

Economy Recovery Plan – Overview

‘To provide a framework for the Council and its partners to work collaboratively, to deliver and support activities and interventions that help create the conditions for Blaenau Gwent to recover, prosper and develop sustainably in a post-pandemic economy. As a minimum, this will include reducing the unemployment rate to the Wales national average, returning footfall levels in each of our towns to pre-pandemic levels and increasing the gross weekly pay to that of the Welsh national average.’

Recovery and Renewal Focus – The Regeneration section has developed a detailed Impact Assessment and Economic Recovery Plan in collaboration with key partners including JCP, GAVO, the BG Enterprise Board and Welsh Government. In addition, it is proposed institutions such as the Bevan Foundation and USW are also engaged to utilise their research and help shape the Actions supporting Economic Recovery.

The priority areas are as follows:

- **Unemployment**
- **Poverty**
- **Town Centres**
- **Business Estates – Council and Non-Council**

Other Themes for Consideration:

- **Robotics and Artificial Intelligence**
- **On-Shoring**
- **Business Space**
- **Homeworking and Agile Working**

Present Position – The Impact Assessment has is currently being consulted with partners to agree and endorse. The Impact Assessment contains a number of Actions which have already been endorsed via the Blaenau Gwent Enterprise Board and the Council’s own Scrutiny and Executive committees. Baseline data is currently being finalised and will be used to monitor and evaluate, and alongside qualitative case studies, will be used to drive decision making.

Implementation Plan – Regeneration is currently developing an Implementation Plan for the Impact Assessment in collaboration with partners. The Implementation Plan will provide details on the Actions and the organisation(s) responsible for them and the timeframes set against them.

Key Measures to Determine Progress -The following data sets – both qualitative and quantitative, will be used to monitor and measure progress against each impact area.

Priority Area	PI linked to the Priority Area	2018/19	20/21	21/22	Target (when will we know we have recovered)?
Unemployment	Unemployment count as a percentage of the economically active population aged 16+ (ONS model based estimates of unemployment)	4.5%	4.2%	N/A	In line with Wales' average
Town Centres* *No Data available 2020	Town centre Footfall	2018 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Abertillery- 429,350 • Blaina – 187,736 • Brynmawr- 563,465 • Tredegar- 411,105 • Ebbw Vale- N/A 	2019 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Abertillery- 280,570 • Blaina- 126,302 • Brynmawr- 336,879 • Tredegar- 309,892 • Ebbw Vale – N/A 	2021 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Abertillery- 594,083 • Blaina- 197,271 • Brynmawr- 332,903 • Tredegar- 451,692 • Ebbw Vale- 756,266 	When each of the towns' footfall is up to pre-pandemic levels.
Poverty	Gross Weekly Pay – All full time Workers (Source Nomis) Blaenau Gwent Wales GB	£455.1 £540 £587	£478.3 £574.4 £587.4	£523.3 £570.6 £613	In line with the Wales' average