

## **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	Service Area & Department	Date
David Thompson	David Thompson	Public Protection	3/2/25

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?**

**Blaenau Gwent Empty Property Strategy**

**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 \(www.gov.uk\)](http://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.
<b>Age</b> ( <i>people of all ages</i> )	Yes	No	Reduction in local nuisance, environmental problems, crime anti-social behaviour. Increase in the supply of good quality affordable housing.
<b>Disability</b> ( <i>people with disabilities/ long term conditions</i> )	Yes	No	As above
<b>Gender Reassignment</b> ( <i>anybody who's gender identity or gender expression is different to the sex they were assigned at birth</i> )	Yes	No	As above
<b>Marriage or Civil Partnership</b> ( <i>people who are married or in a civil partnership</i> )	Yes	No	As above

<b>Pregnancy and Maternity</b> ( <i>women who are pregnant and/or on maternity leave</i> )	Yes	No	As above
<b>Race</b> ( <i>people from black, Asian and minority ethnic communities and different racial backgrounds</i> )	Yes	No	As above
<b>Religion or Belief</b> ( <i>people with different religions and beliefs including people with no beliefs</i> )	Yes	No	As above
<b>Sex</b> ( <i>women and men, girls and boys and those who self-identify their gender</i> )	Yes	No	As above
<b>Sexual Orientation</b> ( <i>lesbian, gay, bisexual, heterosexual, other</i> )	Yes	No	As above

**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.
<b>Low Income / Income Poverty</b> <i>(cannot afford to maintain regular payments such as bills, food, clothing, transport etc.)</i>	<b>Positive</b>	<b>N/A</b>	The strategy aims to increase the supply of affordable housing
<b>Low and/or No Wealth</b> <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>	<b>Positive</b>	<b>N/A</b>	The strategy aims to increase the supply of affordable housing

<p><b>Material Deprivation</b> (<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><b>Positive</b></p>	<p><b>N/A</b></p>	<p>The strategy aims to increase the supply of affordable housing</p>
<p><b>Area Deprivation</b> (<i>where you live (rural areas), where you work (accessibility of public transport) Impact on the environment?</i>)</p>	<p><b>Positive</b></p>	<p><b>N/A</b></p>	<p>The strategy aims to increase the supply of affordable housing. Reduction in local nuisance, environmental problems, crime anti-social behaviour.</p>
<p><b>Socio-economic Background</b> (<i>social class i.e. parents education, employment and income</i>)</p>	<p><b>Positive</b></p>	<p><b>N/A</b></p>	<p>The strategy aims to increase the supply of affordable housing.</p>
<p><b>Socio-economic Disadvantage</b> (<i>What cumulative impact will the proposal have on people or groups because of their protected characteristic(s) or vulnerability or</i></p>	<p><b>Positive</b></p>	<p><b>N/A</b></p>	<p>The strategy aims to increase the supply of affordable housing.</p>




<i>because they are already disadvantaged)</i>			
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<b>Section 3-Corporate Plan</b> <i>Please outline any Corporate Plan linkages of the proposal -<a href="#">BG Corporate Plan 22-27</a></i>	
<b>Priority 1</b> - Maximise learning and skills for all to create a prosperous, thriving, resilient Blaenau Gwent	
<b>Priority 2</b> - Respond to the nature and climate crisis and enable connected communities	Dealing with empty properties will assist in reducing carbon emissions, providing modernised energy efficient homes and supporting growth and well-being and connects communities.
<b>Priority 3</b> - An ambitious and innovative council delivering quality services at the right time and in the right place	In dealing with empty properties, the Authority will work in partnership to provide high quality services to meet local circumstances in dealing with empty properties and improve the quality of life and well-being within the community by contributing to meeting housing need.
<b>Priority 4</b> - Empowering and supporting communities to be safe, independent and resilient	Dealing with empty properties will contribute to a reduction in community safety problems. This will increase the resilience of Communities, where more people are welcome and safe, and it will minimise dependency and maximise independence.

**Section 4-Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 – The Five Ways of Working (ICLIP)**  
*Sustainable development principles. The WCFG 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><b>Long Term</b></p> 	<p>Consider the long-term impact of the proposal on the ability of communities to secure their well-being.</p> <p>Reduction in local nuisance, environmental problems, crime anti-social behaviour, loss of Council tax income. Increase in the supply of good quality affordable housing</p>
<p><b>Prevention</b></p> 	<p>Consider how the proposal is preventing problems from occurring or getting worse</p> <p>As outlined in the strategy document – relating to preventing properties from becoming long term empty. Reduction in local nuisance, environmental problems, crime anti-social behaviour, loss of Council tax income. Increase in the supply of good quality affordable housing.</p>



<p><b>Integration</b></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 Action Plan to the strategy relies on continued cross- departmental working with the common goal of dealing with empty properties.</p>
<p><b>Collaboration</b></p> 	<p>Consider how you are working with Council services or services delivered by other organisations or groups in our communities.</p> <p>The strategy relies on partnership working with property owners, registered social landlords and relevant other</p>
<p><b>Involvement</b></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 strategy relies on partnership working with property owners and the concerned local community</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 strategy aims to utilise existing housing resources to help meet housing need and reduce environmental and antisocial behaviour problems etc. Renovation works resulting from the implementation of the strategy will contribute to the skills and wealth creation agendas. Wherever possible, property improvements resulting from the work outlined as part of this strategy will contribute to the decarbonisation agenda.

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.

No significant contribution to this agenda

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 strategy aims to utilise existing housing resources to help meet housing need and reduce environmental and antisocial behaviour problems etc. The strategy looks long-term with a view to Increasing in the supply of good quality affordable housing which will contribute positive to the health agenda

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 strategy looks long-term with a view to Increasing in the supply of good quality affordable housing

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


The strategy aims to utilise existing housing resources to help meet housing need and reduce environmental and antisocial behaviour problems etc.

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.

No significant contribution to this agenda

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.

No significant contribution to this agenda other than the positive impacts specified above

<b>Section 5-Welsh Language (Wales) Measure 2011 and Welsh Language Standards</b> <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. <a href="#">Welsh Language Standards</a>)</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.
<b>Compliance with the Welsh Language Standards.</b> <i>Specifically Standards 88 - 93</i>	Neutral		
<b>What opportunities are there to promote the Welsh Language?</b> <i>e.g. status, use of Welsh language services, use of Welsh in everyday life in work / community</i>	Neutral		
<b>What opportunities are there for a person or person to use the Welsh</b>	Neutral		

Language? e.g. staff, residents and visitors			
Has the Welsh Language been considered in order to treat the Welsh language no less favourably than the English language?	Yes		

**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.
<b>Participation</b> (child or young person as someone who actively contributes to society as a citizen)	Not applicable		

<b>Provision</b> (the basic rights of children and young people to survive and develop)			
<b>Protection</b> (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	Positive		The strategy aims to utilise existing housing resources to help meet housing need and reduce environmental and antisocial behaviour problems etc relating to empties, e.g squatting, trespass, drug use venues etc.

(consider impact on each: victims, offenders and neighbourhoods)			
<b>Anti-Social Behaviour and behaviour adversely affecting the local environment</b> (consider impact on each: victims, offenders, neighbourhoods and green spaces)	Positive		As above
<b>Misuse of drugs, alcohol and other substances</b> (Think vulnerable children, adults, families and communities)	Positive		As above
<b>Re-offending</b> (Think young people and adults, victims, families, communities)	Positive		As above
<b>Serious Violence</b> (Think vulnerable young people, vulnerable adults, victims, families, communities)	Positive		As above

<b>Counter Terrorism</b> (People and places that are vulnerable to terrorism or violent extremism)	<b>Neutral</b>		
<b>Community Cohesion</b> (Asylum seekers, Migrants, Victims or Hate Crime, Community tensions)	<b>Neutral</b>		

<b>Section 8- Armed Forces Covenant Duty</b> <a href="#">AFC Draft Statutory Guidance - Final.pdf</a>			
<b>Impacts</b>	<b>Will the proposal have any positive impacts on the armed forces community?</b>	<b>Will the proposal have any negative impacts on the armed forces community?</b>	<b>Outline how the proposal could maximise any positive impacts or minimise any negative impact. Please indicate any views evidence you have that supports this.</b>
<b>Health</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provision of services</li> <li>• Planning and funding</li> <li>• Co-operation between bodies and professionals</li> </ul>	Positive		Potential for additional good quality, affordable housing for these clients.



<p>These healthcare functions are within scope of the Duty in the following settings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NHS Primary Care services, including general practice, community pharmacies, NHS dental, NHS optometry services and public health screening services.</li> <li>• NHS Secondary Care services, including urgent and emergency care, hospital and community services, specialist care, mental health services, and additional needs services (as applicable).</li> <li>• Local authority-delivered healthcare services, including sexual health services and drug and alcohol misuse services</li> </ul>			
<p><b>Education</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Admissions</li> <li>• Educational attainment and curriculum</li> <li>• Child wellbeing</li> </ul>	<p><b>Positive</b></p>		<p>As above</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Transport</li> <li>• Attendance</li> <li>• Additional needs support</li> <li>• Use of Service Pupil Premium funding (England only)</li> </ul> <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><b>Housing</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Allocations policy for social housing</li> <li>• Tenancy strategies (England only)</li> <li>• Homelessness</li> <li>• Disabled Facilities Grants</li> </ul>	<p><b>Positive</b></p>		<p>Potential for additional good quality, affordable housing for these clients.</p>

<p><b>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.</b></p>		
<p><b>Data/evidence –What data/evidence was used? - provide any links.</b></p>	<p><b>What were the key findings?</b></p>	<p><b>How has the data/evidence informed this proposal?</b></p>
<p>As outlined in the strategy document</p>	<p>As outlined in the document</p>	<p>Yes</p>
<p><b>Are there any data or information gaps and if so what are they and how do you intend to address them?</b></p>		
<p>No</p>		

**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? – Internal colleagues, Members, general public**
- 2. When did the consultation take place and was adequate time given for a response? Yes**
- 3. Was there enough information provided to respond effectively? yes**
- 4. What were the findings? As outlined in the report**
- 5. Have the findings been considered in regards to the decision? Yes**

Section 11-Monitoring and Review	
How will the implementation of the proposal be monitored, including the impacts or changes made?	By way of reports to CLT and Members
What monitoring tools will be used?	Pi's, Outcome reports
How will the results be used for future development?	Results will be used to consider operational plans and resource requirements
How and when will it be reviewed?	The strategy will be reviewed in 5 years at the latest
Who is responsible for ensuring this happens?	Director, Service Manager

Section 12 - Decision	
<i>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.</i>	
Continue with the proposal in its current form	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> <del>No</del> <input type="checkbox"/>
Continue with proposal but take into account reasonable steps to mitigate any negative impacts of the proposal	<del>Yes</del> <input type="checkbox"/> <del>No</del> <input type="checkbox"/>

Name of person completing the IIA	
Name:	David Thompson
Job Title:	Service Manager – Public Protection
Date:	Feb 2025

Head of Service Approval			
Name:	Ellie Fry		
Job Title:	Director of Regeneration & Community Services		
Signature:		Date:	

Please contact Policy & Partnerships should you require any further advice or guidance on completing your assessment via [lissa.friel@blaenau-gwent.gov.uk](mailto:lissa.friel@blaenau-gwent.gov.uk) or [kate.james@blaenau-gwent.gov.uk](mailto:kate.james@blaenau-gwent.gov.uk)