

# ES20.1



**Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council**

**Local Development Plan**

**Hearing Session 20: Monitoring Indicators**

**Tuesday 10 July 2012**

**Examination 2012**

**Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council Submission**

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| Examination Statement Reference No: | <b>ES20.1</b>                    |
| Submission date:                    | <b>15<sup>th</sup> June 2012</b> |

## SESSION 20 MONITORING INDICATORS

### Introduction

This Statement has been prepared by Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council in order to help facilitate appropriate discussion at the Monitoring Indicators Hearing Session. The Paper provides a response to the questions set by the Planning Inspector (Mr Vincent Maher).

Where the Council does not intend to provide any additional written evidence the Inspector's attention is directed to the relevant part of the Evidence Base, which in the view of the Council addresses the matters raised. The paper will not repeat evidence previously submitted for consideration.

The Council's detailed response to the representations received to monitoring are contained in the Report of Representations (**SD07b**).

### Council Response to Inspector's Questions (questions in bold)

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| <b>1. Is the monitoring framework for the Plan (as amended by the Council's focussed changes) fit for purpose?</b> |
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The Council acknowledge that the Monitoring Framework as amended by the Council's focussed changes (**SD10a**, Appendix 2) needs to be strengthened. It is acknowledged in **ED.24** that the Inspector will conduct a detailed review of all of the monitoring indicators. The Council will prepare a further revision of its indicators in light of the comments raised by the Inspector in **ED.24**. However, the Council does seek to address some of the issues raised below.

It is recognised that the deadlines for reviewing policies appear unclear given the Council's legal obligations under the LDP Regulations to start a review every four years. It is suggested to the Inspector that the monitoring framework be amended to take into account the four year review in its deadlines.

The Inspector raises an issue in **ED.24** that some of the indicators that the Council has chosen can already be reviewed, for example housing completions from 2006 to 2011 referred to in Policy SP4. The Council considered this impractical as this would have generated numerous changes to the Plan.

The Council chose 'house prices' as an indicator as a result of the Viability Assessment (**SD69**), however we recognise that sales value per sq m is the appropriate indicator to be used. It is suggested to the Inspector that the monitoring framework is amended to reflect this.

A further issue raised is a link between renewable energy targets in SP7 and specific local projects. The Council agree that the monitoring framework needs to be strengthened to reflect this.

The Inspector questions why the monitoring framework does not seek to track Blaenau Gwent employment rates relative to a wider area, for example reducing the gap between the county and the South Wales average. The Council agree that the monitoring framework needs to be strengthened to reflect this.