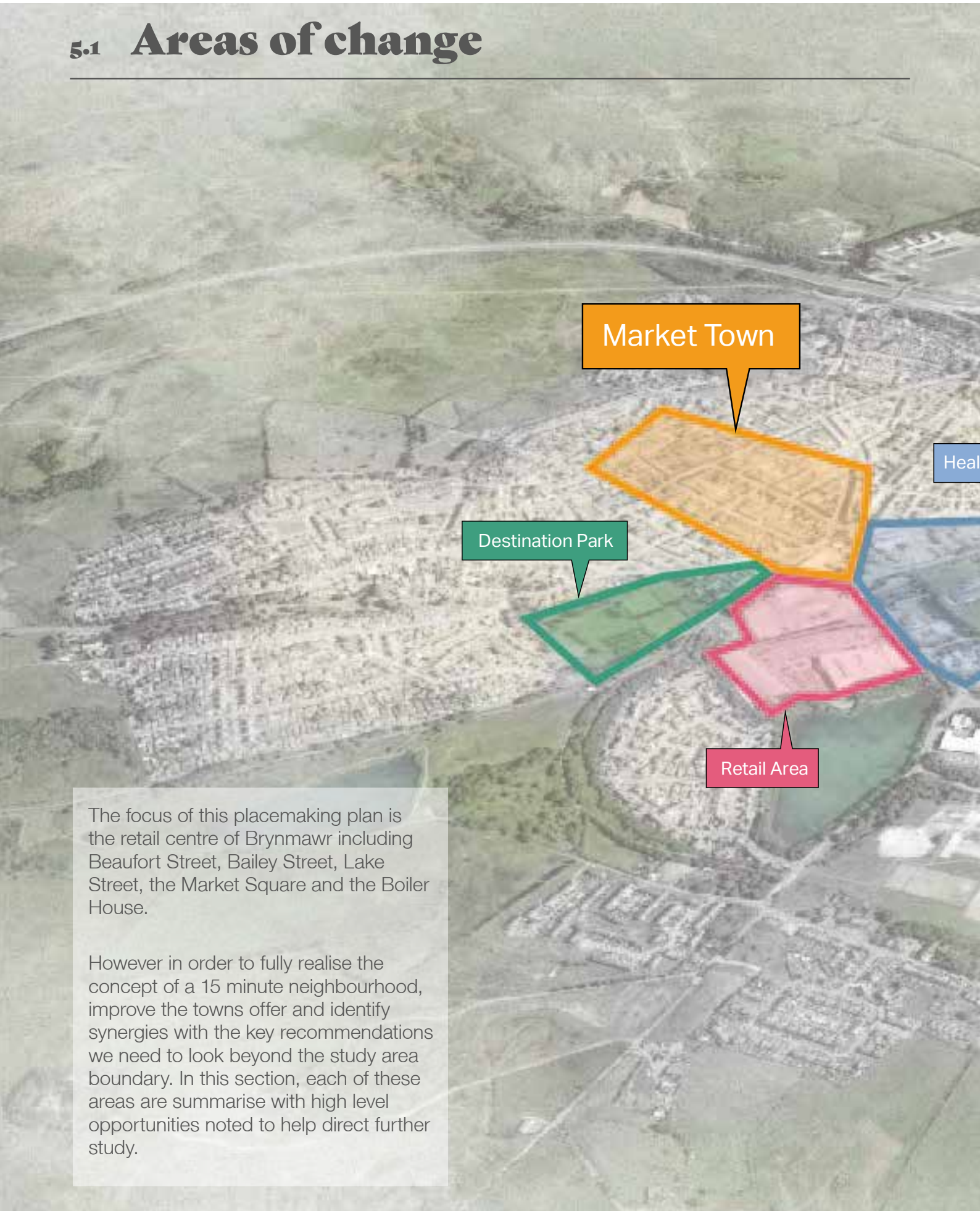
By galvanising the community, raising town centre profiles, and attracting people to use the centres. This in turn can build confidence and, over-time, enhance the prospects for some of the larger scale investments where these are needed.



An aerial architectural rendering of a city street. The street is shown in a light yellow color, with a green bike lane running along its length. The bike lane has a white dashed line on its left side and a white solid line on its right side. A person is riding a bicycle on the bike lane. The street is flanked by buildings of various heights and colors, including white, grey, and purple. There are trees and green spaces along the street, including a small park area with a blue pond and a tree. A dashed black line runs across the middle of the street. The title '5. The Placemaking Plan' is overlaid on the image in a large, bold, black font.

5. The Placemaking Plan

5.1 Areas of change



The focus of this placemaking plan is the retail centre of Brynmawr including Beaufort Street, Bailey Street, Lake Street, the Market Square and the Boiler House.

However in order to fully realise the concept of a 15 minute neighbourhood, improve the towns offer and identify synergies with the key recommendations we need to look beyond the study area boundary. In this section, each of these areas are summarise with high level opportunities noted to help direct further study.



thy/Happy People

MARKET TOWN

The traditional heart of the town and the primary concern for this placemaking plan. The future viability of this area is dependent on providing new destinations, new spaces and places that transform people's perceptions and draw a far wider audience of people to use it. At the heart of this plan is a circular economy approach to innovatively reuse the town's buildings and spaces including the Stage Coach site and Boiler House rather than demolish and rebuild where possible. To ensure change can be realised quickly to maintain public support and demonstrate intent, trial projects including the pedestrianisation of Market Square for events will engender a spirit of innovation.



PARK

The lack of green space in the centre of Brynmawr was cited during the engagement process and the transfer of this asset to community groups has inevitably led to challenges around financing and potential conflict between groups. Park spaces are vital in keeping people active, offering children invaluable outdoor time and providing a place to meet and talk away from the confines of your home.

Two levels of improvement have been identified to help maximise the potential of the Welfare Park. The first is to consider the operation and governance of the park in order to improve what exists. Parks Foundations for example (<https://www.nesta.org.uk/toolkit/how-set-parks-foundation/>) are an alternative way of running public parks by transforming parks into charitable trusts with a board of trustees which have a focus on income generation and entrepreneurialism. Whilst this approach tends to be focused on larger urban parks, there are many aspects that could be applicable to the Welfare Park. In line with proposal for the health and well-being cluster there is scope to decant uses from the Welfare Park to the area around the Well-being Hub and Blaenycwm Primary to reduce pressure on what is ultimately a limited space.



The second level of intervention involves a far more ambitious overhaul of the park into a destination park that would serve both Brynmawr and nearby towns such as Abertillery. Such a proposal would need to be subject to a full business case strategy but has the potential to add to the rich mix of destinations proposed in the town centre as part of a town-wide approach. Careful coordination with town centre proposals would be needed to avoid potential duplication if the proposal to create a central park in Brynmawr are pursued.

HEALTH AND WELL-BEING CLUSTER

The Bromley By Bow model of community and health integration in London (<https://www.bbhc.org.uk/>) has demonstrated how blurring the boundaries between community groups/services and health can achieve far reaching benefits for local people. Inspired by this approach, there is significant potential to maximise the use of land adjacent to the Blaenycwm Primary and the Brynmawr Well-being Centre as part of a broader integration of these facilities with the boiler house proposal. It is recommended that the land around these sites is used to improve local biodiversity, provide natural play for children, create community allotments and recreational space. Each of these has a natural custodian either via the school, well-being hub or potentially the boiler house.

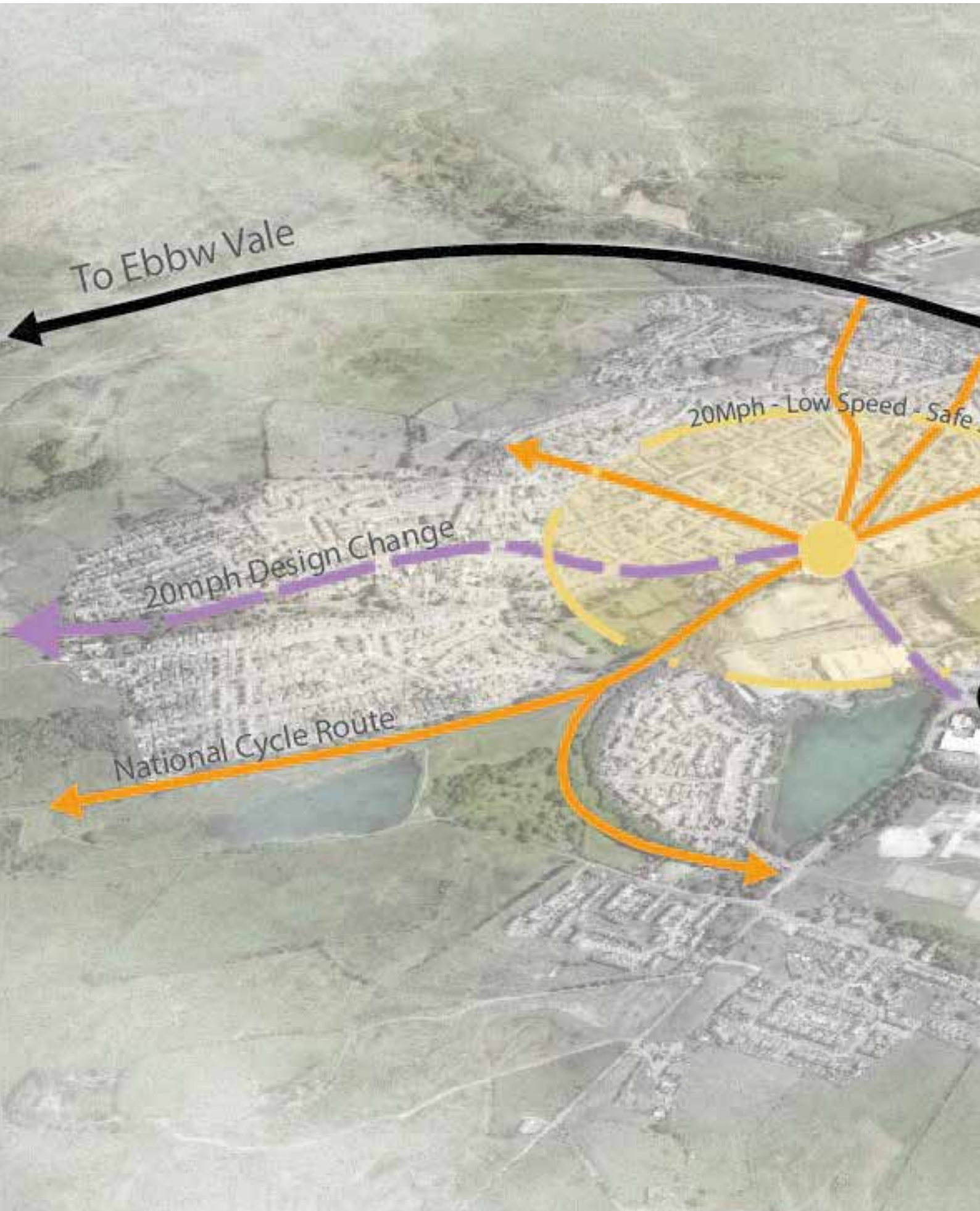
This simple-joined up approach offers numerous, wider benefits including increasing access to open space. Social prescribing from the well-being hub could see people suffering from isolation or inactivity involved in the community allotments. For the school there is the potential to engage early years children in community led habitat creation and natural play. The synergies with the boiler house proposals present the chance to create a wider 'eco-system' of health and well-being. This could be by supporting health literacy at the school through food production and healthy food preparation or by linking social services with the well-being hub to offer meaningful work for vulnerable adults.

RETAIL PARK

The existing retail park is currently expanding to the north with the arrival of a number of new outlets to add to the established area to the south. Whilst this has and will continue to bring new trade and visitors to the Brynmawr it has had a negative impact on footfall in the traditional retail area to the south. Throughout the engagement process it was evident that resolving the disconnect between the two needs to be addressed. Trying to replicate or compete with the retail park offer within the study area is not recommended, instead the focus should be on offering destinations, uses and services that cannot be provided here such as independent retail, community uses and open space.

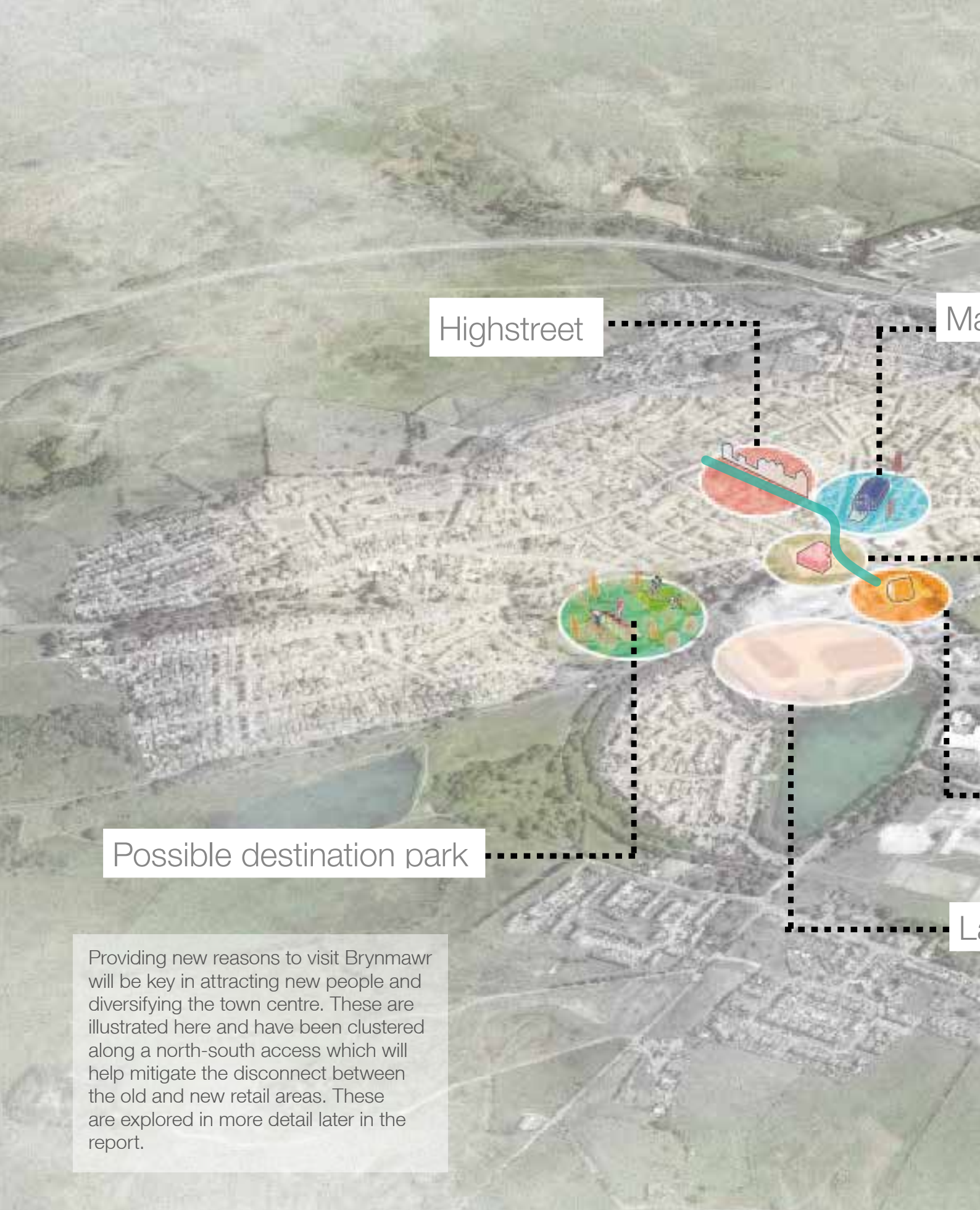


IMPROVE CONNECTIVITY





This placemaking plan will need to align with the emerging WelTAG work. Resolving traffic conflict and congestion in the central area is a key challenge. It is recommended that in order to achieve a better outcome for the town with greater pedestrian priority reduced car dominance that there is a rethink on the movement system. The concept illustrated here sees the town centre become a 20mph zone with priority for pedestrians, cyclists and public transport. This is achieved primarily by redirecting traffic moving east out onto the Heads of Valleys road and away from the pinch point at Bailey Street. Lessons can be learned from the concept of 'Mini Holland' which are being trialed across England. In these areas, rerouting of roads are complimented by changes to the street design to improve the function and appearance of public spaces and streets toward pedestrians and cyclists.



Highstreet

Ma

Possible destination park

La

Providing new reasons to visit Brynmawr will be key in attracting new people and diversifying the town centre. These are illustrated here and have been clustered along a north-south access which will help mitigate the disconnect between the old and new retail areas. These are explored in more detail later in the report.



Market Hall

..... Stagecoach Depot/Park

..... The Boiler House

Lakeside Retail Park

A GREEN CORE

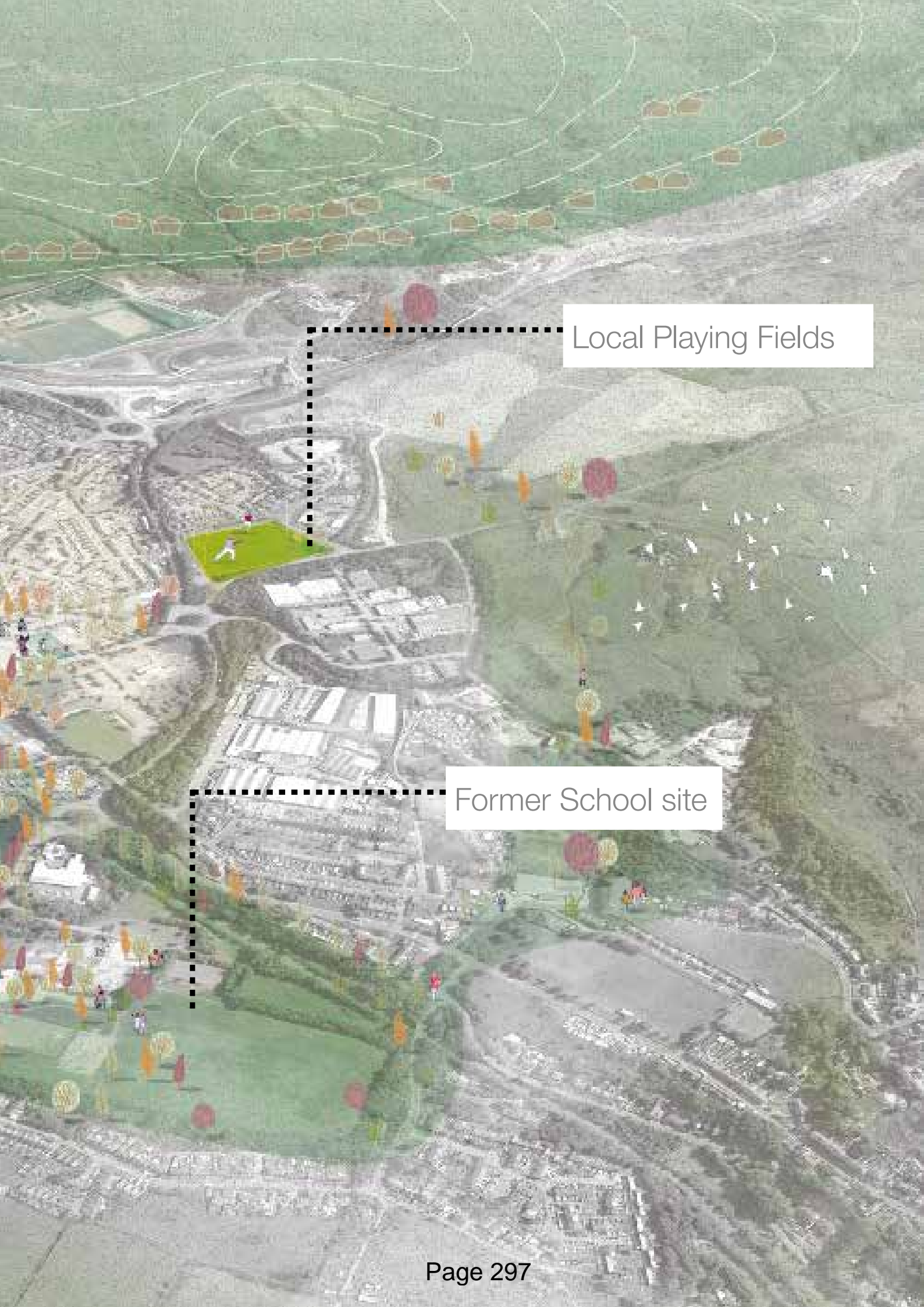


Brecon Beacons

Possible destination park

Parc Nant Y Waun

The natural setting of Brynmawr will be drawn into the town centre through a combination of new SuDS features, landscape and the enhancement of Welfare Park. This will be a vital means of improving local resilience to flooding, improving biodiversity and enhancing health and well-being.



Local Playing Fields

Former School site

5.2 Key projects

This section outlines the proposed projects within the study area. These have been identified to unlock Brynmawr's future as a 21st Century Valleys market town. Two options with different levels of intervention have been explored and will be explained in more detail in the following pages.

KEY PROJECTS:

- The Boiler House
- Beaufort Street
- Stagecoach
- A new park (In Longer Term Scenario)
- Market Square and bus station
- Public Realm Route - Improvements to the north-south connection between Beaufort Street and Lake side retail park are integrated within the above projects and for the purpose of this plan are not presented as a separate project

Option 1 considers the potential of each of these projects in the short to medium timescale, as an intermediary state whereas Option 2 is more ambitious and proposes a long term end state. These are explored on the following pages.

PUBLIC ART

Whilst a specific strategy is not included here, public art has a prominent and important role to play in delivering change. Traditional public art has often taken the form of permanent sculpture or murals. It is recommended that a more creative and dynamic approach to public art is adopted to help demonstrate early in the process how change can be achieved.

A temporary installation within or around the Boiler House for example will begin to build interest and excitement in the building's future and change public perception of a redundant structure. Similarly, an external art work would rapidly change the appearance of the Stage Coach building and deliver an early landmark. In each instance, involving the community within the process will engender stewardship and draw local people directly into the placemaking plan.

Global and national picture

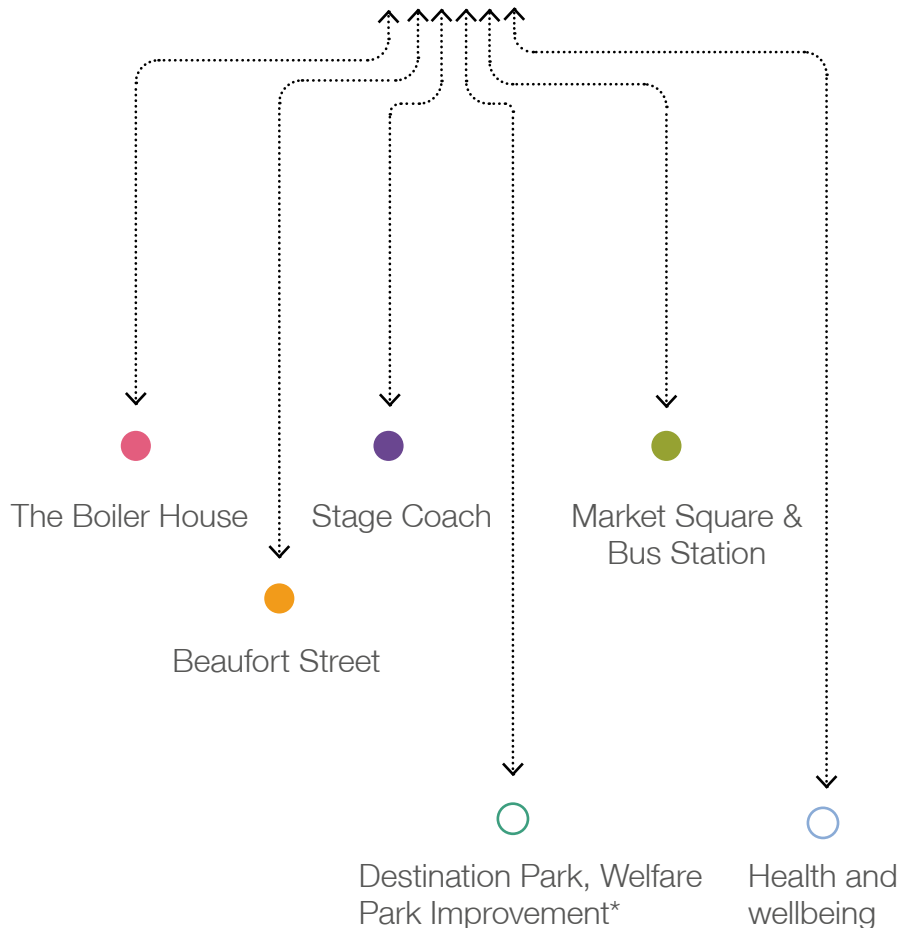


Planning Policy Wales
Environment Act (Wales) 2016

The vision for Brynmawr

Global to Local. The proposed change for Brynmawr as it relates to global and national agendas and the vision

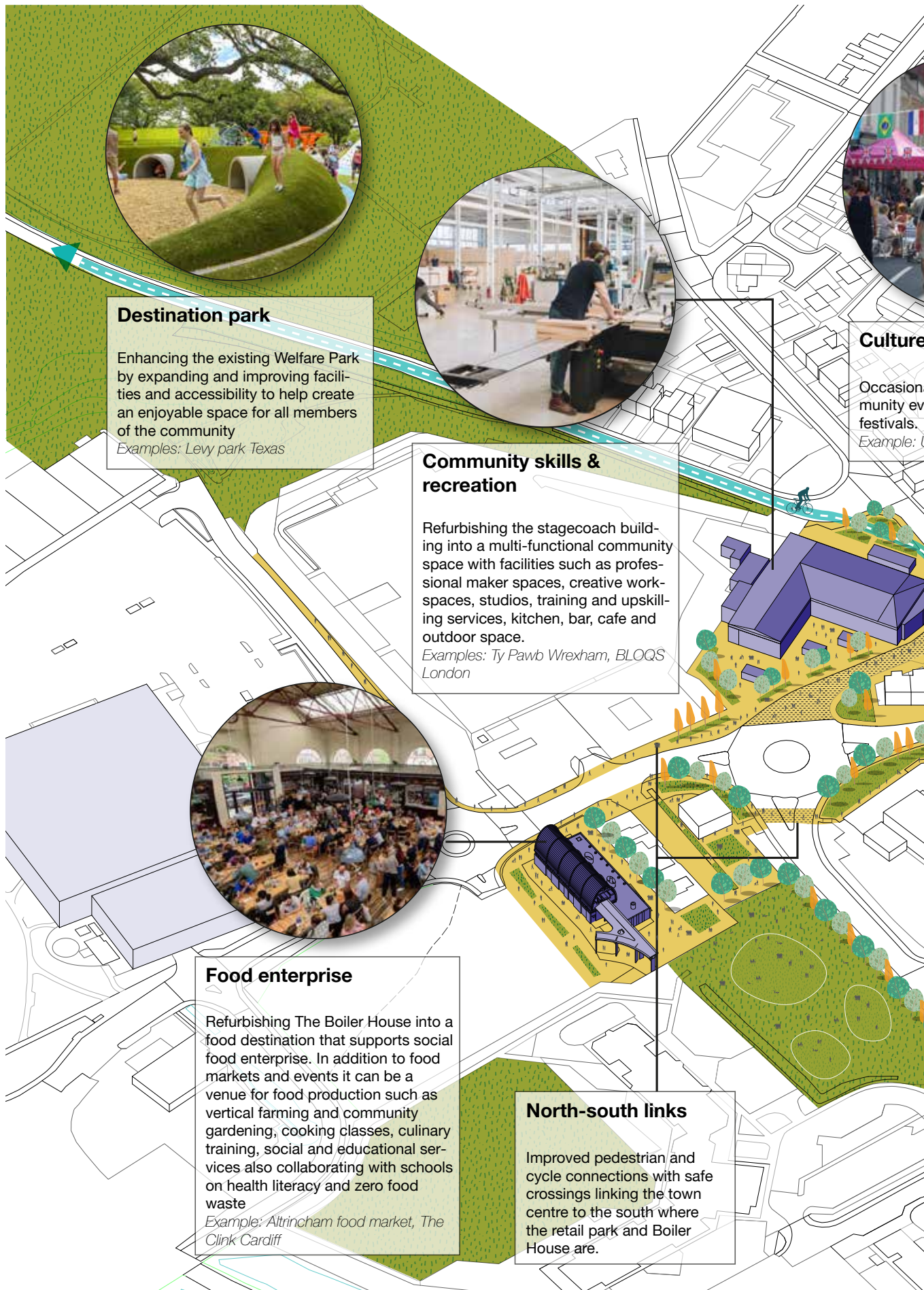
A 15 minute town and a C21st Market Town in the Welsh Valleys



Projects

*Within Longer Term Scenario this is within the Town Centre

Placemaking Proposed Plan



Destination park

Enhancing the existing Welfare Park by expanding and improving facilities and accessibility to help create an enjoyable space for all members of the community

Examples: Levy park Texas

Community skills & recreation

Refurbishing the stagecoach building into a multi-functional community space with facilities such as professional maker spaces, creative work-spaces, studios, training and upskilling services, kitchen, bar, cafe and outdoor space.

Examples: Ty Pawb Wrexham, BLOQS London



Food enterprise

Refurbishing The Boiler House into a food destination that supports social food enterprise. In addition to food markets and events it can be a venue for food production such as vertical farming and community gardening, cooking classes, culinary training, social and educational services also collaborating with schools on health literacy and zero food waste

Example: Altrincham food market, The Clink Cardiff

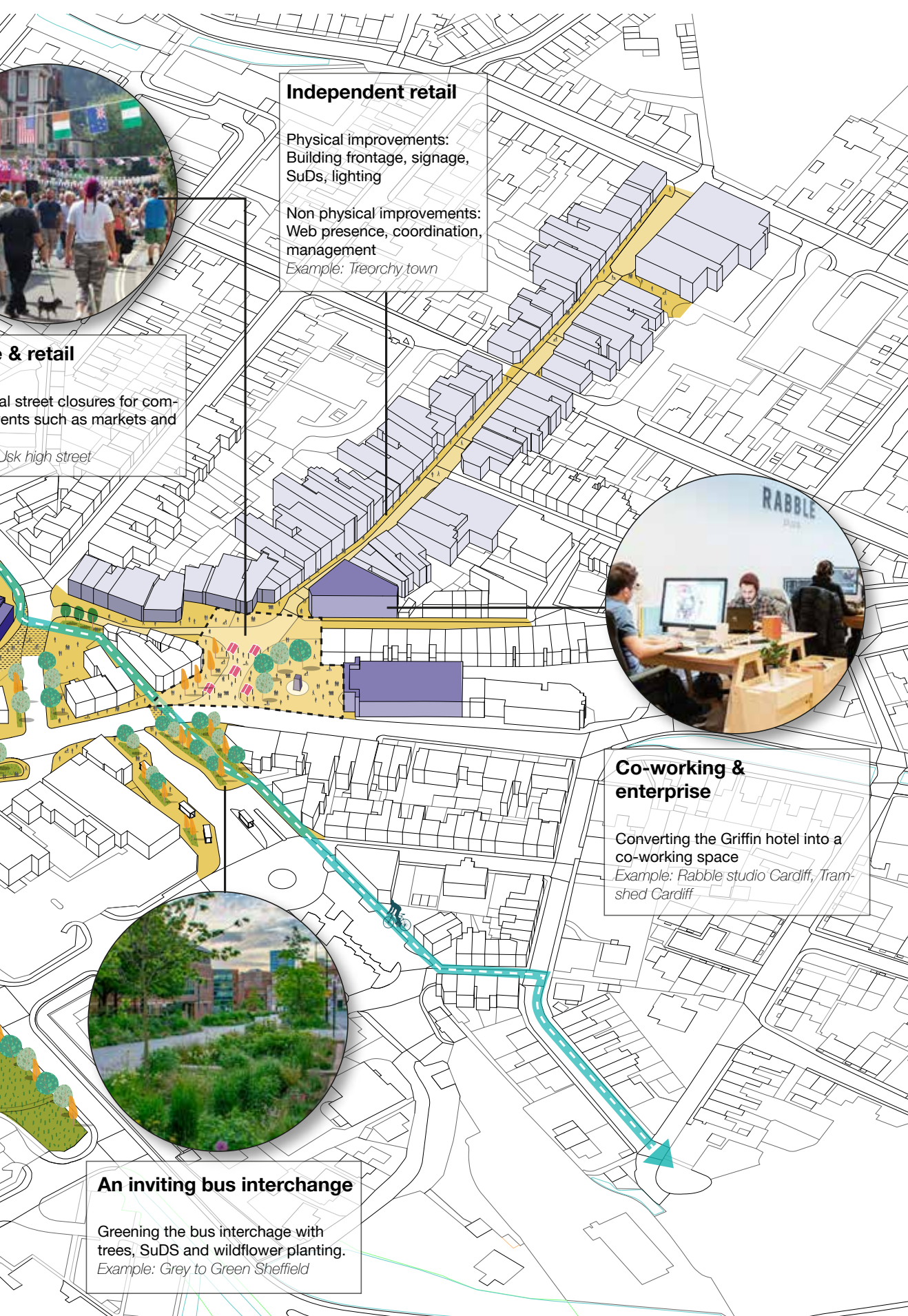
North-south links

Improved pedestrian and cycle connections with safe crossings linking the town centre to the south where the retail park and Boiler House are.

Culture

Occasional community events, festivals.

Example: ...



Independent retail

Physical improvements:
Building frontage, signage,
SuDs, lighting

Non physical improvements:
Web presence, coordination,
management
Example: Treorchy town

Street & retail

Temporary street closures for com-
munity events such as markets and
festivals

Example: High street



Co-working & enterprise

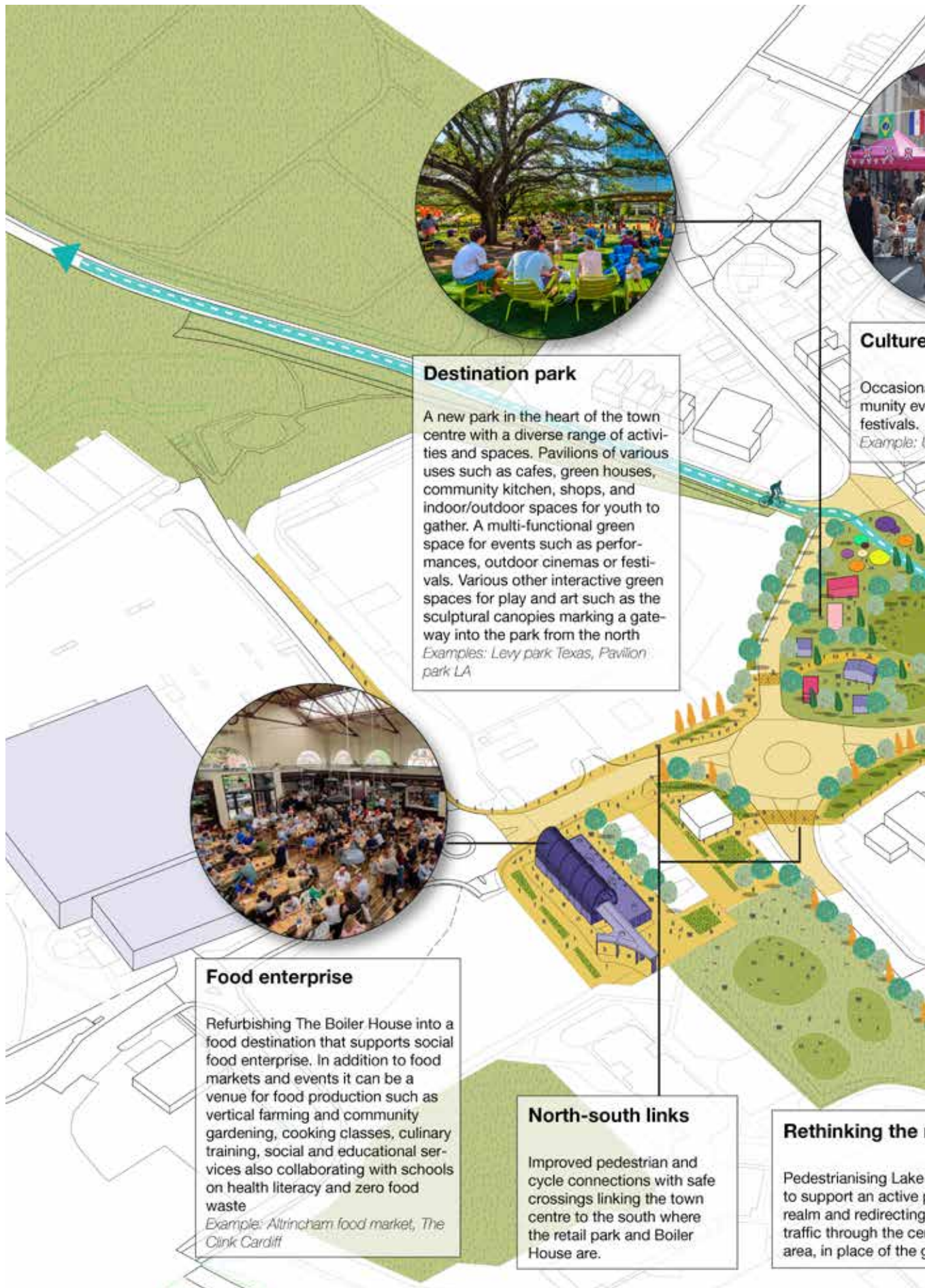
Converting the Griffin hotel into a
co-working space
*Example: Rabble studio Cardiff, Tram-
shed Cardiff*

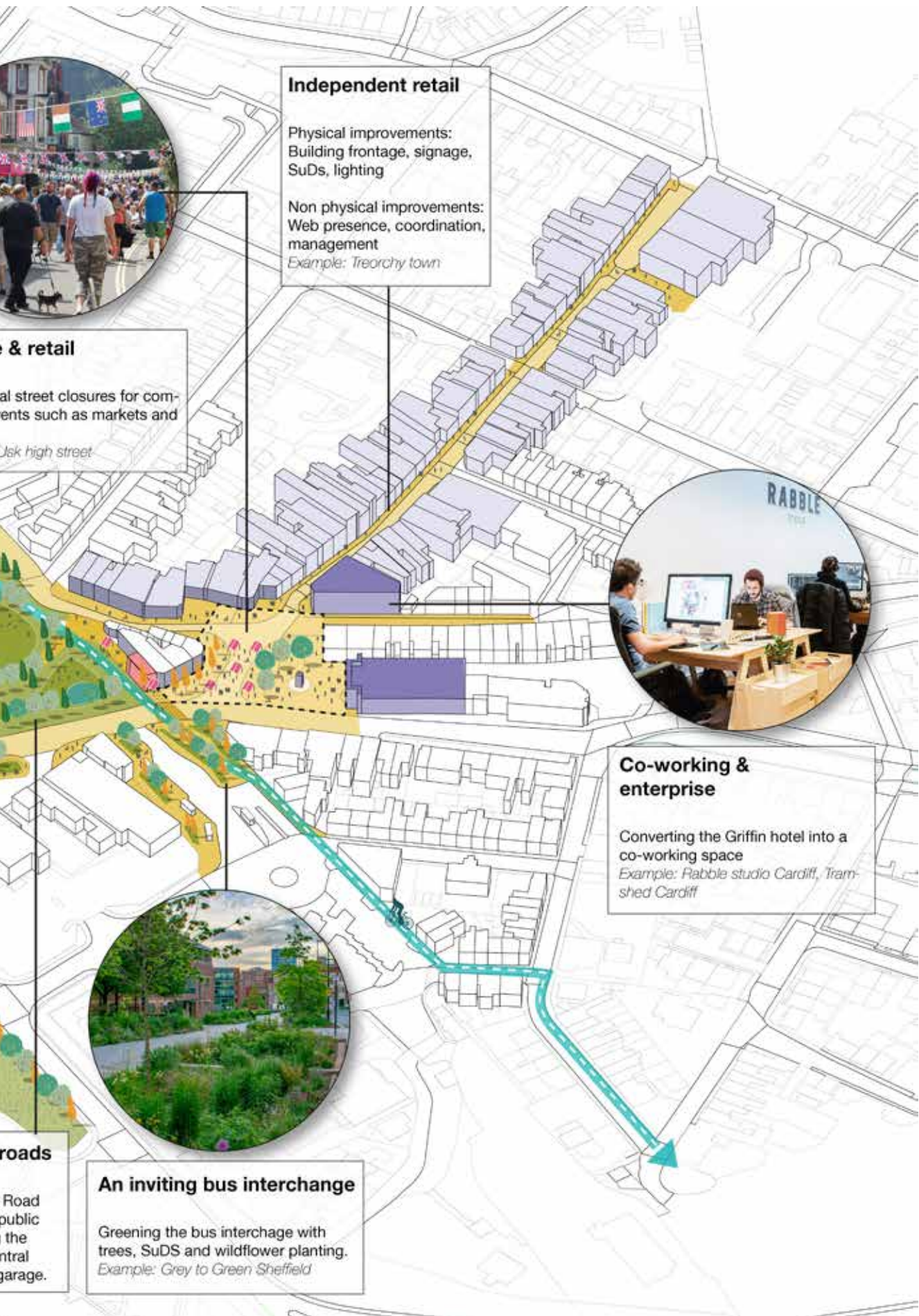


An inviting bus interchange

Greening the bus interchange with
trees, SuDS and wildflower planting.
Example: Grey to Green Sheffield

Potential Longer Term Scenario





Independent retail

Physical improvements:
Building frontage, signage,
SuDs, lighting

Non physical improvements:
Web presence, coordination,
management
Example: Treorchy town

Market & retail

Temporary street closures for com-
munity events such as markets and
festivals

Example: High street



Co-working & enterprise

Converting the Griffin hotel into a
co-working space
*Example: Rabble studio Cardiff, Tram-
shed Cardiff*



An inviting bus interchange

Greening the bus interchange with
trees, SuDS and wildflower planting.
Example: Gray to Green Sheffield

Streets & roads

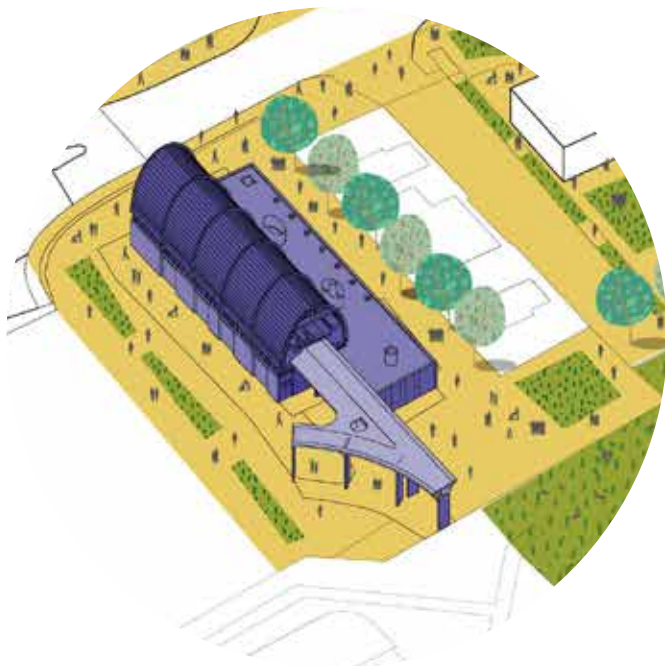
Improving the public realm
with trees and greenery.
Example: Central garage.

THE BOILER HOUSE

The Boiler House was the first part of the rubber factory complex built at Brynmawr between 1946 and 1951. The main factory building was demolished in 2001, with the Boiler House and pump house the last remaining buildings. The Boiler House is Grade II listed but has been unused and derelict for many years.

It is located near the retail park, on the southern edge of the town centre and is within easy walking distance to the town centre and bus interchange. Being on the edge allows it to act as a gateway building into Brynmawr town centre and its proximity to the new retail park can help create a spatial link between the retail park and the town centre. Currently, pedestrian and cycle movement between The Boiler House and the town centre is poor. However, with improved access and public realm, there can be an active connection between the two.

The Boiler House is a major asset to the town due to its historical and architectural significance and could be a catalyst to wider town centre improvement therefore with the right approach, it can put Brynmawr on the map. Given the potential costs of repurposing the structure it is likely that any future use of the structure will need public sector investment. During the collation of this study, The most beneficial reuse would be a community-focused use that addresses gaps in the current town offer and is complimentary to the existing facilities and activities. Social Services have expressed an interest in creating a food based social enterprise to provide meaningful employment for vulnerable adults by adapting the building. The food prepared would be used to feed the elderly and infirm in the wider area. Using this initial proposition Building on Brynmawr's history in social enterprise The Boiler House has potential to become a food destination where food, health, education, employment, and tourism come together for community benefit.





14. The Boiler House, Brynmawr

As a food destination it could provide various integrated initiatives including:

- On site food production such as community gardens and innovative production methods such as vertical farming.
- Health literacy and awareness. This can involve collaborations with schools encouraging their participation in learning about healthy eating and introducing projects such as the farm-to-table concept and healthy school lunches.
- A food market celebrating local produce which can also be linked to the markets in the Market Square.
- Food festivals, guest chefs, micro-breweries and eateries that can boost the evening economy in Brynmawr
- Social spaces for events such as cooking classes
- Training and upskilling in the hospitality and culinary sector for local people potentially linked to Coleg Y Gwent.
- Adding social value through social services including employment opportunities for vulnerable adults
- Promoting zero food waste and adopting a circular model where food waste from local supermarkets are made use of.
- Meals on Wheels
- Care for the elderly by reducing isolation by transitioning from meals on wheels to communal dining at the boiler house.

There are various examples we can draw inspiration from some of which are shown in the images on the next page. The diagram shows an indicative spatial arrangement of some of the suggested activities within the building.

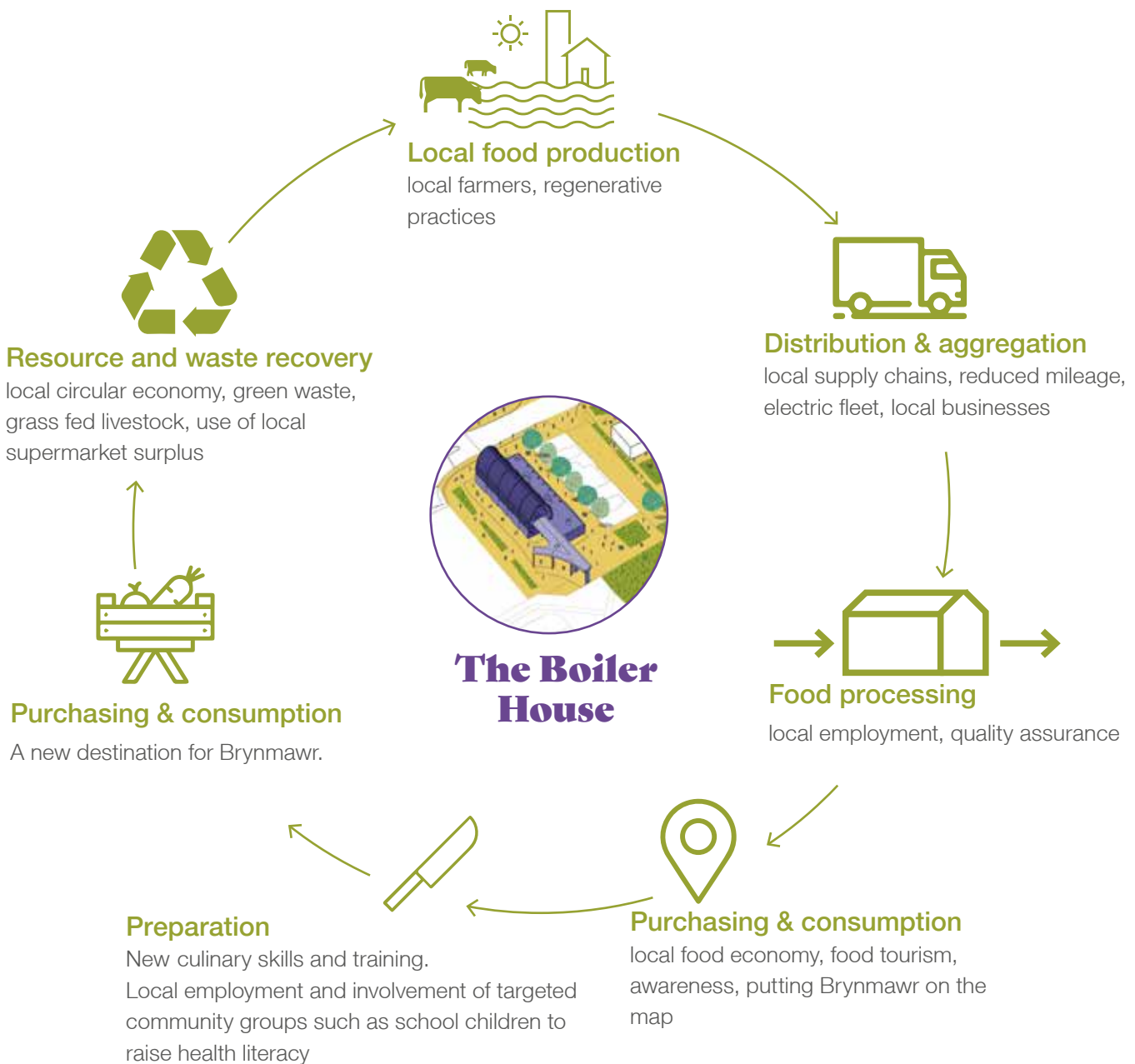


Social influences

Climate change sentiment, possible changing attitudes to animal produce, awareness of the value of local produce

Political influences

UN SDGs, Well-being of Future Generations Act, Declaration of a Climate Emergency, Brexit



Economic influences

Farming subsidies, market value of produce, target markets and their spending power

Contextual/environmental influences

The quality of the surrounding landscape, the iconic Boiler House building

How a circular economy of food production and consumption at the Boiler House can benefit the town and respond to global challenges such as climate change.



Potager Garden, Falmouth

Once a market garden in the 1950's, the site closed down in 1980 only to be completely consumed by nature. Potager Garden now plays host to a number of events and workshops.



Neighborhood Farm, Amsterdam

People with a distance to the labor market are offered a safe and pleasant environment, under the guidance of the permanent employees, in which to gain experience and build self-confidence.



Bioaqua Farm, Somerset

Research and development of aquaponic methods, education, and services with their aquaponics courses to deliver highly productive systems that are, efficient and sustainable for all.



Production/kitchen & storage area

100 sq.m



Service bar area

70 sq.m



Urban farming installation



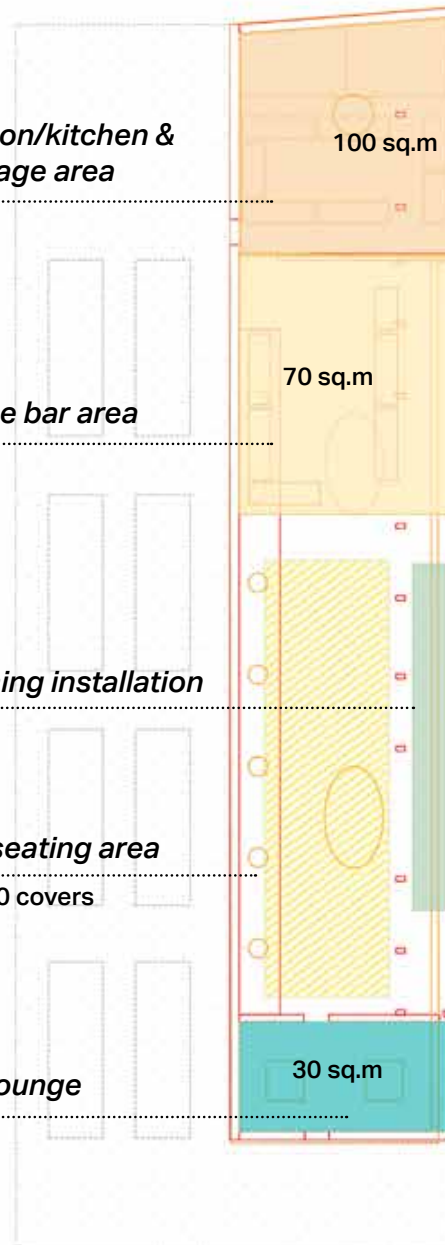
Flexible seating area

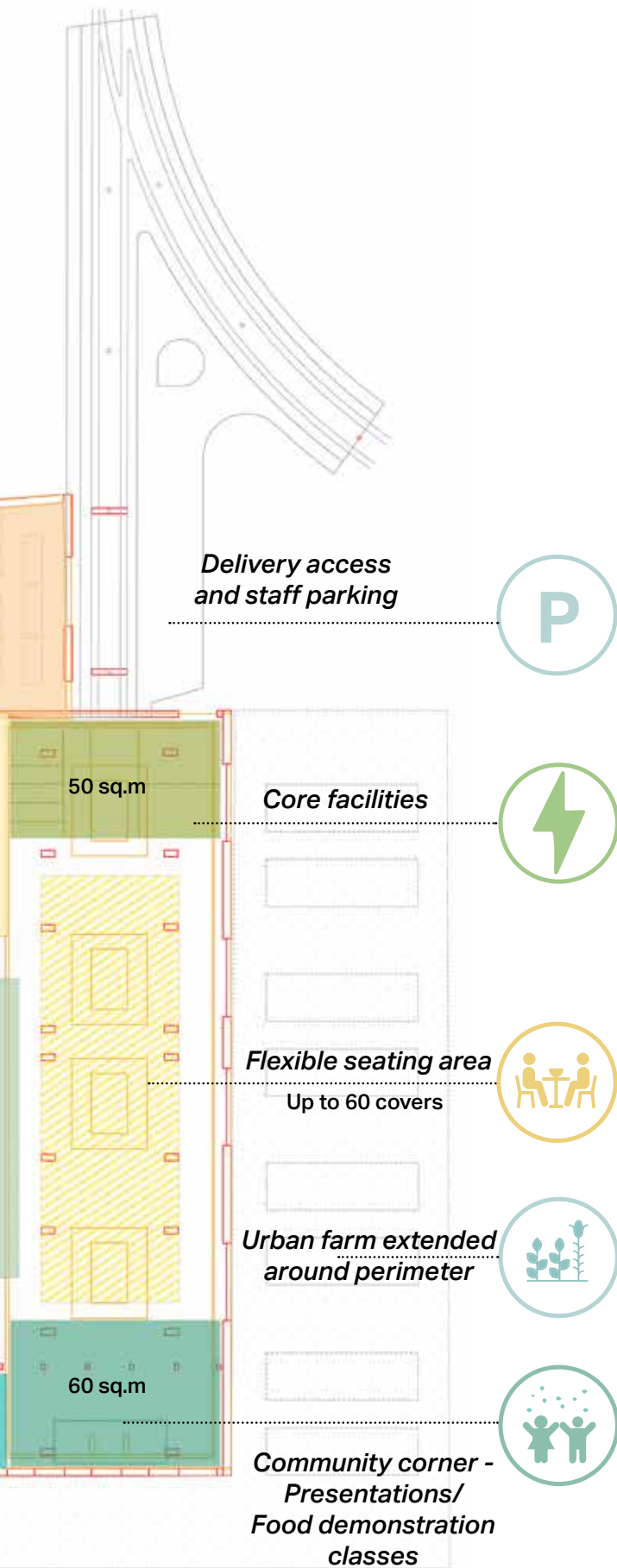
Up to 40 covers



Arrival lounge

30 sq.m





Market Hall Victoria, London

Repurposed into a food hall with space for over 450 people. This historical space brought back to life across 3 floors consists of a coffee shop, 10 creative kitchens and 3 bars ready to serve food and drink from London's most exciting brands.



Borough Market, London

The latest redevelopment has opened a new education centre which will be used as a classroom and kitchen to help visitors learn more about the Market and the food it sells.



The Clink Charity, Cardiff

The high-quality meals at The Clink Restaurant at HMP Cardiff are cooked and served by the prisoners in training who are working towards gaining their City & Guilds NVQs in Food & Beverage Service, Professional Cookery and Food Hygiene.

STAGECOACH

The stagecoach site is in a key location between the town centre and the new retail park making it a strategic spatial link between the two. The stagecoach building is an industrial building with a large L-shaped footprint. Our approach is to explore two scenarios, one where the stagecoach building is repurposed and one where it is demolished. Although the structure is not architecturally beautiful has limited architectural appeal, the potential to refurbish it is worth exploring. This would be a positive step towards sustainability goals and adopting a circular economy model.

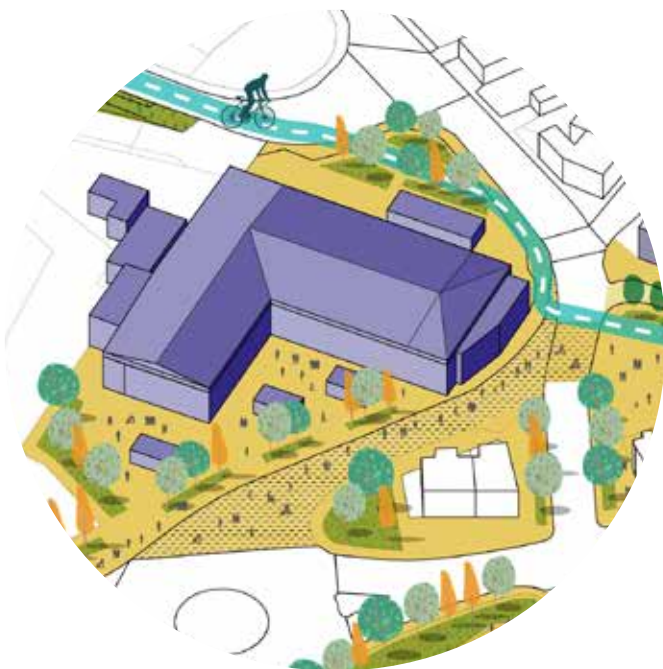
Option 1 – Refurbishment

The stagecoach building can be an ideal location for a multi-functional space with facilities that cater to the needs of all members of the community. Taking inspiration from Brynmawr’s history in furniture making and feedback from adult services and an incentive to support employment opportunities and upskilling within the community, this new community building may provide facilities

such as professional makerspaces, flexible workspaces, creative workspaces, studios, training, and adult learning facilities. Based on feedback from the community youth council, it could also provide a recreation and entertainment space for younger members of the community who currently do not have a space to come together. Additional uses such as kitchen, bar, café and an outdoor seating and play area can also compliment the primary uses. By pedestrianising Lake Road and redirecting traffic through the central area, the public realm surrounding the new community building can be activated with outdoor seating, planting, play areas, pop-ups and various other activities. There are a number of successful case studies we can learn from including Ty Pawb in Wrexham and BLOQS in London.

Option 2 – Destination Park

This scenario looks at demolishing the existing stagecoach building to make space for a destination park in the heart of the town centre. This allows Lake Road to be redirected to the edge of the new retail park creating a larger uninterrupted space for the park. In such a scenario the uses proposed for the Stage Coach site should be incorporated into the park design as a series of structures or single structures that define the park





15. Stagecoach Depot, Brynmawr



16. BLOQS, London



17. Ty Pawb, Wrexham



HIGH STREET

Beaufort Street presents potentially the most challenging aspect of this plan. Numerous concerns have been raised during the engagement process from difficulties accessing the street, a perceived over supply of take-aways to the loss of national chains. The future prosperity of Beaufort Street is intrinsically linked with the delivery of projects outlined in this report, each of which will be integral in improving the baseline economic performance and footfall of Brynmawr.

Despite this at the time of writing, vacancy levels were low and there is still a strong sense of character to the street despite the need for physical improvement to improve the overall appearance. Coordinated action with the business owners will be needed to deliver meaningful change. A Business Improvement District (BID) model may be applicable albeit at a smaller scale. It is recommended that an initial feasibility study into a BID or similar model is undertaken.

Physical improvements can help improve the functionality and appearance of the street but disruption caused during construction needs careful consideration to avoid losing the support of local business. Trial projects that include temporary landscape installations is one way of assessing the potential risk/reward of changes to the movement and parking system.

Building improvements will deliver short to medium term benefits but without a plan for long term maintenance and overall uplift in economic performance are likely to revert to their current state. Improvements to Beaufort Street should be a combination of physical and non-physical interventions.

PHYSICAL IMPROVEMENTS INCLUDE:

- Targeted building improvements, including the refurbishment of building frontages. Please note that in isolation these measures are deemed insufficient to transform the patronage and vitality of Beaufort Street and should be focused on buildings where a longer term maintenance plan can be evidenced.
- A coordinated and consistent approach to Signage and wayfinding including decluttering
- A landscape strategy that incorporates Sustainable Urban Drainage, planting and potentially temporary and permanent parklets
- Improvements to lighting to ensure both a sense of safety and spectacle
- Improvements to pavements and crossings to enable inclusive access for all irrespective of physical ability.
- The potential relocation of public uses such service centres or skills centres
- Encouraging the activation of the 'space above the shop' for residential or office use.
- Encouraging uses that align with the objectives of this report such as repair shops. Such uses can deliver multiple benefits from supporting a circular economy approach but can also provide invaluable opportunities for people suffering from isolation or in need of meaningful employment.
- Coordinating proposed events and changes

NON-PHYSICAL IMPROVEMENTS INCLUDE:

- An improved web presence and digital support and training for businesses on the high street
- Marketing and advertising to draw people into the town centre.
- A Hop, Shop and Save scheme similar to Treorchy
- Expanding the year round events calendar and creating a 'defining' annual event for Brynmawr



18. Example of Sustainable Drainage System in Sheffield



19. Treorchy High Street, The Guardian



20. Engine Shed Co-working Hub, Bristol

A NEW PARK

The lack of green space within the town centre was noted as a common theme within the engagement process. Two scenarios have been explored for the new park.

Option 1 – Welfare Park as the destination park

The first option proposes opportunities to revitalise Welfare Park by improving its facilities, expanding activities, and diversifying the types of green spaces making it more accessible and enjoyable for the whole community. This will require a plan to coordinate interests between the various community groups currently involved in the maintenance of the park.



21. Welfare Park, Brynmawr

Option 2 – A new park in the centre

The more ambitious option is to create a new destination park in the heart of the town centre. The new park can be designed to provide different types of green spaces such as a multi-functional gathering space for events and performances, a play area for kids, gardens and community growing spaces and an interactive art or sculpture garden. It may also have pavilions with different uses and activities such as cafe, greenhouse, shops, community kitchen, classroom and recreational spaces for youth to gather. The new park also creates an active travel link between north and south of the town, connecting the town centre to the retail park and the Boiler House. Signed pedestrian and cycle paths and pedestrian crossings provide safe movement across the town.

The new destination park can be a major asset to the town providing leisure and entertainment not only to the local community but potentially to neighbouring towns as well. Its location in the centre is beneficial as it stitches the old and new parts of town helping increase footfall on the high street and activate the town centre.

There are many case studies to draw inspiration from such as Levy Park in Texas, Julia Reserve Youth Park in Sydney and Pavilion Park in LA.

The following pages provided further context on this concept.



24. Natural play areas



22. Pavilion Park, LA



23. Levy Park, Texas

A NEW GREEN HEART FOR BRYNMAWR

There are numerous reasons for the location of a new park within the town centre of Brynmawr in lieu of another land use.

Throughout engagement there was a clear theme that the local population felt that there is a distinct lack of green space within the town centre. The option of a park also looks to solve the severance between the town centre and the retail park by creating a high quality and distinct link.

The creation of a park within the town centre also makes the town more attractive to a wider audience, giving more reasons to visit Brynmawr town centre, increasing the footfall within the town centre.

The location on the old depot also looks towards a potential realignment of the road which changes traffic conditions leading to reduced traffic and congestion. This provides greater alignment to tackling climate change at a local level and greater alignment to Welsh Government policy.

KEY ISSUES TO ADDRESS

Lack of green space within the town

Drop in footfall

Lack of activities within the town

Drop in business rate income

Traffic and congestion through town

Severance between north and south of the town



WIDER GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE LINKS



PARC NANT Y WAUN

WELFARE PARK



BRECON BEACONS

FORMER SCHOOL SITE

A new green space in the centre of Brynmawr would become part of a wider green infrastructure network. This will add to network of green walking and cycling routes and habitat corridors to enhance both human and environmental health.

FOUR KEY COMPONENTS

The park has the size and location support people of all ages and abilities and deliver wider social and environmental benefits.

A LANDSCAPE ENGINE

Providing a space to connect with nature that also responds to climate change and flood resilience and habitat creation at a local level through planting (carbon sequestration and habitat) and water filtration and storage through SuDS strategies.

A CENTRAL DESTINATION

Creating a new heart within Brynmawr that focuses on turning the negative into a positive and provide a new destination within the town centre, and a link between the severed north and south.

A COMMUNITIES HOME

The park as a place for all different types of groups and people to meet, interact and partake in hobbies and activities that improve their lives.

A PLACE WHERE IT HAPPENS

Different events around the year which change the perception and image of the town, whilst boosting footfall into the town centre and showing new visitors and business what Brynmawr can be.





A Landscape Engine

A PLACE FOR PEOPLE AND NATURE

The early vision for the park centres around 4 distinct landscape area. These landscape areas have distinctly different uses but all work towards creating an improved environment based around the nature.



41%



Percent of species to have declined since 1970

Source: State of Nature Report 2019

Long-term contact with nature is linked to longer lives.

Source: The Lancet Planetary Health



NATURE BASED PLAY

- benefits of nature and natural environment
- natural play for education



27. Mayfield Park, Manchester

BIODIVERSITY

Blaina Gwent Bio diversity net gain requirements
Requirements around national BNG



28. Wildflower Biodiversity Fitz Park London

SUDS

SuDS and SABS requirements



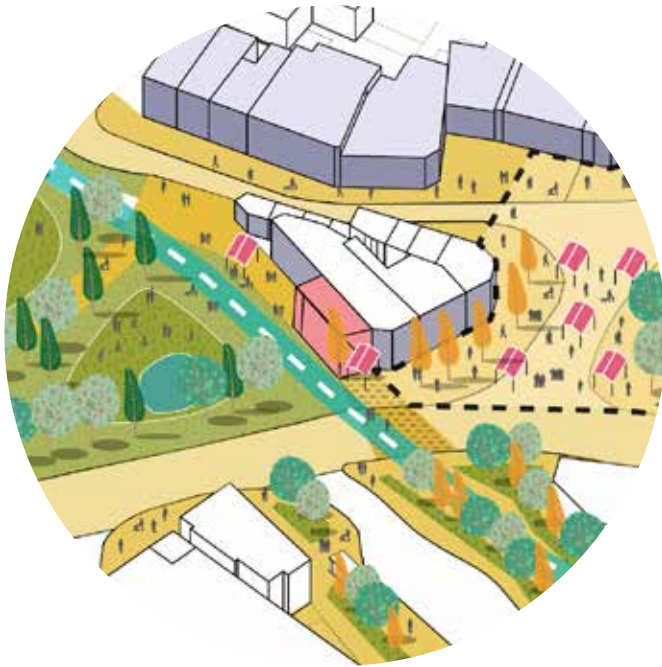
26. Sheffield SuDs Streets

A Central Destination

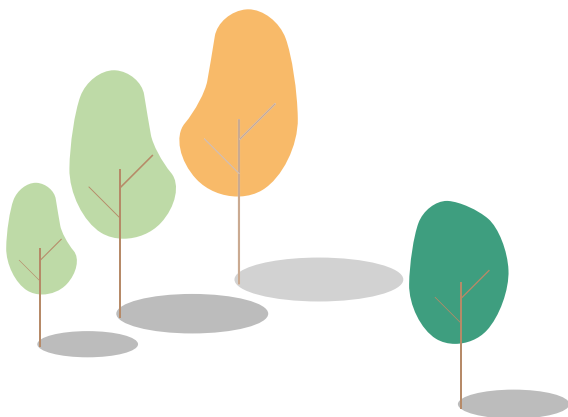
A NEW HEART

Turning the negative areas into positive creates new activity and vibrancy within the town. The park is south facing and screens the back of existing buildings, giving the area life.

This is facilitated through the use of lightweight modular buildings to create new uses such as a new park cafe within the area which creates a new destination that also gives the park life and eyes on the street.



30. Urban Coffee Farm, Melbourne



29. Frau Gerolds Garten, Zurich



A Communities Home

A PLACE FOR EVERYONE

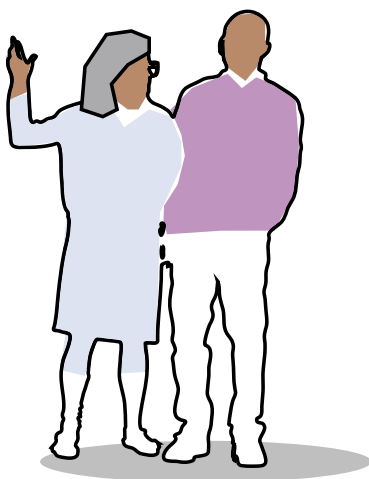
Creating a space that can cater for all ages and different types of people allows a greater sense of belonging within the park. It gives people stewardship and a sense of ownership of the area.

There is an opportunity to also provide for people through initiatives such as youth clubs, men sheds, female health support group, allotments for urban farming.

The park would need to become a place for all ages where the whole community is welcome. Circular economies could be showcased through the construction of these spaces.



32. 'Mens sheds' in action



33. Youth Club, East London



A Place Where It Happens

A PLACE FOR EVERYONE

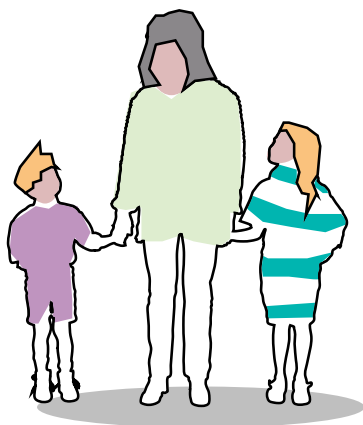
Creating a multi-functioning multi-use park within this location offers the opportunity to change the initial perception and visitors image of the town.

A place for new events, in a unique location will create buzz, and excitement about visiting Brynmawr.

High quality events offer the opportunity to “sell” the town to new visitors and new potential business.



35. 'Canal side' Regents Tow Path, London



36. Frau Gerolds Garten, Zurich

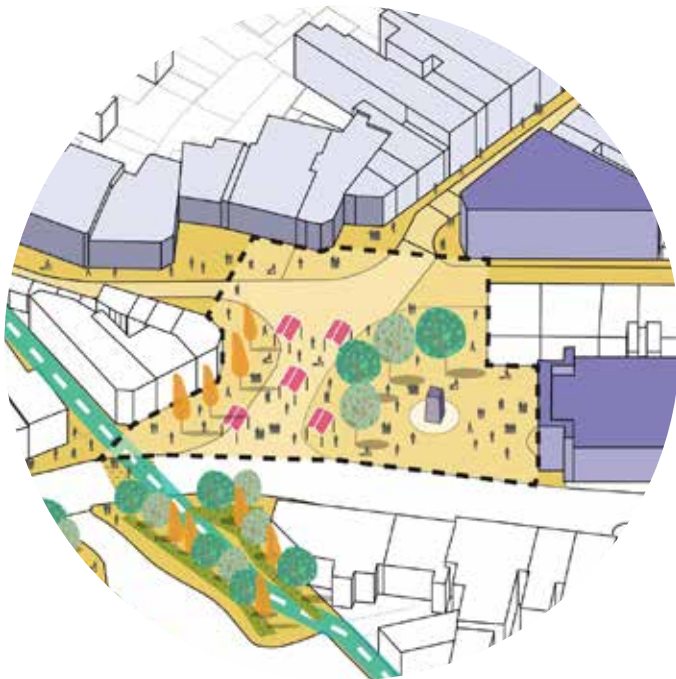


MARKET SQUARE AND BUS STATION

Markets are a significant part of Brynmawr's identity and to become a successful 21st Century Valleys market town it will need an appropriate civic space to conduct these events. The best location is at Market Square as it is the town's focal point and where the community currently congregates. However, in its current state, the space is constrained and inadequate for large scale events. One way to approach is to organise occasional street closures around Market Square for these community events such as markets and festivals. As it is a temporary measure, it will have minimal impact on traffic. This, in turn, will increase footfall, boosting business, and will enliven the public realm in the town centre.

This method has been proven effective in many places such as Usk High Street.

The central location of the bus station is very convenient and can be a good incentive to use public transport. Improvements to the bus timetables to increase frequency and accessibility are needed. However, there needs to be some spatial interventions to the bus station as well. The bus station is currently oversized for its purpose, undefined and surrounded by blank facades. Lack of suitable shelter and surveillance can also result in an uncomfortable and unsafe experience. Greening this space with trees, SuDS and wildflower planting with improved seating areas, shelter and lighting can enhance the waiting experience and create a safer environment for its users.





39. Brynmawr Town Centre



38. Usk Town Centre, Monmouthshire

5.3 Phasing and delivery summary

DELIVERY AND PHASING

A Delivery Plan has been developed, as a separate document, to support this Placemaking Plan. This articulates the case for investment in Brynmawr town centre, and sets out clear and deliverable actions to move the plan forward. For each identified project, a set of key actions and overall delivery plans has been developed. These are summarised in Table overleaf. For further detail, see the Delivery Plan.

To support delivery of the projects, and the next step actions associated with each, there are several potential sources of funding available. These are summarised in the Delivery Plan, and include:

- Shared prosperity fund (UK Government): £585 million of funding allocated to help spread opportunity and level up Wales, with three investment priorities – Community & Place, Supporting Local Business, and People & Skills (approx. £28M of which is ringfenced for Blaenau Gwent).
- Levelling Up Fund: £4.8 billion fund supporting town centre and high street regeneration, local transport projects, and cultural and heritage assets. Bids for funding are required by 6 July 2022.
- Transforming Towns: supports projects to redevelop and improve town centres. This includes several funding programmes, including the Targeted Regeneration Programme (between 2018 and 2021, £100 million).
- Cardiff Capital Region City Deal: a £495M Wider Investment Fund aimed at priority investment areas of innovation, infrastructure and challenge.
- Active Travel Fund: funds projects which seek to achieve objectives of model shift, improved active transport accessibility and improved community connections. In 2022/3 £60M of funding is available, for projects which demonstrate alignment with WeITAG.
- National Lottery Heritage Fund: provides funding for heritage projects at range of scales (from £3,000 to £5M), prioritising projects that meet outcomes of involving people; resilience; wellbeing; skills; local economy; and creating better places.

Alongside seeking grant funding support, there are several other sources of funding for delivery of the identified projects, including private investor funding using key partners to support delivery of specific projects e.g. Boiler House. There could be an opportunity to consider a Business Improvement District (BID) in Brynmawr, as has been developed in Ebbw Vale. This would need further investigation, and exploration with the business community before implementation.

Project	Phasing	Overall cost*	Project partners	Key next steps
The Boiler House	Planning & feasibility (1-2 years) Delivery (2-5 years).	£3M to £5M	Blaenau Gwent CBC, Aneurin Bevan health board, Coleg y Gwent, local business	1.1 Feasibility study 1.2 Engagement with partners (soft market testing) 1.3 Engage with local community
Beaufort Street	Planning & strategy (6-12 months) Delivery (1-2years)	£100,000 to £250,000	Blaenau Gwent CBC, local community & businesses	2.1 High street improvement strategy 2.2 Community website 2.3 Local business engagement
Stagecoach Site	Planning & feasibility (6-12 months) Delivery of stagecoach (1-2 years) Delivery of Lake Road (2-3 years)	£250,000 - £1M <i>Excludes any costs of site acquisition</i>	Blaenau Gwent CBC, Youth Forum, Coleg y Gwent	3.1 Site acquisition 3.2 Stagecoach refurbishment feasibility and plan 3.3 Lake Road transport strategy 3.4 Skills, employment and youth services review 3.5 Engagement and soft market testing with partners
Market square and bus interchange	Trial (3-6months) Strategy (6-12months) Delivery (1-2 years)	£100,000 to £250,000	Blaenau Gwent CBC, local businesses, Youth services	4.1 Trial Events 4.2 Events strategy and programme 4.3 SuDs / Public realm improvements plan 4.4 Engagement and soft market testing with partners
Welfare Park	Identify management models (12 months) Park improvements (1-2 years)	up to £100,000	Blaenau Gwent CBC, local community groups	5.1 Stewardship & management models 5.2 Engagement with local community groups
North-south connection	Planning (6-12 months) Delivery (1-2 years)	up to £100,000	Blaenau Gwent CBC, local community	6.1 North-south corridor active transport plan

*Costs are approximate, and are based on professional judgement and benchmarks. They should be subjected to further investigation and testing.

6.1 CONCLUSIONS AND NEXT STEPS

There is a clear need for an ambitious and innovative placemaking plan for Brynmawr. Without intervention it is likely that a continual decline of the long standing town centre will occur. In addressing this issue and to shape a prosperous future for the town centre the following conclusions are offered:

INNOVATION WILL BE KEY

Simply trying to respond to the pressures the town centre faces from Covid, online retail to competing centres with traditional approaches such as building improvements alone is unlikely to bear fruit. There is an urgent need to test, trial and explore new ideas to generate as yet unknown but positive outcomes. The approach to the Stage Coach site is one such example where it is recommended to test ideas related to skills development, employment, youth involvement and community use.

SUSTAINABILITY NEEDS TO BE THE BEDROCK OF ALL CHANGE

The policy, legislative, scientific and moral case for a plan based on sustainability is irrefutable. This does not mean a more expensive plan instead this placemaking plan is an opportunity to raise awareness of sustainability amongst the community and demonstrate in real time how we can move to a circular economy which makes best use of existing assets such as the boiler house.

THE PLAN NEEDS TO BE 'OWNED' BY THE COMMUNITY

There is a prominent role for the community to play in driving change in Brynmawr. Local 'ownership' can be realised through social enterprise models such as the concept for the Boiler House or community led initiatives recommended for land around the Brynmawr Well-being centre. This is how growing numbers of people will be drawn to the common aim of this placemaking plan and will be the custodians of positive change.

EARLY, VISIBLE CHANGE IS ESSENTIAL

For the community and business fraternity to embrace this plan, early success will be vital. The plan recommends a number of projects such as the Market Square and Stage Coach site where meaningful and impactful change can be realised within a short period of time. These early phases will be critical in changing the perception and function of Brynmawr to enable later stages of change

NEXT STEPS

Momentum is an important part of this process. Outlined below are a number of recommended next steps to ensure that the enthusiasm generate during engagement is translated into change on the ground

FURTHER ENGAGEMENT

There will be a need to re-engage with the public and key stakeholders on the plan to understanding any key areas of concerns and conversely to understand where there is a consensus on proposed projects. Keeping people on board will build trust and will positively shape the plan.

PRIORITISATION AND PHASING

It is recommended that there is an early decision on where the emphasis should be in terms of funding applications and the delivery of projects. This should be extracted from further engagement work and availability of resource from within the council. Priority projects should be those where it is felt that there is a greater chance of securing funding and delivering within a shorter timescale

FEASIBILITY STUDIES

The next stage of work for projects including the Boiler House and Stage Coach site will be to undertake full feasibility studies. These could be aligned with a Business Case approach to understand for example the full costs of such projects, future operational strategies and to begin the process of securing funding.

DELIVER TEMPORARY PROJECTS

The Market Square presents an opportunity to quickly put into place the recommendations of this report. An early win here would involve the temporary redirection of traffic and a community led event. Temporary installations/uses should be considered for the Boiler House and Stage Coach case as a precursor to a permanent use. These help change perception of these buildings, demonstrate commitment from the council and can be invaluable test-beds for 'end-state' use.

CELEBRATE THE PLAN

It is important to generate excitement and enthusiasm around the work undertaken. Taking the time to convey the positivity surrounding the proposals and the benefit to the community via different communication channels helps to shift public perception and draw people into the process.





ARUP

Agenda Item 13

Cabinet and Council only

Date signed off by the Monitoring Officer: 30.03.23

Date signed off by the Section 151 Officer: 31.03.23

Committee: **Cabinet**
Date of meeting: **19th April 2023**
Report Subject: **Shared Prosperity Fund**
Portfolio Holder: **Cllr John C Morgan, Cabinet Member Place and Regeneration**
Report Submitted by: **Owen Ashton – Service Manager Business & Regeneration**

Reporting Pathway								
Directorate Management Team	Corporate Leadership Team	Portfolio Holder / Chair	Governance Audit Committee	Democratic Services Committee	Scrutiny Committee	Cabinet	Council	Other (please state)
21.02.23	23.02.23	03.03.23			14.03.23	19.04.23		

1. Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide an update for Members and seek endorsement to agree the Service Level Agreement between Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council (BGCBC) and Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council (RCTCBC) regarding the implementation of the Shared Prosperity Fund (SPF).

2. Scope and Background

- 2.1 The SPF is the UK Government replacement for European funding (European Structural Investment Fund ESIF) following the withdrawal of the UK from the European Union in 2020.

2.2 SPF

The SPF is a key part of the UK's Levelling Up agenda, forming part of complementary funding, including the Levelling Up Fund and Community Ownership Fund. The primary aim of the fund is to build pride in place and increase life chances across the UK. Underpinning this aim are three investment priorities: communities and place; supporting local business and people and skills.

- The **Communities and Place** investment priority will enable places to invest to restore their community spaces and relationships and create the foundations for economic development at the neighbourhood-level. The intention of this is to strengthen the social fabric of communities, supporting in building pride in place.
- The **Supporting Local Business** investment priority will enable places to fund interventions that support local businesses to thrive, innovate and grow.
- The **People and Skills** investment priority will help reduce the barriers some people face to employment and support them to move towards employment and education. Places can also target funding into skills for local areas to support employment and local growth.

- 2.3 As part of the People and Skills priority there is a dedicated and ring-fenced element of the UKSPF called **Multiply** which seeks to improve adult numeracy skills.
- 2.4 BGCBC submitted its Local Investment Plan to RCTCBC as the Lead Authority. The Local Investment Plan contained project proposals against each of the above investment priorities which then formed part of the wider Regional Investment Plan.
- 2.5 BGCBC's SPF allocation over the 3-year programme against each priority is as follows:

Community and Place -	£7,837,618
Supporting Local Businesses -	£6,682,246
People and Skills -	£8,599,836
Multiply -	£3,874,171
Total -	£26,993,871*

*The above total figure is inclusive of the contribution to RCTCBC as the Lead Authority and includes the 4% Administrative Costs allocation which has been applied proportionately across each of the three priorities.

- 2.6 BGCBC is currently awaiting clarification from RCTCBC as Lead Authority regarding the scope and ability to carry over funding from 2022-23 to 2023-24 and other financial years in addition to when RCTCBC is able to issue Grant Determination Letters and other matters in relation to financial elements of the SPF.
- 2.7 Despite this, officers are progressing with establishing the relevant programmes across the three priorities of investment and engaging with stakeholder organisations.
- 2.8 **Governance**
RCTCBC is the Lead Authority representing the 10 Local Authorities across the Cardiff Capital Region. The relationship between UK Gov and RCTCBC is outlined within the MoU which is attached as an appendix to this report.
- 2.9 The relationship between RCTCBC and Blaenau Gwent CBC is outlined within a Service Level Agreement which is also attached as an appendix to this report. This SLA is currently in Draft form, and we have requested clarification on some points including details around the Local Partnership Group which is required to be set up to oversee the delivery of the SPF.
- 2.10 Should the clarifications be received from RCTCBC, officers recommend that Members endorse the SLA between BGCBC and RCTCBC to allow the SPF to formally start. It is also recommended that the Director of Regeneration and Community Services alongside the S151 Officer are given delegated powers to accept revisions to the SLA to facilitate the implementation of the SPF within Blaenau Gwent.

3. **Options for Recommendation**

3.1 Option 1 – Members to not endorse the SLA between BGCBC and RCTCBC

Option 2 – Members to endorse the SLA between BGCBC and RCTCBC subject to clarification received from RCTCBC and for the Director of Regeneration and Community Services alongside the S151 Officer to be given delegated authority to accept revisions to the SLA to facilitate the implementation of the SPF within Blaenau Gwent

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

5. **Implications Against Each Option**

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

Option 1 – BGCBC would not be able to benefit from SPF funding

Option 2 – BGCBC would be able to access up to £25,914,116 of SPF funding via RCTCBC acting as Lead Authority. There is also no requirement for match funding to be provided by BGCBC

5.2 ***Risk including Mitigating Actions***

Option 1 – Reputational damage to BGCBC in being unable to utilise SPF funding

Option 2- BGCBC will be entering into a binding agreement with RCTCBC via the SLA once finalised. Although the SLA contains inherent risks in terms of performance measures and reclaiming funding, BGCBC has significant experience in successfully managing investment programmes similar to SPF and has a robust control environment in place to reduce and mitigate the risks to BGCBC.

5.3 ***Legal***

Option 1 – None

Option 2 – BGCBC will be tied to conditions contained within the SLA however BGCBC Legal Department have confirmed that they have no concerns with the SLA from a legal perspective.

5.4 ***Human Resources***

Option 1 – Loss of opportunity to secure fee income against officers' time in delivering the SPF

Option 2 – Recruitment has commenced for some posts funded via SPF and will enable fees to be generated against officers' time. We are awaiting clarification regarding the potential for continuing SPF beyond 2024-25 and the implications of this in terms of potential redundancy costs, which are an eligible cost within SPF.

6. **Supporting Evidence**

6.1 ***Performance Information and Data***

The process has made use of existing performance information and data to put together evidence for the Local Investment Plan. This has been used to evidence need in BG.

Performance will be managed through the programme administration. This is yet to be supplied with the detailed guidance. We have assurances that UK Govt will be using a lighter touch than previous EU funding.

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

The Shared Prosperity Fund is a central pillar of the UK government's Levelling Up agenda and a component of its support for places across the UK. It provides new funding for local investment by March 2025, with all eligible areas receiving an allocation from SPF via a funding formula rather than a competition.

The SPF aims to invest in local priorities and targets funding where it is needed most: building pride in place, supporting high quality skills training, supporting growth in pay, employment and productivity and increasing life chances. It will enable local decision making and better target the priorities of places within the UK. It is anticipated that it will lead to visible, tangible improvements to the places where people work and live, alongside investment in human capital, giving communities more reasons to be proud of their area.

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

Consultation and engagement is continuing with the ten local authorities in the CCR. Further consultation has been undertaken with other public sector partners and a series of workshops have been held with Third Sector partners and within the regional frameworks established for the People and Skills priority. Likewise support for local businesses priority has worked closely with the Welsh Government to ensure complementarity and integration with other business support programmes.

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

The current SPF has only identified three years but we have been advised that the programme will continue for longer and are waiting for clarification on this.

6.5 ***Preventative focus***

The SPF is by its nature funding to help prevent social and economic deprivation. This theme continues throughout the Local IP and process.

6.6 ***Collaboration / partnership working***

We are working in partnership with the ten local authorities across the CCR, the Cardiff City Region team and the Welsh Government civil servants. Regionally and locally we are also working in close contact with the UK Govt civil servants and through RCTCBC as the Lead Authority.

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

Internally the SPF can benefit a number of different Departments. The working group is made up of staff from Education, Community Services, Policy and Performance, Regeneration and Resources.

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

The decarbonisation agenda will be considered when putting the individual projects together. Some of the interventions in Community and Place support work within the Community around decarbonisation and could support locally owned renewable energy projects to come forward. Likewise, the support for local business will look to support businesses in decarbonising their activities.

6.9 ***Integrated Impact Assessment (IAA)***

An Integrated Impact Assessment has been completed.

7. **Monitoring Arrangements**

7.1 The programme will be monitored through UK Govt and RCT as lead partner at a CCR level and an annual update on progress will be provided to Members in the form of a Members Briefing or via Scrutiny should any decisions be required.

Background Documents /Electronic Links

- Appendix 1 – MoU
- Appendix 2 – SLA
- Appendix 3 – Integrated Impact Assessment

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MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

Between

The Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities

-and-

Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council

1. Purpose

- 1.1. This Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) sets out the terms that will apply to the relationship between the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (the Secretary of State) and Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council (the Lead Local Authority) regarding the administration and delivery of the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF).
- 1.2. This MOU will be for the period April 2022 to March 2025. Changes will be made only where signatories deem it necessary. If necessary the MOU will be amended for the period April 2023 to March 2025 to accommodate the inclusion of the Rural England Prosperity Fund, this will not apply in Scotland and Wales.
- 1.3. The MOU sets out the universal fund wide conditions and expectations for appropriate spend of the UKSPF core allocations in England Scotland and Wales and Multiply allocations in Scotland and Wales.
- 1.4. This MOU is not intended to create legal or binding obligations. It describes the understanding between both parties for the use of funding specified in section 3 of this agreement.

2. Background

- 2.1. The UKSPF was launched on the 13 April 2022. The Secretary of State has signed-off the Lead Local Authority's investment plan.
- 2.2. This MOU covers the funding commitments from the Secretary of State and the delivery, financial expenditure, agreed milestones, reporting and evaluation, communications and branding expectations between the Parties and the steps the Secretary of State could take in the event of underperformance if required.
- 2.3. The Secretary of State has published guidance on the delivery of the UKSPF. Referred to in this document as the [UKSPF Additional Information](#). References to the UKSPF Additional Information includes any updates that may be published from time to time. The Secretary of

State will notify the Lead Local Authority of any changes to the Additional Information and, if necessary, provide guidance on how changes are to be managed.

3. Purpose of the Funding

- 3.1. The UKSPF allocation remains as set out in the published [UKSPF allocations](#) and is being provided to deliver the Fund's priorities, outputs and outcomes as set out in the investment plan and accompanying expenditure and deliverables spreadsheets agreed by the Secretary of State or subsequently agreed by the Secretary of State as per section 9.
- 3.2. Funding should be used to meet the costs of implementing your investment plan. The Lead Local Authority can make changes to the investment plan agreed by the Secretary of State. The scale, type and process for making changes is set out in published guidance.
- 3.3. Details of the annual funding allocation, broken down into capital and revenue funding, will be confirmed in the annual grant determinations.

4. Reporting

- 4.1 As part of the delegated delivery model, the Lead Local Authority will provide 'light touch' reporting, as set out in the [UKSPF Additional Information](#).

5. Financial Arrangements

- 5.1. The agreed funds will be issued to the Lead Local Authority as grant payments under Section 50 of the United Kingdom Internal Markets Act 2020 ('UKIM').
- 5.2. Payment of the funding for 2022-2023 will be made after investment plans have been agreed and this MoU is signed.
- 5.3. Grant Determination Letters (GDL) will be provided following confirmation of the annual payment for each year until 2025.
- 5.4. The Lead Local Authority will provide regular reporting using the process established by the Secretary of State and set out in the UKSPF Additional Information demonstrating expenditure and that outputs and outcomes are being met in line with the original investment plan, or investment plan amended under section 9. Or failing that, there is a realistic plan to address underperformance.

- 5.5. Funding for the years 2023-2024 and 2024-2025 will be paid annually, provided that the information provided under paragraph 5.4 demonstrates delivery of forecast outputs, outcomes and spend for the previous financial year have been met, or failing that, there is a realistic plan to address underperformance.
- 5.6. UKSPF capital grant funding, as set out in grant determinations, may be used only for capital expenditure.
- 5.7. UKSPF revenue grant funding may be used for revenue or capital expenditure, in line with the Lead Local Authority's accounting practices
- 5.8. Release of payments for the financial year 2023-24 and 2024-2025 is dependent on the submission of a Statement of Grant Usage for 2022-23 and 2023-2024 spend and corresponding reporting and monitoring returns, signed by a S151 Officer (appointed under the Local Government Act 1972) or S95 Officer (appointed under the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973)
- 5.9. This information will be taken into consideration by the Secretary of State before subsequent payments to the Lead Local Authority are finalised and paid. The Secretary of State reserves the right to reduce payments or withhold payments where there are concerns over delivery.
- 5.10. The Secretary of State retains the right to withhold annual instalments until receipt of credible plans demonstrating revised delivery to achieve expected targets. This might include requirements that set out how the Lead Local Authority will utilise underspends in the next year and/or appropriate milestones and spend have been achieved for the previous year.
- 5.11. Further to this, if the Secretary of State has concerns around future spending plans based on the experience of local delivery to date, or wider financial issues or governance affecting delivery then the Secretary of State may pay in instalments, or withhold future funding.
- 5.12. In the circumstance that the Lead Local Authority is a Combined Authority or is managing the distribution of UKSPF funding to a group of other local authorities, where a member of the Combined Authority or the local authority group becomes subject to a S114 Notice of the Local Government Finance Act 1988 or Statutory Commissioner Intervention of the Local Government Act 1999, the Lead Local Authority will be

responsible for decisions on how funds aligned to such a member Authority are controlled and utilised.

- 5.13. No funding will be provided for activity after 31 March 2025. The Lead Local Authority must have spent all grant funding i.e. be able to include funding within the 2024-2025 accounts by the end of the funding period, 31 March 2025. Underspends in the final year of the programme will need to be repaid to the Secretary of State.
- 5.14. In accordance with the declaration signed by the Lead Local Authority's Section 151 (appointed under the Local Government Act 1972) or S95 Officer (appointed under the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973) as part of the investment plan, the Lead Local Authority accepts responsibility for meeting any costs over and above the Secretary of State's contribution, agreed in the annual grant determination. This includes potential cost overruns and the underwriting of any funding contributions expected from third parties.

6. Branding and Communication

- 6.1. The Secretary of State has provided the Lead Local Authority with guidance on the Branding and Communication associated with UKSPF projects in the [UKSPF Additional Information](#).
- 6.2. The Parties agree to adhere to the guidance and any updates. subsequently released by the Secretary of State or HMG on communications linked to UKSPF or wider Levelling Up Funding.
- 6.3. The Lead Local Authority should publish information regarding the delivery of the UKSPF in its area e.g. by publishing a summary of the investment plan and activities being funded in the area.

7. Evaluation

- 7.1. Monitoring and Evaluation will be carried out as set out in [UKSPF Additional Information](#).
- 7.2. The Lead Local Authority will support evaluation through capturing and providing relevant data and engaging with place and intervention level evaluations as stated within the [UKSPF Additional Information](#).

This will include but is not exclusive to the following main evaluation requirements:

- 7.2.1 Continuous monitoring and evaluation of progress aligned to the deliverables stated within the UKSPF Investment Plan submitted by the Lead Local Authority and approved by the Secretary of State;
- 7.2.2 Engaging with our evaluation partners to collect and provide additional quantitative data as required to support, where relevant, intervention and place-specific evaluations
- 7.3 As set out in the [UKSPF Additional Information](#) the Lead Local Authority is encouraged to undertake its own place-based evaluations of how the UKSPF has worked in their area, particularly process evaluation on individual projects, alongside any place-based case studies commissioned by DLUHC. For those lead local authorities with large allocations, DLUHC require a robust evaluation to support the centrally coordinated evaluation.
- 7.4 The Lead Local Authority agrees to undertake these activities using the administration costs for the Fund.

8. Assurance

- 8.1. The Secretary of State has set out the approach to assurance for the UKSPF in the [UKSPF Additional Information](#).
- 8.2. The Lead Local Authority is expected to have the necessary governance and assurance arrangements in place and that all legal and other statutory obligations and consents will be adhered to. The Lead Local Authority will provide the Secretary of State with the following via UKSPF reporting:
- 8.2.1. Details of the checks that the Chief Finance Officer has taken to assure themselves that the Lead Local Authority has in place the processes that ensure proper administration of financial affairs relating to their UKSPF allocation.
- 8.2.2. Confirmation that the lead local authority has applied management controls that:
- mitigate the risk of fraud;
 - ensure funding has been used in accordance with UK subsidy control legislation;
 - ensure that any procurement undertaken by a Contracting Authority using UKSPF funds has complied with public procurement rules;
 - ensure compliance with its statutory obligations under the Public Sector Equality Duty; and

- ensure that any personal data obtained in connection with UKSPF activities is handled in compliance with the Data Protection Act 2018.

8.3 As part of the first monitoring return the Lead Local Authority will provide a summary statement of how it is:

- mitigating the risk of fraud;
- ensuring funding has been used in accordance with UK subsidy control legislation; and
- ensuring that any procurement undertaken by a Contracting Authority using UKSPF funds has complied with public procurement rules.

8.4. The Lead Local Authority will respond directly to questions addressing the local delivery of UKSPF and cooperate with the Secretary of State in any inquiries regarding the delivery of the UKSPF.

8.5. On an annual basis the Lead Local Authority will complete and return the templated Statement of Grant Usage letter.

9. Changes to agreed Investment Plan

9.1. The Lead Local Authority will notify the Secretary of State of any proposed non-material changes to the investment plan through the regular monitoring returns.

9.2. The Lead Local Authority will submit a change request if a change constitutes “A Material Change” as set out in the [UKSPF Additional Information](#).

9.3. Requests for material changes can be made to the Secretary of State as and when required. A template will be provided for the Lead Local Authority to use.

9.4. The Secretary of State recognises that not all change will meet the materiality threshold for a change request. However, the Lead Local Authority should report any change affecting the delivery of the funding as part of the usual reporting cycle. If the Lead Local Authority is not sure on whether a change meets the materiality threshold they should consult with the Secretary of State for guidance.

9.5. All change requests must be signed off by the Lead Local Authority’s Section 151 (appointed under the Local Government Act 1972) or S95

Officer (appointed under the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973) to testify that they are necessary and deliverable.

10. Compliance with the MOU

10.1 The Parties to this MOU are responsible for ensuring that they have the necessary systems and appropriate resources in place within their respective organisations to comply fully with the requirements of this MOU.

11. Changes to the MOU

11.1 The arrangements under this MOU will be kept under review. Amendments to this MOU may only be made upon written agreement between the Parties.

12. Resolution of Disputes

12.1 Any dispute that may arise as to the interpretation or application of this MOU will be settled by consultation between the parties

Signed on Behalf of the Lead Local Authority (by Chief Executive / Section 151/95 Officer):



Name: Barrie Davies

Job Title: Director of Finance & Digital Services

Date: 16 December 2022

Signed on Behalf of Secretary of State:



Name: Jessica Blakely/Carmen Suarez Garcia

Job Title: Directors: Levelling Up: Major Programmes

Date: 5 December 2022

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DATED

[]

and

RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

AGREEMENT

REGARDING UK SHARED PROSPERITY GRANT FUND

THIS AGREEMENT is made the []

BETWEEN

- (1) [](Project Deliverer”) and
- (2) **RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL** of The Pavilions, Cambrian Park, Clydach Vale CF40 2XX (“Lead Authority”) and together referred to in this Agreement as the “parties”.

BACKGROUND

- 1.1 The SECRETARY OF STATE FOR LEVELLING UP, HOUSING AND COMMUNITIES has allocated the UK Shared Prosperity Fund in respect of projects to be undertaken within the geographical area of the Partner Authorities.
- 1.2 The UK Government will provide funds to the Partner Authorities to build pride in place and increasing life chances by three investment priorities (1) community and place (2) supporting local business and (3) people and skills.
- 1.3 The Lead Authority will enter into funding agreements with the Partner Authorities and administer the distribution of funds and thereafter monitor to ensure the funds are used to deliver and meet local needs.
- 1.4 The Lead Authority is required to accept the terms and conditions of the Grant and will be liable to the Secretary of State, if the conditions of the Grant are not complied with or breached.
- 1.5 In order to ensure that the Partner Authorities comply with the conditions of the Grant, and to indemnify the Lead Authority in respect of non compliance and/or breaches which are not attributable to the Lead

Authority, the Project Deliverer, as one of the Partner Authorities entitled to the Grant, has entered into this Agreement.

1.6 The Project Deliverer enters into this Agreement for the purposes of obtaining funding for, and for managing and delivering the various elements of the Project which are within its administrative area.

1.7 It will be the Project Deliverer's responsibility to determine their route to market based upon the most appropriate, cost effective and compliant delivery route taking into account subsidy control regulations and public procurement rules.

OPERATIVE PROVISIONS

2. INTERPRETATION

2.1 In this Agreement the following terms have the following meanings:

“Agreement” means this Agreement including all Schedules;

“Application Form” means the UK Shared Prosperity Fund Investment Plan Questions submitted by the Lead Authority on behalf of the Partner Authorities and attached at Schedule 4

“Business Day” means a day (other than a Saturday or Sunday or public holiday in Wales) on which banks are open for domestic business in the City of London;

“CCR Programme

Board” means the Chief Executives of the 10 South East Wales local authorities that form the Cardiff Capital Region.

“Change” means any change to the terms of this Agreement;

“Change Note” the written record of Change agreed by the parties pursuant to the Change Procedure;

“Change Procedure” the procedure for changing this Agreement as set out in Schedule 8

“Claim” means a claim for Funding submitted by the Project Deliverer to the Lead Authority in accordance with the Claim Process and Reporting Requirements.

“Claim Process” means the forms and spreadsheets attached at Schedule 5.

“Conditions” means the terms, conditions and obligations set out in the Memorandum of Understanding dated 5th December 2022 attached at Schedule 1, the UKSPF Prospectus, the UKSPF Additional Guidance, the General Conditions attached at Schedule 2, the Financial Conditions attached at Schedule 3 and Data Protection Legislation;

“Default Notice” means a notice served by the Lead Authority or the CCR Programme Board in accordance with Clause 5;

“Data Protection

Legislation” means all legislation and regulatory requirements in force from time to time relating to the use of Personal Data, including, without limitation (i) any data protection legislation from time to time in force in the UK including the Data Protection Act 2018 or any

successor legislation, as well as (ii) the General Data Protection Regulation ((EU) 2016/679) and any other directly applicable European Union regulation relating to data protection and privacy (for so long as and to the extent that the law of the European Union has legal effect in the UK) and any formal guidance or Codes of Conduct issued by the Information Commissioner (or other competent data protection authority) in each case as amended, superseded or replaced from time to time

“Delivery Profile” means the financial and participant profile agreed or any later version submitted by the Project and approved by the Secretary of State. A summary of the Delivery Profile for each Partner Authority is included as Schedule 7.

“Financial Conditions” means the financial conditions in respect of payment of Funding from the Grant by the Lead Authority to the Project Deliverer set out in the Schedule 3;

“Funding” means any payment of funding from the Grant by the Lead Authority to the Project Deliverer;

“General Conditions” means the general conditions set out in Schedule 2;

“Grant” means the total sum from the UKSPF (including funding for Multiply) payable by the Secretary of

State through the Lead Authority in respect of the Project issued in accordance with the Memorandum of Understanding and UKSPF Additional Conditions and detailed in the Grant Determination Letters for the relevant year;

“Grant Determination

Letters”

means the letters issued by the Secretary of State confirming the annual payment for each year until 2025.

“Grant Termination

Date”

means 31st March 2025 unless or until any later date is agreed by the Secretary of State and accepted by the Lead Authority.

“Information

Commissioner”

has the meaning set out in section 114 of the Data Protection Act 2018 and for the avoidance of doubt is the UK’s independent body set up to uphold and enforce information rights

“Intellectual Property”

means copyright and neighbouring and related rights, trade marks and service marks, business names and domain names, rights in get-up and trade dress, goodwill and the right to sue for passing off or unfair competition, rights in design, database rights, rights to use, and protect the confidentiality of, confidential information (including know-how and

trade secrets) and all other intellectual property rights, in each case whether registered or unregistered.

“Lead Authority” means Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council and should be read to mean the team responsible for the monitoring, reporting and administering the claim process for all UKSPF Projects approved for delivery within the administrative areas of the Partner Authorities by the Secretary of State;

“Legislation” means any statutory or case-law obligation (whether under criminal or civil law) from time to time which relates to the Grant or the payment of Funding in so far as applicable in England and Wales, or in Wales alone

“Local Partnership Group” means a group that meets the requirements of the UKSPF Prospectus.

“Match Funding” means an agreement to match, or partially match the funding pledged.

“Memorandum of Understanding” means the Memorandum of Understanding dated 5th December 2022 between The Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities and Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council

setting out the terms that will apply regarding the administration and delivery of the UKSPF attached at Schedule 1;

“Multiply” means the program to help transform the lives of adults by improving their functional numeracy skills through free personal tutoring, digital training and flexible courses.

“Non-Compliance” means failing to comply with the terms of this Agreement or the Conditions;

“Operative Date” means the date of this Agreement;

“Partner Authorities” means Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council, Bridgend County Borough Council, Caerphilly County Borough Council, Cardiff Council, Cardiff Capital Region, Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council, Monmouthshire County Council, Newport City Council, Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council, Torfaen County Borough and The Vale of Glamorgan Council and any successor Councils or Authorities that may result from any Local Government reorganisation or any other reason;

“Personal Data” has the meaning ascribed to it in the Data Protection Legislation.

“Process” has the meaning ascribed to it in the Data Protection Legislation and **Processing** shall be construed accordingly

“Project” means building pride in place and increasing life chances by three investment priorities (1) community and place (2) supporting local business and (3) people and skills. which is the subject of the Grant;

“Reporting Requirements” means the reporting and monitoring requirements for the consideration of and subsequent award of Funding from the Grant as summarised in Schedule 6

“Regional Directors Group” means the group set up and administered in accordance with Schedule 8.

“Secretary of State” means The Secretary of State for Levelling up, Housing and Communities of 2 Marsham Street, London SW1P 4DF;

“Subsidy” means any direct or indirect financial assistance which arises from the resources of the United Kingdom Government, devolved government, other public authority in the United Kingdom or an emanation of any of these including:

- a. A direct or contingent transfer of funds such as direct grants, loans or loan guarantees;
- b. The forgoing of revenue that is otherwise due;

c. The provision of goods or services, or the purchase of goods or services; or

d. a measure analogous to these

which is subject to any Subsidy Control Rules.

“Subsidy Control Rules” means:

a. the Subsidy Control Act 2022 and any regulations made under or pursuant to it;

and

b. any Legislation which is in force and/or in effect and/or applies (in Wales) which regulates the granting of subsidies;

including the Statutory Guidance for the Subsidy Control Act 2022 produced by the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, in each case as amended from time to time.

“Termination Date” means the date of the final payment of Funding from the Lead Authority to the Project Deliverer. ;

“UK Government” means the central government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Island.

“UK Shared Prosperity

Fund” (UKSPF) means a sum of money made available by the UK Government which is to be used to build pride in place and increasing life chances by three investment priorities (1) community and place (2) supporting local business and (3) people and skills;

“UKSPF Additional

Guidance” means the guidance published by the Secretary of State or UK Government on the delivery of the UKSPF as may be updated and published from time to time;

“UKSPF Prospectus” means the UK Shared Prosperity Prospectus published on the UK Government website by the Secretary of State as updated from time to time.

“Unlawful Subsidy” means any Subsidy which has from time to time been found to contravene the Subsidy Control Rules.

2.2 Any reference to the Secretary of State will also include reference to the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, an Administrative Division of the UK Government serving the Secretary of State;

2.3 Clause headings in this Agreement are for convenience only and shall have no contractual effect.

2.4 Any reference to a clause is a reference to a clause of this Agreement.

2.5 Words importing one gender shall include the other genders and words importing the singular include the plural and vice-versa.

2.6 Reference to “individual” or “person” shall include bodies corporate unincorporated associations and partnerships.

2.7 Any reference to any enactment or statutory instrument shall be deemed to include reference to such enactment or statutory instrument as re-enacted amended or extended.

2.8 An obligation not to do, or omit to do, something shall be deemed to include an obligation not to permit or (so far as is reasonably practicable) suffer that thing to be done, or omitted to be done.

2.9 An obligation to do something shall include an obligation to seek to procure that it is done.

3. WORKING ARRANGEMENTS

3.1 This Agreement is entered into by the Lead Authority and Project Deliverer on a basis of co-operation and good faith.

3.2 Signature of this Agreement by the parties includes agreement to:

3.2.1 Work jointly, including across the Partner Authorities, where possible or appropriate, to ensure the best outcomes for the Project's participants and to ensure the mutual success of the Project;

3.2.2 Share such project information between Partner Authorities as is necessary for the smooth and cooperative running of the Project, including, but not limited to:

3.2.2.1 cross-project risks or issues;

3.2.2.2 problem or dispute resolution;

3.2.2.3 identified best practice;

3.2.2.4 financial or Grant information; and

3.2.2.5 any other information deemed to be relevant by the Regional Directors Group or CCR Programme Board.

3.2.3 Develop and utilise a communication plan for:

3.2.3.1 the dissemination of the information described in 3.2.2; and

3.2.7.2 such information as may be beneficial to participants, potential participants, the Lead Authority, the Secretary of State and any other group / organisation as may be determined from time to time..

3.2.4 Discuss with each other, as soon as possible, any problems or disputes which arise, attempting to resolve any difficulties through negotiation at an early stage and ensuring appropriate officers are available upon reasonable notice to discuss any issues under dispute.

4. AGREEMENT

4.1 The Project Deliverer agrees that the Lead Authority will accept the offer of Grant on behalf of the Project Deliverer.

4.2 The Project Deliverer acknowledges that the payment of Funding by the Lead Authority to the Project Deliverer will not take place until the Project Deliverer has satisfied the requirements of the Claim Process and Reporting Requirements.

4.3 The Project Deliverer undertakes that they will adhere to the terms of this Agreement and comply in all material respects with the Conditions including acting in accordance with any Legislation or guidance linked to UKSPF or wider Levelling Up Funding (or any re-enactment or amendment thereof) and provisions in respect of eligibility, monitoring, audit, record retention, match funding and clawback. The Project

Deliverer further agrees that it will accept sole responsibility for any compliance failure and / or breach of Conditions caused by the Project Deliverer or any third party that they have procured to deliver the Project and shall fully indemnify the Lead Authority for any losses whatsoever resulting from that compliance failure and / or breach, suffered by the Lead Authority.

- 4.4 The Project Deliverer shall ensure that any Funding paid contributes to the social, economic and environmental well-being of the wider community and where appropriate sustainability and green measures align to UK Governments net zero strategy, social value goals and guidance issued by the UK Government.
- 4.5 The Project Deliverer shall be responsible for ensuring that Funding is spent in accordance with all applicable Legislation. This includes the subsidy control rules and public procurement rules.
- 4.6 The Project Deliverer warrants to the Lead Authority that it will observe and perform the Conditions. The Project Deliverer also agrees that, upon receipt of reasonable notice, it will permit rights of access to the Lead Authority (and the other bodies specified in the Conditions) for audit, compliance and any other purposes set out therein, undertaking to provide in a timely manner information requested by the Lead Authority to enable all relevant deadlines to be met.
- 4.7 The Project Deliverer shall set up a Local Partnership Group to oversee the delivery of any Funding received. A copy of the terms of reference of the Local Partnership Group has been supplied to the Lead Authority.

The Local Partnership Group shall remain in place until the Termination Date.

- 4.8 The Lead Authority shall monitor compliance by the Project Deliverer against the minimum standards and legal obligations set out in the Agreement and should non-compliance be identified mechanisms to recover Funding will be instigated.
- 4.9 Without prejudice to the generality of Clause 4.1 to 4.6 if the Project Deliverer receives notification of any financial clawback, financial imposition, or deduction of Funding as a result of any non-compliant procurement process by the Project Deliverer, they will be solely responsible for reporting the notification to the Lead Authority as soon as possible and indemnify the Lead Authority in respect thereof.
- 4.10 The Project Deliverer undertakes to provide in a timely manner information required by the Lead Authority to enable any claim deadline to be met.
- 4.11 The Project Deliverer is encouraged to provide Match Funding per award of Funding however for the avoidance of doubt the provision of Match Funding is not a requirement for UKSPF.
- 4.12 Notwithstanding the termination of the Agreement the parties shall remain liable for any Conditions they have not complied with and in respect of any liability arising from Non-Compliance or breach of a Condition.
- 4.13 The parties agree that the Regional Directors Group will provide a strategic consultative and advisory role to ensure the successful delivery of the UKSPF at both a regional and local level.

4.14 The parties agree that where necessary decision making will be escalated to the CCR Programme Board.

5. DEFAULT

5.1 Without prejudice to any other right or remedy, upon the discovery of evidence which on the balance of probabilities indicates Non-Compliance, a party to this Agreement may serve a Default Notice upon the defaulting party. Any such Default Notice shall set out the nature of the alleged default and require the defaulting party to remedy the default within such reasonable time as may be specified in the Default Notice.

5.2 Any dispute as to Default Notices, and / or the service thereof, under this clause, shall be referred to the CCR Programme Board to make a decision at the earliest opportunity.

5.3 If any Default Notice served under this clause 5 is not complied with within the timescale set out in the Default Notice, then the Lead Authority may, in respect of default by the Project Deliverer, or the CCR Chief Programme Board may, in respect of default by the Lead Authority:

5.3.1 Terminate this agreement in accordance with clause 10.2;
and / or

5.3.2 Deduct, or request the Lead Authority to deduct, from any amount then due, or to become due to the defaulting party such amount as is reasonable;

5.4 Any disputes over the deduction of any sums under this clause shall be referred to the CCR Programme Board.

5.5 A Default Notice must be communicated in writing and subject to Clause 16.

6. SUBSIDY CONTROL

6.1 The Project Deliverer shall ensure that the spend of any Funding shall be in accordance with the Subsidy Control Rules.

6.2 If and to the extent that any Funding is found to constitute or include an Unlawful Subsidy (or is under investigation or subject to judicial proceedings in relation to compliance with the Subsidy Control Rules) then the Project Deliverer:

6.2.1 acting in good faith will seek to restructure the arrangements surrounding the Funding to the extent necessary to ensure compliance with the Subsidy Control Rules; and/or

6.2.2 promptly cooperate in good faith to provide evidence that the Funding payment (or the restructured Funding payment) is or will be compliant with the Subsidy Control Rules.

6.3 If and to the extent that any Funding is found to constitute or include an Unlawful Subsidy and/or the arrangements are not capable of being restructured so as to be compliant then the Project Deliverer must repay any Unlawful Subsidy plus such interest as is prescribed by Subsidy Control Rules within fifteen (15) Business Days of the Lead Authority raising a written demand for payment.

7. PROCUREMENT

7.1 The Project Deliverer must ensure that any goods, services or works procured in respect of the Grant shall be in accordance with the Public Contracts Regulations 2015 (as amended) and the principles of non-discrimination, transparency and fairness.

7.2 Where the procurement falls outside of the Public Contracts Regulations 2015 the Project Deliverer must follow its own contract procedure rules and demonstrate value for money.

8. ADMINISTRATION FEE

8.1 An administration fee of up to 4% of the Grant can be utilised by the Partner Authorities for the administration of the Project.

8.2 Having considered the accountability and responsibilities of administering the Grant, the parties agree that the 4% administration fee is to be split with 60% being retained by the Partner Authorities for local administration costs and the remaining 40% being retained by the Lead Authority for their key role and responsibility in administering the Grant and acting as the Lead Authority.

9. DISPUTE RESOLUTION

9.1 If there is a dispute between the parties concerning the interpretation or operation of this Agreement then either party may notify the other in writing that it wishes the dispute to be referred to a meeting of the CCR Programme Board to resolve, all parties negotiating on the basis of good faith.

9.2 If, after 28 days from the date of notice referred to above (or such longer period as the parties may agree), the dispute has not been resolved the parties will agree to enter into mediation in good faith to settle such dispute and will do so in accordance with the Centre for Effective dispute Resolution (CEDR) Model Mediation Procedure. Unless otherwise agreed between the parties, the mediator shall be nominated by the CEDR.

9.3 If the mediation does not resolve the dispute, the CCR Programme Board may refer the matter to Arbitration on the following basis:

9.3.1 Referral shall be to a single Arbitrator selected by the CCR Programme Board or, in the absence of agreement, to be nominated by the President of the Chartered Institute of Arbitration

9.3.2 Such arbitration shall be conducted in accordance with the provisions of the Arbitration Act 1996 and the Arbitrator appointed shall have the power to:

9.3.2.1 Obtain the assistance of such experts as he or she shall think fit and to adopt any statement or report that is obtained;

9.3.2.2 Order and direct what he or she shall think to be done by any of the parties respectively in relation to the matters in dispute; and

9.3.2.3 Apportion the costs of arbitration to be split between the parties in a manner that he or she sees fit;

9.3.3 The decision of the Arbitrator shall be final and binding.

10. TERMINATION

10.1 Either party may give no less than 3 months notice in writing to terminate this agreement.

10.2 If a Default Notice is served under clause 5 and not complied with within the timescales set out in the Default Notice the Lead Authority or the CCR Programme Board as appropriate may give no less than one months notice in writing to terminate this Agreement.

10.3 In the event of this Agreement being terminated:-

10.3.1 the Project Deliverer shall immediately pay to the Lead Authority the balance of any payments made to the Project Deliverer less any legitimate, eligible and claimable expenditure incurred by the Project Deliverer at that time.

10.3.2 either the Lead Authority or Project Deliverer shall be entitled to exercise any one or more of the rights and remedies given to it under the terms of this Agreement and the termination of this Agreement shall not affect or prejudice such rights and remedies. Each party shall, and shall remain liable to, perform all of their outstanding liabilities and indemnities under this Agreement, notwithstanding that the other may have exercised one or more of the rights and remedies against it; and

10.3.3 Any right or remedy to which either the Lead Authority or Project Deliverer is or may become entitled under this Agreement or in consequence of the other's conduct may be enforced from time to time separately or concurrently with any right or remedy given by this Agreement or now or afterwards provided for and arising by operation of law so that such rights and remedies are not exclusive of the other or others but are cumulative

11. COMMENCEMENT AND DURATION

11.1 This Agreement shall extend from the Operative Date until the Termination Date but shall not prejudice or affect any right of action or

remedy which shall have accrued, or which may thereafter accrue, to anybody under the Conditions.

12. DATA PROTECTION

12.1 The parties will co-operate with one another in order to enable each party to fulfil its statutory obligations under the Data Protection Legislation.

12.2 Without prejudice to the generality of Clause 1.1, the parties warrant and represent that it they have obtained all and any necessary registrations, notifications and consents required by the Data Protection Legislation to Process Personal Data for the purposes of performing their obligations under this Agreement. The parties undertake at all times during the term of this Agreement to comply with the Data Protection Legislation (and the data protection principles contained therein) in Processing all Personal Data in connection with this Agreement and shall not perform its obligations under this Agreement in such a way as to cause the party to breach any of its applicable obligations under the Data Protection Legislation

13. INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

13.1 Any Intellectual Property created through the establishment and running of this Agreement shall vest in the Lead Authority. The Intellectual Property shall be held by the Lead Authority. This shall include but is not limited to processes, procedures, methodology and manuals.

13.2 The Lead Authority shall grant to the Project Deliverer an irrevocable licence to use that Intellectual Property for the purpose of this Agreement.

13.3 Where a party develops Intellectual Property in relation to the delivery of the Project that Intellectual Property shall belong to that party alone.

13.4 Nothing in this clause 13 shall operate to prevent or make difficult the sharing of good practice between the parties.

14. FREEDOM OF INFORMATION

14.1 The parties agree that they will co-operate with one another to enable any party receiving a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 or the Environmental Information Regulations 2004 to respond to that request promptly and within statutory timescales. This co-operation shall include, but not be limited to, finding, retrieving and supplying information held and directing requests to other parties as appropriate and responding to any requests by a party receiving a request for comments or other assistance.

15. WAIVER

15.1 Failure by a party, or any other body so entitled, at any time to:

15.1.1 enforce any of the provisions of this Agreement; or

15.1.2 to require the performance of any of the provisions of this Agreement,

shall not be construed as a waiver of any such provision and shall not affect the validity of the Agreement or any part thereof, or of the right of the Lead Authority, or any other body, to enforce any provision in accordance with its terms.

16. NOTICES

16.1 Any notice, demand or communication in connection with this Agreement will be in writing and may be delivered by hand, post or e-

mail addressed to the recipient as set out in Schedule 10 or any other address notified to the other party in writing in accordance with this clause as an address to which notices, invoices and other documents may be sent. The notice, demand or communication will be deemed to have been duly served:

- (a) if delivered by hand during business hours, at the time of delivery;
- (b) if delivered by post, 48 hours after being posted (excluding Saturdays, Sundays and a non Business Day);

If delivered by e-mail or other electronic form of communication during business hours, at the time of transmission provided that a confirming copy is sent by first class post to the other party within 24 hours after transmission.

16.2 Where notice is served by hand or e-mail outside business hours, it will be deemed to have been served on the next Business Day.

17. CHANGE

17.1 Any requirement for a Change to this Agreement shall be subject to the Change Procedure.

18. THIRD PARTY RIGHTS

18.1 The parties to this Agreement confirm and agree that they do not intend any provision of it to be enforceable by any other person pursuant to the Contract (Rights of Third Parties) Act 1999 save as set out in this Agreement.

19. NO PARTNERSHIP

19.1 The Project Deliverer and Lead Authority are independent from each other and save as set out in this Agreement nothing contained in this

Agreement shall be construed as implying that there is any relationship between the Project Deliverer and Lead Authority of partnership or of principal / agent or of employer / employee.

20 COUNTERPART

20.1 This Agreement may be executed in any number of counterparts and by the parties to it on separate counterparts each of which when executed and delivered shall be an original but all the counterparts shall together constitute one and the same instrument.

21. JURISDICTION

21.1 This Agreement shall be governed and constituted in accordance with English and Welsh law as applied in Wales and the parties shall submit to the jurisdiction of the English and Welsh courts.

DRAFT

SCHEDULE 1

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

DRAFT

SCHEDULE 2
GENERAL CONDITIONS

1 APPRAISAL AND MONITORING

- 1.1 The parties acknowledges that it is fundamentally important to them and to the Secretary of State that the Project shall be properly monitored to ensure value for money and a satisfactory standard of delivery and the Project Deliverer will assist the Lead Authority to demonstrate these objectives have been achieved.
- 1.2 Delivery of the Project must be consistent with the details specified in the Application Form, Memorandum of Understanding and Delivery Profile. The Lead Authority will monitor progress and performance of the Project against those outputs detailed within the Delivery Profile and any Conditions and regular review meetings will be held with the Lead Authority and Project Deliverer to assess progress against participant delivery and financial targets.
- 1.3 The Project Deliverer will use their reasonable endeavours to work to a management system which enables the Project to satisfy 1.4 and 1.5 below and for delivery and finances to be effectively monitored and controlled. The Lead Authority will work with the Project Deliverer to ensure systems are adequate and capable of providing relevant information.
- 1.3.1 The Project Deliverer will provide the Lead Authority with quarterly and six monthly monitoring reports (in a format prescribed by the Lead Authority) showing progress against targets. Where necessary, the

Project Deliverer will provide explanations of any deviation from the agreed Delivery Profile, targets or outcomes.

- 1.4 The Project Deliverer shall maintain full and proper accounts and records concerning all aspects of its involvement in the Project that enable it to demonstrate:
 - 1.4.1 Amounts received by the Project Deliverer from the Lead Authority.
 - 1.4.2 What these amounts have been spent on.
 - 1.4.3 Full disclosure of asset purchases and sales.
 - 1.4.4 Whether the original targets have been met and reasons for any variances.
 - 1.4.5 That amounts spent and received by all partners of the Project Deliverer have been used wholly and exclusively for the purpose of the Project.
- 1.5 All accounts and records shall be maintained in a manner which clearly identifies it as accounts for the Project and no other purpose and all accounts and records kept by the Project Deliverer shall be retained for the period, as specified by the Funding Agreement, for a minimum of 7 years after the end of the Funding Agreement.
- 1.6 The Project Deliverer must contact the Lead Authority as soon as reasonably practicable if it becomes aware that, for whatever reason, the approved targets as stated in the Delivery Profile and Conditions are not going to be materially met.
 - 1.6.1 If in its reasonable opinion the Lead Authority considers the standards of any one or more of the periodic monitoring reports is inadequate the Lead Authority may require the Project Deliverer:

1.6.1.1 to supply reports to the Lead Authority more frequently until such time as the standard of reports improves:

1.6.1.2 to take such reasonable remedial action at the Project Deliverer's cost as the Lead Authority may reasonably require to improve the standard of the reports.

2 RIGHT OF ACCESS

2.1 The Project Deliverer will allow authorised employees of the Lead Authority, upon receipt of reasonable written notice, access to all financial and monitoring records relating to the Project.

2.2 Such access shall include the right to audit, review and take copies of all such documentation and where necessary in the reasonable opinion of the Lead Authority, take custody of the original accounts and records, but in the case of the Lead Authority taking custody of any original accounts or records, the Lead Authority will immediately provide to the Project Deliverer certified copies and fully indemnify the Project Deliverer if such accounts or records are lost or destroyed.

2.3 The right of access shall endure whilst the project accounts are maintained as set out in 1.5

2.4 The persons having by virtue of this Agreement a right of access to such accounts and records are:

2.4.1 Lead Authority

2.4.2 the Secretary of State

2.4.3 Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) and the Ministry for Housing, Communities, and Local Government (MHCLG)

- 2.4.4 National Audit Office
- 2.4.5 Audit Wales
- 2.4.6 Any Government Agency who has a right to review expenditure by the Council or Government Ministers
- 2.4.7 Any other auditor whose functions include the audit of expenditure by the Project Deliverers.

3 ASSISTANCE TO THE LEAD AUTHORITY

- 3.1 If at any time the Lead Authority is required by its own auditors, or any other body, to provide any information to such bodies concerning the Project the Project Deliverer shall use all best endeavours to assist the Lead Authority to comply with any such requirement and such assistance shall include, but is not limited to, the provision of copies of all documentation held by the Project Deliverer that is relevant to the Project.

4 RETENTION OF DOCUMENTATION

- 4.1 The Project Deliverer shall retain all financial and participant related records, accounts and original documentation including invoices relating to the Project until the Secretary of State informs the Lead Authority in writing, who will accordingly communicate with the Project Deliverer, that the documents may be disposed of.
- 4.2 The Lead Authority will reclaim any grant funding from the Project Deliverer where, after receipt of reasonable written notice, the Project Deliverer is unable to provide original supporting documentation.

5 RIGHT TO WITHHOLD PAYMENT

- 5.1 The Lead Authority shall be entitled to withhold or suspend payment of all or part of the Funding to the Project Deliverer if:
- 5.1.1 The Project Deliverer fails to materially comply with any requirement which any of the Conditions states must be met before the Lead Authority is obliged to make a payment, or
- 5.1.2 In the Lead Authority's reasonable opinion, which must be based on evidence, it considers that because of any act or omission on the part of the Project Deliverer, part of the Funding has been applied other than wholly and exclusively for the purpose of the Project, or
- 5.1.3 The Lead Authority or Project Deliverer becomes entitled to terminate this Agreement.
- 5.1.4 The Lead Authority has lawfully served upon the Project Deliverer either a Notice of Default or Termination under Clauses 5 or 8 of the Agreement and the Project Deliverer has not materially complied with such notice.

6 RIGHT TO RECOVER PAYMENT

- 6.1 The Lead Authority may require that a Project Deliverer repay to the Lead Authority in full or part the Funding paid by the Lead Authority to the Project Deliverer if, in its reasonable opinion:
- 6.1.1 All or part of the Funding paid to the Project Deliverer is applied otherwise than wholly and exclusively for the purposes of the Project;
- 6.1.2 There has been an overpayment of the Funding to the Project Deliverer by reason of an error made by either party; or
- 6.1.3 Any part of the Funding to be paid to the Project Deliverer is held by the Secretary of State due to breach of any of the Conditions.

- 6.2 If the Project Deliverer becomes aware of any circumstances which, in its reasonable opinion, entitles the Lead Authority to exercise any of its rights under paragraph 6.1 above, it shall inform the Lead Authority immediately in writing detailing the circumstances and the evidence on which the Project Deliverer's reasonable opinion is based.
- 6.3 The Project Deliverer, upon receipt of a reasonable written demand from the Lead Authority, shall repay any sum that becomes repayable by virtue of paragraph 6 to the Lead Authority.
- 6.4 Wherever under this Agreement any sum of money is recoverable from or payable by the Project Deliverer to the Lead Authority, the Lead Authority may deduct from any further sum due to the Project Deliverer under this Agreement such amount as is due to the Lead Authority.

7 INSUFFICIENT TAKE UP OF GRANT

- 7.1 Should there be insufficient take up of the Grant by the Project Deliverer, the Project Deliverer shall indemnify the Lead Authority against any reasonable fees, costs or expenses not recoverable from the Secretary of State directly incurred due to such insufficient take up.

SCHEDULE 3

FINANCIAL CONDITIONS

1 Payment of Grant to the Project Deliverer

- 1.1 Subject to the performance by the Project Deliverer of its obligations under this Agreement and achievement of the indicators set out in the Delivery Profile, the Lead Authority shall reimburse the Project Deliverer as set out in the Funding Agreement and Delivery Profile, unless the Lead Authority agrees changes within the limits of the overall approval level.
- 1.2 The Project Deliverer shall submit any Claims for Funding to the Lead Authority in accordance with the Claim Process and Reporting Requirements and must ensure all information is submitted by the relevant claim date.
- 1.3 Claims submitted by the Project Deliverers shall be submitted to the Lead Authority for payment.
- 1.4 The final Claim will become payable following approval of the Claim by the Lead Authority in the month following the Grant Termination Date.
- 1.5 The parties assume no VAT is payable by the Lead Authority in respect of the Grant. If that assumption is incorrect the amounts of the reimbursement of Grant shall be deemed to be inclusive of VAT.
- 1.6 The Project Deliverer is responsible for their own VAT accounting and all Claims should be exclusive of recoverable VAT. If the Project Deliverer includes non-recoverable VAT elements the Project Deliverer will be required to provide appropriate additional evidence to justify this decision at audit.

- 1.7 Payments arising from Claims shall become due and be payable by the Lead Authority upon each and every one of the following conditions being met:
- 1.7.1 The Project Deliverer has complied in all material respects with its obligations under this Agreement.
 - 1.7.2 The Project Deliverer has submitted their Claim, to the Lead Authority, which complies in all material respects with the requirements of this Schedule.
 - 1.7.3 The Claim shall be in the format agreed and provided by the Lead Authority and shall clearly identify eligible amounts claimed in relation to the Project. The Claim shall be accompanied by such supporting evidence as required by the Secretary of State or other relevant guidance documents in order to satisfy the Secretary of State that the amount claimed has actually and properly been incurred by the Project Deliverer in respect of delivering the Project.
 - 1.7.4 The Lead Authority has reviewed the Claim and agreed that expenditure is eligible for the purpose of the Project.
- 1.8 The late submission of a Claim by the Project Deliverer outside of the timeframe required for submission to the Lead Authority will result in a delay in payment. A late claim will be omitted from the respective claim round and be included in the next claim cycle (if any). The late submission of the final Claim may result in non-payment and loss of Funding..
- 1.9 The Lead Authority will reimburse the Project Deliverer within 15 Business Days of approval of the Claim by the Lead Authority.

1.10 In the event that there are any changes to the Claim Process or Reporting Requirements as a result of further guidance, the Lead Authority will notify the Project Deliverer of the change as soon as is practicable and will, where required, provide detailed instruction to Project Deliverer within 28 days of the change imposed.

2 Audit

2.1 The Funding Agreement outlines the rights of Auditors and Government bodies and the Lead Authority in regard to audit requirements.

2.2 The Project Deliverer must maintain an accounting system, which will uniquely identify Project expenditure from all other activities of the partners' e.g. unique cost centres. The system should be capable of identifying eligible and ineligible costs and any Match Funding provided.

2.3 The Project Deliverer must provide all reasonable assistance to the Lead Authority in providing the necessary evidence to demonstrate compliance for the purpose of monitoring, review and audit.

SCHEDULE 4
APPLICATION FORM

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SCHEDULE 5

CLAIM PROCESS

Subject to the performance by the Project Deliverer of their obligations under this Funding Agreement and their successful delivery of the Project Interventions, Rhondda Cynon Taf CBC will reimburse each Project Deliverer in line with the requirements set out in this schedule.

Project Deliverers can claim quarterly in arrears from Rhondda Cynon Taf CBC. Subject to Rhondda Cynon Taf being in receipt of, and holding, sufficient funds from DLUHC, payments will be made to Project Deliverers within 15 working days of Rhondda Cynon Taf receiving a correctly completed claim form accompanied with evidence of expenditure and quarterly reporting information set out in Schedule 6 of this Funding Agreement. This arrangement may be varied by Rhondda Cynon Taf CBC.

Partner Authority Shared Prosperity Fund Claim Periods	Financial Year	Deadline for Submission to RCT CBC SPF Lead Team	Deadline for Submission to DLUHC
April - December 2022	2022/23	13/01/2023	01/02/2023
Quarter 4	2022/23	14/04/2023	01/05/2023
Quarter 1	2023/24	14/07/2023	01/08/2023
Quarter 2	2023/24	13/10/2023	01/11/2023
Quarter 3	2023/24	12/01/2024	01/02/2024
Quarter 4	2023/24	12/04/2024	01/05/2024
Quarter 1	2024/25	12/07/2024	01/08/2024
Quarter 2	2024/25	11/10/2024	01/11/2024
Quarter 3	2024/25	10/01/2025	01/02/2025
Quarter 4	2024/25	11/04/2025	01/05/2025

Rhondda Cynon Taf CBC will not accept interim claims outside of the claim periods noted above. Late claims will be omitted from the respective claim round and included in the next claim cycle.

**Further claim guidance and templates will be provided.*

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SCHEDULE 6 REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

As per the UK Shared Prosperity Fund Prospectus, DLUHC will require lead authorities to report on a quarterly and a six monthly basis. This is further detailed within the reporting and performance management section on the GOV.UK Shared Prosperity Fund website - [UK Shared Prosperity Fund: reporting and performance management \(3\) - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/uk-shared-prosperity-fund-reporting-and-performance-management-3)

To enable Rhondda Cynon Taff CBC to comply with DLUHC reporting requirements, Project Deliverers will be required to submit reporting information to Rhondda Cynon Taff CBC on a quarterly basis. Submission dates are in line with the claim periods set out in Schedule 5 of this Funding Agreement. Further reporting guidance and templates will be provided.

Please note that DLUHC will require separate reporting and monitoring for the Multiply allocation and further guidance will be provided.

Rhondda Cynon Taff CBC will be required to provide the following information to DLUHC –

Qualitative Updates

- Spend to date and forecast against each of the three UKSPF investment priorities.
- Progress summary of the programme including an overall Red, Amber, Green (RAG) rating.
- Details of forecast underspend and how/when this will be addressed.
- Information on any upcoming projects, events, case studies and opportunities for Ministerial visits.

Project level

- The UKSPF intervention the project has been set up to support
- Start date
- The Project's projected spend
- The Project's actual spend to date
- Value of match funding against the project
- Postcode(s) where funded activity is being delivered?
- Parliamentary Constituency / Constituencies benefiting from project
- Has UKSPF been used to complement an existing project?
- Is the project live, finished, or abandoned?
- Projected end date (when it will cease to be supported by UKSPF) if live, or confirmed end date if finished / abandoned.

Pipeline Projects

- Upcoming Project(s) planned in the next 6 months
- The UKSPF intervention(s) the upcoming project has been set up to support
- Projected spend

Investment Priority Level

- Headline expenditure in year on management and administration.
- Details of slippage / delay in delivering projects against the investment priority and how/when this will be resolved.

Outputs and Outcomes Reporting

- Intervention number
- Output name
- Output target to be achieved
- Output delivered to date
- % of output delivered
- Forecast output in next 6 months
- Forecast to meet output target (Y / N)
- Outcome name
- Outcome target
- Outcome delivered to date
- % of outcome delivered
- Forecast outcome in next 6 months
- Forecast to meet outcome target (Y / N)

Project Deliverers are required to collect and store evidence that will substantiate Outputs and Outcomes, prior to reporting to Rhondda Cynon Taf CBC. Evidence will be subject to routine compliance checks by Rhondda Cynon Taf CBC.

Project Deliverers should also collect baseline data (i.e. a recording of the output or outcome before the intervention has taken place). Rhondda Cynon Taf CBC will not provide baseline data. Project Deliverers will be expected to source and identify such data themselves. For many Outputs it will not be possible to provide a baseline recording. However, for Outcomes it is important to record a baseline where possible, as these metrics are aiming to measure change caused through the programme.

Further information is detailed within the Output and Outcomes section on the GOV.UK Shared Prosperity Fund website - [UK Shared Prosperity Fund: outputs and outcomes definitions \(2\) - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/uk-shared-prosperity-fund-outputs-and-outcomes-definitions-2). The updated list of Outputs and Outcomes within this section provide the indicator definition and unit of measurement that corresponds to each output and outcome title. These definitions will continue to be refined and improved as the programme continues. Any amendments to the definitions will be managed, with the input of lead local authorities, to minimise their impact on delivery.

Further information on how Outputs and Outcomes correspond to SPF Interventions and Objectives is detailed on the GOV.UK Shared Prosperity Fund website - [Interventions, Objectives, Outcomes and Outputs – Wales \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](https://publishing.service.gov.uk/guidance/interventions-objectives-outcomes-and-outputs-wales)

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SCHEDULE 7
DELIVERY PROFILE

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SCHEDULE 8

REGIONAL DIRECTORS GROUP

SPF TERMS OF REFERENCE

1. Purpose

- 1.1 The successful delivery of the South East Wales Regional Investment Plan requires robust governance arrangements and the continued commitment and active involvement of all partner authorities and key stakeholders.
- 1.2 The Regional Directors Group will provide a strategic consultative and advisory role to ensure the successful delivery of the UK Shared Prosperity Fund at a local and regional level.
- 1.3 Working with Rhondda Cynon Taf Council as lead authority, the Group will ensure effective lines of accountability and responsibility are established and maintained and that appropriate delivery mechanisms, performance monitoring and effective stakeholder management arrangements are established.

2. Status of this Document

- 2.1 This document is not a binding legal arrangement but is designed to complement the UKSPF Agreement between Rhondda Cynon Taf Council as lead authority and each partner authority.
- 2.2 This document relates solely to the implementation of the UK SPF and not the wider remit of the Regional Directors Group.

3. Membership

- 3.1 Membership will consist of the South East Wales Region Local Authority Directors with supporting officers, representatives from the Lead Authority SPF Team, Cardiff Capital Region Team and from the Welsh Local Government Association.

4. Lead Authority and Implementation

- 4.1 As lead authority and grant recipient, Rhondda Cynon Taf Council will provide high level leadership and direction and will manage the UKSPF in collaboration with partner authorities and key stakeholders.
- 4.2 Rhondda Cynon Taf Council will be supported by partner authorities in its lead authority role in ensuring that:
 - i. There are effective lines of accountability and responsibility.
 - ii. Adequate resources are committed to delivering the programme successfully.
 - iii. Individual components of the regional investment plan are delivered on time and to budget.
 - iv. Performance is monitored against headline outcomes, outputs and financial progress.

- v. Key stakeholders are kept informed and consulted with as appropriate.

5. Meetings

- 5.1 Rhondda Cynon Taf Council will act as secretariat and meetings are proposed to initially be held monthly, with the frequency subject to regular review.

6. Decision Making

- 6.1 Rhondda Cynon Taf Council will undertake its role as lead authority and exercise its decision making powers in accordance with the UK Government funding agreement and in conjunction with the Senior Responsible Officer and the Chief Finance officer for the Council.

- 6.2 Where decisions are required relating to SPF funded delivery and are within the remit of the agreement between the lead authority and UK Government, Rhondda Cynon Taf Council will work bilaterally with partner authorities to reach a consensus agreement.

- 6.3 UK Government approval will need to be sought when “material changes” are made to the Regional Investment Plan. Such changes will be discussed in advance with the Regional Directors Group and escalated to the South East Wales Chief Executives Group where necessary.

For the purposes of the UKSPF a ‘material change’ will constitute any of the following:

- i. **Material Change 1:**

- A post investment plan approval request for administration costs to exceed the percentage agreed in the lead local authority’s investment plan.

- ii. **Material Change 2:**

- Moving funding between investment priorities if the change involves moving 30% of the total funding allocation over the three years or £5m whichever is lower. Any funding moved from an existing intervention to fund a bespoke intervention would also require approval.

- iii. **Material Change 3:**

- If the indicative outputs are expected to drop from what had been set out in the original investment plan submitted, within the following parameters:

- If the total outputs set out in the investment plan were forecast to drop by 20% or more against an investment intervention.
 - If the outputs forecasted have dropped by more than 40% against an investment intervention since the original investment plan was submitted.

- 6.4 Any decisions that cannot be made by the lead authority will be discussed with the Regional Directors Group in advance of being escalated to the South East Wales Chief Executives Group and/or UK Government as

appropriate. Issues requiring an urgent decision may be circulated via written procedure.

7. Risk Management

- 7.1 Rhondda Cynon Taf Council as lead authority will develop a risk management plan for the management and delivery of the programme and report any emerging issues or high level risks to the Regional Directors Group.
- 7.2 Any risks that cannot be resolved between Rhondda Cynon Taf Council as lead authority and the partner authorities will be escalated to the South East Wales Chief Executives Group.

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SCHEDULE 9
CHANGE PROCEDURE

1. General Principles

- 1.1 Where the Lead Authority and the Project Deliverer see a need to change this Agreement, such Change shall be made only in accordance with the Change Procedure set out in paragraph 2 of this Schedule 7.
- 1.2 Until such time as a Change is made in accordance with the Change Procedure, the Lead Authority and the Project Deliverer shall, unless otherwise agreed in writing, continue to perform this Agreement in compliance with its terms before such Change.

2. Procedure

- 2.1 Where a Change is agreed between the parties the Lead Authority shall prepare a Change Note.
- 2.2 A Change Note shall contain:-
- 2.2.1 the title of the Change;
 - 2.2.2 the reason for the Change;
 - 2.2.3 full details of the Change; and
 - 2.2.4 provision for signature by the Lead Authority and the Project Deliverer.
- 2.3 A Change Note signed by the Lead Authority and the Project Deliverer shall constitute an amendment to this Agreement.

SCHEDULE 10

CONTACT DETAILS

Party	Address	Contact Details
Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council		

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IN WITNESS WHEREOF the parties have executed this Agreement as a Deed
the day and year first above written:-

Attestation as applicable to relevant Project Deliverer

EXECUTED as a Deed

by affixing the Common Seal of

TORFAEN COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

in the presence of:

DRAFT

.....

Authorised Officer

THE COMMON SEAL of)

BLAENAU GWENT COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL)

was hereto affixed in the presence of:)

Name:

Position:

DRAFT

THE COMMON SEAL of)

BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL)

was hereto affixed in the presence of:)

Name:

Position:

THE COMMON SEAL of)

CAERPHILLY COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL)

was hereto affixed in the presence of:)

Name:

Position:

THE COMMON SEAL of)

CARDIFF COUNCIL)

was hereto affixed in the presence of:)

Name:

Position:

DRAFT

THE COMMON SEAL of)

MERTHYR TYDFIL COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL)

was hereto affixed in the presence of:)

Name:

Position:

THE COMMON SEAL of)

MONMOUTHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL)

was hereto affixed in the presence of:)

Name:

Position:

THE COMMON SEAL of)

NEWPORT CITY COUNCIL)

was hereto affixed in the presence of:)

Name:

Position:

DRAFT

THE COMMON SEAL of)

RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL)

was hereto affixed in the presence of:)

Name:

Position:

THE COMMON SEAL of)

THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL)

was hereto affixed in the presence of:)

Name:

Position:

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Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council - Integrated Impact Assessment

All decisions, policy reviews or policy implementation will now require a completed Integrated Impact Assessment.

- Section 1-Equality Act 2010 (Statutory Duties) (Wales) Regulations 2011
- Section 2-Socio-economic Duty – Sections 1 to 3 of the Equality Act 2010
- Section 3-Corporate Plan
- Section 4-Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015
- Section 5-Welsh Language (Wales) Measure 2011
- Section 6-Children’s Right “The Right Way”
- Section 7-Community Safety
- Section 8 Armed Forces
- Section 9-Data
- Section 10-Consultations Statutory Consultation Doctrine of Legitimate Expectation and Gunning Principles
- Section 11-Monitoring
- Section 12-Decision of proposal

Lead Officer	Head of Service/Director	Service Area & Department	Date
Owen Ashton	Ellie Fry	Regeneration and Development	17.02.23

Briefly outline the proposal indicating what change or decision is to be made, also provide any documentation that may be used to support this.

What is the proposal that needs to be assessed?

The Shared Prosperity Fund (SPF) is a key part of the UK's Levelling Up agenda, forming part of complementary funding, including the Levelling Up Fund and Community Ownership Fund. The primary aim of the fund is to build pride in place and increase life chances across the UK. Underpinning this aim are three investment Pillars: communities and place; supporting local business and people and skills.

The proposal to be assessed is the potential impact on introducing the SPF in Blaenau Gwent

Section 1 Outline how the proposal will impact on any people or groups of people with protected characteristics, please refer to the Equalities Act 2010 (Wales) for further information Equality Act 2010: guidance - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk) and the EHRC guidance The Essential Guide to the Public Sector Equality Duty: EHRC Briefly outline below if there will be any positive or negative impacts as a result of the proposal being considered.			
Protected characteristics	Will the proposal have any positive impacts on those with a protected characteristics?	Will the proposal have any negative impacts on those with a protected characteristics?	Outline how the proposal could maximise any positive impacts or minimise any negative impact. Please indicate any views evidence you have that supports this.
<i>Age (people of all ages)</i>	Yes	No	<p>The primary aim of the fund is to build pride in place and increase life chances across the UK. Underpinning this aim are three investment Pillars: communities and place; supporting local business and people and skills.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Communities and Place investment pillar will enable places to invest to restore their community spaces and relationships and create the foundations for economic development at the neighbourhood-level. The intention of

			<p>this is to strengthen the social fabric of communities, supporting in building pride in place.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Supporting Local Business investment pillar will enable places to fund interventions that support local businesses to thrive, innovate and grow. • The People and Skills investment priority will help reduce the barriers some people face to employment and support them to move towards employment and education. Places can also target funding into skills for local areas to support employment and local growth.
Disability (<i>people with disabilities/ long term conditions</i>)	Yes	No	<p>The primary aim of the fund is to build pride in place and increase life chances across the UK. Underpinning this aim are three investment Pillars: communities and place; supporting local business and people and skills.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Communities and Place investment pillar will enable places to invest to restore their community spaces and relationships and create the foundations for economic development at the neighbourhood-level. The intention of

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<p>Gender Reassignment <i>(anybody who's gender identity or gender expression is different to the sex they were assigned at birth)</i></p>	Yes	No	<p>The primary aim of the fund is to build pride in place and increase life chances across the UK. Underpinning this aim are three investment Pillars: communities and place; supporting local business and people and skills.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Communities and Place investment pillar will enable places to invest to restore their community spaces and relationships and create the foundations for economic development at the neighbourhood-level. The intention of

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<p>Marriage or Civil Partnership (<i>people who are married or in a civil partnership</i>)</p>	Yes	No	<p>The primary aim of the fund is to build pride in place and increase life chances across the UK. Underpinning this aim are three investment Pillars: communities and place; supporting local business and people and skills.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Communities and Place investment pillar will enable places to invest to restore their community spaces and relationships and create the foundations for economic development at the neighbourhood-level. The intention of

			<p>this is to strengthen the social fabric of communities, supporting in building pride in place.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Supporting Local Business investment pillar will enable places to fund interventions that support local businesses to thrive, innovate and grow. • The People and Skills investment priority will help reduce the barriers some people face to employment and support them to move towards employment and education. Places can also target funding into skills for local areas to support employment and local growth.
<p>Pregnancy and Maternity (<i>women who are pregnant and/or on maternity leave</i>)</p>	Yes	No	<p>The primary aim of the fund is to build pride in place and increase life chances across the UK. Underpinning this aim are three investment Pillars: communities and place; supporting local business and people and skills.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Communities and Place investment pillar will enable places to invest to restore their community spaces and relationships and create the foundations for economic development at the neighbourhood-level. The intention of

			<p>this is to strengthen the social fabric of communities, supporting in building pride in place.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Supporting Local Business investment pillar will enable places to fund interventions that support local businesses to thrive, innovate and grow. • The People and Skills investment priority will help reduce the barriers some people face to employment and support them to move towards employment and education. Places can also target funding into skills for local areas to support employment and local growth.
<p>Race (<i>people from black, Asian and minority ethnic communities and different racial backgrounds</i>)</p>	Yes	No	<p>The primary aim of the fund is to build pride in place and increase life chances across the UK irrespective of their race. Underpinning this aim are three investment Pillars: communities and place; supporting local business and people and skills.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Communities and Place investment pillar will enable places to invest to restore their community spaces and relationships and create the foundations for economic development at the neighbourhood-level. The intention of

			<p>this is to strengthen the social fabric of communities, supporting in building pride in place.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Supporting Local Business investment pillar will enable places to fund interventions that support local businesses to thrive, innovate and grow. • The People and Skills investment priority will help reduce the barriers some people face to employment and support them to move towards employment and education. Places can also target funding into skills for local areas to support employment and local growth.
<p>Religion or Belief <i>(people with different religions and beliefs including people with no beliefs)</i></p>	Yes	No	<p>The primary aim of the fund is to build pride in place and increase life chances across the UK for people, irrespective of their religion or belief. Underpinning this aim are three investment Pillars: communities and place; supporting local business and people and skills.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Communities and Place investment pillar will enable places to invest to restore their community spaces and relationships and create the foundations for economic development at the neighbourhood-level. The intention of

			<p>this is to strengthen the social fabric of communities, supporting in building pride in place.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Supporting Local Business investment pillar will enable places to fund interventions that support local businesses to thrive, innovate and grow. • The People and Skills investment priority will help reduce the barriers some people face to employment and support them to move towards employment and education. Places can also target funding into skills for local areas to support employment and local growth.
<p>Sex (<i>women and men, girls and boys and those who self-identify their gender</i>)</p>	Yes	No	<p>The primary aim of the fund is to build pride in place and increase life chances across the UK for people whatever their sex/gender. Underpinning this aim are three investment Pillars: communities and place; supporting local business and people and skills.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Communities and Place investment pillar will enable places to invest to restore their community spaces and relationships and create the foundations for economic development at the neighbourhood-level. The intention of

			<p>this is to strengthen the social fabric of communities, supporting in building pride in place.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Supporting Local Business investment pillar will enable places to fund interventions that support local businesses to thrive, innovate and grow. • The People and Skills investment priority will help reduce the barriers some people face to employment and support them to move towards employment and education. Places can also target funding into skills for local areas to support employment and local growth.
<p>Sexual Orientation <i>(lesbian, gay, bisexual, heterosexual, other)</i></p>	Yes	No	<p>The primary aim of the fund is to build pride in place and increase life chances across the UK for people whatever their sexual orientation. Underpinning this aim are three investment Pillars: communities and place; supporting local business and people and skills.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Communities and Place investment pillar will enable places to invest to restore their community spaces and relationships and create the foundations for economic development at the neighbourhood-level. The intention of

			<p>this is to strengthen the social fabric of communities, supporting in building pride in place.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Supporting Local Business investment pillar will enable places to fund interventions that support local businesses to thrive, innovate and grow. • The People and Skills investment priority will help reduce the barriers some people face to employment and support them to move towards employment and education. Places can also target funding into skills for local areas to support employment and local growth.
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NOTE: Section 2 only needs to be completed if proposals are of a strategic nature or when reviewing previous strategic decisions. See page 6 of the [Preparing for the Commencement of the Socio-economic Duty Welsh Government Guidance](#).

Section 2
Socio-economic Duty (Strategic Decisions Only)
The Welsh Governments [Socio-economic Duty](#) provides a framework in order to ensure tackling inequality is at the forefront of decision making.

.Please consider the below vulnerable groups and consider how the proposal could affect them:

- Single parents and vulnerable families
- People with low literacy/numeracy
- Pensioners
- Looked after children
- Homeless people
- Carers
- Armed Forces Community
- Students
- Single adult households
- People misusing substances
- People who have experienced the asylum system
- People of all ages leaving a care setting
- People living in the most deprived areas in Wales (WIMD)
- People involved in the criminal justice system

Socio Economic disadvantage definitions.	Will the proposal have a positive, negative or neutral impacts on the below?	How could you mitigate the negative impacts outlined?	Please highlight any evidence that has been considered.
<p>Low Income / Income Poverty <i>(cannot afford to maintain regular payments such as bills, food, clothing, transport etc.)</i></p>	<p>Positive</p>	<p>SPF is specifically targeted at interventions that support and create improved conditions for individuals on low income/income poverty</p>	<p>In developing the Local Investment Plan a detailed evidence analysis of Census and other data was undertaken to identify the most impactful interventions within Blaenau Gwent.</p>
<p>Low and/or No Wealth <i>(enough money to meet basic living costs and pay bills but have no savings to deal with any unexpected spends and no provisions for the future)</i></p>	<p>Positive</p>	<p>SPF is specifically targeted at interventions that support and create improved conditions for individuals with low and/or no wealth</p>	<p>In developing the Local Investment Plan a detailed evidence analysis of Census and other data was undertaken to identify the most impactful interventions within Blaenau Gwent.</p>


<p>Material Deprivation (<i>unable to access basic goods and services i.e. financial products like life insurance, repair/replace broken electrical goods, warm home, hobbies etc.</i>)</p>	<p>Positive</p>	<p>SPF is specifically targeted at interventions that support and create improved conditions for individuals experiencing material deprivation</p>	<p>In developing the Local Investment Plan a detailed evidence analysis of Census and other data was undertaken to identify the most impactful interventions within Blaenau Gwent.</p>
<p>Area Deprivation (<i>where you live (rural areas), where you work (accessibility of public transport) Impact on the environment?</i>)</p>	<p>Positive</p>	<p>SPF is specifically targeted at interventions that address deprivation across Blaenau Gwent</p>	<p>In developing the Local Investment Plan a detailed evidence analysis of Census and other data was undertaken to identify the most impactful interventions within Blaenau Gwent.</p>
<p>Socio-economic Background (<i>social class i.e. parents education, employment and income</i>)</p>	<p>Positive</p>	<p>SPF is specifically targeted at interventions that support and create improved conditions for individuals irrespective of their socio-economic backgrounds</p>	<p>In developing the Local Investment Plan a detailed evidence analysis of Census and other data was undertaken to identify the most impactful interventions within Blaenau Gwent.</p>





<p>Socio-economic Disadvantage <i>(What cumulative impact will the proposal have on people or groups because of their protected characteristic(s) or vulnerability or because they are already disadvantaged)</i></p>	<p>Positive</p>	<p>SPF is specifically targeted at interventions that support and create improved conditions for individuals irrespective of their socio-economic backgrounds</p>	<p>In developing the Local Investment Plan a detailed evidence analysis of Census and other data was undertaken to identify the most impactful interventions within Blaenau Gwent.</p>

Section 3-Corporate Plan

Please outline any Corporate Plan linkages of the proposal - [BG Corporate Plan 22-27](#)

<p>Priority 1 - Maximise learning and skills for all to create a prosperous, thriving, resilient Blaenau Gwent</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Supporting Local Business investment pillar will enable places to fund interventions that support local businesses to thrive, innovate and grow. • The People and Skills investment priority will help reduce the barriers some people face to employment and support them to move towards employment and education. Places can also target funding into skills for local areas to support employment and local growth.
<p>Priority 2 - Respond to the nature and climate crisis and enable connected communities</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Communities and Place investment pillar will enable places to invest to restore their community spaces and relationships and create the foundations for economic development at the neighbourhood-level. The intention of this is to strengthen the social fabric of communities, supporting in building pride in place.
<p>Priority 3 - An ambitious and innovative council delivering quality services at the right time and in the right place</p>	<p>The SPF will provide funding to enable the Council to add value to the services it currently provides, through innovative activities</p>
<p>Priority 4 - Empowering and supporting communities to be safe, independent and resilient</p>	<p>The Communities and Place investment pillar will enable places to invest to restore their community spaces and relationships and create the foundations for economic development at the neighbourhood level.</p>

<p>Section 4-Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 – The Five Ways of Working (ICLIP) <i>Sustainable development principles. The WBFG Act requires the Council to consider how any proposal improves the economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales using the five ways of working as a baseline)</i></p>	
<p>Five Ways of Working</p>	<p>How have you used the Sustainable Development Principles in forming the proposal?</p>
<p>Long Tern</p> 	<p>Consider the long-term impact of the proposal on the ability of communities to secure their well-being. The SPF has the potential to support the long term sustainability of communities through upskilling and providing communities with the support they need to prosper and thrive beyond the period of the Local Investment Plan</p>

<p>Prevention</p> 	<p>Consider how the proposal is preventing problems from occurring or getting worse</p> <p>The SPF is the UK Governments replacement of EU Structural Funds through its Levelling Up Programme. With the loss of significant EU funding from the area, the funding provides opportunities for communities and businesses to address challenges they face with the loss of EU funds</p>
<p>Integration</p> 	<p>Consider how your proposal will impact on other services provided in our communities (these might be Council services or services delivered by other organisations or groups)</p> <p>The cross-cutting nature of the SPF enables an integrated and holistic approach to support communities and business. It also provides opportunities for Council services to be enhanced during a challenging economic climate.</p>
<p>Collaboration</p> 	<p>Consider how you are working with Council services or services delivered by other organisations or groups in our communities.</p> <p>There are significant opportunities for collaborative delivery, not only across various Council services but also across different sectors, for example by working with Third Sector partners on the delivery of services and activities</p>
<p>Involvement</p> 	<p>Consider how you involve people who have an interest in this proposal and ensure that they represent the diversity of our communities.</p> <p>Despite the challenges with tight timeframes in developing the SPF Local Investment Plan, local consultation and engagement has taken place across the three pillars; this collaborative work will continue through the delivery phase of SPF ensuring that the fund is able to adapt to the needs of local communities.</p>

How does your proposal link to the Welsh Governments Priorities for Wales? Please indicate below.

1. **A PROSPEROUS WALES** ... an innovative, productive and low carbon society which recognises the limits of the global environment and therefore uses resources efficiently and proportionately (including acting on climate change); and which develops a skilled and well-educated population in an economy which generates wealth and provides employment opportunities, allowing people to take advantage of the wealth generated through securing decent work.

- The **Supporting Local Business** investment pillar will enable places to fund interventions that support local businesses to thrive, innovate and grow.

2. **A RESILIENT WALES ...** a nation which maintains and enhances a biodiverse natural environment with healthy functioning ecosystems that support social, economic and ecological resilience and the capacity to adapt to change (for example climate change). Think about how your activity will have regard to protecting and enhancing biodiversity.

- The **Communities and Place** investment pillar will enable places to invest to restore their community spaces and relationships and create the foundations for economic development at the neighbourhood-level. The intention of this is to strengthen the social fabric of communities, supporting in building pride in place and undertaking environmental enhancements.

3. **A HEALTHIER WALES ...** a society in which people's physical and mental well-being is maximised and in which choices and behaviours that benefit future health are understood.

- The **Communities and Place** investment pillar will enable places to invest to restore their community spaces and relationships and create the foundations for economic development at the neighbourhood-level. The intention of this is to strengthen the social fabric of communities, supporting in building pride in place and create conditions for healthier communities

4. **A MORE EQUAL WALES ...** A society that enables people to fulfil their potential no matter what their background or circumstances (including their socio economic background and circumstances).

The **Communities and Place** investment pillar will enable places to invest to restore their community spaces and relationships and create the foundations for economic development at the neighbourhood-level. The intention of this is to strengthen the social fabric of communities, supporting in building pride in place and undertaking environmental enhancements

The **People and Skills** investment priority will help reduce the barriers some people face to employment and support them to move towards employment and education. Places can also target funding into skills for local areas to support employment and local growth.

5. A WALES OF COHESIVE COMMUNITIES ... attractive, viable, safe and well-connected communities.

The **Communities and Place** investment pillar will enable places to invest to restore their community spaces and relationships and create the foundations for economic development at the neighbourhood-level. The intention of this is to strengthen the social fabric of communities, supporting in building pride in place and undertaking environmental enhancements

The **People and Skills** investment priority will help reduce the barriers some people face to employment and support them to move towards employment and education. Places can also target funding into skills for local areas to support employment and local growth.


6. A WALES OF VIBRANT CULTURE AND THRIVING ... a society that promotes and protects culture, heritage and the Welsh language, and which encourages people to participate in the arts, and sports and recreation.

The **Communities and Place** investment pillar will enable places to invest to restore their community spaces and relationships and create the foundations for economic development at the neighbourhood-level. The intention of this is to strengthen the social fabric of communities, supporting in building pride in place and undertaking environmental enhancements

The **People and Skills** investment priority will help reduce the barriers some people face to employment and support them to move towards employment and education. Places can also target funding into skills for local areas to support employment and local growth.

7. **A GLOBALLY RESPONSIBLE WALES ...** a nation which, when doing anything to improve the economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales, takes account of whether doing such a thing may make a positive contribution to global well-being.

The **Communities and Place** investment pillar will enable places to invest to restore their community spaces and relationships and create the foundations for economic development at the neighbourhood-level. The intention of this is to strengthen the social fabric of communities, supporting in building pride in place.

Section 5-Welsh Language (Wales) Measure 2011 and Welsh Language Standards			
<i>(The Welsh Language Measure 2011 and the Welsh Language Standards require the Council to have 'due regard' for the positive or negative impact that any proposal may have on opportunities to use the Welsh language. Welsh Language Standards)</i>			
Requirement	Does the proposal have any positive, negative or neutral impacts in regards to the below?	What can be done to mitigate any negative impacts?	Please demonstrate any evidence used to form this opinion.
Compliance with the Welsh Language Standards. <i>Specifically Standards 88 - 93</i>	Positive	All promotional material will be provided in Welsh and English and any requests for information will be available in Welsh and English	The Census data indicates a growing proportion of Welsh language users in Blaenau Gwent. The ability of residents to use and engage through the medium of Welsh will form a key part of the SPF implementation.

<p>What opportunities are there to promote the Welsh Language? <i>e.g. status, use of Welsh language services, use of Welsh in everyday life in work / community</i></p>	Positive	There will be a range of opportunities to promote the Welsh language, through promotional material and courses available in Welsh and English	The Census data indicates a growing proportion of Welsh language users in Blaenau Gwent. The ability of residents to use and engage through the medium of Welsh will form a key part of the SPF implementation.
<p>What opportunities are there for a person or person to use the Welsh Language? <i>e.g. staff, residents and visitors</i></p>	Positive	All persons will be able to use the Welsh language through engagement with the SPF	The Census data indicates a growing proportion of Welsh language users in Blaenau Gwent. The ability of residents to use and engage through the medium of Welsh will form a key part of the SPF implementation.
<p>Has the Welsh Language been considered in order to treat the Welsh language no less favourably than the English language?</p>	Positive	All persons will be able to use the Welsh language through engagement with the SPF	The Census data indicates a growing proportion of Welsh language users in Blaenau Gwent. The ability of residents to use and engage through

			the medium of Welsh will form a key part of the SPF implementation.
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Section 6 – Children’s Rights Approach - [The Right Way](#)

The Children’s Rights Approach – The Right Way is a framework for working with children, grounded in the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC). It places the UNCRC at the core of planning and service delivery and integrates children’s rights into every aspect of decision-making, policy and practice. The Right Way focuses on three main them Participation, Provision and Protection.

Protected characteristics	Will the proposal have any positive impacts on the Children’s Rights Approach?	Will the proposal have any negative impacts on the Children’s Rights Approach?	Outline how the proposal could maximise any positive impacts or minimise any negative impact. Please indicate any views evidence you have that supports this.
Participation (child or young person as someone who actively contributes to society as a citizen)	Positive	No	Children and young people will be actively encouraged to participate in and benefit from the SPF programme

Provision (the basic rights of children and young people to survive and develop)	Positive	No	Children and young people will be actively encouraged to participate in and benefit from the SPF programme
Protection (children and young people are protected against exploitation, abuse or discrimination)	Positive	No	Children and young people will be actively encouraged to participate in and benefit from the SPF programme

Section 7– Community Safety

Duty to Consider Crime and Disorder Implications

Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 places a duty on the local authority to exercise its various functions with due regard to the likely effect of the exercise of those functions on, and the need to do all that it reasonably can to prevent, crime and disorder, anti-social and other behaviour adversely affecting the local environment, the misuse of drugs, alcohol and other substances, re-offending and serious violence.

Impacts	Will the proposal have any positive impacts on crime and disorder?	Will the proposal have any negative impacts on crime and disorder?	Outline how the proposal could maximise any positive impacts or minimise any negative impact. Please indicate any views evidence you have that supports this.
Crime	Positive	No	SPF will provide opportunities for greater engagement with communities to target the root causes of crime and support for communities to 'design out' crime.

(consider impact on each: victims, offenders and neighbourhoods)			
Anti-Social Behaviour and behaviour adversely affecting the local environment (consider impact on each: victims, offenders, neighbourhoods and green spaces)	Positive	No	SPF will provide opportunities for greater engagement with communities to target the root causes of anti social behaviour and behaviour adversely affecting the local environment
Misuse of drugs, alcohol and other substances (Think vulnerable children, adults, families and communities)	Positive	No	SPF will provide opportunities for greater engagement with communities to target the root causes of misuse of drugs, alcohol and other substances
Re-offending (Think young people and adults, victims, families, communities)	Positive	No	SPF will provide opportunities for greater engagement with communities to target the root causes of re-offending
Serious Violence (Think vulnerable young people, vulnerable adults, victims, families, communities)	Positive	No	SPF will provide opportunities for greater engagement with communities to target the root causes of serious violence

Counter Terrorism (People and places that are vulnerable to terrorism or violent extremism)	Positive	No	SPF will provide opportunities for greater engagement with communities to target the root causes of disengagement and support those vulnerable to terrorism or violent extremism
Community Cohesion (Asylum seekers, Migrants, Victims or Hate Crime, Community tensions)	Positive	No	SPF will provide opportunities for greater engagement with communities to build social cohesion

Section 8- Armed Forces Covenant Duty AFC Draft Statutory Guidance - Final.pdf			
Impacts	Will the proposal have any positive impacts on the armed forces community?	Will the proposal have any negative impacts on the armed forces community?	Outline how the proposal could maximise any positive impacts or minimise any negative impact. Please indicate any views evidence you have that supports this.
Health <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provision of services • Planning and funding • Co-operation between bodies and professionals 	Positive	No	SPF provides a range of opportunities to support the armed forces community through enhancing the provision of services and improved cooperation between partner organisations

<p>These healthcare functions are within scope of the Duty in the following settings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NHS Primary Care services, including general practice, community pharmacies, NHS dental, NHS optometry services and public health screening services. • NHS Secondary Care services, including urgent and emergency care, hospital and community services, specialist care, mental health services, and additional needs services (as applicable). • Local authority-delivered healthcare services, including sexual health services and drug and alcohol misuse services 			
<p>Education</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Admissions • Educational attainment and curriculum • Child wellbeing 	<p>Positive</p>	<p>No</p>	<p>SPF provides a range of opportunities to support the armed forces community through enhancing the provision of services and improved cooperation between partner organisations</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transport • Attendance • Additional needs support • Use of Service Pupil Premium funding (England only) <p>These education functions are within scope of the Duty in compulsory education settings, that is, primary, secondary, and, for England only, compulsory further education. The Duty does not cover nursery (early years education), higher education, or other voluntary adult education settings</p>			
<p>Housing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Allocations policy for social housing • Tenancy strategies (England only) • Homelessness • Disabled Facilities Grants 	<p>Positive</p>	<p>No</p>	<p>SPF provides a range of opportunities to support the armed forces community through enhancing the provision of services and improved cooperation between partner organisations</p>

Section 9-Data-Please outline any data or evidence that has been used to develop the proposal, this can be previous consultations, local/national data, pilot projects, reports, feedback from clients etc.

Data/evidence –What data/evidence was used? - provide any links.	What were the key findings?	How has the data/evidence informed this proposal?
<p>A range of data has been used to help shape and inform the SPF proposals, including Census data and data from the Wellbeing Assessments.</p>	<p>The findings reinforced the socio-economic challenges facing communities in Blaenau Gwent and the need to create improved conditions for residents, through sustainable accessible employment, training and employment pathways and measures to support the creation of sustainable attractive communities.</p>	<p>The evidence has identified a range of key interventions to support various areas for example through tailoring business support to target local businesses and the specific challenges they face and continuing elements of ESI funded projects that have worked well.</p>

Are there any data or information gaps and if so what are they and how do you intend to address them?

Some of the challenges with the data is that it may not penetrate or be able to access some of the more nuance challenges that communities face. The role of agencies and officers and research institutes could play a key role in this, through gaining a more detailed understanding of the personal challenges people face, gained through face-to-face interactions with people direct involvement in shaping services and projects. This could be achieved through the ongoing work of the CoL Working Group, the roll out of the ‘Hubs’ and creating feedback loops through this work.

Section 10-Consultation. Please provide details of consultation undertaken to support the proposal. Please consider the Gunning Principles: -

Principle 1: Consultation must take place when the proposals are still at a formative stage. You must not have already made up your mind.

Principle 2: Sufficient reasons must be put forward to allow for intelligent consideration and response. Have people been given the information and opportunity to influence?

Principle 3: Adequate time must be given for consideration and response. Is the consultation long enough bearing in mind the circumstances?

Principle 4: The product of consultation must be conscientiously taken into account when finalising the decision

Briefly describe any planned consultations or consultations that have been carried out to date. Please consider the above principles.

Please consider the following questions; -

- 1. Who did you consult?**
- 2. When did the consultation take place and was adequate time given for a response?**
- 3. Was there enough information provided to respond effectively?**
- 4. What were the findings?**
- 5. Have the findings been considered in regards to the decision?**

As noted above, the guiding principles of the SPF were shaped and informed through data analysis of key Census data. This was added to through the Wellbeing Assessment and through working closely with partners and agencies such as the Wellbeing Group, the CoL working group and a range of workshops with stakeholders and partners such as Third Sector organisations.

This work has shaped and will continue to shape proposals, in terms of what is delivered through SPF and how it's delivered.

Section 11-Monitoring and Review

How will the implementation of the proposal be monitored, including the impacts or changes made?	The SPF will be continually reviewed and monitored by taking on board feedback from various groups and organisations to ensure that it responds to existing and emerging challenges.
What monitoring tools will be used?	Direct feedback through groups and partner organisations
How will the results be used for future development?	The results will inform any changes that need to be made to improve the interventions
How and when will it be reviewed?	Continually through feedback loops, for example working closely with businesses to understand what additional support is required.
Who is responsible for ensuring this happens?	The Local Partnership Group which is due to be established once details are received from SPF Lead Authority

Page 437

Section 12 - Decision

Using the information you have gathered from sections 1-9 please state in the table below whether you are able to proceed with the proposal.

Continue with the proposal in its current form Yes No

Continue with proposal but take into account reasonable steps to mitigate any negative impacts of the proposal	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
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Name of person completing the IIA	
Name:	Owen Ashton
Job Title:	Service Manager – Business & Regeneration
Date:	17.02.23

Head of Service / Director Approval			
Name:	Ellie Fry		
Job Title:	Corporate Director – Regeneration and Community Services		
Signature:		Date:	23.02.23

Please contact Policy & Partnerships should you require any further advice or guidance on completing your assessment via lissa.friel@blaenau-gwent.gov.uk or emma.scherptong@blaenau-gwent.gov.uk.

Agenda Item 14

Cabinet and Council only

Date signed off by the Monitoring Officer: 30.03.23

Date signed off by the Section 151 Officer: 31.03.23

Committee: **Cabinet**

Date of meeting: **19th April 2023**

Report Subject: **EAS Business Plan 2023-2025 (Consultation Version – Accessible)**

Portfolio Holder: **Cllr. Sue Edmunds, Cabinet Member for People and Education**

Report Submitted by: **Lynn Phillips, Corporate Director of Education**

Reporting Pathway								
Directorate Management Team	Corporate Leadership Team	Portfolio Holder / Chair	Governance Audit Committee	Democratic Services Committee	Scrutiny Committee	Cabinet	Council	Other (please state)
√	16.03.23	30.03.23			28.03.23	19.04.23		

1. Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 This report contains the draft EAS Business Plan 2023-2025 (June 2023 – March 2025). The consultation period for this plan is from 13th March 2023 to 19th April 2023. Through this consultative activity, Members will ensure that the plan enables bespoke support for schools and settings in Blaenau Gwent.

2. Scope and Background

- 2.1 As a result of the uncertain financial situation and funding for the EAS, Joint Executive Group (JEG) members agreed that the next iteration of the EAS Business Plan should be delayed starting in June 2023. JEG members agreed an accompanying timeline that includes a full consultation period.
- 2.2 The current Business Plan spans three years, 2022-2025, this was agreed by the Joint Executive Group (JEG) and through each Local Authority (LA) Cabinet in the summer term 2022. This document contains the next iteration of this three-year plan and covers the period from June 2023 to April 2025 (**Appendix A**).
- 2.3 This version of the EAS Business Plan is underpinned by the already agreed three-year Business Plan (**Appendix B**). It builds upon the progress and identifies priorities that have resulted from robust EAS self-evaluation processes. The plan will enable flexibility so that the specific needs within Blaenau Gwent are contributed to.
- 2.4 This consultation version of the Business Plan 2023-2025 has been constructed using the best available financial information at the time of writing. This could be subject to change once the final funding profile from local authorities and Welsh Government are known. The LA has also agreed with the EAS to establish 2 priorities over the three terms of the academic year to ensure that we can do insightful and quality work. The two priorities include reading and support for eFSM learners. The Education Directorate are also in discussion with the EAS around whether BG (and the region) can move to a cluster model of School Improvement Partner (SIP) support and look at supporting with cluster

priorities to have more joined-up thinking. This would also help with self-evaluation within our services. The LA's priorities outlined above are draft and we want to consult more widely with our schools once Action Short of Strike (ASOS) is concluded with the Trade Unions.

3. **Options for Recommendation**

3.1 This report has been approved by Education DMT and CLT.

3.2 This report will be considered by the Partnership Scrutiny Committee on 28th March 2023, and any specific comments will be provided verbally to Cabinet.

3.3 **Option 1:**

For Members to consider and accept the report and Business Plan.

3.4 **Option 2:**

For Members to consider the plan and offer specific comment for consideration by the EAS; this can be done through the meeting or via a written response back to the EAS. Written feedback on the draft Business Plan should be provided to the EAS Managing Director following the meeting. This feedback will be taken into consideration in the final version of the Business Plan.

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

4.1 The EAS is required to submit an annual overarching regional Business Plan.

4.1.1 **Education Improvement Plan (EIP) Priorities/Aims**

- Improving educational standards and wellbeing for pupils, particularly at KS4;
- Securing quality ALN/Inclusion provision, particularly to support vulnerable groups of learners and those who are eFSM;
- Transforming education in line with responsive school support services and a school estate that is fit for the 21st Century;
- Delivering effective young people and partnership provision, with a focus on lifelong learning and leisure/recreation provision to meet community need; and,
- Enhancing the performance culture for Education that delivers better educational outcomes and improved value for money.

NB. These priorities will include the response to the Estyn inspection and the 3 recommendations.

4.1.2 **Blaenau Gwent Wellbeing Plan**

The content of the EAS business plan is clearly aligned to the objectives in the Blaenau Gwent Wellbeing Plan which aims for everyone to have the best start in life. Through this plan it seeks to ensure that the education provision is appropriate and able to meet the needs of children and young people so that their progress is as good as it ought to be.

5. Implications Against Each Option

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

As noted in 2.4 - This consultation version of the Business Plan 2023-2025 has been constructed using the best available financial information at the time of writing. This could be subject to change once the final funding profile from local authorities and Welsh Government are known.

5.1.1 EAS Funding Sources:

The main funding sources to the EAS budget are:

- Annual core budget contributions from each of the 5 LAs – this fund approximately 50% of total costs.
- Annual Regional Consortia School Improvement Grant and Education Improvement Grant – grants from WG fund approximately 50% of total costs.

5.1.2 The EAS Company Board have taken a series of steps to reduce operational costs and restructure EAS staff. One of the main factors in the EAS being able to achieve the efficiencies required and increase the breath of support to schools over the past 8 years has been the increased use of the school-to-school model. The move to Headteachers undertaking the role of School Improvement Partners (SIPs) from EAS employed SIPs has realised efficiencies and brought additional benefits to the model. In addition, the use of schools to support others through our Learning Network Schools (LNS) model has enabled reductions in the core team.

5.1.3 There has been a continued reduction in the combined LA core contributions to the EAS since inception in 2012. The EAS has faced significant challenges in being able to set a balanced budget for 2023-2024. Whilst there are some discussions still being undertaken with LA partners regarding their contributions, the EAS is working on a circa 10% reduction totalling £302,132, this is set alongside cost pressures equalling a total reduction of circa £504,000 for the budget in 2023-2024. Across the region, productive discussions have taken place with Corporate Directors of Education and JEG Members about how the delivery model will look for the forthcoming year.

5.1.4 The EAS Business Plan has been constructed with a view to protecting front line services to schools and settings for 2023-2024. Additionally, a phased approach will be taken over the next 2 years to explore potential additional cost savings to the delivery model. The current approach to set a balance budget for 2023-2024 does not present a long-term sustainable funding model for the EAS and represent a short-term solution.

5.1.5 The following proposals have been devised assuming a common percentage funding model from LAs can be reached. If LAs cannot agree on a common percentage reduction in core contributions, it will be essential to demonstrate how an equitable service is being delivered for those LAs who are contributing more / less into the model.

5.1.6 The table below shows the current known position of the LA core contribution funding for 2023-2024:

Local Authority Core Contribution	2022-23	2023-24	Contribution Cut
Percentage Cut		-10%	
Blaenau Gwent	£350,046	£315,041	(TBC)
Caerphilly	£980,663	£882,597	£98,066
Monmouthshire	£403,815	£363,434	£40,382
Newport	£783,291	£704,962	£78,329
Torfaen	£503,498	£453,148	(TBC)
Total	£3,021,313	£2,719,182	

5.1.7 The EAS remains committed to work closely with LA partners to respond appropriately in the context of a collectively challenging financial position and ensuring we remain flexible to meet the needs within each LA and in schools and settings. Blaenau Gwent's savings target agreed at Full Council falls well within the 10% reduction under discussion with the EAS on a regional basis.

5.2 Risks including Mitigating Actions

In writing this plan, a number of assumptions have been made. If these are not in place, then they become a risk to the content and successful delivery of the plan. The EAS risk register will be reviewed and refined, if required, following the agreement of the final EAS Business Plan and related resource:

- The funding from both LA contributions and Welsh Government grants is sufficient to enable the effective delivery of the Business Plan.
- Professional learning has a positive impact on practice and behaviour.
- We are one part of the much wider system.
- Schools / education settings positively engage with us.
- We have the expertise, capacity and resources to undertake our activity effectively.
- When the condition in a school / education setting can secure improvement, readiness for support results in positive change.
- Our partners provide us with timely and appropriate information.
- We work with schools / education settings to ensure priorities for improvement are based on robust, accurate self-evaluation.

5.2.1 These risks are mitigated through the identification of priorities as seen in the priority areas above and within the detailed within the EAS Business Plan, Blaenau Gwent LA Plans and the Education Improvement Plan.

5.2.3 Blaenau Gwent will have its own risks linked to the delivery of the strategic objectives within their corporate plans.

5.3 Legal

The EAS is required to submit an annual overarching regional Business Plan.

5.5 **Human Resources**

None for this report.

6. **Supporting Evidence**

6.1 Last year the EAS reviewed how we constructed and communicated our Business Plan. We decided it was timely to review and adapt our processes to make them more accessible to a wider audience. The EAS used a new approach to help us articulate the changes and impact we want to make as the regional school improvement service for South-East Wales and the connections and actions needed that will allow that change and impact to be successfully achieved.

6.1.1 This year we have further refined our success criteria so that we can better report on the impact of our work so that it aligns more explicitly to the EAS vision of developing all schools as learning organisations. We have made sure that our own evaluations, trends in school and LA needs and priorities, national policy and inspection findings are captured. These directly inform our priorities and success criteria.

6.1.2 We have also strengthened the plan by including a Partnership Annex that is specific to each LA's needs and priorities for the coming year. This section is also draft and further discussion is required with LA Officers to reach a final version. This will also be significantly determined by the EAS final financial position for 2023-2024.

6.1.3 We have prioritised our high level and high-risk areas, and further details and activities are in our Detailed Delivery Plans. We have captured several important 'Assumptions: Processes that should be in place' for each Business Plan priority to ensure this activity is visible in the system and that expectations are clear.

6.1.4 We fully recognise the importance of collaboration and fostering effective partnerships with the local authority and schools to realise the full potential of our actions. The plan identifies the aspects that the EAS would request that the local authority undertake to support the delivery of this plan.

6.1.5 As we review our work in schools, we are looking for indicators to demonstrate:

- Changes/ Improvements at leadership and governance levels;
- Improved teaching and learning;
- School wide improvement in policy and practice;
- Learner progress
- Growing capacity in the system.

6.1.6 Our expectations are clear and are set out in the EAS Business Plan success criteria and in our vision and values.

6.1.7 The EAS uses three models to help us frame the Intent, Implementation and Impact of our work. This model allows us to use a common language to plan, implement and evaluate the impact of the work of the EAS in schools and settings across Blaenau Gwent.

- 6.1.8 **EAS Business Plan: Success Criteria 2023-2025**
Welsh Government have set out 8 contributory factors to support schools to navigate the changing education landscape. These factors describe the key attributes that schools that are successfully realising the curriculum will possess.
- 6.1.9 These describe the factors that support reform and which, where absent, are likely to act as barriers to success. The factors cover learner progress and the curriculum itself, as well as wider processes and priorities. The factors are captured below and are interwoven into our priorities for 2023-2025.
- 6.1.10 As part of our work to develop a strong approach to evaluation, and in particular the evaluation of learning, the EAS has developed a guide to help identify the wide range of evidence available for review and analysis. This builds on the work to look at the intent, implementation and impact of our interventions. It will support both School Improvement Partners and schools to consider how best to respond to the WG guidance quoted above. In particular, how to build the enabling conditions around the Curriculum for Wales and define its impact through embedded and accurate reflection and self-evaluation. Our approach to evaluating learning will focus on progress, attainment, wellbeing, social capital and equity and fairness.
- 6.1.11 The final version of this iteration of the 3-year plan will be accompanied by a detailed delivery plan which incorporates timescales, resource implications, accountabilities and evaluation. In addition, the evaluation following the Quarter 4 review of progress from the current Business Plan will be added in the final version of the new plan.
- 6.1.12 Following the consultation period and certainty on the EAS funding position, this draft plan will be updated, and the final version will be presented to JEG for final agreement on 24th May 2023.
- 6.2 **Expected outcome for the public**
High Quality education is a fundamental pre-requisite of ensuring future local and national prosperity through the provision of an informed and well-educated workforce and society. The Local Authority's statutory role to monitor and evaluate school performance and the quality of provision, coupled with its statutory powers of intervention in schools causing concern is fundamental to ensuring that all schools provide high quality education provision.
- 6.3 **Involvement (consultation, engagement, participation)**
Involvement of partners is fundamental to securing and sustaining school improvement. The statutory framework advocates this and the work of the Local authority, its commissioned school improvement service (EAS) and schools evidences the positive impact of working in this way.
- 6.4 **Thinking for the Long term (forward planning)**
The EAS Business Plan that is being consulted upon for 2023/2024 aligns to the strategic priorities within Blaenau Gwent.

6.5 **Preventative focus**

A key element of the Council's work is to monitor settings and ensure appropriate support to secure continuing high standards. Estyn Inspection reports reflect the extent to which settings and Local Authorities has been effective in achieving this.

6.6 **Collaboration / partnership working**

Educational improvement in Blaenau Gwent is delivered on a regional basis through the South East Wales Consortium in collaboration with Caerphilly, Monmouthshire, Newport, Torfaen and Blaenau-Gwent Councils.

6.7 **Integration (across service areas)**

The Estyn Inspection Framework is aimed at promoting high standards and high-quality education provision. This aim is fundamental to the Council's well-being objectives and is fundamental to the joint work between Education and Social Services Directorates.

6.8 **Decarbonisation and Reducing Carbon Emissions**

No specific impact related to this report.

6.9 **Integrated Impact Assessment**

Not required for this report.

7. **Monitoring Arrangements**

7.1 The EAS is required to submit to the Business Plan to Welsh Government, this plan covers the period 2023-2025. The progress on the implementation and impact of the Business Plan and the related LA Partnership Annex will be reported formally to the Joint Executive Group and Company Board. These reports, as in previous years, will be suitable for scrutiny activity at local authority and national level. In addition, the progress made towards the implementation of key actions will be reported at each meeting of the Joint Executive Group and Company Board.

Background Documents /Electronic Links

Appendix A - Education Achievement Service: Annual iteration - Business Plan 2023-2025 (Consultation Version – Accessible)

Appendix B - Education Achievement Service: Current Overarching 3-year Business Plan 2022-2025

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Regional Business Plan 2023-2025

(June 2023 - March 2025)

Consultation Version
(March 2023)



Forward

The Educational Achievement Service (EAS) is the school improvement service of the five local authorities in South East Wales: Blaenau Gwent, Caerphilly, Monmouthshire, Newport and Torfaen.

The EAS is owned by the five Councils and operates within a robust governance structure which is populated by representative Elected Members from each Council. The EAS has been in operation since September 2012 and has undergone many changes during this period.

Through the commissioning of the three-year regional Business Plan the EAS delivers key school improvement support to all schools and educational settings across the South East Wales region. The EAS endeavours to work in partnership local authorities, schools and settings and wider stakeholders, ensuring that service delivery remains of a consistently high standard and meets the needs of the system. The service welcomes external expertise and challenge to support continued improvement and will remain agile and responsive to regional need.

EAS Values:

Integrity: Doing what is right and delivering what we promise by providing a high support and high challenge environment.

Innovation: We promise an innovative culture and attitude. We will challenge and aim for excellence in all we do.

Collaboration: We value everyone and work together to achieve our vision.

Contents

Section		Page
1	Introduction	2
2	Impact: Key features of school improvement	3
3	School Improvement	4
4	Delivery approach: Universal, Targeted and Intensive	5
5	Self-Evaluation: Progress towards current EAS Business Plan 2022-2025	6
6	EAS Business Plan: Success Criteria 2023-2024	7
7	EAS Business Plan: Activity 2023-2024	8
	Priority 1: School Improvement	9
	Priority 2: Leadership and Teaching	10
	Priority 3: Curriculum for Wales	11
	Priority 4: Health Wellbeing and Equity	12
	Priority 5: School Governance	13
	Priority 6: EAS Organisational Foundations	14
8	EAS Business Plan: LA Partnership Working 2023-2024 (draft)	15
	Blaenau Gwent	15
	Caerphilly	16
	Monmouthshire	17
	Newport	18
	Torfaen	19

1. Introduction

Last year we reviewed how we constructed and communicated our Business Plan. We decided it was timely to review and adapt our processes to make them more accessible to a wider audience. We used a new approach to help us articulate the changes and impact we want to make as the regional school improvement service for South East Wales and the connections and actions needed that will allow that change and impact to be successfully achieved.

The current Business Plan spans three years, 2022-2025, this was agreed by the Joint Executive Group (JEG) and through each Local Authority (LA) Cabinet in the summer term 2022. This document contains the next iteration of this three-year plan and covers the period from June 2023 to April 2025.

This year we have further refined our success criteria so that we can better report on the impact of our work so that it aligns more explicitly to the EAS vision of developing all schools as learning organisations. We have made sure that our own evaluations, trends in school and local authorities needs and priorities, national policy and inspection findings are captured. These directly inform our priorities and success criteria. We have also included a Partnership Annex that is specific to each local authority's needs and priorities for the coming year.

We have prioritised our high level and high-risk areas, and further details and activities are in our Detailed Delivery Plans. We have captured several important 'Assumptions: Processes that should be in place' for each Business Plan priority to ensure this activity is visible in the system. This means that we can make sure we undertake the range of statutory activities on behalf of local authorities as well as measure the penetration of our work and track individuals' and schools' development and engagement.

We fully recognise the strength of our collaboration and partnerships with stakeholders and our role in working increasingly together, so we have identified, as in our monitoring arrangements how we are dependent on effective joint working to succeed.

2. Impact: Key features of school improvement

As we review our work in schools, we are looking for indicators to demonstrate change at leadership and governance levels; improved teaching and learning; school and setting wide improvement in policy and practice; learner progress and growing capacity in the system. Our expectations are clear and set out in the EAS Business Plan success criteria, our vision and values.

The EAS uses three research informed models to consider three important questions that helps frame the Intent, Implementation and Impact approach as outlined below. Each model allows us to use a common language to plan, implement and evaluate the impact of the work of the EAS.

1. What are we trying to achieve?
2. Where are we?
3. How will we know?



INTENT

What are we trying to do? What is our intention? This considers what characterises effective school improvement and helps frame clear success criteria to measure impact against.



IMPLEMENTATION

Where are we on this improvement partnership journey? How can we evaluate where we are and where we go next? Where are we in the implementation of our organisational change journey? Is this supporting the school to become an effective learning organisation?



IMPACT

What impact are we having on an individual or organisational improvement journey? What first hand evidence can we use to capture progress and impact of professional learning? How long with this impact take, over what time scales can we expect to see impact? Are schools and settings better placed to lead and evaluate their own progress and plan for ongoing improvement? Is there an improvement in learners outcomes?

3. School Improvement

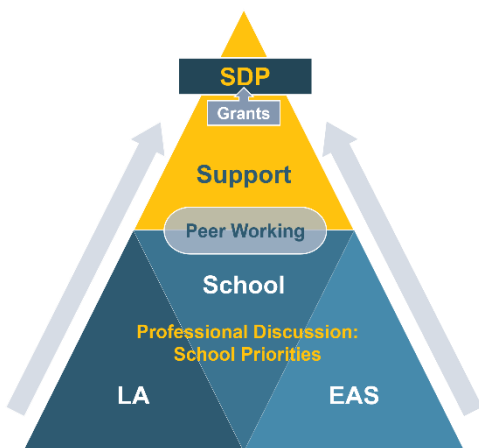
In August 2022 WG published the School Improvement Guidance: Framework for evaluation, improvement and accountability, which aims to:

- strengthen the effectiveness of self-evaluation and improvement planning by schools
- replace the national categorisation system with a similar support process that does not require the publication of school categories
- strengthen and provide clarity about the separation between evaluation / improvement activities and the accountability system
- clearly assign the roles and responsibilities of different bodies in a self-improving system.

This guidance provides a new point of reference for schools, pupil referral units, local authorities, diocesan authorities, regional consortia and Estyn, which outlines Welsh Governments expectations of these organisations in contributing to school improvement, in the context of their wider legal duties.

Within the context of Curriculum for Wales, the Welsh Government guidance aims to foster sustainable school improvement through a clear framework for evaluation, improvement and accountability. The majority of energy and focus in the system should be on delivering school improvement, guided by effective self-evaluation, improvement planning and support in all schools. To be successful, it is crucial that all aspects of the school system are aligned with and support the Curriculum for Wales along with its underlying principles.

The regional model for school improvement has been designed with all partners and includes:



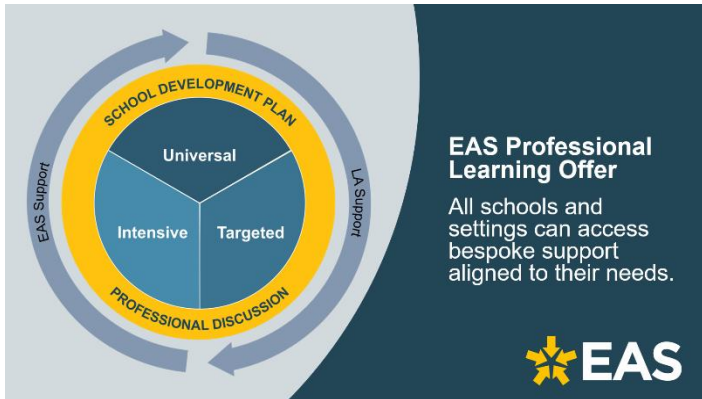
Local authorities and EAS will participate in a professional discussion with schools regarding their priorities for improvement and the progress the school is making towards them.

This process is cyclical and supports schools to determine and / or review their priorities in line with their self-evaluation processes.

The discussion also helps to determine the ongoing support needs of the school from each local authority and EAS and identify practice worth sharing.

All schools can access bespoke support aligned to their needs and priorities within their School Development Plan (SDP) which can be appropriately designed, co-constructed and facilitated in a flexible way.

4. Delivery approach: Universal, Targeted and Intensive



Universal Offer: All schools have access to a universal offer of support from their SIP (School Improvement Partner) and wider teams, focused on the school development plan. Schools have access to a wide range of professional learning opportunities and professional networks across a range of areas to include school leadership, support for teaching and learning and support for wellbeing. This also includes access to support from Professional Learning (PL) and Learning Network Schools (LNS). It is for schools to determine the most appropriate parts of the universal offer that most appropriately meet their needs.

Targeted Offer: This is in addition to the universal offer which is tailored and designed specifically to individual school or cluster needs. This can be brokered through the SIP and could come from the EAS and /or the local authority.

Intensive Offer: This is tailored, ongoing support for a school on an individual basis, with a focus on leadership and improving the quality of teaching and learning. This is coordinated wraparound support, usually provided by a Learning Network School, School to School model and / or intensive support from wider teams. This offer will be differentiated according to need and will usually be over a sustained period. Support will be reduced when improvement is sustained and embedded.

Team Around the Cluster



- Principal School Improvement Partner Cluster Link
- Curriculum Partner / Professional Learning Partner Link
- Governor Support Link



Team Around the Cluster:

In line with our vision to support collaboration and innovation, we will enhance our work with clusters of schools and align our resources accordingly. This will further support building capacity to more effectively support the progress that learners make.



Education Achievement Service
Gwasanaeth Cyflawni Addysg

5. Self-Evaluation: Progress towards current EAS Business Plan 2022-2025

EAS Business Plan 2022 - 2023: Evaluation and Impact Report (Quarter 4: May 2023) – this will be added in the final version of the new plan.

6. EAS Business Plan: Success Criteria 2023-2024

Welsh Government have set out 8 contributory factors to support schools to navigate the changing education landscape. These factors describe the key attributes that schools that are successfully realising the curriculum will possess. These describe the factors that support reform and which, where absent, are likely to act as barriers to success. The factors cover learner progress and the curriculum itself, as well as wider processes and priorities. The factors are captured below and are interwoven into our priorities for 2023-2024.

1. Enabling all learners, and in particular those from disadvantaged backgrounds, to progress along their own learning pathway and raise their aspirations to achieve their full potential; allied to a range of assessment approaches to understand and support this progress.
2. Co-constructing a curriculum, in line with the Curriculum for Wales Framework, which promotes a broad range of knowledge, skills and experiences (including social and interactional experiences) with a clear understanding of why these matter.
3. Ensuring the school environment supports learners' and practitioners' well-being.
4. Supporting practitioners' understanding of what works in curriculum design by investing in the enquiry and pedagogic skills of all staff.
5. Enabling ambitious professional learning for all practitioners in a school dedicated to being a learning organisation.
6. Embedding reflection, self-evaluation and improvement within schools, with good school leadership as a pre-condition for that.
7. Being at the heart of their communities - building better relationships between schools and families, communities and employers, to support and promote educational achievement and excellent employment, next steps education and training.
8. Listening to children and young people as they engage with their learning and supporting them in achieving their aspirations.

As factors that contribute to curriculum realisation, they should inform schools' understanding about what successful realisation of the Curriculum for Wales is likely to involve, as well as being an important reference for schools when evaluating their own curriculum realisation and deciding where and how they need to improve. They are not designed to be an exhaustive checklist for schools. They do however offer a consistent framework for use across Wales.

The self-evaluation and improvement cycle is central in enabling schools to continually develop and improve their practice: to give all learners the best possible learning experiences and outcomes, whatever their background or circumstance, and in order to achieve high standards and aspirations for all. Welsh Government have co-constructed the National Resource:

Evaluation and Improvement to support schools in undertaking robust, evidence-based self-evaluation. Within the School Improvement guidance, Welsh Government recognise the new national priorities which schools must have regard to when setting their improvement priorities which are:

- Improving pupils' progression by ensuring their learning is supported by a range of knowledge, skills and experience;
- Reducing the impact of poverty on learners' progression and attainment.

As part of our work to develop a strong approach to evaluation, and in particular the evaluation of learning, the EAS has developed a guide to help identify the wide range of evidence available for review and analysis. This builds on the work to look at the intent, implementation and impact of our interventions. It will support both School Improvement Partners and schools to consider how best to respond to the WG guidance quoted above. In particular, how to build the enabling conditions around the Curriculum for Wales and define its impact through embedded and accurate reflection and self-evaluation. Our approach to evaluating learning will focus on progress, attainment, wellbeing, social capital and equity and fairness.

7. EAS Business Plan: Activity 2023-2024

This section details the activities that will take place during 2023-2024. Each section has a set of success criteria which contributes to the overarching vision that we have for 2025. The support across each area is interrelated and should not be viewed in isolation, this section will be accompanied by a detailed plan that links to accountability arrangements, timescales and resources.

Priority 1: School Improvement

Priority 2: Leadership and Teaching

Priority 3: Curriculum for Wales

Priority 4: Health Wellbeing and Equity

Priority 5: School Governance

Priority 6: EAS Organisational Foundations

Priority 1: School Improvement: Provide bespoke support to local authorities, schools and educational settings (PRUs and Non-Maintained Nursery settings) that promotes peer collaboration and cluster working through a high support, high challenge model that fosters the development of an effective learning organisation.

Success Criteria	LA Partnership Working
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Schools and educational settings accessing the universal, targeted or intensive offer, receive timely support aligned to their improvement priorities and demonstrate progress overtime. 2. Self-evaluation activity identifies areas of strength and bespoke support needs for all schools and educational settings enabling the EAS and local authorities to know schools and educational settings well. 3. All schools and educational settings make progress against their inspection recommendations and identified improvement priorities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Engage in sessions to review, refine and co-construct regional processes and policies. • Share relevant and appropriate information that supports a holistic view of each school in a timely and systematic way. • Organise Professional Discussions in line with the regional guidance. • Identify schools who require a Team Around the School (TAS) approach in line with the regional guidance. • Document local authority support within the Support Plan and Notes of Activity as appropriate. • Support schools and settings with additional support which is outside the scope of the EAS role and responsibilities. • In partnership with the EAS, review the capacity of Headteachers to work as SIPs to support a self improving system.

Assumptions: Processes that should be in place

- All schools and educational settings engage in professional discussions that enable the sharing of effective practice.
- All schools and educational settings have a bespoke support plan aligned to their identified priorities for improvement which is shared with the governing body on an annual basis.
- All schools and educational settings engage in regular supported self-evaluation activity.
- There are robust performance management arrangements in place for Headteachers.
- Estyn reports are co-constructed with local authorities for schools in statutory categories.
- Monthly partnership meetings are held with local authorities to meet accountability arrangements.
- Where appropriate, leaders, schools and educational settings are encouraged to work collaboratively within and beyond their own cluster to support improvement and develop system leadership.

Priority 2: Leadership and Teaching: Provide professional learning and support for the continuous development and growth of leadership and teaching across the entire workforce (Leaders, teachers and teaching assistants), to enable the development of an effective learning organisation.

Success Criteria	LA Partnership Working
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The workforce is supported by a professional learning offer and networking opportunities which promotes continuous learning opportunities and contributes to improvements in teaching and leadership. 2. Schools and educational settings requiring targeted or intensive support, receive timely and appropriate professional learning which leads to improvements in teaching and leadership. 3. Practitioners who access agile leadership and/or coaching and mentoring professional learning develop improved approaches within their own schools and settings. 4. Effective partnership working reduces the impact of potential recruitment and retention challenges. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage leaders to engage in regional processes to strengthen accurate self-evaluation and improvement planning and in the regional Celebrate, Share, Support and Refine (CSSR) processes. • Promote the regional teaching and learning offer for all practitioners (Leaders, teachers and teaching assistants). • Provide access to appropriate and relevant data about trends in staffing, particularly recruitment and retention. • Promote the regional Talent Management Approach for all schools and encourage schools, to engage in Initial Teacher Education (ITE) placements, where capacity allows. • Welsh in Education Strategic Plans (WESP) address challenges in recruitment and retention. • Support the work of professional learning and learning network schools. Identify schools that demonstrate any barriers to engagement in the regional professional learning offer. • Encourage appropriate schools to engage in ITE partnership across Wales. • Engage in the endorsement of candidates that meet the Aspiring Headteacher and preparation for National Professional Qualification for Headship (NPQH) threshold.

Assumptions: Processes that should be in place

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All schools access valuable professional learning aligned to their own school priorities. • A sustainable supply of high-quality ITE placements are provided. • All schools have robust statutory induction support for newly qualified teachers (NQTs). • Higher Level Teaching Assistant assessment (HLTA) Status and NPQH assessment processes meet requirements. • All Curriculum for Wales professional learning schools and learning network schools adhere to their annual workplan on behalf of the EAS. • Where appropriate, leaders, schools and educational settings are encouraged to work collaboratively within and beyond their own cluster to support improvement and develop system leadership.

Priority 3: Curriculum for Wales: Provide professional learning and support for schools and educational settings (PRUs and Non-Maintained Nursery Settings) to realise Curriculum for Wales (CfW) and to enable them to become effective learning organisations within and beyond clusters.

Page 460

Success Criteria	LA Partnership Working
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The workforce is supported by a professional learning offer and networking opportunities for curriculum for Wales that supports and contributes to improvements in curriculum design, subject disciplines, teaching, skills development and learning. 2. All schools and educational settings have appropriate arrangements in place to review and evaluate their curriculum provision and its impact on learner progress. 3. Schools and educational settings requiring targeted or intensive support for curriculum implementation, receive timely and appropriate professional learning that enhances provision and learning. 4. The provision for Welsh and bilingualism is developing both strategically and operationally in all English medium schools from the current position. 5. Work in clusters is benefiting learners, teachers and the wider system as collaboration and sharing enhances school's own improvement priorities in relation to the developments in curriculum provision. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Determine where slow progress is undermining schools' ability to deliver the agreed syllabus as part of curriculum for Wales. • Work collaboratively to determine where there may be risks to Welsh in Education delivery targets. • Promote and support the regional and national professional learning offer for curriculum for Wales. • Support the Religion and Values Education (RVE) partner to ensure effective operation of local Standing Advisory Councils for Religion, Values and Ethics (SACs). Identify where mandatory aspects and the agreed syllabus are not yet fully embedded. • Work collaboratively to review the work of schools and educational settings undertaking the role of learning network schools, and their capacity to support a school improving system.

Assumptions: Processes that should be in place

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All schools and educational settings have processes in place to ensure that the mandatory aspects of the curriculum for Wales framework support curriculum provision. • All schools and educational settings follow the agreed syllabus to ensure that the mandatory requirements of RVE and Relationships and Sexuality Education (RSE) are met and support curriculum provision. • Provision for Welsh enables a progressive pathway to qualifications in Welsh / through the medium of Welsh, including post 16, and opportunities for learners to use Welsh in different contexts in schools and educational settings (formal and informal). • All Curriculum for Wales professional learning schools and learning network schools adhere to their annual workplan on behalf of the EAS. • Where appropriate, leaders, schools and educational settings are encouraged to work collaboratively within and beyond their own cluster to support improvement and system leadership.
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Priority 4: Health Wellbeing and Equity: Provide professional learning and support for health, wellbeing and equity to improve the outcomes of vulnerable and disadvantaged learners supporting the development of effective learning organisations.

Success Criteria	LA Partnership Working
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. All schools and educational settings have an appropriate vision and approach to health, wellbeing and equity. This integrated and responsive approach is reflected in each school's SDP and teaching and learning strategies. 2. Schools and educational settings requiring targeted or intensive support, receive timely and appropriate professional learning in relation to Health, Wellbeing and Equity that supports improvement in the educational attainment and wellbeing outcomes of vulnerable and disadvantaged learners. 3. Professional learning, support and guidance assists schools to develop systems and processes to reduce the impact of poverty on vulnerable and disadvantaged learners. 4. Schools' own evaluations of provision, teaching and learning for vulnerable and disadvantaged learners are appropriately informed by the professional learning provided. As a result, whole school strategic interventions are responding to learner needs and are improving attitudes to learning and leading to better progress. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure that the EAS and local authority services are joined up to support the regional provision for Health, Wellbeing and Equity. • Support the review and impact of the use of Pupil Development Grant (PDG). • Identify schools and educational settings who require additional support and share relevant information. • Promote and support the regional and national professional learning offer. • Support the EAS in keeping under review learning network school capacity to support the wider system sharing information where relevant.

Assumptions: Processes that should be in place

- There are clear roles and responsibilities between the EAS and each local authority for the provision of support for Health, Wellbeing and Equity so that schools and educational settings are clear about where to access support.
- All schools and educational settings comply with the policy directive to prioritise health and wellbeing and community focussed schools in their SDPs.
- All schools and educational settings comply with PDG grant terms and condition requirements.
- All Curriculum for Wales professional learning and learning network schools adhere to their annual workplan on behalf of the EAS.
- Where appropriate, leaders, schools and educational settings are encouraged to work collaboratively within and beyond their own cluster to support improvement and system leadership.

Priority 5: School Governance: Provide a broad range of professional learning, support, advice and guidance, that has a positive impact on developing governance and its role in the development of schools as effective learning organisations.

Success Criteria	LA Partnership Working
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Professional Learning (PL) and networking enables governors to impact positively on school leadership and governance. 2. Governing Bodies accurately evaluate the impact of their work on the development of the school, using the self-evaluation tool to identify their own development needs. 3. Where schools require targeted or intensive support, the Governing Body is supported to understand both the implications and the support available, so that they can demonstrate a positive impact on leadership. 4. Governing Bodies knowledge and understanding of their school is improved through the provision of the SIP Annual Report detailing the support that is being provided to the school. 5. When required, Chairs of Governors engage with advice and support from the Regional Specialist HR service, through the school improvement team, so that they are able to support the development of school leadership. 6. The Service Level Agreement provides a comprehensive range of support services to support governing bodies in meeting their core responsibilities and statutory requirements. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide local authority specific professional learning for governors. • Communicate support needs for specific governing bodies, to help target professional learning and support. • Encourage governing bodies to engage with the self-evaluation process. • Provide appropriate local authority input into statutory processes as required. • Consider the suitability of any applications for local authority governors, through usual governor appointment processes. • Take action to support recruitment or amend arrangements in governing bodies, where required. • Take action to support the recruitment of governors, amending arrangements in governing bodies, where required. • Ensure that they are satisfied, as per Welsh Government Guidance, that all schools have an adequate complaints procedure.

Assumptions: Processes that should be in place

- All newly appointed governors attend mandatory training within the stipulated timescales and are supported by a mentor from within the governing body. Non-compliance is reported to the relevant chair of governors and LA.
- Where a Governing Body has more than three vacancies for over a term, does not hold three meetings in a year, or does not hold an Annual General Meeting the chair of governors, headteacher and LA are informed.
- All governing bodies have an 'adequate complaints procedure that is publicised' based on revised Welsh Government Guidance (December 2022).

Priority 6: EAS Organisational Foundations: Provide a lean, efficient organisational infrastructure which delivers on our agreed priorities to support all schools and educational settings to be thriving, learning organisations.

Success Criteria	LA Partnership Working
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The financial and operational delivery model enables effective delivery of the regional school improvement model. 2. A balanced year end budget is achieved through effective financial management. 3. Timely progress is made towards the Business Plan priorities demonstrating impact and value for money. 4. Processes for self-evaluation and impact capture are used well to inform strengths and areas for improvement. 5. Processes for performance management and professional learning enable a skilled and effective workforce. 6. Effective systems enable the collation of a range of information on schools and educational settings to be used to support improvement. 7. Effective partnership working including national and cross regional work contributes to system wide improvement in Wales and beyond. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local authorities are committed to financing and supporting a sustainable regional model for school improvement. • Support effective governance arrangements through engagement and attendance. • Engage in consultation and self-evaluation processes, as appropriate.

Assumptions: Processes that should be in place

- The EAS is an agile and responsive organisation providing bespoke and flexible support to local authorities.
- The EAS values and develops transparent and productive relationships with all partners.
- The EAS regular reviews all systems and processes to ensure they consider workload implications.
- A robust governance model is in operation with optimal attendance and engagement.
- The EAS complies with all legal requirements as an employer and as a company.
- The EAS engages in a broad range of internal and external audits that support improvement.

8. EAS Business Plan: LA Partnership Working 2023-2024 (draft and for further discussion)

LA Partnership Working in Blaenau Gwent 2023-2024

LA Priorities and Success Criteria	EAS targeted actions agreed with LA
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maximise learning and skills for all to create a prosperous, thriving, resilient Blaenau Gwent. Respond to the nature and climate crisis and enable connected communities, An ambitious and innovative council delivering quality services at the right time and in the right place, Empowering and supporting communities to be safe, independent and resilient. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support for becoming a Raising the Achievement of Disadvantaged Youngsters (RADY) local authority. CSSR approach to be undertaken in identified schools, to establish specific aspects for support. To include all schools with Special Needs Resource Bases. LA officers to join the CSSR process in schools with Special Needs Resource Bases. LA officers to join supported self-evaluation activity in identified schools causing concern.

LA Estyn Recommendations
<p>November 2022:</p> <p>R1 Improve the corporate leadership of education services.</p> <p>R2 Improve the quality of self-evaluation, strategic planning and performance management.</p> <p>R3 Accelerate improvements in provision for secondary age pupils in schools causing concern.</p>

LA Education Strategy Priorities
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improving educational standards and wellbeing for pupils, particularly at KS4. Securing quality ALN/Inclusion provision, particularly to support vulnerable groups of learners and those who are eFSM. Transforming education in line with responsive school support services and a school estate that is fit for the 21st Century. Delivering effective young people and partnership provision, with a focus on lifelong learning and leisure/recreation provision to meet community need. Enhancing the performance culture for Education and Leisure that delivers better educational outcomes and improved value for money.

LA Themes

Autumn 2023	Spring 2024	Summer 2024
How effectively do schools plan for the teaching of reading that secures good pupil progress?	How effectively do schools plan for the teaching of reading that secures good pupil progress?	How effectively do schools plan for teaching that secures good progress for vulnerable learners?

Reporting impact: EAS Stats and Stories

Autumn 2023	Spring 2024	Summer 2024
What arrangements are schools making to assess and monitor pupil progress and how effectively is this used to plan for improvements in provision and progress?	How effectively do schools plan for the teaching of reading that secures good pupil progress?	How effectively do schools plan for the teaching of reading that secures good pupil progress?

Page 464



EAS

Education Achievement Service
for South East Wales
Gwasanaeth Cyflawni Addysg
i Dde Ddwyrain Cymru



Education Achievement Service Regional Business Plan

April 2022 - March 2025

(Consultation Version - Accessible)



Contents

Section	Focus	Page
1	Regional Context	4
2	Introduction	5
3	Our Approach	8
4	EAS Business Plan Activities 2022-2023	12
5	Delivery arrangements and resources for 2022-2023	16
6	Additional Supporting Documents	18

The Educational Achievement Service (EAS) is the school improvement service of the five local authorities in South East Wales: Blaenau Gwent, Caerphilly, Monmouthshire, Newport and Torfaen.

The EAS is owned by the five Councils and operates within a robust governance structure which is populated by representative Elected Members from each Council.

The EAS has been in operation since September 2012 and has undergone many changes during this period. Through the commissioning of an annual Business Plan the EAS delivers key school improvement support to all schools and educational settings across the South East Wales region.

The EAS endeavours to work in partnership local authorities, schools and settings and wider stakeholders, ensuring that service delivery remains of a consistently high standard and meets the needs of the system. The service welcomes external expertise and challenge to support continued improvement and will remain agile and responsive to regional need.

Section 1: Regional Context

Key regional facts and figures

- The number of pupils of compulsory school age within the region in 2021 was 73,324. This represents 19.3% of all pupils in Wales.
- There are 237 maintained schools in the region (which includes 4 pupil referral units), 15.8% of all maintained schools in Wales (EAS figure correct from September 2021, Wales figure from Pupil Level Annual School Census (PLASC), 2021).
- There are 21 Welsh medium primary schools, 3 Welsh medium secondary, 17 Roman Catholic and 11 Church in Wales schools within the region
- The percentage of pupils of compulsory school age who are eligible for free school meals (FSM) is 24.8%. This level of eligibility is the second highest of the four regional consortia with Central South Consortium highest with 25.1% (PLASC, 2021).
- In the region, 10% of people aged three and over say that they can speak Welsh compared to the Wales average of 19% (2011 Census, ONS).
- The percentage of pupils aged 5 or over from an ethnic minority background is 11.8%.
- Based on local authority reported numbers (March 2021), 847 children in the region are looked after (LAC) by a local authority and attend a school in the region. An additional 54 Looked After Children are educated in schools in England. (This data is no longer collected in PLASC).

Overview of regional school governors (As at 15/02/22)

Local Authority	Number of school governors
Blaenau Gwent	321
Caerphilly	1096
Monmouthshire	446
Newport	784
Torfaen -	399
EAS	3046

Overview of school numbers in the region Jan 2022

Blaenau Gwent (31.4% FSM)

- 3 Non-maintained Nursery Settings
- 19 Primary (1 Welsh medium, 3 Roman Catholic, 1 Church in Wales)
- 2 Secondary
- 2 Special
- 2 3-16

Caerphilly (24.9% FSM)

- 14 Non-maintained Nursery Settings
- 63 Primary (11 Welsh medium, 1 Roman Catholic)
- 6 Infant
- 4 Junior
- 11 Secondary (1 Welsh medium)
- 1 Special
- 1 Pupil Referral Unit
- 1 3-18

Monmouthshire (16.6% FSM)

- 26 Non-maintained Nursery Settings
- 30 Primary (2 Welsh medium, 6 Church in Wales, 2 Roman Catholic)
- 4 Secondary
- 1 Pupil Referral Service

Newport (23.1% FSM)

- 23 Non-maintained Nursery Settings
- 1 Nursery
- 44 Primary (4 Welsh medium, 2 Church in Wales, 6 Roman Catholic)
- 9 Secondary (1 Welsh medium, 1 Roman Catholic)
- 2 Special
- 1 Pupil Referral Unit

Torfaen (30.0% FSM)

- 15 Non-maintained Nursery Setting
- 25 Primary (3 Welsh medium, 2 Church in Wales, 3 Roman Catholic)
- 6 Secondary (1 Welsh medium, 1 Roman Catholic)
- 1 Special
- 1 Pupil Referral Service

Overview of regional school / PRU staffing

Local Authority	Number of Teaching Staff	Number of Support Staff
Blaenau Gwent	502	552
Caerphilly	1,580	1,416
Monmouthshire	661	626
Newport	1,508	1,346
Torfaen	761	739
EAS	5,012	4,679

Section 2: Introduction

As an organisation we have reviewed how we have written the Business Plan and communicated this to our partners. We decided it was timely to review and adapt this process and to make it more accessible to a wider audience. We have used the 'Theory of Change' approach to help us articulate the changes and impact we want to make as the regional school improvement service for South East Wales and the connections and actions needed that will allow that change and impact to be successfully achieved. This Business Plan spans a three-year period and will receive annual reviews each year.

However, this plan also considers how schools and educational settings continue to face the challenges of the pandemic. The EAS will remain sensitive and responsive to the needs of the workforce and will continue to be a highly supportive, reflective, and responsive organisation.

The EAS will build upon what has worked well during this period, particularly the aspects of our role that have been successful within the virtual environment. The support that the EAS will offer will fully align to the expectations set by local authorities, Welsh Government (WG) and links to emerging research. The pandemic has reminded us that positive change is and has been possible. Schools, settings and the EAS have seized opportunities to explore innovative ways of working and delivering meaningful learning experiences through a creative blended learning approach. These experiences should be built upon to avoid a 'snap back,' keeping the positive learning that has been developed during this time.

Stats and Stories from 2020-2021

- Nearly all (98%) agreed or strongly agreed (46%) that the blended learning masterclass has directly brought about advances in knowledge, skills and/or practice. It has prompted reflection on beliefs and attitudes regarding professional practice.
- Over 90% of leaders agree that the EAS provides high quality professional learning that supports for Leadership and Teaching, access to inspirational guest speakers , digital support and access to an equitable national leadership offer.
- Nearly all schools are Adverse Childhood Experience (ACE) Aware
- Over 100 School Improvement Partners (SIP) from both within and beyond the region are current serving Headteachers who are contributing to the self-improving system and the Schools as Learning Organisations (SLO) agenda.
- Sharing of best practice events highlighting key learning and good practice during the pandemic involving international speakers.
- Strong Learning Network school to school provision has been secured for schools who require high levels of support. This support is holistic and addresses leadership and improving the quality of teaching.
- The development of a growing bank of case studies evidencing examples of school improvement and turnaround leadership.
- Enhanced schools' ability to network and share practice. Curriculum for Wales (CfW) Teaching and Learning Development Group has over 380 members and the Progression and Assessment Development Group has 340 members.

- 150 schools have accessed the CfW professional learning (PL) programme to support senior leaders and headteachers.
- Over the last 3 years 59 people in the EAS region have successfully met National Professional Qualification for Headship (NPQH). The average pass rate over the last three years is 76%.
- 2020/ 2021 58 Higher Level Teaching Assistant (HLTA) achieved the status, a 98% pass rate, building capacity in schools
- Governing Body meetings moved online from the end of March 2020. In the subsequent 18 months over 1800 meetings were clerked, an average of 31 each week in term time.
- We have able to connect with more governors than ever across the region, offering a virtual Professional Learning (training) programme from Summer 2020. Since then, we have delivered over 130 virtual events for governors, with over 2000 individual attendances.
- Since Autumn 2019 across the EAS over 500 participants have accessed the Middle Leadership Development Programme. Nearly 900 evaluative comments have been received about the PL experience.

We will continue to research, refine, respond and reflect to school needs. Our established networks will continue to be the mechanism of communicating with schools and settings. The Supporting our Schools website will continue to be the 'go to place' for all resources and guidance materials.

The EAS understands the need to over communicate with clarity to provide reassurance regarding advice, guidance, support and expectations. As a result, the EAS will work with local authorities to minimise any unnecessary bureaucracy for schools and settings to ensure they are able to focus on their important priorities and their support for learners.

The timing, delivery and focus of the support will be carefully considered in respect of the challenges that are likely to continue.

Section 3: Our Approach

The Theory of Change approach

This approach begins with asking why we are doing what we do in the EAS (our vision) and reinforces the need for the development of a collective regional vision, so that we are all clear about what we are trying to achieve and each other's respective roles in this. The EAS will work collaboratively with local authority partners, wider partners and schools and educational settings to implement the Business Plan.

Why? What are we aiming to achieve?

South East Wales Vision 2025

SE Wales Vision	All young people are confident, ambitious, resilient and have a love of lifelong learning and realise their full potential. <i>The SE Wales Vision is currently under development</i>
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In working towards the SE Wales Vision, a strong commitment of partnership working is critical. It is important to recognise that each local authority, school and educational setting will have their own strategic priorities that support the realisation of the regional vision. These will be documented in LA Strategic Plans and School Development Plans.

EAS Vision 2025

EAS Vision	Supporting and enabling schools and education settings to thrive ad effective learning organisations. <i>There is an existing vision that is currently under development with all stakeholders</i>
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In working towards the EAS Vision, it is critical that the EAS Business Plan reflects regional and local needs.

Wales has an ambition that all schools develop as learning organisations, in keeping with OECD principles. Schools that are learning organisations have the capacity to adapt more quickly and explore new approaches, with a means to improving learning and outcomes for all their learners.

What? What will the EAS do to achieve our vision?

All schools will be able to access a universal offer of professional learning support in each of the following areas: School Improvement, Leadership and Teaching, Curriculum for Wales, Health Wellbeing and Equity and School Governors which are intrinsically linked. As well as a holistic professional learning offer, this will include a set number of days to work with their School Improvement Partner (SIP) and a professional dialogue with the EAS and LA to agree and or amend improvement priorities and support requirements as part of an annual professional discussion.

In addition to the universal offer, schools will be able to access specific and targeted support as determined through ongoing professional discussion with their SIP and in line with their school improvement priorities. This professional learning support may be related to a task and finish activity, an option for further work with their SIP or an option for peer working.

Bespoke support will also be available for schools who require more intensive support. This could include more support from the SIP or the use of a Learning Network School to School Partnership.

Activities:

School Improvement: Bespoke support to schools and education settings which is aligned to their needs. Create and facilitate collaborative networks of professional practice.

Leadership and Teaching

Professional learning and support for the development of leadership and teaching across the entire workforce.

Curriculum for Wales

Professional learning and support for curriculum for Wales.

Health, Wellbeing and Equity

Professional learning and support to improve health and wellbeing, with a practical focus on vulnerable and disadvantaged groups.

Governors: Provide a broad range of professional learning support.

These activities will be explained in more detail later in the document.

What are the foundations that enable activities to take place?

The EAS needs to have the following elements in place to enable the activities above. These are the foundations of the organisation:

- We are passionately committed to Wales, helping our staff, schools and education settings succeed.
- Agile, timely and responsive.
- Sensitive, flexible, and empathetic to system needs.
- The way we work is informed, drawing on research from a global perspective.
- Welcome challenge and review.
- Effective systems and processes for self-evaluation, risk, and financial management.
- The operation of a clear and effective governance model.
- Positive relationships with a range of partners and stakeholders.
- Adherence to all legislative requirements.
- Communicate clearly.
- Support the wellbeing and professional learning of staff.
- Work is well-planned and managed to deliver the best for schools and education settings.
- Draw upon expertise to improve our delivery.

What will be the impact?

If schools and educational settings have the capacity to secure improvement and engage with the support available from the EAS this is the expected impact:

Impact:

The EAS provides support to enable leaders, governors and education practitioners to develop the knowledge, skills and behaviours to positively impact practice, providing improved learner outcomes.

Professional learning is of high quality and appropriate to (individual) needs.

Support is aligned to needs, enabling schools and education settings to make progress.

The broad range of collaborative networks and activity support the development of a self-improving system.

How will we capture our work and share information with our partners?

There are many ways of capturing and sharing what the EAS does which are exemplified in this model as outputs.

Outputs:

Governance reports
Policies and processes
External research and review
PL resources and guidance

EAS Website
Case studies
Supporting Our Schools Site

Impact capture reports
Meeting minutes
Partnership documentation

Assumptions

In writing this plan we have made the following assumptions. If these are not in place, then they become a risk to the successful delivery of this plan.

- Operate with integrity, honesty and objectivity.
- Partners understand our role in the education system.
- Professional learning has a positive impact on practice and behaviour.
- We are one part of the much wider system.
- Schools / education settings positively engage with us.
- Schools / education settings use funding effectively.
- We have the capacity and resources to undertake our activity effectively.
- When the conditions in a school / education setting can secure improvement, readiness for support results in positive change.
- Our partners provide us with timely and appropriate information.
- We work with schools / education settings to ensure priorities for improvement are based on robust, accurate self-evaluation.

SE Wales Vision	<p>All young people are confident, ambitious, resilient and have a love of lifelong learning and realise their full potential. <i>The SE Wales Vision is currently under development</i></p>		
EAS Vision	<p>Supporting and enabling schools and education settings to thrive ad effective learning organisations. <i>There is an existing vision that is currently under development with all stakeholders</i></p>		
Impact	<p>The EAS provides support to enable leaders, governors and education practitioners to develop the knowledge, skills and behaviours to positively impact practice, providing improved learner outcomes.</p>		
	<p>Professional learning is of high quality and appropriate to (individual) needs.</p>	<p>Support is aligned to needs, enabling schools and education settings to make progress.</p>	<p>The broad range of collaborative networks and activity support the development of a self-improving system.</p>
Outputs	<p>Governance reports Policies and processes External research and review PL resources and guidance</p>	<p>EAS Website Case studies Supporting Our Schools Site</p>	<p>Impact capture reports Meeting minutes Partnership documentation</p>
Activities	<p>School Improvement: Bespoke support to schools and education settings which is aligned to their needs. Create and facilitate collaborative networks of professional practice.</p>		
	<p>Leadership and Teaching Professional learning and support for the development of leadership and teaching across the entire workforce.</p>	<p>Curriculum for Wales Professional learning and support for curriculum for Wales.</p>	<p>Health, Wellbeing and Equity Professional learning and support to improve health and wellbeing, with a practical focus on vulnerable and disadvantaged groups.</p>
	<p>Governors: Provide a broad range of professional learning support.</p>		

Business Plan 2022-2025

Assumptions

- We are able to operate with integrity, honesty and objectivity.
- Partners understand our role in the education system.
- Professional learning has a positive impact on practice and behaviour.
- We are one part of a much wider system.
- Schools/education settings positively engage with us.
- Schools / education settings use funding effectively.
- We have the capacity and resources to undertake our activity effectively.
- When the conditions in schools/education settings can secure improvement, readiness for support results in positive change.
- Our partners provide us with timely and appropriate information.
- We work with schools / education settings to ensure priorities for improvement are based on robust, accurate self-evaluation.

Foundations

- We are passionately committed to Wales – helping our staff, schools and education settings succeed.
- We are an agile, timely and responsive organisation.
- We are sensitive, flexible, and empathetic to system needs.
- The way we work is informed, drawing on research from a global perspective.
- We welcome challenge and review and draw on expertise to improve our delivery.
- We have effective systems and processes for self-evaluation, risk and financial management.
- We operate a clear and effective governance model.
- We have positive relationships with a range of partners and stakeholders.
- We adhere to all legislative requirements.
- We communicate clearly.
- We support the wellbeing and professional learning of staff.
- Our work is well planned and managed to deliver the best for our schools and education settings.

Section 4: EAS Business Plan Activities 2022-2023

The support across all areas is interrelated and should not be viewed in isolation.

<p>School Improvement: Bespoke support to schools and educational settings aligned to need. Create and facilitate collaborative networks of professional practice.</p>
<p>Universal Provision</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Facilitate professional discussions to identify support aligned to improvement priorities and resource allocation, highlighting good practice to share more widely. • Undertake supported self-evaluation activities alongside leaders, focusing on the progress of learners including vulnerable groups. • Provide professional learning for improvement and self-evaluation processes, including supporting the roll out of the National Resource for Evaluation and Improvement. • Provide opportunities for peer working. • Work with local authorities to complement existing education HR services and continue to develop a consistent approach to school improvement related HR matters across the region. • Provide recruitment support for the appointment of Headteachers. • Provide support as a panel member for Headteacher Performance Management.
<p>Targeted Provision</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide additional support to undertake self-evaluation activities alongside leaders. • Facilitate professional learning or support for specific areas identified by the school or educational setting. • Facilitate opportunities for peer-to-peer networks. • Support recruitment at key senior leadership positions. • Support targeted professional learning for Governing Bodies. • School Improvement Partners provide enhanced support for new and acting Headteachers.
<p>Bespoke Provision</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Allocate additional EAS support for schools and educational settings requiring higher levels of support. • Broker EAS school to school intensive support to undertake professional learning and supported self-evaluation activities alongside leaders. • Working in close partnership with LAs and other partners to monitor the progress schools and or educational settings are making against their identified priorities. Review the impact of support and amend as needed via the Team Around the School and Multi-Agency processes.

<p>Leadership and Teaching: Professional learning and support for the development of leadership and teaching across the entire workforce.</p>
<p>Universal Provision</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enable the entire workforce to access professional learning that supports the development of secure high quality teaching and learning and the realisation of the curriculum for Wales. • Provide support for the leadership of teaching in the development of a whole school teaching and learning strategy, underpinned by the National Professional Teaching and Leading Assisting Teaching Standards. • Provide practical examples of teaching and learning approaches used successfully in a variety of settings and schools. • Provide a National Professional Learning offer for statutory induction, including support for Newly Qualified Teachers, School based Induction Mentors, External Verifiers. • Provide a progressive pathway of professional learning to support the role of Teaching Assistants and Higher Level Teaching Assistants. • Support leaders to develop their schools as effective learning organisations. • Continue to offer a national professional leadership development programme, including coaching and mentoring for leaders at all levels.

- Identify and develop a sustainable supply of diverse, high-quality, agile leaders to innovate and lead effective 21st century schools.
- Continue to work in partnership with Initial Teacher Education partners in securing high quality teacher education.

Targeted Provision

- Targeted support for the development of whole school teaching and leadership. This may include specific targeted support over a limited time period to include a particular aspect of leadership and/or teaching e.g. targeted support to support assessment across a whole school, support for a group of leaders, Schools as Learning Organisations development.
- Provide a comprehensive package of national and regional professional learning for School Improvement Partners to support them in their system leadership role.

Bespoke Provision

- Intensive and bespoke support exploring all aspects/ relevant needs of teaching and leadership and how the entire workforce supports the improvement journey.

Curriculum for Wales: Professional learning and support for Curriculum for Wales.

Universal Provision

- Provide access to access to national professional learning programmes to realise the Curriculum for Wales.
- Provide access for the entire workforce to collaborative networks of support for Curriculum for Wales and Areas of Learning and Experience (and subject disciplines).
- Provide access to strategic support and professional learning for the development of approaches to bilingualism and the Welsh language.
- Provide access to professional learning to support the development of subject knowledge across the curriculum.
- Provide access to professional learning and guidance to support curriculum design (including progression and assessment), working with a range of international experts.
- Provide access to professional learning for skills development across the curriculum as a feature of high-quality curriculum design.

Targeted Provision

- The School Improvement Partner will work alongside the school or education setting to broker targeted support to meet identified professional learning requirements.

Bespoke Provision

- Allocate additional EAS support for schools and educational settings requiring higher levels of support.
- Broker EAS school to school intensive support to undertake professional learning in Areas of Learning and Experiences (AoLEs) / subject disciplines
- Delivery of specific professional learning activity at a school or cluster level.

Health Wellbeing and Equity: Professional learning and support for health, wellbeing, vulnerable and disadvantaged groups.

Universal Provision

- Support to build the capacity within schools and educational setting to create an effective whole school approach to emotional and mental wellbeing.
- Provide strategic support for the development of approaches to the Health and Wellbeing Area of Learning.
- Support to develop strategic approaches to developing UNCRC and Human Rights.
- Support the development of a tiered approach to the provision and teaching for disadvantaged and vulnerable learners.
- Support the development of provision for learners whose circumstances have changed during the pandemic.

- Support for the development of language, social, emotional, physical and cognitive development in early years for those adversely affected by Covid.
- Offer a tiered approach to the professional learning programme: Raising the Achievement of Disadvantaged Youngsters (RADY).
- Support for the development of strategic approaches to embedding Diversity.
- Work in partnership with local authorities with Inclusions Leads and Looked After Children Education (LACEs) to analyse and use attendance and exclusions data for vulnerable and disadvantaged learners.
- Provide guidance and support for the effective use of the Pupil Development Grant (PDG).
- Deliver the National Programme on Teaching and Learning (Mike Gershon).
- Provide support and guidance for schools to become Family and Community Friendly.

Targeted Provision

- Deliver the Vulnerable Learner Lead Programme.
- Deliver the Wellbeing Lead Professional Learning Programme.
- Provide 'WELL' Toolkit to support schools to review their tiered approach to Wellbeing.
- Continue leadership support for key roles, to include: More Able and Talented (MAT) Lead, Family and Community Engagement (FaCE), Seren Leads.

Bespoke Provision

- Seren Network (secondary only).
- Allocate additional EAS support for schools and educational settings requiring higher levels of support.
- Provide Wellbeing Coaching on a need's basis.

School Governors: A broad range of professional learning and support for school governors.

Universal Provision

- Provide a professional learning programme for Governors, including Welsh Government mandated training, the core role of the governor and support for understanding the role of the governing body and their contribution to school development priorities.
- Provide all governing bodies and individual governors with advice, support and guidance in relation to their roles and responsibilities.
- Provide networking opportunities for groups of governors, to discuss best practice, identify common issues and explore solutions.
- Offer all governing bodies a clerking service through the optional adoption of a Service Level Agreement.
- Continue to provide a range of specialist HR professional learning for governors.

Targeted Provision

- Deliver optional programmes to further develop governors' skills and knowledge, enabling them to deepen their understanding of their role, to effectively support and challenge their schools.
- Provide these programmes as part of a targeted Governor Pathway, aimed at specific groups of governors.
- Provide targeted networking opportunities for specific groups of governors, to address specific issues.

Bespoke Provision

- Provide additional specific professional learning for individual governing bodies, clusters of governing bodies or individual governors.
- Broker support for newly appointed Chairs of Governors, who would benefit from the support of an experienced mentor.
- Provide opportunities for more experienced chairs of governors to further develop their skills and knowledge of governance.

EAS Foundations:

Business delivery

- A clear EAS vision is articulated to schools and partners.
- Review and refine the hybrid working model and develop a balanced approach to Professional Learning delivery that incorporates the benefits of the virtual environment alongside face-to-face delivery where appropriate.
- Embed the EAS evaluation model, continuing to welcome external challenge and support, including engagement with research partners to evaluate current programmes and inform future developments.
- Use the Investors in People (IIP) development programme to support service improvements.
- Continue to develop and refine the broad range of ICT systems that support the business model and review the systems that enable the delivery of support for governors.
- Develop an effective communications strategy that meaningfully engage with all key stakeholders
- Continue to engage with other consortia and middle-tier organisations, such as Estyn, to realise efficiencies in programme development and delivery.
- Support and advise local authorities, as appropriate, in the delivery of their statutory functions for the regional Standing Advisory Councils for Religious Education (SACREs) and the development of individual Welsh in Education Strategic Plans (WESP).

Staff Development

- To maintain high levels of staff morale and wellbeing in the context of reduced funding and workforce planning.
- Implement new performance management processes to reflect individual and service needs.
- Continue to develop collaborative ways in which the EAS team contribute to decision-making processes and are recognised more systematically for their successes.
- Provide all staff with the professional learning opportunities that enable them to undertake their role and develop professionally and personally ensuring all mandatory professional learning is undertaken.
- Recruit, develop and retain a skilled, professional, well informed, and motivated workforce that represents the values and vision of the EAS.

Funding and Resources

- Work with key partners to secure a more sustainable deliverable funding model, aligned with workforce planning.
- Secure an updated Collaboration and Members Agreement (CAMA) with local authority partners, that recognises change management funding.

Section 5: Delivery arrangements and resources for 2022-2023

Governance

The EAS is subject to a robust governance model that is underpinned by the Articles of Association and a Collaboration and Members Agreement (CAMA).

Consortium funding

The EAS is funded on an annual basis from three sources: Local authority core contributions, regional school improvement grants and a service level agreement for governor support services. A spending plan accompanies this Business Plan which is intrinsically linked to all actions contained within it. A detailed overview of the regional distribution of all grants is available for all schools to view and compare allocations and rates of delegation through the regional grant monitoring tool.

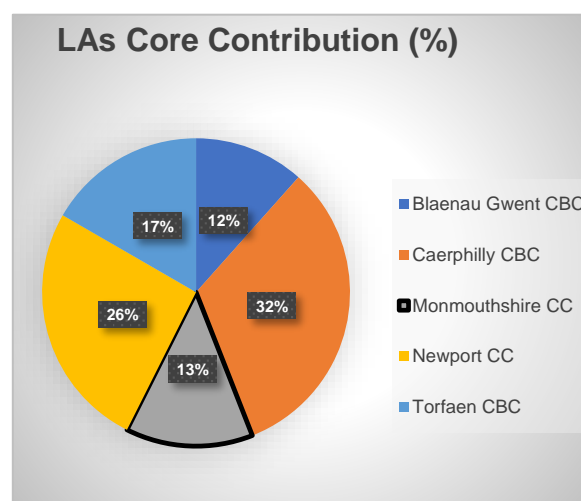
The delegation rate to schools increased to 95.5% in 2021/22, whilst the EAS staff profile has reduced by 53.1% since 2012.

As recipients of public funding, it is important that budgets are allocated and spent wisely. The EAS will continually strive to provide value for money through the optimal use of resources to achieve intended outcomes.

Local authority contributions 2022-2023

Local authority funding for consortium working is underpinned by the National Model for Regional Working, published by the Welsh Government in 2014. The model recommended a core funding allocation of £3.6m for the EAS. The local authorities' indicative figures for 2022-2023 are as follows:

Local Authority (to be agreed)	£
Blaenau Gwent CBC	£350,046
Caerphilly CBC	£980,663
Monmouthshire CC	£403,815
Newport CC	£783,291
Torfaen CBC	£503,498
Total	£3,021,313



In terms of the above £0.99m of this figure is used to secure capacity within the EAS team from current serving headteachers and schools and £0.18m of this figure is used to secure service level agreements and venue costs sourced through local authorities.

Regional school improvement grants

The Collaboration and Members Agreement (CAMA) details the procedure to be followed for all regional school improvement grants received into the region from Welsh Government. Before the grant can be accepted approval to funding distribution is required from the local authority Chief Education Officers / Directors of Education with a follow up ratification from JEG members.

Grant Name (To be updated when information on grants is received from Welsh Government)	Grant Total	Amount delegated to schools	Delegation* Rate	Regionally Retained
--	-------------	-----------------------------	------------------	---------------------

Indicative Calculation 2022-2023

	£	£		£
Regional Consortia School Improvement Grant (RCSIG)				
- Education Improvement Grant	tbc	tbc	tbc	tbc
- Professional Learning for Teachers	tbc	tbc	tbc	tbc
- Other grant initiatives	tbc	tbc	tbc	tbc
Pupil Development Grant (PDG)	tbc	tbc	tbc	tbc
PDG (Lead Regional PDG Adviser)	tbc	tbc	tbc	tbc
Seren Pre 16	tbc	tbc	tbc	tbc
Seren Post 16	tbc	tbc	tbc	tbc
Total	TBC	TBC	TBC	TBC

*Delegation: This refers to funding which gives freedom of choice to a school in how it is used. It must however be spent in accordance with, and in the spirit of, the core purpose of the grant and the individual school development plan.

Governor Support Service Level Agreement

The EAS has responsibility for providing a Governor Support Service to all schools in the region. The service provides support to school governing bodies, headteachers, and individual governors. This includes advice, guidance, training, and an optional clerking service to support governing bodies to deliver their responsibilities.

The optional clerking service is provided through a service level agreement with an option to buy into a clerking service and then additionally a statutory committee clerking service, through a Service Level Agreement (SLA). From 2020 to 2022, 99% of schools opted into the SLA clerking service, with 51% of schools choosing the additional statutory committee service. From April 2022 the service is being offered on a 3-year basis, which aligns with the revised Business Plan approach. The indicative funding for 2022/23 is £0.364m.

Section 6: Additional supporting documents

This Business Plan is supported by the following documents:

- Local Authority Strategic Education Plans
- Detailed Business Plan 2022–2023
- Regional Grant Mapping Overview 2022–2023 (to follow once detailed received from WG)
- Regional Self-Evaluation Report (Executive Summary)
- EAS Risk Register (Executive Summary)
- Regional Professional Learning Offer 2022–2023

Agenda Item 15

Cabinet and Council only

Date signed off by the Monitoring Officer: 14.04.23

Date signed off by the Section 151 Officer: 14.04.23

Committee: **Cabinet**

Date of meeting: **19th April 2023**

Report Subject: **Proposal to Consult on Additional Learning Needs Resource Base Capacity**

Portfolio Holder: **Cllr Sue Edmunds, Cabinet Member for People and Education**

Report Submitted by: **Joanne Watts, Service Manager Education Transformation and Business Change**

Reporting Pathway								
Directorate Management Team	Corporate Leadership Team	Portfolio Holder / Chair	Governance Audit Committee	Democratic Services Committee	Scrutiny Committee	Cabinet	Council	Other (please state)
16.3.23	30.3.23	14.04.23			Consultees 28.4.23	19.4.23		

1. Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 The purpose of the report is to seek the approval from Cabinet to proceed to consultation in relation to the proposal to increase the capacity of Resource Bases across the County Borough, accommodating the demand for places in both Primary and Secondary settings.
- 1.2 Should the proposal (**Appendix 1**) proceed to consultation by the Council, the People Scrutiny Committee will be statutory consultees, as a result the reporting pathway requires Cabinet approval for permission to consult prior to a report being submitted to the next People Scrutiny Committee on the 28th April 2023.

2. Scope and Background

- 2.1 There are currently Resource Bases across Blaenau Gwent accommodating 61 learners in Primary settings and 62 at Secondary settings. There is an increasing need for Resource Base placements in mainstream settings for children and young people within the Borough both at Primary (aged 3-11) and Secondary settings (aged 11-16).
- 2.2 All current resource bases in the County Borough are full to capacity. The recent Estyn inspection highlighted 'In the planning of provision for pupils with additional learning needs (ALN), data is not always used effectively enough to inform long-term planning'. The Education Transformation and Inclusion teams have therefore undertaken a review of the current provision and have used this data to project the demand going forward, under this proposal Education are seeking to set up new bases in line with the projected demand (**Appendix 2**), with the aim of also reducing Out of County placements in the medium term and having a more localised strategy for learners.

2.3

The Council is committed to providing all children and young people with high quality education and training tailored to meet their needs, which will develop their potential, extend aspirations, promote social inclusion and contribute to the economic regeneration of the area. Resource Bases are essential for pupils with identified ALN requirements to enable them to fulfil their potential.

2.4

The implementation of the ALN legislation from September 2021 has resulted in changes in the statutory processes required. Statements maintained by the LA will now be phased out over a 4-year period. Not all Individual Development Plans (IDPs) will be maintained by the Local Authority; only those for children accessing Resource Bases /Special School /Detained or those accessing out of county placements. School based IDPs will be maintained by the home school.

2.5

Both Welsh Government and the Authority's Welsh in Education Forum (WEF) partnership have identified that there is no ALN provision for Welsh medium education across the Borough, this can result in learners having to transfer into English medium settings when an additional learning need is identified, therefore highlighting the need for a Welsh medium resource base to be established.

2.6

The Proposal (Appendix 1) - Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council propose to increase the capacity for Additional Learning Needs (ALN) Resource Bases across the County Borough in both Primary and Secondary settings for Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) and Additional Learning Needs Resource Bases (ALNRB) pupils. The Council will work with the schools to develop a long-term plan to support sustained growth and development. Therefore, this proposal will be delivered in 2 phases:

2.7

Phase 1 - To increase resource base capacity in primary schools from 61 to 86 places (including 15 Welsh-medium places) and to increase secondary school capacity from 62 to 80 places, as follows:

- To recognise the transition group established in Ebbw Fawr 3-16 Learning Community-Secondary Phase as a 6 place LRB from September 2023
- To create a 6-8 place ASD Resource Base at Tredegar Comprehensive School from September 2023
- To create a 10 place ASD/ALN Resource Base at Sofrydd Primary School from September 2024/25
- To create a 15 place ASD/ALN Resource Base at Ysgol Gymraeg Bro Helyg from September 2024
- To create an SEBD/ASD Resource Base at The River Centre 3-16 Learning Community for 6 pupils from September 25

2.8

Phase 2

The development of a Medium-term plan to secure additional capacity to facilitate sustained growth and development in Primary and Secondary settings. This will include provision at the following schools between 2025 and 2029:

- To create an ASD/ALN Resource Base at Brynmawr Foundation School for 10 pupils
- To create an ASD/ALN Resource Base at Cwm Primary School for 10 pupils
- To create, if required, an ASD/ALN Resource base at a faith based primary school in Blaenau Gwent (yet to be determined) for 10 pupils
- To create an ASD/ALN Resource Base at Abertillery 3-16 Learning Community - Roseheyworth Road Primary Campus for 10 pupils

2.9

It should be noted some/all of these will only be implemented if required following a review of the impact of Phase 1.

2.10

In addition, the Council will remodel learning environments to create additional classroom space and associated facilities to accommodate the proposal and will also develop nurture provisions in schools in order to create a more inclusive environment and to support the majority of learners with additional learning needs in a mainstream setting.

2.11

Should nothing change, the Local Authority will be unable to meet the needs of many learners (**Appendix 3**), particularly those with Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD) or Additional Learning Needs (ALN) within Blaenau Gwent. Therefore, they would need to be placed Out of County. The costs of Out of County specialist provision would increase significantly year-on-year, and learners are likely to be travelling longer distances to receive specialist education extending their school day, care etc. and placing further pressures on the Home-to-School Transport budget which is already significantly overspent and so represents a risk to the Council.

2.12

Expected Benefits and Advantages

- Creation of a local solution which will address the increased demand for ALN provision.
- Continuity and sustainability in terms of local education for learners with specialist and medical needs.
- The structure will build confidence and self-esteem in pupils' parents and staff.
- A local option for pupils transitioning from mainstream school to resources bases.
- Reduce the costs associated with out of county placements and home to school transport, whilst securing local investment within the Blaenau Gwent school estate.
- Improve access to and facilities for learners who meet the criteria for ALN provision across the county borough.
- Reduced travel time for learners and the carbon footprint.

2.13

Consultation Requirements (Appendix 3)

The Welsh Government School Organisation Code Second Edition (2018), dictates that proposals **must** be published for the following elements of school reorganisation:

1. the opening of a maintained school (including a special school);

2. the closing of a maintained school (including a special school);
3. to make a regulated alteration to a maintained school; and,
4. to change the category of a maintained school.

2.14

The proposal to increase the capacity for Additional Learning Needs (ALN) Resource Bases across various Primary & Secondary School settings will involve changes to a maintained school. Section 48 of the 2013 Act requires that before school organisation proposals are published under sections 41-45, they **must** first be subject to consultation.

2.15

The proposed consultation document and timeline takes account of the publication and other statutory requirements as set out within the code. The proposed consultation timeline - if approved, is as follows:

- Consultation to commence on – **Monday 24th April 2023**
- Consultation to conclude on – **Tuesday 6th June 2023** (inclusive of 20 school days)
- Outturn Report to Cabinet to proceed to Statutory Notice (28 days) – June 2023
- Objections report from Statutory Notice to Cabinet for decision to implement – September 2023
- Implementation - September 2023

3. **Options for Recommendation**

3.1 There are 2 options associated with the consultation, as follows:

- 3.2
- **Option 1** – Cabinet considers and accepts the report, associated consultation document and course of action.
- 3.3
- **Option 2** – Cabinet provides comments in relation to improvements that can be made in relation to the associated consultation document and proposed course of action, in consideration of the School Organisation Code (2018) and established timeline.

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

4.1 In accordance with the Welsh Government School Organisation Code (2018), there is a statutory requirement for Councils to consult upon and publish school reorganisation proposals. Education is a strategic priority within the Corporate Plan. In order to enable people to 'Maximise learning and skills for all to create a prosperous, thriving, resilient Blaenau Gwent'.

4.2 In addition, the proposal would support the Education Directorate's purpose to deliver:

'Better Schools, Better Citizens and Better Communities'

5. **Implications Against Each Option**

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

There are capital financial implications associated with Phase 1 of this proposal for the Council of approximately £300,000. This will be met via

contributions from the Welsh Government ALN Grant funding and Sustainable Communities for Learning Programme over a 3-year period.

5.1.1

Blaenau Gwent currently has 11 ALN pupils that are educated outside the Local Authority at a cost of £600,000 per year (2022/23 price base), the budget for 2023/24 is £720,000. If Blaenau Gwent was able to increase capacity in resource base provisions, there would be opportunities to consider making education provision for some of the 11 pupils back in Blaenau Gwent

5.1.2

Revenue implications associated with Phase 1 of the project have been modelled - If pupils are unable to be placed locally in a resource base, then they would need to be placed in Out County placements which could see these annual costs incrementally increase in line with the projected demand by approximately £1.3m by the 2025/26 financial year **(See table below)**

5.1.3

Revenue costs associated with Phase 1 of the project have been modelled **(Appendix 4)** and are as follows:

Financial Year	Additional Revenue Costs	Anticipated Virement from Out County Placements Budget	Shortfall (compared to current budget)	Do Nothing - Likely Increase in Cost of Out County Placements*
2023/24	£73,184	0	£73,184	£297,192
2024/25	£269,665	£138,096	£131,569	£1,157,568
2025/26	£399,585	£276,192	£123,393	£1,313,964
2026/27	£442,786	£414,288	£28,498	£1,313,964
2027/28	£442,786	£442,786	£0	£1,313,964
Total	£1,628,006	£1,271,362	£356,644	£5,396,652

**Based upon mid level costs*

5.1.4

It is anticipated the proposal will begin to impact on the requirement for Out County placements from the 2024/25 financial year as highlighted in the table above, therefore reducing this expenditure and allowing funding to be vired accordingly. In the short term there will likely be a shortfall each year when compared to the current budgets however it is predicted to avoid significant cost increases in terms of Out of County placements. It is proposed these additional costs be funded from a combination of the ALN Implementation grant (this is specifically given to Local Authorities to support the implementation of ALN reform and the financial pressure this causes), the ALN reserve and Invest to Save funding (if required).

5.1.5

Costs associated with home to school transport for out county placements are increasing for ALN pupils, the costs are forecast to be £274,352 for the 2022/23 financial year. These costs are regularly reviewed and subject to change in line with pupil placement. Should the proposal be implemented the Council would also see an incremental reduction in the transport costs associated with Out County placements every year.

5.1.6 The financial implications associated with Phase 2 of the project will be considered in full once Phase 1 has been completed and the impact assessed.

5.2 ***Risk including Mitigating Actions***

If the proposal is not taken forward, there is both a placement and a financial risk in terms of securing suitable ALN resource bases provision in and Out of County for learners, and the associated increased cost of Home to School Transport.

5.3 ***Legal***

Legal advice has been sought in relation to the consultation document, any changes recommended as part of this will be incorporated.

5.4 ***Human Resources***

The proposed increase in pupil numbers will require the Governing Body of all affected schools to plan for the workforce requirements in readiness for the respective expansions. Organisational Development will provide advice, support and guidance to the Governing Bodies for the workforce planning and consequential recruitment processes.

6. ***Supporting Evidence***

6.1 ***Performance Information and Data***

Please refer to the Consultation document (**Appendix 1**) relating to the proposal.

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

The public can expect a fair and equitable consultation process, which is fully compliant with the Welsh Government School Organisation Code (2018).

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

Stakeholder engagement is a key focus of all school organisation proposals. The proposal will be subject to consultation in line with the Welsh Government School Organisation Code (2018), which will then be used to inform decision making processes moving forward. The consultation process will involve the following meetings:

26th April 23 – Joint Consultative Committee

28th April 23 – Scrutiny Committee

2nd May 23 – Abertillery drop-in Session for schools, public, parents etc

3rd May 23 – Tredegar drop-in Session for schools, public, parents etc

9th May 23 – Brynmawr drop-in Session for schools, public, parents etc

10th May 23 - Ebbw Vale drop-in Session for schools, public, parents etc

In addition, in line with the code the pupils will be consulted via the school councils of the affected schools.

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

The consultation details a proposal which looks to secure additional provision for both Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD) and ALN Resource Base (ALNRB)

provision in line with local demand for places for the long-term development, and sustainability of the education system in Blaenau Gwent.

6.5 ***Preventative focus***

The proposal seeks to address sustainability issues associated with the future growth and development of the ALN reform Act and resource base placements in the County Borough.

6.6 ***Collaboration / partnership working***

The consultation along with the development of the proposal have been developed collaboratively with both the Inclusion Team, Headteachers, Finance, and Community Services.

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

The proposal seeks to secure integration for new and existing pupils in ALN placements supporting growth and sustainability of provision for the future needs of learners.

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

By having provision locally, it will address the Green Agenda reducing carbon emissions for learners travelling excessively for their educational needs.

6.9 ***Integrated Impact Assessment***

Not required for this proposal.

7. **Monitoring Arrangements**

7.1 Should the consultation proceed, there will be extensive monitoring in line with the consultation processes, responses and outcomes which would be answered, analysed and taken via the Council's political processes

Background Documents / Electronic Links

- **Appendix 1** – Proposal to consult – ALN Resourced Base capacity
- **Appendix 2** – *Demand Analysis Table*
- **Appendix 3** – School Organisation Code Checklist
- **Appendix 4** - *Financial Analysis*

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What is this booklet about?

This booklet has been prepared for parents/carers, school staff, school governors and the wider community of Blaenau Gwent. The booklet provides an overview of the consultation process associated with the Council's formal proposal for a **delivery model to improve provision and build capacity for Additional Learning Needs (ALN) Pupils across the County Borough**. It will be of particular interest to parents/carers whose children are attending a Resource Base.

If you would like this information in any other format, please contact the Education Transformation team either via email or telephone, as follows:

- Email us: 21stcenturyschools@blaenau-gwent.gov.uk or,
- Call us on: (01495) 355470



Glossary of Terms - Please note the following terms used throughout this document:

Additional Learning Needs (ALN)	A pupil learner has ALN if there is a learning difficulty or disability which calls for additional learning provision (ALP).
Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD)	Is a complex developmental condition that involves persistent challenges in social interaction, speech and nonverbal communication and restricted/repetitive behaviours. The effects of ASD and the severity of symptoms are different in each person.
Child Looked After (CLA)	Is a child in the care of a Local Authority either: through a Care Order made by a court, or voluntary agreement with their parent(s) to accommodate them.
Local Authority	An organisation that is officially responsible for all the public services and facilities in a particular area.
Local Development Plan (LDP)	Sets out each local planning authority's proposals for future development and use of land in their area.
Numbers on Roll (NoR)	The number of pupils at a school (not including nursery and Learning Resource Base Pupils).
Pupil Level Annual School Census (PLASC)	PLASC is an electronic collection of pupil and school level data provided by all maintained sector primary, middle, secondary, nursery and special schools in January each year (more information can be found on the Welsh Government website).
Resource Base (RB)	A small setting in a mainstream school for pupils with ALN whose needs cannot be met in the mainstream alone. Pupils are taught by specialist teachers and learning support assistants. It is anticipated that pupils accessing a resource base will also have opportunities to attend mainstream classes.
Special School	A school for pupils with a complex learning/medical need or disability, whose needs cannot be met in a mainstream school or Resource Base provision. The pupils at a special school will have either a statement of SEN or an IDP.
Statement of Additional Learning Needs	A pupil with a statement of SEN or an IDP who has additional learning needs which calls for additional learning provision. This means: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the pupil has significantly greater difficulty learning than most pupils of the same age, or • the pupil has a disability that needs different educational facilities from those that the school generally provides for pupils.
Statutory Notice	A statutory notice is the formal publication of a finalised proposal. This will only be undertaken if a decision is made by the Council's Executive Committee to proceed with a proposal, following consideration of all responses from the consultation process. This is a legal requirement as outlined in the School Organisation Code (2018).
Statutory School Age (SSA)	A child who is over the age of 5 and under the age of 16 that is eligible to attend school.

Table of Contents

	Page
Section 1: Introduction	6-7
Section 2: Consultation Process	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Who we are consulting with • Consultation Overview • Consultation with Children & Young People 	<p>7</p> <p>7-8</p> <p>8</p>
Section 3: The Proposal	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overview • Investment Objectives • Rationale and Background Information - Why change is necessary • ALN Policies & Principles • Standards of Provision • Need for places and the impact on accessibility of schools • Learning Resource Bases • Covid Pandemic & Post Covid emerging theme • Demand for Places • Specialist Schools • Early Years and Nursery Provision • Additional Learning Needs Provision • Welsh-medium Provision • Options Considered • The Preferred Option • Risk and Mitigation • Benefits of Proposal • Expected Benefits and Advantages (when compared with the status quo – do nothing) • Disadvantages. • Governance model • Learner travel arrangements 	<p>9</p> <p>10</p> <p>10</p> <p>10</p> <p>11</p> <p>11-12</p> <p>12-13</p> <p>13</p> <p>13</p> <p>13</p> <p>14</p> <p>14</p> <p>14</p> <p>15</p> <p>15-16</p> <p>16</p> <p>16-17</p> <p>17</p> <p>17</p> <p>18</p> <p>18</p> <p>18</p> <p>18-19</p>
Section 4: Consultation Outcome and Next Steps	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consultation Report • Statutory Notice • Determination of Proposal • Decision Notification • Timeline 	<p>19</p> <p>19</p> <p>20</p> <p>20</p> <p>20</p>
Section 5: Details of Affected Schools	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Schools that are directly affected • Schools that are in-directly affected • Surplus Capacity Statement 	<p>20-21</p> <p>21</p> <p>22</p>

Section 6: Other Considerations	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Finance 22 • Revenue Costs 22 • Transport Costs 23 • Capital Costs 23 • Capital Costs/Capital Receipts 23 • Admission Arrangements 24 • Impact of the proposal on the Welsh Language 24 • Equality impact Screening 24 • Community & Welsh Language Impact Assessments 24 • United Nations Conventions for the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) 24 • Engagement of Children & Young People in this Consultation 24 • Housing developments 25 • Human Resource 25 • Partnerships 25-26 	
Section 7: Present Arrangements	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Estyn 26 • Quality and Standards in Education 20-27 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Standards 27 ○ Wellbeing & Attitudes to Learn 27 ○ Teaching & Learning Experience 27 ○ Care, Support & Guidance 27 ○ Leadership & Management 27 • Impact of the Proposal 27 	
Section 8: Overview of the Proposal	28-29
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Admission no. and arrangements and no. of nursery places • Age range • Pupil places • Capacity • Location • Category school and language • Schedule of accommodation • List of facilities provided under the Proposal • School Catchment Area • Transition arrangements 	
Section 9: Pro-forma	30

Appendix 1: Consultee list	31
Appendix 2: Location, Pupil Numbers & Projects for schools affected	32
Appendix 3: Condition Survey and Facilities review for schools affected	33
Appendix 4: Equality Impact Assessment (EIA)	34-35
Appendix 5: Community Impact Assessment (CIA)	36-39
Appendix 6: Estyn Results for New Proposals	40-41
Appendix 7: Estyn Recommendations for New Proposals	42-43
Tables:	
1. Drop in Sessions	8
2. Long List of Options	15-16
3. Risks & Mitigation	17
4. The Statutory Process Timeline	20
5. Potential breakdown of costs per individual Resource Base	23
6. Phase 1 New proposed Resource Bases	28
7. Phase 2 New proposed Resource Bases	29
Figures:	
1. Current Primary Resource Base Provision	11
2. Current Secondary Resource Base Provision	11
3. Primary Resource Base data last 5 years	12
4. Secondary Resource Base data last 5 years	12
5. Pupil Projections for Resource Base Primary	14
6. Pupil Projections for Resource Base Secondary	14
7. Illustration of Housing Development	25

Section 1: Introduction



The Council are committed to providing all children and young people with high quality education and training tailored to meet their needs, which will develop their potential, extend aspiration, promote social inclusion, and contribute to the economic regeneration of the area. A review of existing and future provision for both Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) and ALN Resource Base is essential for pupils to enable them to fulfil their potential. Therefore, this proposal is a key priority for the Council.

The ALNET Legislation 2018 and the Corresponding ALN Code of Practice 2021 came into force with the focus now changing on how data is recorded in Local Authorities and schools. The focus is now on schools meeting the needs of pupils under universal and targeted provision through quality teaching and learning.

Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council reviews the capacity of its schools on an annual basis. As such, the Council is responding to the increased demand and growth noted over the course of the last 3 years, in line with pupil placement requests to the ALN panel for both Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) and ALN Resource Base (RB) settings.

The County Borough currently has 2 special schools which are:

- Pen y Cwm Special School which caters for complex needs; and
- The River Centre 3-16 Learning Community for Social and Emotional Behaviour Difficulties (SEBD) consisting of 3 separate sites:
 - Primary phase (Thomas Richard Centre)
 - Secondary phase (Pontygof site Ebbw Vale)
 - Stewards House (Ebbw Vale)

There are also seven Learning Resource Bases for Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD) and ALN in mainstream settings across the County Borough:

- **Primary sector:**
 - Abertillery 3-16 Learning Community – Six Bells Campus
 - Coed y Garn Primary School
 - Glanhwy Primary School
 - Willowtown Primary School
 - Ystruth Primary School
- **Secondary sector:**
 - Abertillery 3-16 Learning Community ALN – Secondary Campus
 - Ebbw Fawr 3-16 Learning Community ASD – Secondary Campus**

** Ebbw Fawr 3-16 Learning Community Secondary Campus also has a school transitional class which under this proposal will be formally recognised as a Council run resource base.

Section 2: Consultation Process

CONSULTATION



Prior to any decision being made on the proposal to **Improve provision and build capacity for Additional Learning Needs (ALN Pupils which includes ASD and ALN RB's across the County Borough)**, the Council is required to undertake statutory consultation with all interested and affected parties. This is necessary since the proposal will see an increase in the number of ALN provisions across the school estate in Primary and Secondary school settings. This section provides an overview of the consultation process.

This consultation, will provide consultees with the opportunity to learn more about, understand and express their views on the Council's proposal, which will inform the final decision as to how the proposal is taken forward. The feedback and comments captured throughout the consultation process will be collated, analysed, and reported via the Council's political processes. The Council's Cabinet will then make the final decision based on the outcome and feedback associated with the consultation.

Who we are Consulting with

This Consultation Document will be distributed, in accordance with the Welsh Government's School Organisation Code Version 2 (November 2018). **Appendix 1** details the full list of consultees who will be targeted during the statutory consultation period.

Consultation Overview

The consultation period for this proposal will commence on **Monday 24th April 2023** and conclude on **Tuesday 6th June 2023**. Consultees can submit their views on the proposal; however, it should be noted that responses received during this period will not be logged as objections. Should the proposal proceed, and consultees wish to make an objection, they will need to do so in writing during the statutory notice period outlined on page **14/15**.

The Council would like you to consider the information set out in this document and provide your views on the proposal. If you have any questions or queries on the information contained within this document, please contact us by using either the email address below, or by calling us on (01495) 355470.

21stcenturyschools@blaenau-gwent.gov.uk



You are also welcome to complete the online survey using the following link: <https://wh1.snapsurveys.com/s.asp?k=161701999055>

All consultation responses should be received by **5pm on Tuesday 6th June 2023 at the latest.**

The Education Transformation team has planned virtual meetings with, Trade Union representatives. All affected School Governing Bodies, Staff, Pupils and wider community will have access to a series of scheduled drop-in sessions throughout the consultation period. At all of the below events in **Table 1**, Council officers will be available to answer any questions that you may have.

Table 1 -Drop in Sessions

Location	Date	Time(s)	Session aimed at:
Abertillery Metropole Theatre		3pm – 6:30pm	Governing Body, All Staff, Parents and Wider Community
Brynmawr		3pm – 6:30pm	Governing Body, All Staff, Parents and Wider Community
Tredegar		3pm – 6:30pm	Governing Body, All Staff, Parents and Wider Community
Ebbw Vale		3pm – 6:30pm	Governing Body, All Staff, Parents and Wider Community

A frequently asked questions page will be developed and updated throughout the consultation period and can be found on the consultation webpage. Should you feel the need to and/or feel strongly about discussing the proposal in person, please contact us via the 21st century schools email address as follows: 21stcenturyschools@blaenau-gwent.gov.uk and a virtual meeting can be arranged.

Consultation with Children and Young People

There will be an opportunity for the pupils of any new or existing school where there will be a Autistic Spectrum Disorder base (ASD) or ALN Resource Base (RB) established, along with other children and young people from the county borough to participate in the consultation process. All information gathered from the consultation process will form part of the consultation out-turn report.



Section 3: The Proposal



Overview

Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council propose to increase the capacity for Additional Learning Needs (ALN) and ASD Resource Bases across the County Borough in both primary and Secondary settings. The proposal is to increase ASD and ALN places from 61 to 86 across the Primary sector and increase the provision at Secondary from 62 to 80 places in Phase 1 (including 15 Welsh-medium places); with the potential to increase places by a further 40 places in Phase 2 (including a Faith Based provision). This will take effect from September 2023 on a phased basis over the next 5 years.

The Council plan to remodel existing learning environments to create classroom spaces and associated facilities to accommodate the proposal i.e. appropriate resources. In addition, and alongside this, the Council will work with the schools to develop a long-term plan to support sustained growth and development.

Therefore, this proposal will be delivered in 2 phases:

Phase 1

- To recognise the transition group established in Ebbw Fawr 3-16 Learning Community-Secondary Phase as a 6 place LRB from September 2023
- To create a 6-8 place ASD Resource Base at Tredegar Comprehensive School from September 2023
- To create a 10 place ASD/ALN Resource Base at Sofrydd Primary School from September 2024/25
- To create a 15 place ASD/ALN Resource Base at Ysgol Gymraeg Bro Helyg from September 2024
- To create an SEBD/ASD Resource Base at River Centre 3-16 Learning Community from September 2023 for 6 pupils, the overall capacity of the school would increase from 64 to 70 places

Phase 2

The development of a Medium-term plan to secure additional capacity to facilitate sustained growth and development in Primary and Secondary settings. This will include provision at the below schools between 2025 and 2029:

- To create an ASD/ALN Resource Base at Brynmawr Foundation School for 10 pupils
- To create an ASD/ALN Resource Base at Cwm Primary School for 10 pupils
- To create, if required, an ASD/ALN Resource base at a faith based primary school in Blaenau Gwent (yet to be determined) for 10 pupils
- To create an ASD/ALN Resource Base at Abertillery 3-16 Learning Community - Roseheyworth Road Primary Campus for 10 pupils

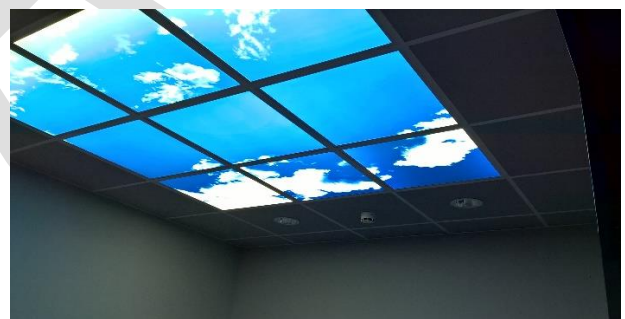
The proposal would support the Education Directorate's purpose to deliver:

'Better Schools, Better Citizens and Better Communities'

The proposal is in keeping with Blaenau Gwent's Sustainable Communities for Learning Programme investment objectives which are:

- **Investment Objective 1:** to raise standards and achievement in line with localised targets at Foundation Phase, KS2, KS3 and KS4; and secure improved transition into post 16 learning
- **Investment Objective 2:** to create a sustainable model for the 21st Century school estate in consideration of both capital and revenue investment, along with the condition and suitability of buildings
- **Investment Objective 3:** to establish effective management and provision of school places, by having the right schools of the right size in the right place
- **Investment Objective 4:** to implement the Sustainable Communities for Learning Programme (formally the 21st Century Schools programme) in line with local, regional and national school organisation policy; ensuring synergy between progression, development and implementation
- **Investment Objective 5:** meeting the needs of learners who are vulnerable and/or present with ALN

Rationale and Background Information - Why Change is Necessary



ALN Policies and Principles

The ALNET Legislation came into force in 2018 and the ALN Code of Practice has been implemented since 2021. The focus has now changed on how data is recorded in Local Authorities and schools. The focus is now on schools meeting the needs of pupils under the universal and targeted provision through quality teaching and learning.

The Local Authority has reviewed all provision for pupils with ALN across the County Borough. It is expected that this review will better enable the Local Authority to continue to meet the needs of all pupils. In addition, a working party of key stakeholders, including headteachers representing all clusters, phases and settings from across Blaenau Gwent is operational, with an ALN implementation remit. It is the expectation that the working party will also inform future planning for supporting all pupils with an additional learning need, including Welsh medium settings.

Standards of Provision

Should this proposal proceed, it will improve the standard of accommodation for pupils with ALN, it will provide and support the inclusion agenda of Blaenau Gwent pupils to access local provision in mainstream settings helping with individual needs of pupils such as health, safety and welfare issues identified in the application for places in resource bases.

Places will be available for our pupils in Blaenau Gwent; improving learner outcomes and inclusion on a County Borough level, also the proposal can offer places in Blaenau Gwent for Out of County provision from other Local Authorities, should the need arise and is space is available.

Need for additional places and the impact on accessibility of schools

The data collated below demonstrates that there is a need for ASD/ALN provision in our mainstream schools to support this proposal. Currently provision is full in our ALN resource bases and there will be no growth to support our learners if this proposal does not proceed. Blaenau Gwent already has cross border regional working arrangements in place for places in ALN provision.

All learning resource bases for both ASD and ALN are based in primary and secondary mainstream settings across the County Borough. These settings cater for 3-16 year olds (no nursery ASD provision). Other than Pen y Cwm Special School, Blaenau Gwent does not have any post 16 settings in its secondary school buildings, any pupil over the age of 16 would transition in to Post 16 opportunities which could include Coleg Gwent, apprenticeships, work-based learning or employment.

The current provisions are shown below in **Figure 1 & 2**, this information is for academic year 2022/23 as at 14th December 2022.

Figure 1 - Current Primary Schools	Type of Provision	Places available	Places taken	Places available
Abertillery Learning Community 3-16 Six Bells Primary Campus	ALN RB	9	7	2
Coed Y Garn Primary School KS2	ALN RB	12	12	0
Glanhowy Primary School	ASD	12	14	-2
Willowtown Primary School	ALN RB	16	15	1
Ystruth Primary School	ASD	12	14	-2
	Total spaces	61	62	-1

Figure 2 - Current Secondary Schools	Type of Provision	Places available	Places taken	Places available
Abertillery 3-16 Learning Community - Secondary Campus	ALN RB	42	41	1
Ebbw Fawr 3-16 Learning Community – Secondary Phase	ASD	18	21	-3
Ebbw Fawr 3-16 Learning Community – Secondary Phase	Transition group		6	-6
	Total spaces	60	68	-8

The tables above show there is limited capacity in the County Borough to accommodate demand in the resource bases. In 2015 the Council undertook an ALN consultation resulting in change of setting criteria and the opening of a new provision at Ebbw Fawr 3-16 Learning Community – Secondary Phase. **Appendix 2** (location, pupil numbers and projections) and **Appendix 3** (Schools condition survey and facilities) provides an overview of all the schools within the County Borough directly and indirectly affected. This information provides us with details of the facilities available in all schools and numbers on roll. There has been significant investment into the school estate from our Sustainable Communities for Learning programme, Welsh Governments Capital Maintenance Grant and the ALN grant to improve provision for our pupils.

The most recent investment has been in:

- Pen y Cwm Special School to improve their specialist rooms and learning environment
- River Centre 3-16 Learning Community - secondary campus refurbishment
- Ysgol Gymraeg Bro Helyg, creation of a sensory room and nurture space

Learning Resource Bases

Data in **Figure 3** (Primary) and **Figure 4** (Secondary) suggests that from 2017/18 in the primary setting, places have become in demand rising from 48 to 64 places (an increase of 25%), whereas in the secondary sector it has risen by 2 places from 60 to 62 (4%). However, as the primary sector numbers has grown in an exponential manner over the last few years there is a pressing need to create additional spaces in both primary and secondary provision to accommodate demand.

Figure 3 - last 5 years Primary resource base figures

	Last 5 years data for Resource Bases				
Primary	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2021/22
Resource Capacity	n/k	61	61	65	65
Places taken	n/k	48	45	65	64
Amount over capacity	n/k	-13	-16	0	-1

Figure 4 – last 5 years Secondary resource base figures

	Last 5 years data for Resource Bases				
Secondary	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2021/22
Resource Capacity	n/k	60	60	62	62
Places taken	n/k	60	60	62	62
Amount over capacity	n/k	0	0	0	0

Pupil numbers and demand for places at Resource Bases has significantly increased over the course of the last four years, resulting, on occasions, in oversubscription, along with a waiting list, which as of March 2023 has 6 pupils awaiting placement. Therefore, the Local Authority is seeking to increase the capacity (in terms of the number of places) in Resource Bases as follows:

- Phase 1 – Primary from 61 to 92 places (inclusive of 15 Welsh-medium places) and Secondary from 62 places to 76 places: and,
- Phase 2 - potentially Primary from 92 to 122 places (inclusive of 10 Faith based places) and Secondary from 76 to 86 places

The Local Authority is projecting a continued upward trend in terms of demand/pupil numbers going forward. If projected demand for places in Resource Bases continues it will put pressure on the Local Authority to place pupils Out of County, should we not be able to secure additional

places locally. Blaenau Gwent Council seeks to address the aforementioned issues by increasing the capacity of local Resource Bases in mainstream school and River Centre 3-16 Learning Community secondary campus to facilitate the increased demand for places and secure medium-term growth.

Covid Pandemic and Post Covid emerging theme

Since the Covid Pandemic in 2020, there has been an impact on everything worldwide, this also includes all services provided by the Council. Work practices changed with the introduction of digital engagement with parents, and as a result there has been a rise in numbers of children in their early years who require additional support via the health services (diagnoses) and education support where they have missed that social interaction with other children. The full extent of development delay as a result of Covid and associated factors is unknown currently but is expected to increase the need of Blaenau Gwent pupils moving forward.

Demand for Places

Within Blaenau Gwent and based on the September 2022 PLASC data the number of pupils with Additional Needs (has increased. At present, 14% (1,389) of Statutory School Age pupils (9,389) in the County Borough have an Additional Learning Need/SEN Status. There are currently 250 children with a Statement of SEN or an IDP (Individual Development Plan) in Blaenau Gwent of Statutory School Age.

In an attempt to develop a model with the aim of predicting the number of places required, the Council has used historic data and associated trends and have considered the number of requests which were agreed by the ALN Panel. We have also considered the number of resource base and special school leavers on an annual basis. We were then able to establish the net increase on an annual basis. Based on the current numbers on roll, and the information above, we have predicted forward demand.

Therefore, demand has risen and is likely to continue to do so in line with inward migration, increased survival rates of children with complex needs and finally, placement requests from other Local Authorities with sufficiency issues. Blaenau Gwent Council is aware that the growth and demand for specialist education placements is on the increase throughout Wales. Neighbouring Authorities have undertaken consultation upon growth of special school capacity and resource bases to facilitate demand, or are considering doing so, due to sufficiency of places. If Blaenau Gwent Council does not secure sufficient places for its pupils, it is unlikely that neighbouring Local Authorities will have capacity to accommodate them, resulting in potentially very high Out of County placement costs, increased traveling time and decreased accessibility to local education options for the most vulnerable pupils with the highest level of need.

Specialist Schools

It should also be noted that in 2020 the council went out to consult on increase capacity for Pen y Cwm Special school to accommodate the demand for special school placements. This was approved in 2021 for September 2021 implementation. Part 1 of the consultation is near completion with the special provision offered being re-established. Part 2 is still in development.

Also, in January 2017 the River Centre 3-16 Learning Community was established. This provision is based over three sites primary (Thomas Richard Centre) Secondary (Pontygof) and Stewards House offering 64 places, 40 of which were turn around and 24 places on full time roll.

Early Years and Nursery Provision

The supporting data below shows that there is demand at this early stage of a child's life. Out of the September 2022 cohort of 129 children in early years setting 49 are transferring to nursery and are known to need support. A further 24 children have been awarded funding with a screened application for additional support. These figures can change weekly as there are 3 intakes throughout the year.

It is anticipated that as a targeted solution needs to be adapted, we create a solution for children providing the right prevention, in the right places to support by retaining mainstream inclusive Resource Bases. Currently targeted solutions are addressed when pupils enter Key Stage 2 (Year-3).

Additional Learning Needs Provision

The proposal to extend the capacity and undertake physical changes to existing buildings whilst also developing a long-term growth and sustainability plan, would create equality of access to a high-quality ALN provision in a 21st Century learning environment for pupils.

Pupil projections based on current numbers:

Figure 5 - Pupil projections for resource bases at Primary

Primary	Baseline Data	5 Years Projections				
	22/23	23/24	24/25	25/26	26/27	27/28
Places available	61	61	61	61	61	61
Places taken	62	60	63	64	65	67
Leavers	1	10	12	11	11	11
Joiners next year	13	13	13	13	13	13
Total at start of next year	60	63	64	65	67	69
Amount over capacity - demand	-1	2.	3	4	6	8

Figure 6 - Pupil projections for resource bases at Secondary

Pupil projections for resource bases at Secondary

Secondary	Baseline Data	5 Years Projections - based on Year 6 pupils				
	22/23	23/24	24/25	25/26	26/27	27/28
Places available	62	62	62	62	62	62
Places taken	66	77	74	69	60	61
Leavers	6	13	17	20	12	17
Joiners next year	17	10	12	11	13	13
Total at start of next year	77	74	69	60	61	57
Amount over capacity	15	13	9	-3	-2	-6
Ebbw Fawr transition group	6	6	6	6	6	6
Amount over capacity - demand	9	6	1	-8	-7	-11

Note: This doesn't take into account potential transfers from Out County placements or the Council's Special Schools

Welsh Medium provision:

Blaenau Gwent does not currently have a Welsh Medium primary Resource Base for pupils, this will form part of the proposal. All pupils of secondary school age receive their education in Torfaen in Ysgol Gymraeg Gwynllyw 3- 19 Learning Community.

Under this proposal a room has been identified within the school for a resource base that could accommodate up to 15 pupils. Ysgol Gymraeg Bro Helyg have stated that there are 8 pupils who have ASD/ADHD traits at the school. However, as yet, not all of the aforementioned pupils have received a formal diagnosis, however, all except 2, are in receipt of Educational Psychology engagement with referrals having been made. Nursery provision at the school is offered on a full-time basis, therefore, the pupils needs tend to be identified relatively early on. Currently, in Key Stage 2, there are several pupils who would benefit from small-class teaching.

It is recognised that the provision of a Resource Base would not only provide tailored support to the pupils who have been identified as needing this consistent level of intervention and support; but would also free up teacher time to focus on pupils requiring additional support e.g. pupils with a Specific Learning Difficulty (SpLD). Any Resource Base in Blaenau Gwent English medium settings would take children from across other school settings in Blaenau Gwent. However, in the case of a Welsh medium Resource Base will only be for children educated through the medium of Welsh.

Ysgol Gymraeg Bro Helyg also have an immersion class set up to support new entrants into Welsh-medium education, which would support parental choice for those pupils who also want to transition into Welsh education.

Options Considered

A detailed option appraisal was undertaken to explore ways in which the requirement for additional ALN provision in the form of ASD and ALN Resource Bases could be addressed for both English and Welsh Medium Education along with primary and secondary need. Factors such as location, site and type of provision were considered.

The long list of options detailed within **Table 2**, were later re-evaluated and a short-list drawn up, so that the benefits, risks, timelines, costs etc. could be explored in much greater detail.

The key factors are securing places in the short to medium-term, which can be delivered over the course of the next five years:

Table 2 – Long List of Options

Options	Description:	Conclusion:
1	Business as usual- maintain the status quo	This is a standard baseline comparator which must be considered, but not an option, as it does not address the identified need. Discounted
2	Build capacity immediately in many settings all at once in both Primary and Secondary Mainstream settings in the County Borough and the River Centre 3-16 Learning Community -Secondary Phase	Merits further consideration, but financial constraints, would not permit effective and timely implementation. Possible
3	Build Capacity (including Welsh Medium places & Faith Based provision) over the	Preferred way forward in, this will address Secondary need and Welsh Medium demand

	next 5 years to increase both Primary and Secondary Mainstream Settings in County Borough and in the River Centre 3-16 Learning Community Secondary setting	Imminently and plan medium and long-term growth. Possible
4	Send Pupils who require support to Out of County Resource Bases	Not enough capacity exists, and this would not support the vision for education in securing localised, accessible and high-quality provision. Also very costly. Discounted
5	Tackle capacity issues in just secondary school settings	Merits further investigation in line with a detailed exploration availability in secondary school buildings and cost implications associated with the delivery, model and vision for ALN. Possible
6	Tackle capacity issues in just Primary school settings	There is currently immediate demand in the secondary sector for places Discounted

Options 1, 4 and 6 have been discounted as they would potentially:

- not address the immediate and medium-term need
- Result in increased costs for ALN pupils if they had to be educated out of county
- Cause disruption within the existing education system
- Would not address the immediate demand for provision in the secondary sector same as the first one
- Negatively affect provision and access to specialist facilities and services

The short list included:

- **Option 1** (business as usual)- Maintain the status quo
- **Option 2** Build capacity immediately in many settings all at once in both Primary and Secondary Mainstream.
- **Option 3** Build Capacity (including Welsh Medium places and Faith Based places) over the next 5 years to increase settings in both Primary and Secondary Mainstream
- **Option 5** Tackle capacity issues in just secondary school settings

The Preferred Option

Option 3 – To build capacity (including Welsh Medium places & Faith Based provision) over the next 5 years and increase provision in both Primary and Secondary settings, is the preferred option as this will address the immediate need at secondary provision and Welsh Medium demand and plans for medium and long-term growth and sustainability. Option 2 & Option 5 were not considered the preferred option due to:

- Financial constraints
- Doesn't address long term sustainability issues

Risks and Mitigation

Blaenau Gwent Council has a proven track record of managing both school build and school organisation projects – including the requirement to increase school capacity. The following risks can be managed and largely mitigated as follows:

Table 3 – Risks and Mitigation

Risk	Mitigation
<p>If the proposal is not taken forward, there is both a placement and a financial risk in terms of securing suitable Out of County provision for learners</p>	<p>The Local Authority is working closely with key colleagues to provide a local solution that is cost effective and reduces the number of pupils travelling to and accessing already limited Out of County placements. However, the LA has a proven track record of working to secure appropriate placements for learners throughout the region.</p>
<p>The consultation process does not address stakeholder perspective and understanding of the proposal. Therefore, the proposal is not supported and does not progress.</p>	<p>Blaenau Gwent Council’s Education Directorate is experienced in and have recently undertaken consultation upon proposals, whilst being fully compliant with the Welsh Government School Organisation Code (Version 2, 2018).</p>
<p>The proposal to expand existing provision is delivered late</p>	<p>Delivery plans are in place and can be facilitated at pace in line with the outcome of the statutory processes associated within this proposal i.e. consultation and statutory notice.</p>
<p>Insufficient capacity for future demand.</p>	<p>The purpose of this proposal is to build extra capacity to meet a previously unforeseen demand and to allow the Council to monitor and explore long-term options to secure sustainable growth.</p>
<p>The projected capital investment costs exceed the budget.</p>	<p>The sites associated with the proposal are well known to the Blaenau Gwent Project team for Sustainable Communities for Learning, and so the cost estimates are based upon actual knowledge and understanding, with a built-in contingency to address any potential unknowns. Budget monitoring is undertaken regularly to inform future plans. Capital funding via the ALN Grant and Sustainable Communities for Learning Programme will be utilised over a 3–5-year period to deliver the proposal.</p>

Benefits of Proposal

This proposal would ensure equality of opportunity for all pupils - particularly those with the greatest level of need, to be educated locally. The proposal further facilitates inclusion and an inclusive approach within Education, ensuring access to high quality specialist education facilities and support for pupils with ALN within the County Borough. It will also go some way to addressing the barriers parents perceive in accessing specialist education and reducing the Council’s carbon footprint associated with travel for education purposes.

Should nothing change, the Council will be unable to meet the needs of all learners particularly those with ASD and ALN within Blaenau Gwent. Therefore, they would need to be placed Out of County at significant cost, with learners having to manage longer school journeys affecting families and socialisation for many pupils.

Expected Benefits and Advantages (when compared with the status quo):

- Pupils are accessing suitable and appropriate provision within their locality;
- Pupils are accessing suitable and appropriate provision in terms of protected characteristics e.g. faith or language;
- Creation of a local solution which will address the increased demand for ALN provision;
- Continuity and sustainability in terms of local education for pupils with ALN;
- The structure will build confidence and self-esteem in pupils, parents and staff;
- A local option for pupils transitioning from mainstream school to resources bases ;
- Reduce the costs of out of county placements for pupils, whilst securing local investment within the Blaenau Gwent school estate;
- Improve access to and facilities for pupils who meet the criteria for ALN provision across the county borough;
- Increased capacity and sustainability of placement; and
- Reduced travel time and carbon footprint for pupils

Disadvantages:

- Potential parental concerns in relation to placement in Resource Bases; and
- Pupil numbers in schools identified as potential bases may grow if there is any inward migration into the area.

Governance Model

Of the school identified within the proposal (Including Brynmawr Foundation School), the Governing body will have to agree to host an ASD/ALN base and be responsible for the day to day running of the resource base. The Governing Body or the diocese, as relevant, would need to agree to change the characteristics of the school need to agree to the placement of provision and take on the local authority arrangements via the ALN panel for children and young people to be placed.

Learner Travel Arrangements

The Council's Home to School and Post 16 Transport Policy 2023/24 states that free home to school transport will be provided as follows:

The Council will provide transport assistance for pupils with ALN:

- if existing transport arrangements are deemed unsuitable in line with pupil needs, alternative arrangements will be determined by the Inclusion ALN Panel;
- if it is not appropriate for the pupils to walk to school due to the nature of their additional learning need and/or disability; and/or,
- if it is determined by ALN Panel that there is no appropriate education provision within the County Borough suitable to meet pupil need.

The above arrangements will be subject to review in line with changes to circumstances relating to the pupil(s) transport requirements.

Pupils requiring Additional Learning Needs (ALN) transport who live:

- over 1.5 miles (for those under 8 years of age); and/or,
- over 2 miles (for those aged between 8-16 years of age)

from their nearest suitable ALN provision, will automatically qualify for free home to school transport. Please note in instances where the school is a parental choice and not the provision determined by the ALN Panel, no transport will be provided.

The Council has established a process in order to assess the travel needs of children who may require ALN transport, as follows:

- All requests to ALN Panel for consideration of change of placement will firstly be considered by the Transport team to determine their eligibility for transport on distance grounds
- The Council's ALN Panel will then consider the request for change of placement, and if agreed, determine the appropriate placement and identify if transport is required to access the agreed placement

Where transport has been agreed, the Transport Officer will contact the parent and inform them of the arrangements. In cases where transport requests are refused, parents/carers will receive notification from the ALN team, also indicating their right of appeal.

The current school location and infrastructure accommodates bus and taxi drop off and pick-up at the start and finish of the school day, with sufficient parking for staff and key partners to visit.

Section 4: Consultation Outcome and Next Steps



Consultation Report: Feedback from the consultation will be collated, analysed and presented in a Consultation Out-turn Report to the Council's Executive Committee in **June 2023**. The report will be available on the Council's website 2 weeks prior to a decision being made to proceed or not to proceed to statutory notice. Hard copies can be obtained on request via the email addresses detailed above on **page 8**.

Statutory Notice: Should this proposal be approved at Executive Committee; the Council will then go out to statutory notice in **June 2023**. The statutory notice period will run for 28 days, during this time, you will be able to make formal objections should you wish to do so, via the email address provided in this consultation booklet. Any issues raised by interested parties will then be summarised and presented to the Executive Committee for a final decision to be made. Should the proposal proceed, a copy of the Statutory Notice will be displayed on the Council's website and at any affected schools within the County Borough. Hard copies of the statutory notice will be available upon request.

Determination of the Proposal: Blaenau Gwent Council will determine the proposal based on the outcome of the statutory notice period. This may lead to the approval, rejection or approval of the proposal with modifications.

Decision Notification: Once a decision has been made, an electronic copy of determination will be sent out to all interested parties and published on Blaenau Gwent Council’s website within 7 days of the decision.

Table 4 - The Statutory Process Timeline

April 2023	May 2023	June 2023	June 2023	July 2023	September 2023
Consultation Period		Consultation report to Executive Committee	Statutory Notice	Objections Report	Decision Notification
					Implementation September 2023 onwards

Section 5: Details of Affected Schools



Schools that are directly affected:

The below schools are directly affected by this proposal:

- St Joseph’s R.C. Primary School, Ashvale, Dukestown, Tredegar, NP22 4AQ
- All Saints R.C. Primary School, Heol-yr-Ysgol, Ebbw Vale, NP23 6QP
- St Mary’s R.C Primary School, Catholic Road, Brynmawr, NP23 4EF
- Abertillery 3-16 Learning Community, Roseheyworth Road Campus, Roseheyworth Road, Abertillery, NP13 1SR
- Brynmawr Foundation School, Clydach Dingle, Brynmawr, NP23 4XT
- Cwm Primary School, Canning Street, Cwm, Ebbw Vale, NP23 7RD
- Ebbw Fawr 3-16 Learning Community, Secondary Phase, Lime Avenue, Ebbw Vale, NP23 6GL
- River Centre 3-16 Learning Community, Secondary Campus, Pontygof, Ebbw Vale, NP23 5AZ

- Sofrydd Primary School, Sofrydd Road, Sofrydd, NP11 5DW
- Tredegar Comprehensive School, Stable Lane, Tredegar, NP22 4BH
- Ysgol Gymraeg Bro Helyg, Rising Sun Industrial Estate, Blaina, NP13 3DQ

Schools that are in-directly affected:

Schools that already have an ALN Resource Base and/or are connected via an all through school above

- Abertillery 3-16 Learning Community
 - Secondary Campus, Alma Street, Abertillery, NP13 1YL
 - Six Bells Primary Campus, Six Bells Road, Six Bells, NP13 2NJ
- Ebbw Fawr 3-16 Learning Community, Primary Phase, Strand Annealing Lane Ebbw Vale NP23 8XF
- River Centre 3-16 Learning Community
 - Stewards House, Eugene Cross Park, Pontygof, Ebbw Vale, NP23 5AZ
 - Primary Campus, Dukestown Rd, Sirhowy, Tredegar, NP22 3DT
- Coed y Garn Primary School, Parrot Row, Blaina, NP13 3AH
- Glanhwy Primary School, Coach Bach, Tredegar, NP22 4RW
- Willoughton Primary School, Brynheulog Street, Ebbw Vale, NP23 6NJ
- Ystruth Primary School, East Pentwyn, Blaina, NP13 3XG

The below information contains all schools that feeds into a secondary school under this proposal and has been broken down into areas below:

Tredegar Area:

- Bryn Bach Primary School, Merthyr Road, Tredegar, NP22 3RX
- Deighton Primary School, Stockton Way, Tredegar, NP22 3ES
- Georgetown Primary School, Oakfield Road, Tredegar, NP22 4LP

Ebbw Fawr area:

- Beaufort Hill Primary School, Bangor Road, Beaufort, Ebbw Vale, NP23 5QG
- Glymcoed Primary School, Badminton Grove, Ebbw Vale, NP23 5UL
- Rhos y Fedwen Primary School, Honeyfield Road, Rassau, Ebbw Vale, NP23 5TA

Ebbw Fach area:

- St Illtyds Primary School, Llanhilleth, Abertillery, NP13 2JT
- St Mary's C.I.W Primary School, Intermediate Road, Brynmawr, NP23 4SF
- Blaen y Cwm Primary School, Blaenafon Road, Brynmawr, NP23 4BR

Surplus Capacity Statement

Blaenau Gwent schools' capacity for September 2022 shows that there is sufficient space in our mainstream schools to support the development of an ALN resource base in both Primary and Secondary settings.

- In Primary overall there is 13% surplus spaces (places 5813 numbers on roll 5060)
- In Secondary overall there is 12% surplus places (places 3463 number on roll 3033)

Both our primary and secondary surplus places are at the lower percentage of an Amber position as per Welsh Governments data sets (between 10% - 24%).

There will be no direct impact from this proposal for Pen y Cwm Special school.

Section 6: Other Considerations

Consideration



Finance

Revenue Costs

In increasing provision in Resource Bases there will be a revenue implication associated with the proposal. All schools are funded in accordance with Blaenau Gwent Council's Fair Funding policy and will receive resources on the same basis as any other school within Blaenau Gwent, based upon pupil numbers and the area of the school building. It is difficult to accurately project the costs associated within the capacity increase, due to the following variables:

- the reduction in funding for mainstream settings as a result of pupil placement,
- the level of cost avoidance as a result of pupil placement within Out of County settings from within Blaenau Gwent; and finally,
- the level of recoupment realised as a result of Out of County placement within existing resource bases.

Blaenau Gwent currently has 11 pupils (2022/23) that are educated outside the Local Authority in Independent Settings and a further 13 CLA pupils that would be placed in the nearest school to the LA in which they reside (foster/residential care) at a cost of circa £600,000. The budget for 2023/24 is expected to be £720,000.

Revenue costs associated with Phase 1 of the project are anticipated to be in the region of £756,973 (breakdown). These figures are based on the 2023/24 price base.
per annum

- 2023/24 £73,184
- 2024/25 £241,003
- 2025/26 £442,786

In years 2023/24 & 2024/25 it is anticipated the increased costs will be financed from ALN Implementation grants and the SEN reserve. From 2025/26, it is anticipated the proposal will begin to impact on the requirement for Out County placements therefore reducing this expenditure and allowing funding to be vired accordingly. However, there may be a requirement for short term cost pressures/invest to save funding to be awarded until the financial impact of reducing out of county placements materialises as pupils leave the system. Any cost pressures/invest to save funding will be proposed as part of the standards budget setting process.

If these pupils are not placed locally in a resource base, then they would need to be placed in Out County placements which could see these annual costs incrementally increase in line with the projected demand by approximately £1.3m by the 2025/26 financial year.

Transport Costs

Costs associated with home to school transport are increasing. The 2022/23 forecast transport costs associated with:

- Out of County placement are £247,352
- ALN bases attached to Primary school provision £286,008.74
- ALN bases attached to Secondary School Provision £226,652.30

Across all ALN offered provision, the costs associated with an academic year can be as high as £654,508.65, (excluding Pen Y Cwm Special School costs) this is dependent on the number of children requiring transport. These costs are regularly reviewed and subject to change in line with pupil placement. Should the proposal be implemented the Council would see an incremental reduction in the transport costs associated with Out County placements every year.

Capital Costs

As the remodelling of areas in the schools identified that can accommodate new provision already within the existing footprint of the schools, There are capital financial implications associated with this proposal for the Council, which are circa £570,000 over a 3–5-year period.

- Phase 1 £300,000
- Phase 2 £270,000

This will be met via contributions from within the ALN Grant and an element of Sustainable Communities for Learning Band B Programme over a five-year period. This figure is based on the assumption that the below table is applied over Phase 1 & Phase 2 of the proposal:

Table 5 – Potential breakdown of capital costs per individual school Resource Base

Funding Stream	School	Capital Works	Fixtures/ Furnishings and Sensory equipment
Secondary:			
ALN funding	Ebbw Fawr 3-16 Learning Community – Secondary Campus	0	0
ALN funding	River Centre 3-16 Learning Community – Secondary Campus	0	£10,000
ALN Funding	Tredegarr Comprehensive School	£90,000	£30,000
ALN Funding	Brynmawr Foundation School	£100,000	£30,000
Primary:			
SCfL	Ysgol Gymraeg Bro Helyg (Welsh-medium)	£100,000	£20,000
ALN Funding	Sofrydd Primary School	£20,000	£20,000
ALN Funding	Abertillery 3-16 Learning Community Roseheyworth Road Primary Campus	£20,000	£20,000
ALN Funding	Cwm Primary School	£90,000	£30,000
ALN Funding	Faith Based Primary School yet to be determined	£20,000	£20,000

Capital Costs/Capital Receipts

Should the proposal be approved, it will address the current shortfall in capacity for the Resource Bases in mainstream education. There will be capital costs associated with the proposal in facilitating the remodelling work within existing school building. However, as a result of this proposal there will be no transfer of buildings or sale of any building. The proposal will be managed within existing building layouts.

Admission Arrangements

Admission to any ALN provision, whether it be a Resource Base in Mainstream Education or at a Specialist schools (Pen y Cwm Special School and The River Centre 3-16 Learning Community) is managed via the ALN Panel within the Inclusion Services Team, which is made up of representatives from schools, the Inclusion Service and wider Education representatives including the Education Psychologists. Referrals to the ALN Panel are made directly to the ALN team.

Impact of the Proposal on the Welsh Language

This proposal will impact positively on the provision of ALN for Welsh-medium pupils in Blaenau Gwent. Currently Blaenau Gwent only has one Welsh-medium primary school with another 210-place school building being ready for occupation in 2024. The Council's Welsh in Education 10-year Strategic Plan 2022-32 aims to improve ALN provision for Welsh learners in the county borough and this proposal will support the council's directive. The school has identified 8 pupils, that could be supported via this proposal and the space within the school identified can accommodate 15 pupils which would create space for future needs of pupils with ALN.

Equality Impact Screening

An Equality Impact Screening Assessment has been undertaken in order to assess the impact of key proposals and decisions upon protected characteristics. The assessment determined that none of the protected characteristics will be negatively affected, whilst disability will be positively affected (Please refer to **Appendix 4** for more information).

Community and Welsh Language Impact Assessment

A community impact assessment has been undertaken in order to assess the impact of key proposals and decisions upon stakeholders and the wider community (Please refer to **Appendix 5** for more information).

United Nation Convention Rights of the Child (UNCRC)

The Council in all its corporate responsibilities ensure that they will always engage positively with children and young people. If this proposal is implemented, it will realise benefits for children and young people in accordance with the seven core aims of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, specifically:

Core aim 1 - have a flying start in life;

Core aim 2 - have a comprehensive range of education and learning opportunities;

Core aim 3 - enjoy the best possible health and are free from abuse, victimisation and exploitation;

Core aim 4 - have access to play, leisure, sporting and cultural activities;

Core aim 5 - are listened to, treated with respect, and have their race and cultural identity recognised;

Core aim 6 - have a safe home and a community which supports physical and emotional wellbeing; and

Core aim 7 - are not disadvantaged by poverty.

Engagement of Children and Young People in this Consultation

As part of this consultation process, the Education Transformation team in partnership with school, will consult with pupils that are affected by the proposal, as well as engaging with both the Blaenau Gwent Youth Forum and Schools Grand Council.

Housing Developments

Over the course of the last 2 years, 235 houses (132 in 2020/21 and 103 in 2021/22) have been built in Blaenau Gwent. The below table projects the level of growth and expected to continue. These potential homes either already have planning permission, are seeking legal agreement or are included in the Local Development Plan. This is likely to have an impact upon pupil place planning. The Education Transformation team monitor the impact upon schools.

Figure 7 Below - illustrates the number of housing developments which are currently in the Local Development Plan (LDP)

	According to the Housing Land Availability Study which looks at a 5-year timescale the following figures are identified for Tredegar Valley .					According to the Housing Land Availability Study which looks at a 5-year timescale the following figures are identified for Ebbw Fawr Valley .					According to the Housing Land Availability Study which looks at a 5 year timescale the following figures are identified for Ebbw Fach Valley .				
	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
Housing Associations:	0	0	0	0	0	23	15	20	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Private Sector Housing:	3	19	19	37	1	3	5	5	5	5	7	7	6	6	6
Total	3	19	19	37	1	26	20	25	5	5	7	7	6	6	6

The above data tells us that there are over 192 housing developments planned between 2022 – 2026. There is a potential for this to increase demand within both mainstream and special schools going forward with inward migration of families.

Human Resources

There are HR implications arising from the proposal. The proposal means that as there is an increase in pupil numbers entering ALN resource bases, the schools concerned with new provision will require the Governing Bodies of each school affected to plan for the workforce requirements in readiness for the respective extension.

Organisational Development will provide advice, support and guidance to the Governing Bodies for the workforce planning and consequential recruitment processes. Where the Governing Bodies have adopted the Council's School Redeployment and Redundancy Policy, any new vacancies arising as a consequence of an increase in numbers on roll will provide opportunities for school-based staff on the school redeployment register.

Partnerships

The 'Blaenau Gwent We Want' engagement programme is about local people, businesses and organisations having a say on how we can improve Blaenau Gwent for our future generations. In its 1st year the group have already engaged with over 1,500 people from throughout Blaenau Gwent to find out what they would like the area to be like in the future. Their feedback has been used to help us put together a number of priorities that we will work on over the next few years to help us create the Blaenau Gwent that we all want.

In its second year the PSB's progress they have continued to reflect on how we are doing and what we have been focussing on demonstrating that we are an ambitious and learning board. In this respect we have reviewed our programme of work and taken on a number of exciting new projects including ones to address climate change and food inequality.

Looking to the future we will also be taking stock on the impact COVID-19 has had on our communities and what it means for any changes we might need to make on our well-being plan for the area.

Our Well-Being Plan outlines our objectives for improving well-being in Blaenau Gwent and meeting our duties under the Future Generations Act (2015). The 5 objectives in the plan have been developed to reflect that Blaenau Gwent Wants:

- The best start in life for everyone
- Safe and friendly communities
- To look after and protect the natural environment
- To forge new pathways to prosperity
- To encourage healthy lifestyles

These well-being objectives are ones we consider having real power to bring about change, that are the most urgent and that the evidence tells us need the combined force of the Public Services Board partners to deliver and improve well-being.

Section 7: Present Arrangements



Estyn

ESTYN

Schools are inspected as part of a national programme of school inspection. The purpose of an inspection is to identify good features and shortcomings in schools in order that they may improve the quality of education offered and raise standards achieved by their pupils (Estyn).

Appendix 6 shows the latest Estyn results for the schools included in this proposal along with **Appendix 7** any recommendations. In terms of this proposal please see an overall assessment below on the core themes from the Estyn inspection framework

Quality and Standards in Education: The quality and standards of schools in Blaenau Gwent are monitored by the Council, in line with the national system of school categorisation and guidance in respect of schools causing concern. Estyn is the Office of Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Education and Training in Wales and is established under the 1992 Education Act. Standards and the quality of provision are also monitored periodically through the Estyn Inspection Framework for the inspection of schools.

Since 2012, the Council has commissioned the Education Achievement Service (EAS) to support school improvement in Blaenau Gwent's schools. The EAS provide school improvement support to the following Councils: Blaenau Gwent, Caerphilly, Monmouthshire, Newport and Torfaen. As part of this proposal, the Council will work in partnership with the EAS to secure increased levels of support for the schools.

Standards: The proposal will not affect the standards in any of the school buildings proposed for resource bases in the County Borough. The schools will continue to receive the appropriate level of challenge and support in terms of their new ALN provision from the Inclusion team as well as the EAS.

Wellbeing and Attitudes to Learning: The provision of additional pupil places in resource bases is expected to enable more children to attend school in their local community. Pupil wellbeing is a priority for the Inclusion team and Council which is monitored and reported via the ALN Panel. The proposal will not impact wellbeing and attitudes towards learning.

Teaching and Learning Experiences: The teaching in resource bases being established under this proposal will follow the national curriculum with English as the language of teaching and learning. It is also prudent to note that under this proposal the Council will be establishing its first Welsh-medium provision for Welsh learners in Ysgol Gymraeg Bro Helyg which has been identified as a gap previously. This proposal will not impact negatively on teaching and learning experiences.

Care, Support and Guidance: All schools in Blaenau Gwent have highly effective policies and strategies for promoting care, support and guidance that have a strong emphasis on supporting pupils' behaviour, communication and emotional wellbeing. As a result, nearly all pupils behave well and engage enthusiastically in their learning across the County Borough. The proposal can offer an appropriate range of activities that link well to pupils' interests and abilities. The proposal will promote pupils' social, moral, spiritual and cultural development effectively.

The majority of our schools with existing resource provision work closely with external agencies ensuring effective collaboration planning that will support and advise staff about individual pupils' needs. This is also paramount to the new resource bases being established under this proposal.

Leadership and Management: The Inclusion Team and headteacher of the proposed Resource Bases will have a clear vision and high expectations for the provision, in current provisions there is clear and effective communication with governors, pupils, parents and staff via the Inclusion Team. The senior leadership teams are and will be effective, understand their roles and responsibilities and undertake their work efficiently.

Impact of the proposal

Should the proposal be approved, it will continue to provide a high quality learning environment in support of enhanced outcomes for all ALN pupils that require placement in Resource Bases in mainstream settings. The proposal will ensure that the already excellent standards in our current settings will also be maintained. Much research and ALN reform has demonstrated that pupils achieve better outcomes when they are fully engaged in learning and in an environment that is suitable for their needs.

Section 8: Overview of the Proposal

OVERVIEW

Table 6 below details Phase 1 of the proposal including the category, language, age range and other relevant details in relation to the proposed new ALN provisions:

New proposed Resource Base					
	Ebbw Fawr 3-16 Learning Community – Secondary Phase	Tredegar Comprehensive School	Sofrydd Primary School	Ysgol Gymraeg Bro Helyg	River Centre 3-16 Learning Community Secondary Campus
Admission number and arrangements	Admissions to Resource Bases are co-ordinated by Blaenau Gwent's Inclusion team on the basis of need.				
Age range	11-16	11-16	3-11	3-11	11-16
Pupil places in Resource Base	6	6-8	10	10-15	6
Capacity of the school	1191	767	162	215	n/k
Location	Lime Avenue, Ebbw Vale NP23 6GL	Stable Lane, Tredegar NP22 4BH	Sofrydd Road, Sofrydd NP11 5DW	Rising Sun Ind Estate, Blaina NP13 3DQ	Pontygof, Ebbw Vale NP23 5AZ
Category school and language	Community English Medium	Community English Medium	Community English Medium	Community Welsh Medium	Special School English Medium
Transport arrangements and policy	Transport will be delivered in accordance with the Blaenau Gwent Home to School and Post 16 Transport Policy 2023/24. Please refer to Section ? for more information.				
Cost per Pupil 2021/22	£5,649	£5,591	£5,386	£4,981	£31,417
Results of Estyn Inspections	Please see results and recommendations in Appendix 6 Page ? & 7 Page ?				
Building Condition Categorisation	A	B	C	B	B
Building Suitability Categorisation	A	A/B	C	B	B
Schedule of accommodation	Rooms to be determined post consultation and capital investment				

Table 7 below details Phase 2 of the proposal including the category, language, age range and other relevant details in relation to the proposed new ALN provisions:

New proposed Resource Base				
	Brynmawr Foundation School	Abertillery 3-16 Learning Community Roseheyworth Road Primary Campus	Faith Based Primary School location	Cwm Primary School
Admission number and arrangements	Admissions to Resource Bases are co-ordinated by Blaenau Gwent's Inclusion team on the basis of need.			
Age range	11-16	3-11	3-11	3-11
Pupil places in Resource Base	10	10	10	10
Capacity of the school	820	980 for whole primary sites	n/k	210
Location	Intermediate Road, Brynmawr NP23 4XT	Roseheyworth Road, Abertillery. NP13 1SR	Yet to be determined	Canning Street Cwm, Ebbw Vale NP23 7RD
Category school and language	Foundation English Medium	Community English Medium	Voluntary Aided English Medium	Community English Medium
Transport arrangements and policy	Transport will be delivered in accordance with the Blaenau Gwent Home to School and Post 16 Transport Policy 2023/24. Please refer to Section 1 for more information.			
Cost per Pupil 2021/22	£5,056	£5,449	n/k	£5,837
Results of Estyn Inspections	Please see results and recommendations in Appendix 6 (page ?) & 7 (Page ?)			
Building Condition Categorisation	C	B	n/k	C
Building Suitability Categorisation	C	B	n/k	C
Schedule of accommodation	Rooms to be determined post consultation and capital investment			

School Catchment Area

The Resource Base catchment area covers all of the county Borough, the placement of pupils in bases will depend on the needs of the pupils. This will not change as part of this proposal.

Transition Arrangements

There will be no change for pupils, currently in any of the Resource Bases or Special Schools in the existing county borough bases.

Section 9: Consultation Pro-forma

Consultation Questionnaire

Please provide your comments on the proposal to extend the Capacity for pupils in Resource Bases across the County Borough. You may also wish to indicate which of the following reflects your views: This can be done in 3 ways:

1. Via the link provided electronically via: <https://wh1.snapsurveys.com/s.asp?k=161701999055>
2. Via the below proforma and send to:

I fully support the proposal	
I partially support the proposal	
I do not support the proposal	

Your comments:

Name: _____ Date: _____
E-mail: _____
Address: _____ Postcode: _____

Please indicate if you are:

Primary: Teacher/Non-Teaching School Staff / Governor / Parent / Pupil /Local Resident / Other (please state) _____

Secondary: Teacher/Non-Teaching School Staff / Governor / Parent / Pupil /Local Resident / Other (please state) _____

3. Send by mail to Education Transformation Team, Education Department, Floor 8 Anvil Court, Abertillery, NP13 1DB

Thank you for your time and contribution to the consultation. Your views, comments and responses will be recorded and reported to the Council's Executive Committee in the Consultation Outcome Report.

All comments to be received no later than 5:00pm on Tuesday 6th June 2023

Appendix 1 - Distribution List for the Consultation Document

Parents (and where possible prospective parents) carers and guardians, and staff members of schools affected by the proposals	The Welsh Ministers
In the case of proposals affecting secondary provision, parents of pupils attending primary schools from which pupils normally transfer to that secondary school	Constituency and Regional Assembly Members (AMs) and Members of Parliament (MP's) representing the area served by/intended to be served by any school which is the subject of the proposals
The maintaining or proposed maintaining authority for any school likely to be affected by the proposals	ESTYN
Any other local authority (including those in England where appropriate) likely to be affected – including in the case of dedicated ALN provision, any authority placing or likely to place pupils with ALN in it to distribute to schools in their areas as appropriate	Teaching and staff trade unions (NUT; NASUWT; ATL; UCAC; UNISON; GMB) representing teachers and other staff at any school which is the subject of the proposals
The Church in Wales and Roman Catholic Diocesan Authority for the area in which any school likely to be affected is located	The relevant Regional Education Consortium
Any other appropriate religious body for any school likely to be affected by the proposals	The Police and Crime Commissioner for the area served by/intended to be served by any school which is the subject of the proposals
The Governing body of any school which is the subject of the proposals	Any community or town council for the area served by/intended to be served by any school which is the subject of the proposals
The Governing body of other schools which the proposer consider are likely to be affected by the proposal;	In the case of proposals affecting nursery provision, any independent or voluntary providers who may be affected including Mudiad Meithrin. Also all Registered Private/Voluntary Early Years Settings /Providers in Blaenau Gwent;
In the case of proposals affecting nursery provision, the Early Years Development and Childcare Partnerships where present	In the case of proposals affecting ALN provision, any relevant health or third sector bodies with an interest
In the case of proposals affecting secondary provision, any further education institutions serving the area of the school (Coleg Gwent)	In the case of proposals affecting Welsh Language provision, the Welsh Language Commissioner

In addition to the above, the following are also included in the distribution:

The Headteacher of each school maintained by Blaenau Gwent LEA	Other Directorates of Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council
All Elected Members of Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council	Blaenau Gwent Association of School Governors
The Careers Service	Libraries
RhAG (Parents for Welsh Medium Education)	SNAP Cymru

Appendix 2 – Summary of schools locations, Pupil Numbers and Projections

		All Through Schools (3-16)						Primary Schools																Secondary Schools		Special School Provision					
		Abertillery Learning Community				Ebbw Fawr Learning																		River Centre 3-16 Learning							
		Secondary Campus	Roadleyworth Road Primary Campus	St Bells Primary Campus	Tillery Street Primary Campus	Primary Phase	Secondary Phase	All Saints R.C	Beechfort Hill	Bless y Cwm	Brybach	Coed y Gam	Cwm	Deighton	Georgetown	Glanhowy	Glynsod	Rhos y Felwen	St Joseph R.C.	St Mary C/W	St Mary's R.C.	Sedgild	Willowton	Ysgol Gymraeg Bro Helyg	Yerfath	Brynnew Foundation	Tredgar Comprehensive	Primary Setting	Secondary Setting	Stowards House	Pen Y Cwm Special School
School	Location of School	Ebbw Fach	Ebbw Fach	Ebbw Fach	Ebbw Fach	Ebbw Vale	Ebbw Vale	Ebbw Vale	Ebbw Vale	Ebbw Vale	Tredgar	Ebbw Fach	Ebbw Vale	Tredgar	Tredgar	Tredgar	Ebbw Vale	Ebbw Vale	Tredgar	Ebbw Fach	Ebbw Fach	Ebbw Vale	Ebbw Fach	Ebbw Fach	Ebbw Fach	Ebbw Fach	Tredgar	Tredgar	Ebbw Vale	Ebbw Vale	Ebbw Vale
	School Category, Community, Voluntary /Controlled /Voluntary Aided/ Foundation	C	C	C	C	C	C	VIA	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	VIA	C	VIA	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	B	C
	Language English, Welsh-medium	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E
Capacity	(Sept 22)	750	980		284	1191	188	210	270	210	210	210	210	420	298	320	177	107	210	210	182	420	215	294	820	787	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	
	Nursery Capacity (Jan 23)	N/A	45	26	41	58	N/A																		N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	
School Projections	Numbers on Roll as at Jan (inc of	2019				N/A	N/A	179	214	271	192	197	183	164	376	265	265	122	99	207	174	148	381	208	278	701	664	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
	2020	654	178		233	940	176	200	251	202	175	180	175	381	251	301	121	93	204	178	142	378	223	282	655	688	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	
	2021	705	795		244	1011	177	205	239	204	180	178	187	386	232	305	128	97	198	175	138	389	220	284	620	745	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	
	2022	690	788		224	1069	176	202	232	200	180	172	195	400	238	293	109	95	208	178	131	398	222	291	550	706	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	
	2023	722	780		233	1103		200	240	208	155	175	201	392	248	313	94					120	415		295	564	720	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
	2024	737	780		228	1119		201	232	194	156	177	205	384	245	281	101					100	406		300	532	740	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
	2025	750	769		221	1122		195	244	195	153	172	208	388	245	256	109					100	417		290	535	772	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
2026	735	728		231	1073		196	238	192	169	173	208	356	265	230	119					97	406		299	533	781	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	
2027	712	741		238	1019		196	258	180	188	178	202	342	289	218	129					80	403		288	538	784	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	



Appendix 3 – Schedule of Accommodation Condition Surveys and Facilities overview

		All Through Schools (3-16)				Primary Schools																Secondary		Special School Provision									
		Abertillery Learning Community		Ebbw Fawr Learning Community																				River Centre 3-16 Learning Community									
		Secondary Campus	Roseheymouth Road Campus	Six Belis Campus	Tilley Street Campus	Primary Phase	Secondary Phase	All Saints R.C.	Breadfort Hill	Blawyn Y Cwm	Bryn Barah	Coed Y Glan	Cwm	Dreighton	Georgetown	Glanhowy	Glyncod	Rhos-y-Fedwen	St Illtyd's	St Joseph's R.C.	St Mary's R.C.	St Mary's C.I.W.	Sedycliff	Willowdown	Ysgol Gymreig Bruchydyg	Ystruth	Brynnewer Foundation	Tredreger Comprehensive	Primary setting	Secondary setting	Steward House	Pen Y Cwm Special School	
School	Condition Survey	C	B	A	A	A	C	B	B	B/C	B	C	B	B	C	D* new build open Sept 2024	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B/C	C	B	C	A* just completed remodelling	B	A	
Facilities Schedule of Existing Site	Nursery		/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	
	Classrooms/ Shared teaching areas	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	
	Staffroom	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	
	Headteachers office	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	
	Reception	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	
	Storage	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/
	Multi-purpose use/Hall	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/
	Kitchen	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/
	Cloakroom	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/

Screening Form

Service Area Contact Information: (Please complete all fields)				
Name of Person Completing Form: Sharon Rowlands		Department/Service Area: Education Directorate		Service Manager: Joanne Watts
				Date: 07/03/2023
Contact Details: sharon.rowlands@blaenau-gwent.gov.uk			Name of Proposed Policy: N/A	
Policy Information				
Are you screening for the Equality Impact on a new policy, or an existing policy: N/A Choose an item.			Comments: This EIA screening is in connection with the proposal to increase capacity in ALN resource provision in mainstream schools.	
What are the aims and objectives of the policy: There are no associated policy developments, however, the Council is consulting upon a proposal to increase Capacity of ALN provision in the County Borough for Autistic Spectrum Disorder ASD and ALN Resource Bases across the County Borough				
Assessment of Impact of the Policy / Practice on Protected Characteristics				
Protected Characteristic	Positive Impact	Negative Impact	Neutral Impact	Provide reasons and any mitigation required
Age (children, young people, the elderly)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Disability	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	The implementation of additional resource bases will ensure improved access to a high-quality, fully accessible teaching and learning environment, in line with 21st Century School standards, whilst also being DDA compliant. The additional facilities will ensure the health and safety of, along with improved wellbeing for a greater number of pupils in need of specialist provision.
Gender	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Marriage and Civil Partnership	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Pregnancy and Maternity	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Race	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Religion and Belief	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	

Sex (male, female)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Click here to enter text.
Sexual Orientation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Click here to enter text.
<u>Additional Indicators of Equality Risk</u>				
Please indicate if you believe this policy / practice has a high, medium or low risk as follows (1 = No Impact; 2 = Minimal Impact; 3 = Potential Impact; 4 = Likely Impact; 5 = Inequality Impact)				
Children and / or young people up to the age of 18		1		Please indicate any planned methods aimed at mitigating these risks Click here to enter text.
The dynamics of a given community		1		Please indicate any planned methods aimed at mitigating these risks There will be more options for parents to consider based on their child's schooling. English medium, Faith Based and Welsh-medium.
<u>Meeting the Equality Objectives</u>				
Please indicate below if / how your proposal will contribute to the Equality Objectives				
Objective 1 – Making equality vital in decision making and service provision	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>		
Objective 2 – Be an equal opportunity employer, with a workforce that is aware of and understands the equality agenda	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>		Click here to enter text.
Objective 3 – Do our best to engage, protect and support those people in our community that need it the most	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>		Click here to enter text.
Objective 4 – Promote understanding and acceptance of diversity within our communities	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>		
<u>Evidence and Consultation</u>				
Have you undertaken any consultation and engagement activities with protected groups in order to mitigate any risks of discrimination	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>		Please describe the engagement activities undertaken as part of this process Formal consultation will be undertaken with all relevant stakeholders in order to gather their views.
Please highlight any additional evidence which might demonstrate consideration of the needs to protected groups in relation to this particular proposal				

Appendix 5 – ALN Resource Base Community Impact Assessment

Community Impact Assessments are a structured way for the Council to fully understand the implications of our decisions and whether they are detrimental or discriminatory to certain groups or sections of the community. They help us to consider the impact of Council decisions and policies within and between communities more generally. The Community Impact Assessment process will ensure that our decision-making process is robust and impacts on all communities within Blaenau Gwent ensuring that they are fully considered in Council decision making processes. By carrying out impact assessments, the Council is working to promote equality for all our service users, employees and the wider community that we serve.

There are 7 resource bases in the County Borough, for ease of information they have been split into the three distinct valleys.

Ebbw Fawr area	Ebbw Fach area	Tredegar area
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Ebbw Fawr 3-16 Learning Community – Secondary Campus ○ Willowtown Primary School 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Abertillery 3-16 Learning Community – Six Bells Primary Campus and Secondary Campus ○ Ystruth Primary School ○ Coed y Garn Primary School 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Glanhowy Primary School

The Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation (WIMD) updated in 2019 analysis and describes the patterns seen in Wales between different deep-rooted deprivation categories.

The Proportion of young children in income deprivation in each local authority, trend overtime from 2012-2013 to 2016-2017 [Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation 2019: deprivation analysis relating to young children | GOV.WALES](#) shows that in Blaenau Gwent 2012/13 there was an average of 41 children in comparison to 2016/17 of 37 this is still significantly higher than the Welsh Average of 30 in 2012/13 and 28 in 2016/17. The proportion of young children in income deprivation in Wales decreased year on year from 30% in 2012-13 to 27% in 2015-16, however the deprivation rate has since increased slightly to 28% in 2016-17.

Proposed Development:

If approved the proposal would secure an additional 43 places for pupils in phase 1 alone requiring a place in a Council run Resource Base. Phase 2 could see another potential 30 places in primary and 10 in secondary settings. The increase would bring significant benefits to current and new pupils requiring placements along with benefits for the wider community and families of pupils having closer provision available to them.

Proportion of Pupils:

The Council's proposal seeks to ensure a continued high quality learning environment for pupils that require ALN provision, by extending the capacity of mainstream setting Resource Bases in order to cater for many of the County Borough's pupils who are/or would otherwise be placed Out of County in line with their needs and/or availability and sufficiency of pupil places. The chosen locations have been decided on mainstream school building capacity to locate resource bases across the borough and the need for more ASD resource in the River Centre 3-16 Learning Community Secondary setting.

There are approximately 2 pupils from outside the County Borough being educated at primary and secondary Resource Bases in the County Borough. This represents less than 2.2% of the total allocation of places with the majority of its pupils, residing within Blaenau Gwent. Future availability of places for "out of county" pupils will be subject to demand from within Blaenau Gwent in the first instance.

Current facilities and/or services offered:

As part of the consultation document there is a full list of facilities recorded against all school that will be affected by the proposal. In forming Resource Bases there will be an added component for a sensory room as part of each Resource Base developed.

Travel Time:

Given the proposal is to remodel rooms on existing mainstream sites there will be no impact on travel distances for existing pupils. As the catchment area for ALN places covers the entire County Borough, the maximum distance likely to be travelled is no more than 8 miles, approximately 20 minutes by car/bus. Distances/travelling times will increase for those pupils with a placement from further afield.

How would parents' and pupils' engage should the proposal be agreed?

The Council recognises the importance of an effective and smooth transition process to ensure there is little, if any disruption should the proposal to expand capacity of Resource Bases in its mainstream setting and River Centre 3-16 Learning Community setting be approved. The Inclusion team will form part of the project team to collaboratively contribute to the overall development of new provisions.

Parents/carers and pupils will be provided with relevant information to aid their understanding of the proposal and the most appropriate support they can offer their children during the period of transition. The Inclusion team and school representatives will also work together with other services and where necessary, in identifying families who may need additional support. Parental and community engagement will remain a key priority throughout this process.

The wider implications the changes would have on public transport provisions:

The proposal is not expected to have any significant implications for public transport provision in the area given pupils' transport is largely provided by contracted vehicles.

Wider community safety issues:

The proposal would have no direct impact on the wider community, places in Resource Bases will be offered on pupil needs.

- The existing Resources Bases will remain in their current locations.
- It will benefit families of pupils who require ALN Resource Base places by their child having the education within the County Borough within which they reside.
- No significant safety issues are anticipated.

What would be the impact on health and well-being?

With the creation of additional Resource Bases it will positively impact on pupil's health and wellbeing. With smaller numbers in the classrooms the focus is on pupils and their needs, so the proposal will have a very positive impact on the health and wellbeing of those who attend, who will have access to the highest standard in terms of facilities, education and care.

Transport Impact Assessment:

The Learner Travel (Wales) Measure 2008 places a duty on the council to assess the travel needs of pupils under the age of 19. In addition to those pupils who qualify for free transport provision due to meeting the eligibility criteria, the council is under a legal obligation to assess the travel needs of pupils who walk to school. There will likely be an impact upon transport and travel, however, any implications on transport arrangements will be more positive than if the Council were to use provision from outside of the borough to meet the pupil's needs.

Staff Impact Assessment:

There will be no impact on existing staff albeit the increase in capacity in new Resource Bases may provide new and different opportunity to recruit additional staff. Nevertheless, in addition to their role as statutory consultees, meaningful consultation will take place with any affected staff and recognised trade unions on the possible impact and outcome of the statutory consultation. Discussions will take place through agreed joint consultative processes with recognised trade unions (JCC) and collective consultation.

Additional Learning Needs Provision:

This proposal specifically addresses sufficiency issues in relation to the number of places available for pupils with ALN in the Borough and will therefore, have a positive impact.

Appendix 6 -Estyn Inspection results

School & date last inspection	Key Question 1: How good are outcomes?		Key Question 2: How good is provision?				Key Question 3: How good are leadership and management?			
	Standards	Wellbeing	Learning experiences:	Teaching:	Care, support and guidance:	Learning environment:	Leadership:	Improving quality:	Partnership working:	Resource management:
Abertillery 3-16 Learning Community 2018 inspection	Adequate needs improvement	Adequate needs improvement	Adequate needs improvement	Adequate needs improvement	Adequate needs improvement		Unsatisfactory and needs urgent improvement			
Coed Y Garn Primary School 2022 Report	Good	Good	Good	Good	Good	Good	Good	Good	Good	Good
Glanhowy Primary School 2018 Report	Good	Good	Good	Good	Good		Good			
Willowtown Primary School 2017 Report	Adequate	Good	Good	Good	Good	Good	Good	Good	Good	Adequate
Ystruth Primary School 2017 Report	Good	Good	Good	Good	Good	Good	Good	Good	Good	Good
Ebbw Fawr 3-16 Learning Community 2016 Report	Good	Unsatisfactory	Good	Adequate	Unsatisfactory	Good	Adequate	Adequate	Good	Adequate

Tredegar Comprehensive School 2016 Report	Good	Excellent	Good	Good	Good	Excellent	Good	Good	Excellent	Good
Ysgol Gymraeg Bro Helyg 2020 Report	Good	Good	Good	Adequate	Good		Good			
Sofrydd Primary School 2016 Report	Good	Good	Good	Good	Good	Good	Good	Good	Excellent	Good
River Centre 3-16 Learning Community Secondary Campus 2022 Report										
Brynmawr Foundation School 2019 Report	Unsatisfactory and needs urgent improvement	Unsatisfactory and needs urgent improvement	Unsatisfactory and needs urgent improvement	Unsatisfactory and needs urgent improvement	Adequate and needs improvement		Unsatisfactory and needs urgent improvement			
Cwm Primary School 2020 Report	Good	Good	Good	Good	Good		Good			

Estyn Reports via links:

Abertillery 3-16 Learning Community - ALC Estyn Report 2018	Tredegar Comprehensive School- Tredegar Comp Estyn Report 2016
Coed y Garn Primary School - Coed -y- Garn Primary Estyn Report 2022	Brynmawr Foundation School - Brynmawr Foundation Estyn Report 2019
Glanhowy Primary School - Glanhowy Estyn Report 2018	Sofrydd Primary School - Sofrydd Estyn Report 2016
Willowtown Primary School- Willowtown Estyn Report 2017	River Centre 3-16 Learning Community - The River Centre Estyn Report 2022
Ystruth Primary School- Ystruth Estyn Report 2017	Cwm Primary School- Cwm Primary Estyn Report 2019
Ebbw Fawr 3-16 Learning Community - EFLC Estyn report 2016	Ysgol Gymraeg Bro Helyg - Ysgol Bro Helyg Estyn Report 2020

Appendix 7 – Estyn Inspection Recommendations

School	Recommendations for Improvement:
Abertillery 3-16 Learning Community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ R1 Improve standards, in particular outcomes at the end of key stage 4. ➤ R2 Improve standards of behaviour in the secondary phase. ➤ R3 Improve the quality of teaching. ➤ R4 Improve planning for progression of skills, including the Welsh language, and the breadth of the secondary phase curriculum. ➤ R5 improve the quality and impact of leadership at all levels, including in self-evaluation and planning for improvement. ➤ R6 Provide robust financial management to address the deficit budget.
Coed Y Garn Primary School	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ R1 Address the issues related to the school site, identified at the time of the inspection ➤ R2 Challenge all pupils through consistent and effective teaching ➤ R3 Ensure that teachers provide opportunities for extended independent writing ➤ R4 Ensure that teachers' feedback moves individual pupils on to the next stage in their learning effectively
Glanhowy Primary School	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ R1 Improve spelling and standards of handwriting. ➤ R2 Raise standards in use of oral Welsh. ➤ R3 Ensure that pupils understand more clearly what they should achieve during lessons in key stage 2. ➤ R4 Ensure assessment is consistent and accurate when judging higher levels of attainment.
Willowtown Primary School	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ R1 Improve standards of reading and writing. ➤ R2 Improve standards in Welsh. ➤ R3 Provide pupils with opportunities to develop their numeracy skills in subjects across the curriculum. ➤ R4 Share best practice in teaching and learning across the school more effectively. ➤ R5 Ensure that there is appropriate and effective use of the pupil deprivation grant.
Ystruth Primary School	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ R1 Improve pupils' competence in speaking Welsh. ➤ R2 Provide further opportunities for pupils to apply their numeracy skills across the curriculum. ➤ R3 Improve the balance between child-initiated and adult-directed activities in the Foundation Phase ➤ R4 Improve the clarity of targets within individual education plans to better meet the requirements of pupils with additional learning needs.
Ebbw Fawr 3-16 Learning Community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ R1 Improve the implementation of the school's procedures for safeguarding pupils' wellbeing in the secondary phase, by dealing effectively with any incidence of bullying. ➤ R2 Improve pupils' independent learning and oracy skills in the secondary phase. ➤ R3 Improve the quality of teaching, especially in the secondary phase. ➤ R4 Ensure that self-evaluation and improvement planning draw on the whole range of evidence gathered by the school. ➤ R5 Reduce the rate of fixed-term exclusions in the secondary phase. ➤ R6 Ensure that the school meets requirements for the daily act of collective worship in the secondary phase.
Tredegar Comprehensive School	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ R1 Improve standards in English at key stage 4. ➤ R2 Ensure that all self-evaluation activities focus consistently on pupil standards and progress.

Ysgol Gymraeg Bro Helyg	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ R1 Ensure that teaching and learning experiences develop the independence of all pupils in the foundation phase consistently. ➤ R2 Improve provision to develop pupils' ICT skills across the school. ➤ R3 Strengthen self-evaluation and planning for improvement procedures in order to prioritise and address the most important areas.
Sofrydd Primary School	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ R1 Improve pupils' spelling, punctuation, handwriting and the presentation of their work. ➤ R2 Develop the roles of the school and eco councils by giving members more responsibility. ➤ R3 Improve opportunities for pupils in the Foundation Phase to choose activities and to develop more independence in their learning. ➤ R4 Improve opportunities for older pupils to read in Welsh.
River Centre 3-16 Learning Community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ R1 Address those issues identified in the health and safety letter. ➤ R2 Establish a clear purpose and vision for the school and implement a staffing structure that is fit for purpose and adequately reflects roles and responsibilities. ➤ R3 Ensure that the curriculum is sufficiently engaging, broad and balanced and prepares pupils well for their next stage in life and learning. ➤ R4 Improve the behaviour of pupils, particularly on the secondary campus. ➤ R5 Improve the quality of the learning environment and culture, particularly on the secondary campus ➤ R6 Improve the outcomes for pupils, particularly those on the secondary campus. ➤ R7 Establish systems, procedures and routines across the school that are clearly understood by staff and relevant partners.
Brynmawr Foundation School	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ R1 Improve pupils' standards across the school, including their literacy and numeracy skills. ➤ R2 Improve pupils' behaviour and their attitudes to learning. ➤ R3 Improve the effectiveness of teaching to motivate, engage and challenge pupils to make good progress in lessons. ➤ R4 Strengthen leadership at all levels to improve leaders' ability to identify areas for development and to plan effectively for improvement.
Cwm Primary School	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ R1 Ensure that pupils in the foundation phase have meaningful opportunities to develop as independent learners. ➤ R2 Ensure that teachers match activities to the needs of pupils of all abilities, particularly the least able. ➤ R3 Improve the quality of presentation, spelling and punctuation in key stage 2.

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**Appendix 2 – Demand Analysis Table - Pupil projections based on current numbers:
Pupil projections for resource bases at Primary**

	Baseline Data	5 Years Projections				
Primary	22/23	23/24	24/25	25/26	26/27	27/28
Places available	61	61	61	61	61	61
Places taken	62	60	63	64	65	67
Leavers	15	10	12	11	11	11
Joiners next year	13	13	13	13	13	13
Total at start of next year	60	63	64	65	67	69
Amount over capacity - demand	-1	2	3	4	6	8

Pupil projections for resource bases at Secondary

	Baseline Data	5 Years Projections - based on Year 6 pupils				
Secondary	22/23	23/24	24/25	25/26	26/27	27/28
Places available	62	62	62	62	62	62
Places taken	66	77	74	69	60	61
Leavers	6	13	17	20	12	17
Joiners next year	17	10	12	11	13	13
Total at start of next year	77	74	69	60	61	57
Amount over capacity	15	13	9	-3	-2	-6
Ebbw Fawr transition group	6	6	6	6	6	6
Amount over capacity - demand	9	6	1	-8	-7	-11

Note

This doesn't take into account potential transfers from Out County placements or the Council's Special Schools

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Appendix 3

Preparation for consultation Feb 2023

Paragraphs 1.3 to 1.6 are applicable in the case of all proposals.

1.3 Quality and standards in education

Relevant bodies **should** place the interests of learners above all others. With reference to the five inspection areas of the Office of Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Education and Training in Wales (Estyn) Common Inspection Framework (as of September 2017), they **should** consider the likely impact of the proposals on:

- standards and progress overall, of specific groups and in skills;
- wellbeing and attitudes to learning;
- teaching and learning experiences (quality of teaching, the breadth, balance and appropriateness of the curriculum, and the provision of skills;
- care support and guidance (tracking, monitoring and the provision of learning support, personal development and safeguarding); and
- leadership and management (quality and effectiveness of leaders and managers, self evaluation processes and improvement planning, professional learning, and use of resources) at the school or schools which are the subject of the proposals and at any other school or educational institution which is likely to be affected.

Relevant bodies **should** pay particular attention to the impact of the proposals on vulnerable groups, including children with Special Educational Needs (SEN)² .

Relevant bodies **should** also consider the ability of the school or schools which are the subject of the proposals to deliver the full curriculum at the foundation phase and each key stage of education. This consideration **should** include the quality of curriculum delivery and the extent to which the structure or size of the school is impacting on this.³

Where proposals involve the transfer of learners to alternative provision there **should** normally be evidence that the alternative would deliver outcomes and offer provision at least equivalent to that which is currently available to those learners (including learners with SEN). Advice from Estyn might reasonably be used as evidence in relation to alternative provision which is brand new. Proposers **should** ensure that the disruption to learners is minimised.

In assessing the impact of proposals on quality and standards in education and how effectively the curriculum is being delivered, relevant bodies **should** consider any relevant advice from Estyn, refer to the most recent Estyn reports or other evidence derived from performance monitoring, and take into consideration any other generally available information available on a school's effectiveness.

Appendix 3

1.4 Need for places and the impact on accessibility of schools

Local authorities **must** ensure that there are sufficient schools providing primary and secondary education for their area. Schools are regarded as sufficient if they are sufficient in number, character and equipment to provide for all pupils the opportunity of appropriate education⁴. In order to fulfil these duties, local authorities **must** ensure that they plan thoroughly and engage fully with relevant partners, including the appropriate religious bodies⁵ for schools serving their area which have a designated religious character.

In the light of the above, relevant bodies **should** have regard to the following factors: Where a school closure⁶, reduction in capacity or age range contraction is proposed:

- whether alternative school-based provision will have sufficient capacity and provide accommodation of at least equivalent quality, for existing and projected pupil numbers;

In considering proposals relevant bodies **should** have regard to the relevant Building Regulations and associated Building Bulletins, and to the 'Welsh Government's circular on 'Measuring the capacity of schools in Wales' (Circular No: 021/2011). In addition, the Education (School Premises) Regulations 1999 set out the standards for school premises, including minimum areas of team game playing fields to which schools **must** have access. Statutory proposals **should** ensure that these standards are met.

- with reference to the nature of the schools subject to proposals, whether the alternative school-based provision is sufficient to meet existing and projected demand for schools of the same:

a. language category as set out in "Defining schools according to Welsh medium provision" Welsh Assembly Government Information document No: 023/2007 or any successor documents; and

b. (if relevant) designated religious character.

Proposals **should** ensure that the balance of school provision reflects the balance of demand. This means that where school provision is being reduced or removed, alternative school provision of the same nature (language category or, if relevant, religious character), wherever possible, **should** remain available and accessible to pupils in the local area. However in some areas it may not be compatible with the cost effective provision of education to continue to maintain access to schools of the same nature.

In all cases, existing pupils of compulsory school age at a school where a school closure, reduction in capacity or age range contraction is proposed **must** be able to continue receiving an education in their current language medium. Specific transition arrangements may be necessary in order to achieve this.

Appendix 3

Where proposals affect schools where Welsh is a medium of instruction (for subjects other than Welsh) for some or all of the time, local authorities should carry out a Welsh Language Impact Assessment.

In all cases local authorities **should** consider:

- The extent to which the proposal would support the targets in the approved Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP).
- How the proposal would expand or reduce Welsh language provision and in the case of the latter, set out why provision will be reduced.

In the case of proposed school closures local authorities **should** consider:

- the nature of journeys to alternative provision and resulting journey times for pupils including SEN pupils; in particular whether primary school pupils will have one-way journeys in excess of 45 minutes or secondary school pupils one way journeys of over an hour.

Arrangements for accessing the alternative provision **should** encourage sustainable transport; and should address the possible effect of any transport difficulties on pupils' engagement with and attendance at school. Likely walking or cycling routes for safety and accessibility **should** be assessed prior to bringing forward proposals⁷

Where a new school, increase in capacity or age range expansion is proposed;

- that there is evidence of current or future need/demand in the area for additional places, with reference to the school or proposed school's language category, designated religious character, and the gender intake (i.e. co-educational/single sex);

The demand for additional provision of any type in an area **should** be assessed and evidenced. (In the case of Welsh medium provision this would include an assessment of the demand for Welsh Medium education conducted in accordance with any regulations made under section 86 of the 2013 Act).

- whether proposals will improve access for disabled pupils in accordance with requirements under the Equality Act 2010.

1.5 Resourcing of education and other financial implications

It is important that funding for education is cost effective. Relevant bodies should take into account the following factors in relation to the resourcing of education:

- What effect proposals will have on surplus places in the area;

Some spare places are necessary to enable schools to cope with fluctuations in numbers of pupils, but excessive numbers of unused places that could be removed mean that resources are tied up unproductively.

Where there are more than 10% surplus places in an area overall, local authorities **should** review their provision and **should** consider whether to make proposals for their removal if this will improve the effectiveness and efficiency of provision. A

Appendix 3

significant level of surplus provision is defined as 25% or more of a school's capacity (as defined in Circular 21/2011) **and** at least 30 unfilled places.

Although local authorities are asked to manage excessive surplus places this does not automatically mean closing schools. Sections 1.7 and 1.8 of the Code encourage proposers to look at other options available to them and their schools, for example clustering, collaboration or federation with other schools to increase the school's viability or making use of the existing buildings as a community resource. They are also encouraged to rationalise school space by co-locating services within the school to offset costs.

It **should not** normally be necessary to provide additional places at schools when there are others of the same type with surplus places within a reasonable distance. 7 The Learner Travel Statutory Provision and Operational Guidance June 2014 Chapter 5. 9 However, proposals to increase the number of places in response to demand for a particular type of provision, e.g. Welsh medium, may still be appropriate; particularly if effective provision of school places is planned for the local authority area.

- whether proposals form part of the local authority's 21st Century Schools Investment Programme and contribute to the delivery of sustainable schools for the 21st Century and to the better strategic management of the school estate.

Relevant bodies **should** also take into account the following factors in relation to finance:

- the recurrent costs of proposals over a period of at least 3 years and whether the necessary recurrent funding is available;
- additional transport costs incurred as a result of proposals;

Proposers **should** take into account the requirement on local authorities to provide free transport provision under the Learner Travel (Wales) Measure 2008 and **should** seek the advice of the relevant local authority transport department in relation to the impact the proposal might have on associated transport costs and their affordability.

- the capital costs of proposals and whether the necessary capital funding is available;
- the scale of any projected net savings (taking into account school revenue, transport and capital costs); In relation to proposals where substantial upfront capital investment is required (for example to support a substantial remodelling, refurbishment or a new build project), the costs and savings of the proposals should be calculated over the lifespan of the relevant building, and compared against the costs and savings associated with the maintenance of the status quo.
- whether, without the proposals, the schools affected would face budget deficits;
- whether any savings in recurrent costs will be retained in the local authority's local schools' budget; and

Appendix 3

- whether the proceeds of sales (capital receipts) of redundant sites are to be made available to meet the costs of the proposal or contribute to the costs of future proposals which will promote effective management of school places.

In general, local authorities **should** look to recycle assets from any surplus school buildings and sites in their ownership into the overall improvement of their schools estate rather than allocate those proceeds to projects outside the education portfolio, although these decisions ultimately rest with local authorities.

1.6 Other general factors

Relevant bodies should take into account the following general factors:

- what impact proposals will have on educational attainment among children from economically deprived backgrounds;
- any equality issues, including those identified through equality impact assessments; and
- whether the school or schools involved are subject to any trust or charitable interests which might be affected by the proposals, for example in relation to the use or disposal of land.

Proposals which affect charities must be consistent with charity law or the stated purpose of the charitable trust.⁸ Advice **should** be sought from the Charity Commission or the Welsh Ministers (as the Principal Regulator of governing bodies which are charities) where there is any uncertainty.

Under section 82 of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998 the Welsh Ministers have the power to order modifications of a trust deed. The power is discretionary and Welsh Ministers would ordinarily expect trustees to approach the Charity Commission first.

1.14 Additional factors to be taken into account in preparing, publishing, approving or determining proposals for the reorganisation of SEN provision

Policies and principles

The principles and plans set out elsewhere in this Code **should** be taken into account in the consideration of proposals for the reorganisation of maintained special schools and specialist resource bases in mainstream schools.

Relevant bodies **should** consider how proposals fit with the local authority's plans for promoting inclusion (i.e. providing for a higher proportion of pupils with SEN to attend mainstream settings) wherever that is appropriate in meeting a child or young person's individual needs, and with its overall strategy for ensuring adequate provision for the full range of SEN.

Relevant bodies **should** have regard to the factors set out below in relation to proposals affecting special schools and specialist resource bases in mainstream schools.

Appendix 3

Standards of provision

In addition to the usual considerations in relation to standards of provision, relevant bodies **should** consider:

- whether proposals will improve standards of accommodation for pupils with SEN, including building accessibility;
- how proposals will address any health, safety and welfare issues;
- how proposals, where appropriate, will support increased inclusion; and
- the impact of proposals on other SEN provision within the immediate and wider local authority area including out of county where appropriate.

Need for places and the impact on accessibility of schools

In addition to the considerations listed in 1.4, relevant bodies **should** consider:

- whether there is a need for a particular type of SEN provision within the area;
- whether there is surplus SEN provision within the area;
- whether SEN provision would be more effective or efficient if regional provision were made; and
- the impact of proposals on the transportation of learners with SEN.

Other factors Relevant bodies **should** consider:

- how changes to SEN provision in schools are likely to impact on all other services provided in an area for pupils with disabilities and/or SEN.

1.15 Factors to be taken into account in approving/determining school organisation proposals

When approving proposals, relevant bodies who are the proposer:

- must consider whether there are any other related proposals;
- must ensure that the statutory consultation has been conducted in accordance with this Code (the requirement to consult does not apply to proposals to discontinue a school which is a small school);
- must ensure that the proposal has been published in accordance with this Code and the notice contains all the required information;
- must consider the consultation document and consultation report;
- must consider the objections and the objection report and any responses to the notice supporting the proposals;
- should consider, in the case of a proposal to change the category of a school, whether, there are any benefits. If no benefits can be identified, such proposals should not be approved; and

Appendix 3

- must not approve change of category proposals where a variation in the trust deed is necessary but has not yet taken place.

When determining proposals relevant bodies:

- must consider whether there are any other related proposals;
- must consider the extent to which the statutory consultation has been conducted in accordance with this Code (the requirement to consult does not apply to proposals to discontinue a school which is a small school);
- must consider the extent to which the proposal has been published in accordance with this Code and whether the notice contains all the required information;
- must consider the consultation document and consultation report;
- must consider the objections and the objection report and any responses to the notice supporting the proposals;
- should consider, in the case of a proposal to change the category of a school, whether, there are any benefits. If no benefits can be identified, such proposals should not be approved; and
- must not approve change of category proposals where a variation in the trust deed is necessary but has not yet taken place

3. Consultation

3.1 Principles Section 48 of the 2013 Act requires that before school organisation proposals are published under sections 41-45, they **must** first be subject to consultation. In addition, proposals published under section 68 by the Welsh Ministers to secure regional provision for special educational needs or published under section 71 to reorganise sixth forms **must** also be subject to prior consultation.

The requirement to consult does not apply to proposals to discontinue a small school¹⁵ made under section 43. However, where a closure proposal relates to a small school with fewer than 10 pupils which is designated as a rural school local authorities and governing bodies bringing forward such proposals **should** still take into account the factors set out in Chapter 1 this Code, including the further requirements which relate to the closure of rural schools set out in 1.8 “Presumption against the closure of rural schools”.

Case law has established that the consultation process **should**:

- be undertaken when proposals are still at a formative stage;
- include sufficient reasons and information for particular proposals to enable intelligent consideration and response;
- provide adequate time for consideration and response; and;

Appendix 3

- ensure that the product of consultation is conscientiously taken into account when the ultimate decision is taken.

The process and guidance which follow have been developed with due regard to the principles listed above. Those considering bringing forward proposals will need to be fully aware of this process and guidance. However, proposers **must** be mindful of the four underlying principles and take any necessary additional steps to ensure that those principles are fully upheld.

3.2 Attention to detail

It is essential that proposers seek and achieve high standards both in the information that underpins school consultations and in the consultation documents that are published. These will be examined closely by communities, school staff and parents, and errors in details can easily undermine confidence in a proposal. Failure to provide accurate, high quality consultation documents can result in consultations being abandoned, taking much longer than expected and to increased conflict with communities.

From time to time proposers will have conducted 'informal' consultation with particular stakeholders at an earlier stage in the development of proposals. Such consultation **must not** be seen as a substitute for any part of the formal consultation processes set out below.

3.3 Procedures

There is no requirement for proposers to hold consultation meetings although there will be circumstances where proposers will consider that meeting with certain groups of consultees will assist greatly in the dissemination of information and provide a suitable platform for the consultees to make their views known.

Proposers may use other ways to engage consultees as they think appropriate. For example, open days or 'drop-in' sessions might provide interested parties with a convenient way to access information seek clarification and provide comments.

In the case of proposals to reorganise schools for which land and/or buildings are held on trust or which have a designated religious character, the proposer **must** conduct consultation with the trustees and/or appropriate religious body before the consultation document is published. The proposer **must** allow 28 days for the receipt of comments and must have due regard to those comments before any decision is made to proceed to general consultation. Where, in the course of consultation, a new option emerges which the proposers decide to pursue, they **must** consult afresh on this option before proceeding to publication.

3.4 Consultation document

Those bringing forward statutory proposals **must** publish a consultation document in hard copy and electronically on their website or that of the relevant local authority. Hard copies must be available on request. Consideration should be given to publishing in other formats where accessibility might otherwise be an issue.

Appendix 3

The consultation document **must** be published on a school day of the school or schools subject to the proposal and consultees must be given at least 42 days to respond to the document, with at least 20 of these being school days.¹⁶

Consultation documents should not be published on a school day which includes a school session which is devoted (wholly or mainly) to improving teaching standards or management practices of staff at the school (INSET days).

The following **must** be advised by letter or email of the availability of the consultation document and that recipients can, if they wish, obtain a hard copy of the consultation document on request (but see also section 3 on Consultation with Children and Young People):

- Parents (and where possible prospective parents) carers and guardians, and staff members of schools affected by the proposals;
- in the case of proposals affecting secondary provision, parents of pupils attending primary schools from which pupils normally transfer to that secondary school;
- the maintaining or proposed maintaining authority for any school likely to be affected by the proposals;
- any other local authority (including those in England, where appropriate) likely to be affected - including in the case of dedicated SEN provision any authority placing or likely to place pupils with SEN in it;
- the Church in Wales and Roman Catholic Diocesan Authority for the area in which any school likely to be affected is located;
- any other appropriate religious body for any school likely to be affected by the proposals;
- the governing body of any school which is the subject of the proposals;
- the governing body of other schools which the proposer consider are likely to be affected by the proposals;
- the Welsh Ministers*;
- Constituency and Regional Assembly Members (AMs) and Members of Parliament (MPs) representing the area served by/intended to be served by any school which is the subject of the proposals;
- Estyn;
- teaching and staff trade unions representing teachers and other staff at any school which is the subject of the proposals;
- the relevant Regional Education Consortium;
- the Police and Crime Commissioner for the area served by/intended to be served by any school which is the subject of the proposals;

Appendix 3

- any community or town council for the area served by/ intended to be served by any school which is the subject of the proposals;
- in the case of proposals affecting nursery provision any independent or voluntary providers who may be affected including Mudiad Meithrin;
- in the case of proposals affecting nursery provision, the Children and Young People's Partnership and/or the Early Years Development and Childcare Partnerships where present;
- in the case of proposals affecting SEN provision, any relevant health or third sector bodies with an interest;
- in the case of proposals affecting secondary provision, any further education institutions serving the area of the school; and
- in the case of proposals affecting Welsh language provision, the Welsh Language Commissioner.

* In the case of the Welsh Ministers emails should be sent to the following Welsh Government mailbox: Schoolsmanagementdivision3@gov.wales. It is not necessary to send emails to individual Welsh Ministers.

In the case of all proposals, the consultation document **must** contain the following information:

Description and Benefits

- a detailed description of the status quo setting out its strengths and weaknesses and the reasons why change is considered necessary;
- a detailed description of the proposal or proposals (a proposer may consult on more than one potential proposal), the projected timetable for statutory procedures and for implementation of the proposals and any proposed interim arrangements which might be necessary for their implementation. In describing the proposals, proposers **should** normally refer to them using the terms set out this Code (e.g. school closure) but where two or more existing schools become one school operating on more than one site (e.g. where former infant and junior schools become a primary school) the terms 'merger' or 'amalgamation' might be used;
- the expected benefits of the proposals and disadvantages when compared with the status quo;
- any risks associated with the proposals and any measures required to manage these;
- a description of any alternatives considered and the reasons why these have been discounted (but see para 1.8 "Presumption against the closure of rural schools);
- information on any changes to learner travel arrangements were the proposals to be implemented and the impact on accessibility of provision.

Appendix 3

Details of affected schools

- the names, locations and categories (i.e. community, voluntary controlled, voluntary aided, foundation) of all existing schools likely to be affected by the proposals (for example, in the case of a proposal to close a school information **should** be provided about all the surrounding schools to which it might reasonably be considered that pupils may wish to transfer);
- the number of pupils on roll currently¹⁷ and the figures recorded for the previous four annual school censuses at all existing schools likely to be affected by the proposals;
- five year forecasts of pupil rolls at all existing schools likely to be affected by the proposals both currently (i.e. based on the existing configuration of schools) and if the proposals are implemented;
- the pupil places capacity¹⁸ of all existing schools likely to be affected by the proposals;
- the number of nursery places at any existing school likely to be affected by the proposals;
- information about the quality of accommodation at all existing schools likely to be affected by the proposals including reference to the local authority's most recent condition survey using the categories of the original 21st Century Schools Survey;
- the language medium of all existing schools likely to be affected by the proposals (using the Welsh Government Circular 23/2007 "Defining schools according to Welsh medium provision").

Quality and standards in education

- an analysis of the likely impact of the proposals on the quality of the following (reference to relevant Estyn five inspection areas are included in brackets):
 - a) standards (standards and progress overall, of specific groups and in skills); wellbeing and attitudes to learning;
 - b) teaching and learning experiences (quality of teaching, the breadth, balance and appropriateness of the curriculum, and the provision of skills;
 - c) care support and guidance (tracking, monitoring and the provision of learning support, personal development and safeguarding); and
 - d) leadership and management (quality and effectiveness of leaders and managers, self evaluation processes and improvement planning, professional learning, and use of resources)

at the school or schools which are the subject of the proposals and at any other school or educational institution which is likely to be affected.

- information from the most recent Estyn reports for each school likely to be affected;

Appendix 3

- the likely impact of the proposals on the ability of school or schools which are the subject of the proposals or any other school which is likely to be affected, to deliver the full curriculum at the foundation phase and each key stage of education.

Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP)

- the extent to which the proposal would support the targets in the approved Welsh in Education Strategic Plan.
- How the proposal would expand or reduce Welsh language provision. In the case of the latter, set out why provision will be reduced.

Finance

- the financial costs of the proposal and any potential savings (including where appropriate the current costs per pupil and the projected costs upon completion) – capital and recurrent (including school transport and staff costs);
- the sources from which capital funding will be provided;
- how any capital receipts or recurrent costs savings will be deployed;

Land and buildings

- details of any potential transfer or disposal of land or buildings that may need to occur as a result of the proposals.

Consultation details

- details of how people can make their views known including the address to which comments in writing can be made and the deadline for those comments;
- details of how people can ask further questions about the proposals or suggest alternatives to the proposals;
- a statement to the effect that responses to consultation will not be counted as objections to the proposal and that objections can only be registered following publication of the notice;
- an explanation of the publication process, the making of objections and determination of published proposals.
 - a space for consultees to respond to the consultation
 - an opportunity for consultees to register their wish to be notified of publication of the consultation report. Where proposals involve establishing a new school the following information must also be included in the consultation document:
 - the new school's:
 - a. proposed admission number and admission arrangements;
 - b. age range; c. pupil places capacity and/or number of nursery places;
 - d. location; e. category (i.e. Community, Voluntary Aided or Voluntary Controlled);

Appendix 3

- f. language category (as defined by Information document No. 023/2007);
- g. details of the proposed accommodation to include a list of proposed facilities;
- h. in the case of a special educational needs (SEN) resource base in a mainstream school or a special school, information on the special needs of the pupils proposed to be admitted;
- i. home to school transport arrangements (including any transitional arrangements) and the local authority's transport policy.

Where proposals involve the closure of a school the following information must be included in the consultation document:

- details of any alternatives to closure that have been considered and the reasons why these have not been taken forward (but see para 1.8 "Presumption against the closure of rural schools");
- the impact of proposals on the local community, the likely impact on staff of schools named in proposals;
- in the case of alternative provision:
 - a. the name and location of the proposed alternative provision;
 - b. a comparison of the quality and standard of education provided at the school from which pupils would be transferred and the proposed alternative school or schools and an outline of any steps necessary in order to ensure that any shortcomings in the latter are addressed;
 - c. admission arrangements at the proposed alternative school;
 - d. a comparison of the quality of accommodation at the school from which pupils would be transferred and at the proposed alternative and an outline of any steps necessary in order to ensure that any shortcomings in the latter are addressed;
 - e. information on any building works necessary to ensure that transferred children can be accommodated at the alternative provision;
 - f. the impact on pupils' journeys to school and on school transport costs; Section 3 of the Learner Travel (Wales) Measure 2008 sets a threshold for entitlement for free home to school transport provision at 2 miles or further for primary education and 3 miles or further for compulsory aged secondary school education.
 - g. information regarding available walking routes to the alternative provision;
 - h. the language medium at the proposed alternative school. Where proposals involve the closure of a rural school and the decision has been made to consult on the proposal, the following information must be contained in the consultation document along with the information that must be contained for all proposals:
 - The reason for the closure proposal (i.e. a description of the key challenges that the school faces and the proposer wishes to address);

Appendix 3

- The alternatives to closure that have been identified and an assessment of these alternatives to include:

- o the likely impact on quality and standards in education,
- o the likely impact on the community and o the likely effect of different travelling arrangements.

In addition consultees must be informed of their opportunity to:

- make representations regarding the alternatives to closure that have been identified by the proposer as well as the main proposal;
- suggest other alternatives to closure which would address the reasons for closure (i.e. the key challenges the school faces which the proposer is seeking to address). Where the proposal concerns adding or removing nursery provision.

The following information must be included in the consultation document:

- the sufficiency of accommodation and facilities offered, both in the classroom and outdoors, and the viability of any school that wishes to add nursery places;
- whether there is a need for additional nursery places in the area;
- the levels of demand for certain types of nursery education e.g. Welsh medium or provision with a religious character;
- the effect of the proposals on other institutions, including private and third sector providers; and
- the extent to which proposals will integrate early years education with childcare services or are consistent with an integrated approach.

Where the proposal concerns adding or removing sixth form provision. The following information must be included in the consultation document:

- whether proposals will lead to an improvement in the educational or training achievements of persons who are above compulsory school age but below the age of 19 in the area;
- whether proposals will contribute to an appropriate range of relevant courses and qualifications and high quality, employer informed, vocational learning routes targeted at pupils of all abilities, whilst maintaining GCSE, AS/A level and other established courses, as required under the Learning and Skills (Wales) Measure 2009 for 14-19 year old learners;
- whether proposals are likely to lead to increased participation in learning by pupils beyond compulsory school age, taking into account transport issues and costs to the learner and others, the affordability of such costs, and the likelihood of learners being willing to travel;
- the extent to which proposals contribute to the 14-19 agenda taking account of the views of local 14-19 networks and learning partnerships;

Appendix 3

- the effect of proposals on 11-16 provision in schools;
- how proposals would affect the viability of institutions already providing good-quality post-16 provision, including school sixth forms, Further Education Institutions and private training organisations;
 - how proposals might affect the sustainability or enhancement of Welsh medium provision in the local 14-19 network and wider area and promote access to availability of Welsh medium courses in post-16 education;
 - the extent to which proposals will provide additional learner benefits compared with the status quo and other tenable options for post-16 organisation; and
- how proposals might affect the discretionary transport provision a local authority may provide to learners above compulsory school age.

Where proposals relate to a special school or involve specialist resource bases attached to mainstream schools the following information must be included in the consultation document:

- the impact on SEN provision;
- how proposals will contribute more generally to enhancing the quality of education and support for children with SEN. Where the proposal concerns a change of language medium.

The following information must be included in the consultation document:

- projected demand from parents for the type of provision proposed; and 20 Section 6 of the Learner Travel (Wales) Measure 2008 gives a local authority the power to provide discretionary transport where they think fit to facilitate the travel of learners. Paragraphs 1.98 – 1.105 of the Welsh Government Learner Travel Statutory Provision and Operational Guidance 2014 provides further guidance on this provision.
- the extent to which existing provision, of the type proposed exceeds or falls short of demand or projected demand.

Where any school involved or affected provides teaching through the medium of Welsh the following information must be included in the consultation document:

- an assessment of the impact of proposal on the Welsh language (a Welsh language impact assessment must be included either in the main part of the consultation document or as an Annex); and
- an explanation of how the proposal forms part of the WESP.

Where the proposal concerns a school with a designated religious character the following information must be included in the consultation document:

- the impact on availability and access to places at a school with the same designated religious character. Where the proposal concerns a change of category the following information must be included in the consultation document:

Appendix 3

- the effect of the change of category on governance arrangements and the governing body's powers over policies and arrangements in respect of admissions, employment and the curriculum; and
- any proposed changes to policies and arrangements in respect of admissions, employment and the curriculum. In some circumstances, proposers may consider it appropriate to consult on a range of options rather than one specific proposal, but in such cases, all of the information set out above must be provided in relation to each of the identified options.

3.5 Consultation with children and young people Proposers must also make suitable arrangements to consult with pupils of any affected school (or part of a school in the case of provision reserved for children with SEN) and, where possible, with children and young people who are likely to attend those schools.

As a minimum, this must include consultation with the school councils of the affected schools, but should also include consultation with individual learners where this is appropriate and practicable. Governing bodies must help facilitate this aspect of the consultation.

The information given to children and young people must be presented in such a way that it is relevant to their age and level of likely understanding and allows them to reach an informed opinion. The agreed children and young people's participation standards for Wales are available on the Welsh Government's website; proposers should refer to these and act in accordance with them.

<https://gov.wales/topics/people-and-communities/people/children-and-youngpeople/rights/ParticipationforChildrenandYoungPeople/?lang=en>

If consulting with individual learners, proposers should produce and distribute a version or versions of the consultation document appropriate to the age/ages of the children and young people affected. The consultation document should also clearly explain to children and young people the difference between the consultation and objection periods and how and when they can object to proposals. Where necessary, proposers should provide assistance to children and young people who wish to submit a consultation response.

Phase 1 - Resource Base Analysis

Implement	School	Part Year Funding	Full Year Funding	
Sep-23	Ebbw Fawr Secondary	0	0	already receives funding
Sep-24	Ysgol Gymraeg Bro Helyg	£82,499	£139,646	
Sep-24	Sofrydd	£56,835	£96,541	
Sep-23	Tredeggar Comprehensive	£73,184	£101,669	
Sep-25	RCLC	£61,729	£104,930	

EFLC already receives £270,123 resource base funding.

Financial Modelling

Impact each financial year						
	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	To be funded
Cost of Implementation	£73,184	£269,665	£399,585	£442,786	£442,786	
Cumulative Reduction in Out County Placements		3	6	9	10	
Estimated Saving Out County Placements/Budget Virement		138,096	276,192	414,288	442,786	Total Virement from Out County Placements
Remaining Cost	£73,184	£102,907	£166,594	£28,498	£0	ALN Reserve/ALN Implementation grant/Invest to Save Reserve

Phase 1 - Comparison Estimated Cost of Out County Placements

Based on Lower Numbers:

Phase 1	Implement	Lowest	Mid	Costings Highest	Places
Ebbw Fawr Secondary	Sep-23	118,884	140,796	276,192	6
Ysgol Gymraeg Bro Helyg	Sep-24	198,140	234,660	460,320	up to 15
Tredeggar Comprehensive	Sep-23	118,884	140,796	276,192	between 6-8
Soffryd Primary	Sep-24	198,140	234,660	460,320	10
River Centre SEBD Provision	Sep-25	118,884	140,796	276,192	6
		772,746	915,174	1,795,248	total 38 children
Transport to Headlands @ £200 per d	37,800	226,800	226,800	226,800	Based on 3 children per taxi - 18 children - 6 taxis
Transport to Cwmbran High @ £130 p	24,570	171,990	171,990	171,990	Based on 3 children per taxi - 20 children - 7 taxis
		1,171,536	1,313,964	2,194,038	

Impact each financial year		
2023/24	2024/25	2025/26
£297,192	1,157,568	1,313,964

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