

## Environment ... Planning and Providing for a Sustainable Future

Through working with partners the Council will seek to create an environment and infrastructure that facilitates and promotes the benefits of living and working in Blaenau Gwent. Through working with our partners the Council will seek to create a sustainable and vibrant community that will facilitate the creation of a highly skilled workforce and well-paid jobs and an environment that will attract inward investment

The aims set out for the Environment Directorate as part of their Strategic Planning Framework is to

- Work to deliver improvements in jobs
- Protect and enhance the environment to meet the needs of present and future generations
- Ensure that quality affordable accommodation is available
- Provide a sustainable, reliable and safer transport network
- Promote Cultural and Sporting opportunities for all



Councillor Gill Clark  
**Executive Member**

*Helping People  
into Work*



Councillor John Hopkins  
**Leader**

*Strong and Safe  
Communities*



Councillor Hedley McCarthy  
**Executive Member**

*Neighbourhood Services  
Street Scene*



John Parsons  
**Director of Environment**



Councillor Barry Sutton  
**Executive Member**

*Neighbourhood Services  
Community Protection*



Councillor Dennis Owens  
**Executive Member**

*Creating Jobs and Skills*



Councillor Stephen Thomas  
**Executive Member**

*Health and Wellbeing  
Healthy Living*



Councillor Royston Welch  
**Executive Member**

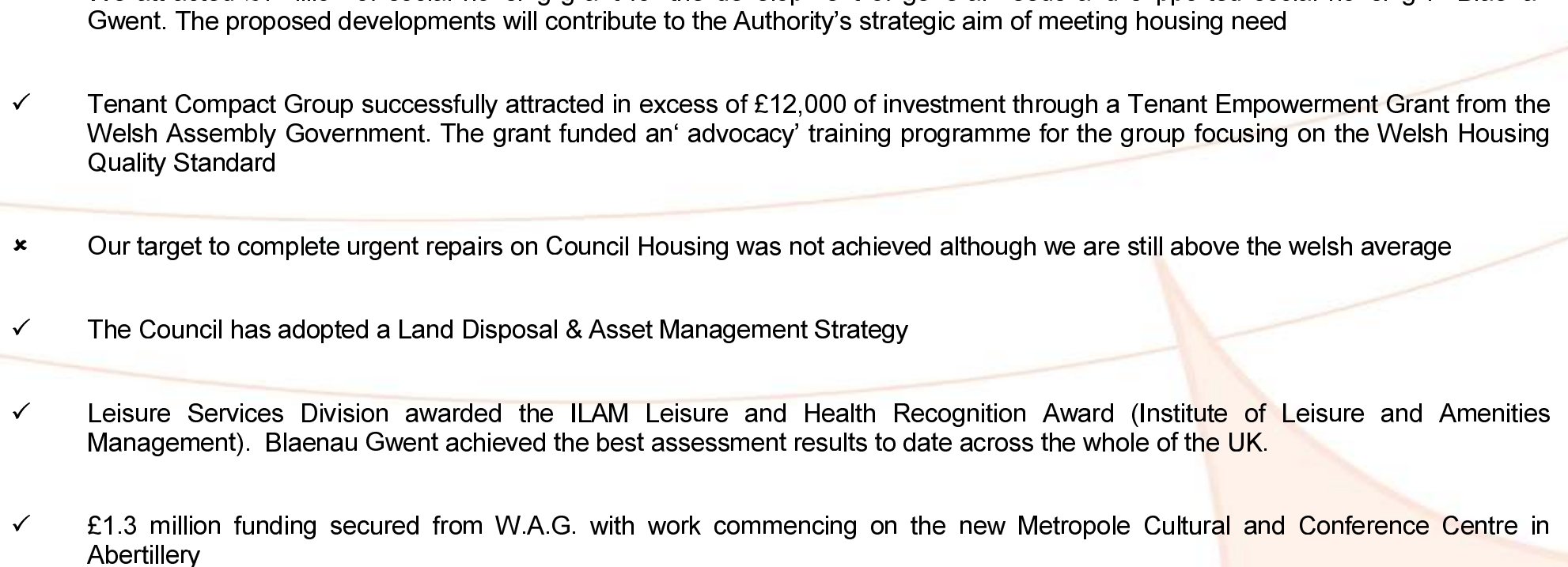
*Sustainable Communities*



## Environment

### Last year's objectives and achievements – how did we do?

- ✓ A Joint Board has been established with Torfaen in an effort to meet the Landfill Directive. Our partnership with Torfaen is continuing and it is likely the partnership will be further developed to include Merthyr Tydfil and Rhondda Cynon Taff later this year
- × The target for the development of New Vale Civic Amenity Site was not met due to the Environment Agency failing to issue a licence, it is worth noting that the site has provided the highest tonnages for recycling during 2005/06
- ✓ Completion of a Prudential borrowing initiative of 8 major highways maintenance schemes costing £550k
- ✓ Successfully completed the Cwm Bypass
- ✓ Implementation of a £300k prudential borrowing scheme to replace obsolete lighting stock
- × We have employed litter wardens within the housing estates and although we missed our target of 88% this year we have projected that the cleanliness of our highways will improve as inspections become more robust and the new quality standards inspection process becomes embedded
- ✓ Council adopted its Unitary Development Plan for development control purposes
- ✓ Over £36m of Objective One funding secured for local projects as of March 2006, £3.3m for the Ebbw Vale Steelworks Reclamation project is included

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- ✘ The Environmental Support to SMEs project not implemented due to lack of grant funding
  - ✓ Housing stock condition survey undertaken by external contractor to determine investment required to meet Wales Housing Quality Standard by 2012
  - ✓ We attracted £1million of social housing grant for the development of general needs and supported social housing in Blaenau Gwent. The proposed developments will contribute to the Authority's strategic aim of meeting housing need
  - ✓ Tenant Compact Group successfully attracted in excess of £12,000 of investment through a Tenant Empowerment Grant from the Welsh Assembly Government. The grant funded an 'advocacy' training programme for the group focusing on the Welsh Housing Quality Standard
  - ✘ Our target to complete urgent repairs on Council Housing was not achieved although we are still above the welsh average
  - ✓ The Council has adopted a Land Disposal & Asset Management Strategy
  - ✓ Leisure Services Division awarded the ILAM Leisure and Health Recognition Award (Institute of Leisure and Amenities Management). Blaenau Gwent achieved the best assessment results to date across the whole of the UK.
  - ✓ £1.3 million funding secured from W.A.G. with work commencing on the new Metropole Cultural and Conference Centre in Abertillery



- ✓ Significant progress on the Bryn Bach Park Vision for the Future including;
  - Completion of the international standard BMX cycle track
  - Funding secured to develop a 9 hole golf course and driving range
  - Upgrading of caravan facilities to Wales Tourist Board Grade 3 standard
  
- ✓ Big Lottery funding secured and work commencing on the provision of new athletics facilities in Brynmawr
  
- ✓ Cross border collaboration project for Libraries with Caerphilly and Torfaen, namely the Gateways Project. Funding of £2m secured
  
- ✗ We missed our target of inspecting high risk premises and have since allocated additional resources to improve in 2006/07
  
- ✓ Deadline for dealing with all the new liquor licensing was November 2005 and this was achieved and all Licensing work carried out by the Magistrates Court is now carried out by the Licensing Team



## **What We Are Planning To Achieve with our partners during 2006/2007**

- Implement the Sports and Active Living, Cultural and Tourism Strategies
- Develop the Council's Asset Management Plan
- Develop the Learning Campus
- Develop an Integrated Transport Management Service
- Develop a Local Housing Strategy and work towards the Welsh Housing Quality Standards
- Procure an integrated Waste Management Solution to meet the requirements of the Landfill Directive and Landfill Allowance Schemes
- Develop a Regeneration Strategy for Blaenau Gwent
- Undertake a fundamental review of the Highways function
- Continue work of the Local Development Plan
- Review the Contaminated Land Strategy
- Implement the Planning Review Action Plan
- Development of Ebbw Valley Rail Link

Performance Indicators	Outturn 2005/06	Target 2005/06	Above	On	Below	Welsh Comparison		Target 2006/07
						Highest Outturn	Lowest Outturn	
The number of homeless families with children who have used bed and breakfast accommodation during the year, except in emergencies	0	0		✓		0.00	185.00	0
The average number of days all homeless households spend in temporary accommodation	75 days	84 days		✓		3days	164days	72 days
The average number of working days between homeless presentation and discharge of duty for households found to be statutory homeless	61 days	68 days		✓		17 days	218days	67 days
The percentage of unfit private sector dwellings made fit, closed or demolished through direct action by the local authority	1.84%	N/A				7.37%	0.13%	0.69%
The total tonnage of municipal waste reused and/or recycled	7,475	7,680			✓	28,433	5,432.00	9,865
The percentage of municipal waste reused and/or recycled	14.78%	15.00%			✓	30.39%	8.19%	19.50%

Performance Indicators	Outturn 2005/06	Target 2005/06	Above	On	Below	Welsh Comparison		Target 2006/07
						Highest Outturn	Lowest Outturn	
The total tonnage of municipal waste composted or treated biologically in another way	2,535	1,593	✓			15,451.00	2,119.00	2,783
The percentage of municipal waste composted or treated biologically in another way	5.01%	5.00%	✓			15.68%	3.93%	5.50%
The total tonnage of bio-degradable municipal waste sent to landfill	28,003	22,200			✓	16,819	96,825	27,530
The percentage of bio-degradable municipal waste sent to landfill	84.43%	71.40%			✓	57.93%	90.38%	83%
Condition of principal (A) roads	13.7	16	✓			0.60	29.70	13
Condition of non-principal/ classified roads	5.6	30	✓			2.50	50.80	No target set
The number of high risk businesses liable to a programmed inspection or alternative enforcement activity during the year for Trading Standards	61	N/A	-	-	-	-	-	N/A

Performance Indicators	Outturn 2005/06	Target 2005/06	Above	On	Below	Welsh Comparison		Target 2006/07
			Highest Outturn	Lowest Outturn				
The number of high risk businesses liable to a programmed inspection or alternative enforcement activity during the year for Food Hygiene	250	N/A	-	-	-	-	-	No target set
The number of high risk businesses liable to a programmed inspection or alternative enforcement activity during the year for Animal Health	1	N/A	-	-	-	-	-	No target set
The number of high risk businesses liable to a programmed inspection or alternative enforcement activity during the year for Health and Safety	162	N/A	-	-	-	-	-	No target set
The percentage of these high risk businesses that were liable to a programmed inspection or alternative inspection activity that were inspected/subject to alternative enforcement activity, for Trading Standards	93%	80%	✓	-	-	-	-	90%

Performance Indicators	Outturn 2005/06	Target 2005/06	Above	On	Below	Welsh Comparison		Target 2006/07
						Highest Outturn	Lowest Outturn	
The percentage of these high risk businesses that were liable to a programmed inspection or alternative inspection activity that were inspected/subject to alternative enforcement activity, for Food Hygiene	84%	100%			✓	-	-	100%
The percentage of these high risk businesses that were liable to a programmed inspection or alternative inspection activity that were inspected/subject to alternative enforcement activity, for Animal Health	100%	100%		✓		-	-	100%
The percentage of these high risk businesses that were liable to a programmed inspection or alternative inspection activity that were inspected/subject to alternative enforcement activity, for Health and Safety	93%	90%	✓			-	-	100%
Percentage change in carbon dioxide emissions in the non domestic public stock	9%	-2%		✓		6.14%	2.40%	-6%
Percentage change in energy use and carbon dioxide emissions in the housing stock	4.93%	-		✓		8.05%	1.80%	-12%