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Dyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol

Blaenau Gwent

County Borough Council

Regeneration Division

Scoping Report

Sustainability Appraisal/
Strategic Environmental
Assessment

Local
Development
Plan

November 2007

Scoping Report

**Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council:
Blaenau Gwent Local Development Plan**

**Sustainability Appraisal/ Strategic
Environmental Assessment**

November 2007

Blaenau Gwent Local Development Plan

Sustainability Appraisal (SA) / Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA)

Scoping Report

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FOREWORD

Under the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004¹, Sustainability Appraisal (SA) is mandatory for all Local Development Plans (LDPs). An environmental assessment is also required under European Directive 2001/42/EC 'on the assessment of certain plans and programmes on the environment' (the SEA Directive). In accordance with national guidance² this document has been prepared to incorporate both the distinct requirements of SA and SEA under one single appraisal process. For the purpose of this document all future references to SA will incorporate the requirements of SEA.

A further requirement of the Planning Act 2004 is that the LDP must be informed by SA. The SA is an iterative process that identifies the likely significant effects of the plan in terms of economic, social and environmental considerations and the extent to which the plan will achieve its objectives in moving towards sustainable development. Sustainable Development is defined as '*Development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs*'³. The results of SA will help make the process of LDP preparation more transparent by providing information about the implications of choices being made⁴.

Therefore, the purpose of the SA Scoping Report is to identify, through consultation, any plans and programmes of relevance to the area, to describe the environmental, economic, and social baseline, and to highlight the key sustainability issues and key sustainability objectives for the County Borough. The issues and objectives identified at this scoping stage will form the basis for the subsequent SA assessments of the LDP.

The SA Scoping Report will be the subject of consultation from 9th November 2007 lasting 5 weeks. For the consultation, the following questions are posed to the consultees:

- Would your organisation like more active involvement than has been suggested within the report?
- Have all relevant plans and programmes been consulted?
- Are any significant environmental, social or economic data missing or misrepresented?
- Are judgments made concerning future baseline correct?
- Are there any additional sustainability problems or opportunities in the Blaenau Gwent area that need to be considered in the development of the LDP?

¹ Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004

² Sustainability Appraisal of Regional Spatial Strategies and Local Development Documents, Guidance for Regional Bodies and Local Planning Authorities, ODPM, November 2005.

³ 'Our Common Future' – The Brundtland Report 1987

⁴ Welsh Assembly Government Local Development Plan Manual (2006)

- Do you agree with the proposed SA framework? Are objectives, targets and indicators suggested appropriate?

Consultation responses should be sent (by post and/or e-mail) through to:

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Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council

Business Resource Centre

Tafarnaubach Industrial Estate

Tredegar

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Or e-mail: planningpolicy@blaenau-gwent.gov.uk

1 INTRODUCTION

BACKGROUND

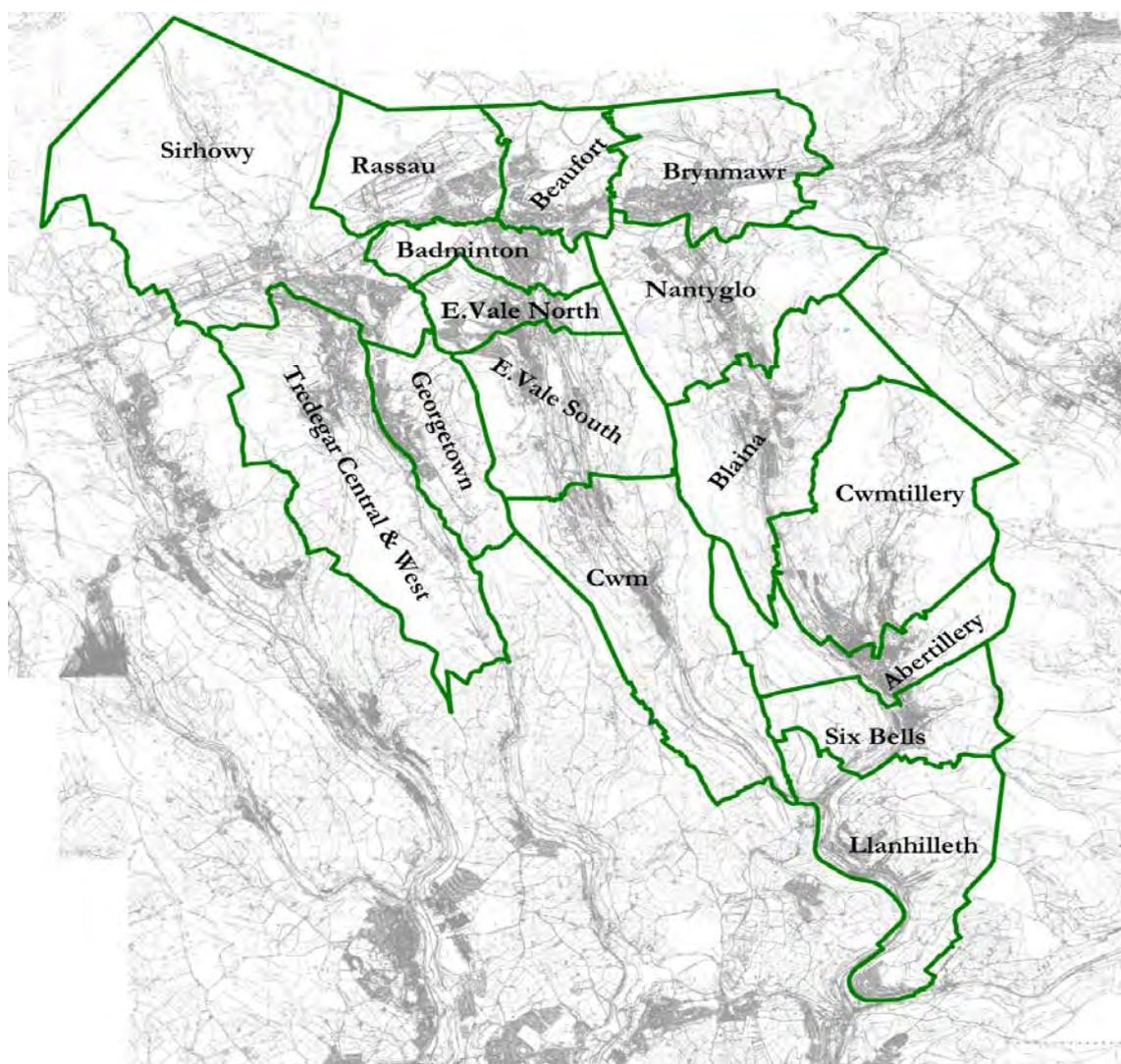
- 1.1 This document is the Scoping Report for the Sustainability Appraisal (SA), incorporating Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA), of the Blaenau Gwent Local Development Plan (LDP). Under the provisions of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004, Sustainability Appraisal (SA) is mandatory for all Local Development Plans (LDPs). An environmental assessment is also required under European Directive 2001/42/EC 'on the assessment of certain plans and programmes on the environment' (the 'SEA Directive'). The SA and SEA processes are combined to inform the preparation of the LDP.
- 1.2 The Blaenau Gwent Unitary Development Plan (UDP) was adopted on 6th July 2006. The Council has now started the preparation of the Local Development Plan (LDP), which will replace the UDP upon adoption.
- 1.3 The LDP will set out the Council's objectives and priorities for the development and use of land within the County Borough for the period 2006-2021. The LDP will include key policy approaches in respect of the following:
- The amount and proposed locations for new housing, employment, retail and other uses;
 - The identification of land to be safeguarded for environmental protection and enhancement; and
 - The proposed approach to the development of transport policies for the County Borough.
- 1.4 The purpose of this Scoping Report is to outline the framework for the sustainability appraisal of the Blaenau Gwent LDP based on the identification and analysis of any plans and programmes of relevance to the study area, a description of the environmental, economic, and social baseline, and to highlight any issues/problems and opportunities within the study area that the LDP may need to respond to.

- 1.5 Atkins was commissioned in April 2007 by Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council to undertake SA incorporating SEA of the Blaenau Gwent LDP.

STUDY AREA

- 1.6 Blaenau Gwent is situated in the north east of Industrial South Wales and includes some land that falls within the boundary of the Brecon Beacons National Park (Figure 1.1), for which the Brecon Beacons National Park Authority is responsible for development control activities as the planning authority. At the latest census the authority had a population of approximately 73,000, with the key centres of population being focused on the main settlements of Tredegar, Ebbw Vale, Brynmawr, Nantyglo, Blaina and Abertillery. The local authority area comprises one of the ten local authorities that together form the South East Wales Region as it is described in the ongoing Wales Spatial Plan Review. This latter document is currently being developed and the planning framework for Blaenau Gwent will be required to have regard to the broad policies and principles set out at the regional and national level.

Figure 1.1: Blaenau Gwent Study Area



REQUIREMENT FOR STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

1.7 The EU Directive 2001/42/EC on assessment of effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment (the 'SEA Directive') came into force in the UK on 20 July 2004 through the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004. The Directive applies to a variety of plans and programmes including those for town and country planning and land use and applies to LDPs as they a) set the framework for future development consent and b) are likely to have a significant effect on the environment.

1.8 The overarching objective of the SEA Directive is:

"To provide for a high level of protection of the environment and to contribute to the integration of environmental considerations into the preparation and adoption of

plans... with a view to promoting sustainable development, by ensuring that, in accordance with this Directive, an environmental assessment is carried out of certain plans... which are likely to have significant effects on the environment.” (Article 1)

1.9 SEA is an iterative assessment process which plans and programmes are now required to undergo as they are being developed to ensure that potential significant environmental effects arising from the plan/programme are identified, assessed, mitigated and communicated to plan-makers. SEA also requires the monitoring of significant effects once the plan/programme is implemented.

1.10 The SEA Directive and the SEA Regulations state that the SEA should consider the following topic areas.

- Biodiversity;
- Population;
- Human Health;
- Flora and Fauna;
- Soil;
- Water;
- Air;
- Climatic Factors;
- Material assets;
- Cultural heritage, including archaeological and built heritage;
- Landscape; and
- And the interrelationship between these factors.

REQUIREMENT FOR SUSTAINABILITY APPRAISAL

1.11 Under the regulations implementing the provisions of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004, a SA is required for all LDPs in Wales. The purpose of SA is to promote sustainable development through better integration of sustainability considerations in the preparation and adoption of plans. The Regulations⁵ stipulate that SAs of LDPs should meet the requirements of the SEA Directive.

⁵ Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes (Wales) Regulations 2004 (S.I. 2004/1656 (W/170)) (“the Wales Regulations”).

1.12 The need for SA is reiterated in Local Development Plan Wales⁶, which makes clear reference to SA including meeting the requirements of SEA, and advocates an integrated approach to the two processes.

1.13 The approach taken to the SA will take account of the various sources of guidance currently available, and will be in compliance with the SEA Directive as well as the SA requirements from planning legislation.

THE SA/SEA PROCESS

1.14 The requirements to carry out SA and SEA are thus distinct, but the Welsh Assembly Government (WAG) guidance for LDPs concurs with the ODPM's SA guidance⁷ in stating that it is possible to satisfy both through a single appraisal process (commonly designated as SA/SEA⁸) and provides methodologies and guidance for doing so.

1.15 The WAG considers that SA/SEA is undertaken in the following main stages:

- Stage A – Setting the context and objectives, establishing the baseline and deciding on scope;
- Stage B – Developing and refining options and assessing effects;
- Stage C – Preparing the Sustainability Appraisal Report;
- Stage D – Consultation on the preferred options of the draft plan and the Sustainability Appraisal Report;
- Stage E – Monitoring implementation of the plan.

1.16 The WAG/ODPM guidance also requires the preparation of the following reports:

- Scoping Report (summarising Stage A work), which should be used for consultation on the scope of the SA/SEA;
- Sustainability Appraisal Report (documenting Stages A to C work), which should be used in the public consultation on the Preferred Options.

1.17 Therefore, the Sustainability Appraisal Report is a key output of the appraisal process, presenting information including predicting and evaluating the effects of the LDP options against the social, environmental and social objectives.

⁶ Local Development Plans Wales, Welsh Assembly Government, 2005.

⁷ Sustainability Appraisal of Regional Spatial Strategies and Local Development Documents, Guidance for Regional Bodies and Local Planning Authorities, ODPM, November 2005.

⁸ The term SA is used to denote the combined SA/SEA process in this Scoping Report.

1.18 Figure 1.2 sets out the various stages, tasks and relationships with the plan preparation contained in the WAG/ODPM guidance, which are being applied to the SA of the LDP.

SCOPE OF THE APPRAISAL

1.19 Local Development Plans Wales emphasises that SA is an iterative process that identifies and reports on the likely significant effects of the plan and the extent to which the implementation of the plan will achieve the social, environmental and economic objectives by which sustainable development can be defined. The intention is that SA is fully integrated into the plan-making process from the earliest stages, both informing and being informed by it.

PURPOSE OF THE SCOPING REPORT

1.20 This Scoping Report has been prepared as the basis for the consultation with the SEA statutory consultation bodies and others on the scope and level of detail that must be included in the Sustainability Appraisal Report. It describes the SA Stage A work and sets out:

- (i) Other plans, programmes and sustainability objectives relevant to the plan;
- (ii) Baseline information, either collated or still needed, with notes on sources and any problems encountered;
- (iii) Key sustainability issues (social, environmental and economic dimensions);
- (iv) The SA Framework including SA objectives and indicators (and targets where these are proposed). The SA framework is defined on the basis of the analyses in tasks (i), (ii) and (iii) above;
- (v) Methodologies for assessing sustainability topics; and
- (vi) Proposals for the structure and level of detail of the Sustainability Appraisal Report.

Figure 1.2: Incorporating SA/SEA within the LDP Process – Stages and Tasks

Planning Stage	SA/SEA Stage	Components
Pre-Deposit Participation	Setting the context and objectives, establishing the baseline and deciding on the scope	Identify related plans/programmes
		Identify environmental protection objectives
		Baseline data and likely future trends
		Identify sustainability issues
		Develop sustainability objectives, indicators and targets (i.e. create the SEA Framework)
		Prepare Scoping Report
		Consult on the scope of the SA/SEA (the Scoping Report Consultation)
Pre-Deposit Participation	Developing and refining options	Consider Scoping Report Consultation comments
		Assess LDP objectives against the SA/SEA Framework
		Develop strategic options
		Evaluate/select preferred options
		Prepare Initial Sustainability Appraisal Report
Pre-Deposit Consultation	Consultation on Initial Sustainability Appraisal Report	
Preparation for Deposit of the LDP	Appraising the effects of the LDP Preferred Option(s)	Consider Pre-Deposit consultation comments
		Predict and assess sustainability effects of options taken forward
		Propose mitigation measures
		Propose monitoring programme
		Prepare Sustainability Appraisal Report
Deposit Consultation	Consultation on Sustainability Appraisal Report	
Revise LDP following representations made at the Deposit Stage	Revise Sustainability Appraisal Report as appropriate	
Submission of LDP to Welsh Assembly Government	Sustainability Appraisal Report accompanies LDP on submission	
Independent examination of LDP	Preparation or giving evidence	
Adoption of LDP	Prepare statement summarising how SA/SEA results were taken into account	
LDP Implementation	Monitor the sustainability effects of the LDP	Prepare an annual monitoring report

CONSULTING ON THE SCOPE OF THE SUSTAINABILITY APPRAISAL

1.21 The aim of the Scoping Report consultation is to engage with all the relevant statutory consultees and other key stakeholders on the scope of the appraisal, to ensure the finalised version is both a robust and comprehensive tool with which to assess the LDP.

1.22 The requirements for whom to consult during statutory SA are as follows:

- Authorities which, because of their environmental responsibilities, are likely to be concerned by the effects of implementing the plan or programme, must be consulted on the scope and level of detail of the information to be included in the Sustainability Appraisal Report. These are termed the statutory Consultation Bodies, and in Wales comprise the Countryside Council for Wales (CCW), Environment Agency (Wales) and Cadw (Historic Environment Service of the Welsh Assembly Government). It is considered good practice to consult with other appropriate social and economic consultees who would have a significant influence upon, or would be influenced by the LDP; and
- The public and Consultation Bodies must be consulted on LDP and the Sustainability Appraisal Report.

1.23 In particular, the Scoping Report consultation seeks advice on:

- The appropriateness of the sustainability objectives;
- The appropriateness of the key sustainability issues; and
- The comprehensiveness of the baseline data and need to gain further information where appropriate.

1.24 The consultation on this Scoping Report is in accordance with:

- Article 5(4) of the European Union Directive 2001/42/EC.
- The Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations Wales 2004 (the SEA Regulations).

1.25 The required time for consulting the above bodies is set in Regulation 12 (6) of the SEA Regulations as a period of 5 weeks beginning with the date on which the consultation body receives the invitation to engage in the consultation.

1.26 The following organisations are being consulted:

Statutory Consultees

Environment Agency Wales
Countryside Council for Wales
Cadw

Authorities

Brecon Beacons National Park Authority
Caerphilly County Borough Council
Torfaen County Borough Council
Powys County Council
Monmouthshire County Borough Council
Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council
Welsh Assembly Government

Environmental Organisations

Campaign for the Protection of Rural Wales
Friends of the Earth Cymru
Dwr Cymru/Welsh Water
RSPB
Glamorgan-Gwent Archaeological Trust
Blaenau Gwent Biodiversity Partnership
Gwent Wildlife Trust
South East Wales Regional Waste Group

Town and Community Councils

Abertillery & Llanhilleth Community Council
Nantyglo and Blaina Town Council
Brynmawr Town Council
Tredegar Town Council

Other Interested Parties

NHS Trust
Voice of Industry
Local Chambers of Trade

LDP Forum Members

ARPP
Base Handling Products
Capita Symonds
Continental Teves
Glamorgan & Gwent Housing Association
M & J Europe
Countryside Council for Wales (statutory consultees)
Environment Agency (statutory consultees)
Health Board
Local Health Board

Leader BGCBC
Executive Member Regeneration BGCBC
BGCBC - Community First
Heads of the Valleys Programme
Coleg Gwent
RISE
University of the Valleys
Careers Wales
Ebbw Vale & District Development Trust
GAVO
Princes Trust
Tredegar Development Trust
Venture Wales
Working Links
Department of Enterprise and Transport
Job Centre Plus
Tredegar Town Council (Town and Community Councils)
Spatial Support and Regeneration Branch
Campaign for the Protection of Rural Wales (Environmental Organisation)
Herian
Ramblers Association North Gwent
Glamorgan and Gwent Archaeological Trust (Environmental Organisation)
The Home Builders Federation
Sustrans Cymru

1.27 The period of consultation on this Scoping Report starts from 9th of November 2007 lasting 5 weeks.

Consultation Question 1:

Would your organisation like more active involvement than has been suggested within the report?

2 OTHER RELEVANT PLANS AND PROGRAMMES

INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 The first task of a SA is the identification of other relevant plans, programmes and sustainability objectives. A plan may be influenced in many ways by other plans and programmes and by external sustainability objectives, such as those laid down in policies and legislation. This task is carried out in response to the requirements of the SEA Directive, which specifically states that the Environmental Report should provide information on:

“The plan’s relationship with other relevant plans and programmes” and “the environmental protection objectives, established at international, [European] Community or national level, which are relevant to the plan... and the way those objectives and any environmental considerations have been taken into account during its preparation” (Annex 1 (a), (e))

PURPOSE OF THE REVIEW OF RELEVANT PLANS AND PROGRAMMES

- 2.2 This task helps establish a clear context for the SA and is important because these programmes, plans and objectives may influence the preparation of the LDP. The constraints or challenges these other documents pose for the LDP will need to be considered and summarised by setting out how they may be incorporated into the SA.

METHODOLOGY

- 2.3 A wide range of plans, programmes and policies (PPPs) relevant to the Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council area have been identified. These documents have been categorised by the geographical scale to which they relate and listed in Table 2.1.
- 2.4 In terms of the derivation of SA objectives to inform the SA framework, the international, national, regional and local level PPPs have been reviewed and the appropriate sustainability themes have been captured. These will be used to develop the draft SA framework for the Scoping Report stage of the SA process.

2.5 The results of this exercise are summarised in Table 2.2. Broad SA objectives generated from the review have been grouped under the three main topic headings namely, Environmental, Social and Economic, encompassing the three dimensions of sustainable development. Each objective has been assigned to the dimension of sustainable development to which it is most strongly associated. The table also sets out the source documents (specified plans and programmes) from which the broad SA objectives have been derived, together with their relationship to SEA topic areas, which must be considered to fulfil the requirements of the SEA directive.

**Consultation Question 2:
Have all relevant plans and programmes been consulted?**

Table 2.1: Relevant Local Plans and Programmes

International Plans and Programmes	
Rio Declaration on Environment and Development	www.unep.org/Documents.multilingual/Default.asp?DocumentID=78&ArticleID=1163
United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change	http://unfccc.int/2860.php
United Nations Statement of Principles on Forests	http://www.un.org/documents/ga/conf151/aconf15126-3annex3.htm
Convention on Biological Diversity	http://www.biodiv.org/default.shtml
United Nations Agenda 21	http://www.un.org/esa/sustdev/documents/agenda21/english/agenda21toc.htm
Kyoto Protocol on Climate Change	http://unfccc.int/resource/docs/convkp/kpeng.html
European Climate Change Programme	http://ec.europa.eu/environment/climat/eccp.htm
The EU Directive on the Conservation of Wild Birds (79/409/EEC)	http://www.defra.gov.uk/wildlife-countryside/ewd/rrrpac/wildbirds/index.htm
The EU Nitrates Directive (91/676/EEC)	http://ec.europa.eu/environment/water/water-nitrates/index_en.html
The EU Directive on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and of Wild Flora and Fauna (92/43/EEC)	http://www.defra.gov.uk/wildlife-countryside/ewd/rrrpac/wildbirds/index.htm
The EU Noise Directive (2003/10/EEC)	http://europa.eu.int/eur-lex/pri/en/oj/dat/2003/l_042/l_04220030215en00380044.pdf
The EU Water Framework Directive (2000/60/EC)	http://ec.europa.eu/environment/water/water-framework/index_en.html
The EU Directive on Environmental Noise (2002/49/EEC)	http://europa.eu/scadplus/leg/en/lvb/l21180.htm
The EU Landfill of Waste Directive (97/11/EC)	http://ec.europa.eu/environment/waste/landfill_index.htm
The EU Directive on Environmental Impact Assessment	http://ec.europa.eu/environment/eia/eia-legalcontext.htm
The Aarhus Convention on Access to information, public participation in decision making and access to justice in environmental matters (2005/370/EEC)	http://ec.europa.eu/environment/aarhus/index.htm
The EU Air Quality Framework Directive (96/62/EC)	http://ec.europa.eu/environment/air/ambient.htm#1
The EU Rural Development Policy	http://europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/05/766&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en
European Spatial Development Perspective, 1999	http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/sources/docoffic/official/reports/som_en.htm

The Common Agriculture Policy (Reform 2003)	http://ec.europa.eu/
The European Employment Strategy	http://ec.europa.eu
Intelligent Energy Europe Programme	http://ec.europa.eu/energy/intelligent/index_en.html
EU Directive on Energy Performance of Buildings	http://europa.eu.int/eur-lex/pri/en/oj/dat/2003/l_001/l_00120030104en00650071.pdf
EU Waste Framework Directive (91/156/EEC)	http://europa.eu/scadplus/leg/en/lvb/l21197.htm
Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development	http://www.un.org/esa/sustdev/documents/WSSD_POI_PD/English/POI_PD.htm
Structural Funds Regulations 2007-2013	http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/sources/docoffic/official/regulation/newregl0713_en.htm
The EU Biodiversity Strategy	http://www.birdlife.org/eu/eu_biodiversity.html
The EU Sixth Environmental Action Plan	http://www.birdlife.org/eu/eu_biodiversity.html
National Plans and Programmes	
UK Sustainable Development Strategy –‘Securing the Future’	http://www.sustainable-development.gov.uk/
Planning for a Sustainable Future: White Paper, 2007	http://www.communities.gov.uk/index.asp?id=1510503
Code for Sustainable Homes, 2006	http://www.planningportal.gov.uk/uploads/code_for_sust_homes.pdf
People, Places, Futures – The Wales Spatial Plan	http://www.wales.gov.uk/themesspatialplan/content/spatial-plan-e.htm
A Winning Wales – The National Economic Strategy of the Welsh Assembly Government	http://www.wales.gov.uk/themesbudgetandstrategic/content/neds/awinningwales-0302-e.pdf
Wales – A Better Country – The Strategic agenda of WAG	http://www.wales.gov.uk/themesbettercountry/strategic-e.pdf
Planning Policy Wales (PPW) (2002)	http://www.wales.gov.uk
WAG Technical Advice Notes (TANs) – TAN1- Joint Housing Land Availability Studies, TAN2 – Planning and Affordable Housing, TAN3 – Simplified Planning Zones, TAN4 - Retailing and Town Centres, TAN5 – Nature Conservation and Planning, TAN6 – Agriculture and Rural development, TAN7 – Outdoor Advertisement Control, TAN8 – Renewable Energy, TAN9 – Enforcement and Planning Control, TAN10 – Tree Preservation Orders, TAN11 – Noise, TAN12 – Design, TAN13 – Tourism, TAN14 – Coastal Planning, TAN15 – Development and Flood Risk, TAN16 – Sport and Recreation, TAN18 – Transport, TAN19 – Telecommunications, TAN20 – The Welsh Language – UDPs and Planning Control, TAN21 – Waste	http://www.wales.gov.uk/subiplanning/content/tans/tans_e.htm

Minerals Planning Policy Wales (2001)	http://new.wales.gov.uk/topics/planning/Planpol/?lang=en
Minerals TAN1 – Aggregates (2004)	http://new.wales.gov.uk/topics/planning/Planpol/MTAN/?lang=en
National Housing Strategy – Better homes for People in Wales	http://new.wales.gov.uk/topics/housingandcommunity/housing/?lang=en
UK Biodiversity Action Plan	http://www.ukbap.org.uk/
Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000	http://www.opsi.gov.uk/ACTS/acts2000/20000037.htm
The Transport Framework for Wales	http://www.wales.gov.uk/subitransport/content/framework/main.htm
Farming for the Future: A new direction for farming in Wales	http://www.countryside.wales.gov.uk/fe/master.asp?n1=4&n2=52
Sports Tourism in Wales: A Framework for Action	http://www.industry.visitwales.co.uk/server.php?show=nav.2221
Action Plan for the Countryside Experience	http://www.industry.visitwales.co.uk/server.php?show=nav.2221
Achieving Our Potential 2006-2013 – Strategic Action Plan	http://new.wales.gov.uk/topics/tourism/283366/?lang=en
Cultural Tourism Strategy for Wales	http://www.industry.visitwales.co.uk/server.php?show=nav.2221
Climbing Higher – WAG Strategy for Sport and Physical Activity	http://www.wales.gov.uk/subiculture/content/sport/climbing-higher2005-e.pdf
Well Being In Wales	http://www.cmo.wales.gov.uk/content/work/well-being-in-wales/index-e.htm
Water Resources for the future: Strategy for England and Wales	http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk/subjects/waterres/137651/?version=1&lang=_e
Environment Strategy for Wales	http://www.countryside.wales.gov.uk/fe/master.asp?n1=366&n2=529&n3=533
Wise about Waste: The National Waste Strategy for Wales	http://www.countryside.wales.gov.uk/fe/master.asp?n1=366&n2=213&n3=368
Meeting the Energy Challenge – A White Paper on Energy 2007	http://www.dti.gov.uk/files/file39387.pdf
Walking and Cycling Strategy for Wales	http://www.wales.gov.uk/subitransport/content/walking-cycling-e.pdf
Wales Programme for Improvement – Dec 2005	http://www.wao.gov.uk/assets/WAG_WPI_guidance.pdf
Building a Future for Wales – A sustainable housing strategy	http://www.wwf.org.uk/core/about/cymru_0000001473.asp
A Working Countryside for Wales – Rural White Paper 1996	http://www.archive.official-documents.co.uk/document/welshoff/awcwales/awcwales.htm
One Future, Different Paths – The UK's Shared framework for Sustainable Development (2005)	http://www.sustainable-development.gov.uk/publications/uk-strategy/framework-for-sd.htm
The Sustainable Development Action Plan – 2004-2007	http://www.wales.gov.uk/themessustainabledev/content/review/action-plan-scheme-e.pdf
Woodlands for Wales 2001	http://www.forestry.gov.uk/website/pdf.nsf/pdf/woodwaleseng.pdf/\$FILE/woodwaleseng.pdf

Air Quality Strategy for England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland	http://www.defra.gov.uk/environment/airquality/strategy/
Water Resources for the future: A summary of the strategy for England and Wales 2001	http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk/commondata/acrobat/national_report_english.pdf
The Strategy for Older People in Wales, 2003	http://www.rhondda-cynon-taf.gov.uk/stellent/groups/Public/documents/Publications/009931.pdf
Regional Plans and Programmes	
South East Wales Regional Waste Plan	http://www.sewaleswasteplan.org/ad/Regional%20Waste%20Plan.pdf
Strategic Planning Guidance for South East Wales	http://www.bridgend.gov.uk/Web1/groups/public/documents/plan/009625.pdf http://www.bridgend.gov.uk/Web1/groups/public/documents/plan/009626.pdf
South East Wales Economic Development Strategy	http://www.cardiff.gov.uk/content.asp?Parent_Directory_id=2865&nav=2866,3386,4709
Property Strategy for Employment in Wales (2004-2008)	http://www.wda.co.uk/index.cfm/property_advice_and_support/wda_properties/en2601?shortCutId=2601&CFID=6370803&CFTOKEN=a76c63afb56050d8-B68C2C61-E7FA-E5A3-3AE7DBAEC674285
Five Counties Regeneration Framework	http://www.newport.gov.uk/xpedio/groups/public/documents/plans_and_strategies/n_034763.pdf
Turning Heads: A Strategy for the Heads of the Valleys 2020	http://new.wales.gov.uk/docrepos/40382/4038231141/403821125/TransportPublications/565049/HoV_TurningHeads_eng.pdf?lang=en
Heads we win – A Strategic Framework for the Heads of the Valleys	http://www.wales.gov.uk/subitradeindustry/content/consultations/hov-framework-e.pdf
Outline of the Regional Transport Plan: January 2007	South East Wales Transport Alliance
South East Wales Development Strategy – Enter the Dragon	http://www.cardiff.gov.uk/ObjView.asp?Object_ID=3725
Local Plans and Strategies	
Blaenau Gwent Development Plan for the Strategy for Older People in Wales	Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council
Blaenau Gwent Community Plan 'proud past, bright future' 2005-2009	http://www.blaenau-gwent.gov.uk/1370.asp
Blaenau Gwent Environmental Health and Trading Standards Division Contaminated Land Strategy 2004	http://www.blaenau-gwent.gov.uk/documents/Documents_Environment/CONTAMINATED_LAND_STRATEGY_2004.pdf
Ebbw Vale Urban Function Analysis	Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council
Brynmawr Urban Function Analysis	Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council
Tredegar Urban Function Analysis	Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council
Abertillery Urban Function Analysis	Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council

*Blaenau Gwent Local Development Plan: Sustainability Appraisal
Scoping Report*

ATKINS

Blaenau Gwent Economic Development Strategy 2004	Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council
Blaenau Gwent Energy Policy Statement	Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council
Health and Social Needs in Blaenau Gwent, Jan 2002	Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council
Blaenau Gwent Community Safety Strategy 2005 - 2008	Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council
Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council Tourism Strategy	Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council
Blaenau Gwent Waste Strategy 2004	Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council
Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council UDP	http://www.blaenau-gwent.gov.uk/business/7725.asp
Blaenau Gwent CBC Corporate Improvement Plan 06/07	http://www.blaenau-gwent.gov.uk/166.asp
Blaenau Gwent Healthier Future Strategy	http://www.wales.nhs.uk/sites3/Documents/280/HealthierFutureStrategy%5FEnglish1.pdf
Blaenau Gwent Local Biodiversity Action Plan	http://www.ukbap.org.uk/lbap.aspx?id=415
Blaenau Gwent Housing Strategy	Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council
Blaenau Gwent Housing Market Assessment	Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council
Blaenau Gwent Regeneration Strategy	Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council
Blaenau Gwent Adopted School Organisational Plan	Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council
Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council Single Education Plan	Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council
Blaenau Gwent Play Strategy 2004	Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council
UDP Environmental Appraisal	Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council
Blaenau Gwent Heritage Strategy	Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council
Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council Draft Rights of Way Improvement Plan 2007 - 2017	http://www.blaenau-gwent.gov.uk/4213.asp

Table 2.2: Broad Sustainability Objectives

2.6 As set out previously, this table draws together sustainability themes that have emerged as being common to the various policies and plans reviewed as part of the SA development process. In essence, in order to conform to international, national, regional and local policies, plans and programmes, the SA Objectives developed in Section 5 must reflect each of the broad sustainability themes drawn out and tabulated below.

Sustainability Theme	Source			SEA Topics
	International	National/Regional	Local	
<i>ECONOMIC</i>				
<i>Ensure high and stable levels of local employment</i>	The European Employment Strategy	A Winning Wales, The National Economic Strategy of WAG, Five Counties Regeneration Framework; Turning Heads: A Strategy for the Heads of the Valleys 2020; Heads We Win – A Strategic Framework for the Heads of the Valleys; South East Wales Development Strategy – Enter the Dragon	Blaenau Gwent Development Plan for the Strategy for Older People In Wales, Blaenau Gwent Community Plan 'proud past, bright future' 2005-2009, Ebbw Vale Urban Function Analysis, Blaenau Gwent Economic Development Strategy 2004, Blaenau Gwent Heritage Strategy	Population
<i>Promote economic growth and business competitiveness</i>	The European Employment Strategy	A Winning Wales, The National Economic Strategy of WAG, South East Wales Economic Development strategy, Wales Spatial Plan; South East Wales Development Strategy, PPW, Turning Heads: A Strategy for the Heads of the Valleys 2020; Heads We Win – A Strategic Framework for the Heads of the Valleys; Five Counties Regeneration Framework	Blaenau Gwent Unitary Development Plan; Blaenau Gwent Economic Development Strategy 2004, Blaenau Gwent Regeneration Strategy	Population, Material Assets
<i>Ensure a supply of local employment sites and premises which meet the needs of a diverse changing economy</i>		South East Wales Economic Development Strategy, South East Wales Development Strategy – Enter the Dragon, Five counties Regeneration Framework	Blaenau Gwent Unitary Development Plan; Blaenau Gwent Economic Development Strategy 2004, Blaenau Gwent Regeneration Strategy	Population, Material Assets

Sustainability Theme	Source			SEA Topics
	International	National/Regional	Local	
<i>To promote/develop a knowledge based economy</i>		TAN 19 Telecommunications 2002, A Winning Wales, South East Wales Economic Development strategy; Five counties Regeneration Framework; Wales a Better Country	Blaenau Gwent Unitary Development Plan, Blaenau Gwent CBC Corporate Improvement Plan 06/07	Population, Material Assets
<i>Establish a strong tourist economy, sensitively capitalising on environmental, heritage, and leisure assets</i>		PPW, TAN13 – Tourism, Sports Tourism in Wales: A framework for Action, Cultural Tourism Strategy for Wales; Wales Spatial Plan	Blaenau Gwent Community Plan 'proud past, bright future' 2005-2009, Ebbw Vale Urban Function Analysis, Brynmawr Urban Function Analysis, Tredegar Urban Function Analysis, Abertillery Urban Function Analysis, Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council Tourism Strategy, Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council UDP, Blaenau Gwent Heritage Strategy	Population Cultural Heritage, Landscape
<i>Improve the vitality and viability of towns and neighbourhood centres</i>		PPW, TAN4 – Retailing and Town Centres; Wales Spatial Plan, Strategic Planning Guidance for South East Wales	Blaenau Gwent Environmental Health and Trading Standards Division Contaminated Land Strategy, Blaenau Gwent Community Plan 'proud past, bright future' 2005-2009, Ebbw Vale Urban Function Analysis, Brynmawr Urban Function Analysis, Tredegar Urban Function Analysis, Blaenau Gwent Community Safety Strategy 2005 - 2008, Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council Tourism Strategy, Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council UDP, Blaenau Gwent CBC Corporate Improvement Plan 06/07, Environmental Appraisal of the Blaenau Gwent UDP	Population Material Assets
<i>Promote the regeneration of disadvantaged wards and support the revitalisation of such areas</i>	EU Objective 1,2 and 3 Programmes	PPW, Wales Spatial Plan, UK Sustainable Development Strategy, Wales - A Better Country. Communities First Programme; Turning Heads: A Strategy for the Heads of the Valleys 2020; Heads We Win – A Strategic Framework for the Heads of the Valleys	Blaenau Gwent UDP, Blaenau Gwent CBC Corporate Improvement Plan 06/07; Blaenau Gwent Community Plan 'proud past, bright future' 2005-2009, Blaenau Gwent Regeneration Strategy	Population, Human Health
ENVIRONMENTAL				

Sustainability Theme	Source			SEA Topics
	International	National/Regional	Local	
<i>Protect and enhance the biodiversity</i>	Convention on Biological Diversity, The EU Biodiversity Strategy, Convention on Biological Diversity, The EU Directive on the Conservation of Wild Birds, The EU Sixth Environmental Action Plan	PPW, TAN5 – Nature Conservation and Planning, UK Biodiversity Action Plan, Woodlands for Wales; Wales Spatial Plan	Blaenau Gwent Environmental Health and Trading Standards Division Contaminated Land Strategy, Blaenau Gwent Community Plan 'proud past, bright future' 2005-2009, Blaenau Gwent Local Biodiversity Action Plan; Blaenau Gwent Unitary Development Plan, Environmental Appraisal of the Blaenau Gwent UDP	Biodiversity, Flora, Fauna, Landscape
<i>Identify, manage and protect habitats and species which are important on a international, national and local scale</i>	Convention on Biological Diversity, The EU Biodiversity Strategy Statement of principles on forests, The EU Directive on the Conservation of Wild Birds, The EU Sixth Environmental Action Plan	PPW, TAN5 – Nature Conservation and Planning, UK Biodiversity Action Plan, Woodlands for Wales, Environment Strategy for Wales	Blaenau Gwent UDP, Blaenau Gwent Local Biodiversity Action Plan, Blaenau Gwent Environmental Health and Trading Standards Division Contaminated Land Strategy, Blaenau Gwent Community Plan 'proud past, bright future' 2005-2009, Environmental Appraisal of the Blaenau Gwent UDP	Biodiversity, Flora, Fauna; Landscape
<i>Minimise the effects of noise pollution</i>	The EU Noise Directive, The EU Sixth Environmental Action Plan	PPW, TAN11 – Noise, Environment Strategy for Wales, Transport Framework for Wales	Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council UDP, Environmental Appraisal of the Blaenau Gwent UDP	Human Health, Population, Fauna
<i>Reduce air pollution and ensure improvements in air quality</i>	The EU Air Quality Framework Directive, The EU Sixth Environmental Action Plan	PPW, Environment Strategy for Wales, Air Quality Strategy for the UK, Transport Framework for Wales, TAN 18: Transport; Outline of the Regional Transport Plan (SEWTA), Meeting the Energy Challenge – A White Paper on Energy 2007	Blaenau Gwent Environmental Health and Trading Standards Division Contaminated Land Strategy, Blaenau Gwent Community Plan 'proud past, bright future' 2005-2009, Blaenau Gwent Energy Policy Statement, Blaenau Gwent Waste Strategy 2004, Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council UDP, Environmental Appraisal of the Blaenau Gwent UDP	Human Health, Population, Flora, Fauna

Sustainability Theme	Source			SEA Topics
	International	National/Regional	Local	
<i>Reduce the risk of flooding by assessing developments against the precautionary principle, and promote protection of floodplains from inappropriate development</i>	The EU Water Framework Directive	PPW, TAN15 - Development and Flood Risk, Water Resources for the Future: Strategy for England and Wales,	Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council UDP , Blaenau Gwent Community Plan 'proud past, bright future' 2005-2009	Water, Human Health, Population, Biodiversity, Soil
<i>Protect and enhance the valued historic environment and its setting</i>	The EU Directive on Environmental Impact Assessment	PPW, Cultural Tourism Strategy for Wales, Wales Spatial Plan; The Blaenau Gwent Draft Rights of Way Improvement Plan 2007	Brynmawr Urban Function Analysis, Tredegar Urban Function Analysis, Abertillery Urban Function Analysis, Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council Tourism Strategy, Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council UDP; Blaenau Gwent Community Plan 'proud past, bright future' 2005-2009, Environmental Appraisal of the Blaenau Gwent UDP	Cultural Heritage, Landscape
<i>Encourage sustainable use, enjoyment and management of the countryside</i>	The EU Rural Development Policy, The Common Agriculture Policy (Reform 2003)	Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000, The Blaenau Gwent Draft Rights of Way Improvement Plan 2007, The Sustainable Development Action Plan 2004- 2007, Action Plan for the Countryside Experience, Well Being in Wales, Walking and Cycling Strategy for Wales, A Working Countryside for Wales, TAN6 – Agriculture and Rural Development	Blaenau Gwent Local Biodiversity Action Plan; Blaenau Gwent Community Strategy 'proud past, bright future' 2005-2009; Blaenau Gwent Tourism Strategy, Environmental Appraisal of the Blaenau Gwent UDP	Population Landscape
<i>Promote protection and enhancement of valued landscape character</i>	The EU Directive on Environmental Impact Assessment	TAN 5 – Nature Conservation and Planning; Woodlands for Wales; UK Biodiversity Action Plan, Action Plan for the Countryside Experience, Environmental Strategy for Wales	Blaenau Gwent Environmental Health and Trading Standards Division Contaminated Land Strategy, Blaenau Gwent Community Plan 'proud past, bright future' 2005-2009, Abertillery Urban Function Analysis, Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council Tourism Strategy, Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council UDP, Blaenau Gwent Local Biodiversity Action Plan , Environmental Appraisal of the Blaenau Gwent UDP	Cultural Heritage, Landscape Biodiversity Flora, Fauna

Sustainability Theme	Source			SEA Topics
	International	National/Regional	Local	
Reduce pollution of water courses, groundwater and improve poor water quality	The EU Nitrates Directive, The EU Water Framework Directive	Water resources for the future: Strategy for England and Wales, UK Sustainable Development Strategy	Blaenau Gwent Environmental Health and Trading Standards Division Contaminated Land Strategy, Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council UDP, Environmental Appraisal of the Blaenau Gwent UDP	Water, Human Health, Soil
Encourage the redevelopment of appropriate previously developed land before considering development of greenfield sites		TAN1 – Joint Housing Land Availability Study, PPW; Wales Spatial Plan	Blaenau Gwent Environmental Health and Trading Standards Division Contaminated Land Strategy, Blaenau Gwent Economic Development Strategy 2004, Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council UDP, Blaenau Gwent Local Biodiversity Action Plan, Environmental Appraisal of the Blaenau Gwent UDP	Population, Human Health
Encourage the use of more sustainable forms of transport, reducing the need to travel by car	UN Framework Convention on Climate Change; Kyoto Protocol on Climate Change; EU Air Quality Framework Directive	The Transport Framework for Wales, PPW, TAN18 - Transport, Walking and Cycling Strategy for Wales; Wales Spatial Plan; Outline of the Regional Transport Plan (SEWTA); The Blaenau Gwent Draft Rights of Way Improvement Plan 2007,	Blaenau Gwent Community Plan 'proud past, bright future' 2005-2009, Abertillery Urban Function Analysis, Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council UDP, Blaenau Gwent CBC Corporate Improvement Plan 06/07, Environmental Appraisal of the Blaenau Gwent UDP	Population, Human Health
Reduce traffic congestion to protect the environment and human health		The Transport Framework for Wales, PPW, TAN18, Walking and Cycling Strategy for Wales; Outline of the Regional Transport Plan (SEWTA)	Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council UDP, Blaenau Gwent Community Plan 'proud past, bright future' 2005-2009, Blaenau Gwent UDP Environmental Appraisal of the Blaenau Gwent UDP	Air, Climatic Factors, Human Health
Address the causes of climate change and promote the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions	The EU Sixth Environmental Action Plan, United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, European Climate Change Programme, EU Air Quality Framework Directive, EU Noise Directive	UK Sustainable Development Strategy, Environment Strategy for Wales, Air Quality Strategy for the UK; Wales Spatial Plan, Transport Framework for Wales, Outline of the Regional Transport Plan (SEWTA), TAN8 – Renewable Energy	Blaenau Gwent Energy Policy Statement, Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council UDP, Blaenau Gwent Community Strategy 'proud past, bright future' 2005-2009, Blaenau Gwent Healthier Future Strategy, Environmental Appraisal of the Blaenau Gwent UDP	Air, Climatic Factors
Promote the reduction of waste generation and landfill, and increase levels of recycling to achieve more	The EU Landfill of Waste Directive, EU	Environment Strategy for Wales, Wise about Waste: The National Strategy for Wales, The UK's shared framework for	Blaenau Gwent Environmental Health and Trading Standards Division Contaminated Land Strategy, Blaenau Gwent Community Plan 'proud	Population, Air, Climatic Factors

Sustainability Theme	Source			SEA Topics
	International	National/Regional	Local	
<i>sustainable waste management</i>	Waste Framework Directive	Sustainable Development, TAN21 – Waste, PPW, South East Wales Regional Waste Plan, Wales Spatial Plan, Wales - A better Country, Wales Spatial Plan	past, bright future' 2005-2009, Tredegar Urban Function Analysis, Blaenau Gwent Energy Policy Statement, Blaenau Gwent Waste Strategy 2004, Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council UDP, Blaenau Gwent CBC Corporate Improvement Plan 06/07, Environmental Appraisal of the Blaenau Gwent UDP	
<i>Increase energy efficiency and promote renewable energy production and use</i>	Intelligent Energy Europe, EU Directive on Energy Performance of Buildings, Kyoto Protocol on Climate Change	UK Sustainable Development Strategy – Securing the future, WSP, Wales a better country, PPW, TAN8 – Renewable Energy, Our energy future – Energy White Paper; Wales Spatial Plan	Blaenau Gwent Energy Policy Statement, Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council UDP, Environmental Appraisal of the Blaenau Gwent UDP	Population, Air, Climatic Factors
<i>Safeguard non renewable resources and use all resources wisely</i>	Renewable Energy Coalition, Intelligent Energy Europe, Kyoto Protocol on Climate Change, EU Waste Framework Directive, EU Landfill of Waste Directive	UK Sustainable Development Strategy – Securing the Future, Wise about Waste: The National Strategy for Wales, Wales Spatial Plan, PPW, South East Wales Regional Waste Plan, Minerals Planning Policy Wales, MTAN1 - Aggregates	Blaenau Gwent Energy Policy Statement, Blaenau Gwent Waste Strategy 2004, Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council UDP, Environmental Appraisal of the Blaenau Gwent UDP	Population, Material Assets
<i>To conserve soil resources and maintain their quality</i>	EU Sixth Environmental Action Plan	Environment Strategy for Wales, Wales Spatial Plan; TAN 6: Agriculture and Rural Development; Farming for the Future	Blaenau Gwent Environmental Health and Trading Standards Division Contaminated Land Strategy, Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council UDP, Environmental Appraisal of the Blaenau Gwent UDP	Soil, Landscape, Water
<i>Promote good design in all new development to contribute to a higher quality built and natural environment</i>		PPW, TAN12 – Design, A Winning Wales – the National Economic Development Strategy of the Welsh Assembly Government, National Housing Strategy – Better Homes for People in Wales, Building a Future for Wales: A Sustainable Housing Strategy	Blaenau Gwent Regeneration Strategy; Blaenau Gwent Unitary Development Plan, Blaenau Gwent Tourism Strategy; Blaenau Gwent Community Plan 'proud past, bright future' 2005-2009, Environmental Appraisal of the Blaenau Gwent UDP	Population, Landscape, Cultural Heritage

Sustainability Theme	Source			SEA Topics
	International	National/Regional	Local	
SOCIAL				
Improve the health and well-being of the population and reduce inequalities in health and improving accessibility to health services	EU Air Quality Framework Directive, EU Noise Directive, EU 6th Environmental Action Plan	Wales Spatial Plan, Government's Transport Sustainable Development Objectives, TAN 13 - Tourism, TAN 18 – Transport, Outline of the Regional Transport Plan (SEWTA), Well Being in Wales, Climbing Higher – WAG Strategy for Sport and Physical Activity, TAN16 – Sport and Recreation; The Blaenau Gwent Draft Rights of Way Improvement Plan 2007.	Blaenau Gwent Development Plan for the Strategy for Older People In Wales, Blaenau Gwent Environmental Health and Trading Standards Division Contaminated Land Strategy, Blaenau Gwent Community Plan 'proud past, bright future' 2005-2009, Health and Social Needs in Blaenau Gwent, Blaenau Gwent CBC, Jan 2002, Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council UDP, Blaenau Gwent CBC Corporate Improvement Plan 06/07, Blaenau Gwent Healthier Future Strategy, Environmental Appraisal of the Blaenau Gwent UDP	Population, Human Health
Improve accessibility and transport links to key services through improved travel choices		Wales Spatial Plan, Wales - A Better Country, TAN18 - Transport; The Transport Framework for Wales, Walking and Cycling Strategy for Wales, Outline of the Regional Transport Plan (SEWTA); The Blaenau Gwent Draft Rights of Way Improvement Plan 2007	Blaenau Gwent Community Plan 'proud past, bright future' 2005-2009, Ebbw Vale Urban Function Analysis, Brynmawr Urban Function Analysis, Tredegar Urban Function Analysis, Abertillery Urban Function Analysis, Blaenau Gwent Waste Strategy 2004, Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council UDP, Blaenau Gwent CBC Corporate Improvement Plan 06/07, Blaenau Gwent Healthier Future Strategy, Blaenau Gwent Community Safety Strategy 2005-2008, Environmental Appraisal of the Blaenau Gwent UDP	Population, Human Health
Raise educational attainment levels and develop opportunities for everyone to equip themselves with the necessary skills to find and remain in work		South East Wales Economic Development Strategy; Wales Spatial Plan Winning Wales – The National Economic Development Strategy of the WAG; Wales - A Better Country	Blaenau Gwent Development Plan for the Strategy for Older People In Wales, Blaenau Gwent Community Plan 'proud past, bright future' 2005-2009, Ebbw Vale Urban Function Analysis, Brynmawr Urban Function Analysis, Tredegar Urban Function Analysis, Blaenau Gwent Economic Development Strategy 2004, Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council Tourism Strategy, Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council UDP, Blaenau Gwent CBC Corporate Improvement Plan 06/07, Blaenau Gwent Adopted School Organisational Plan; Blaenau Gwent	Population

Sustainability Theme	Source			SEA Topics
	International	National/Regional	Local	
			County Borough Council Single Education Plan, Blaenau Gwent Heritage Strategy	
<i>Improve the quality, variety and affordability of housing to ensure that everyone has the opportunity to live in a decent affordable home</i>		TAN2 – Planning and Affordable Housing; Wales Spatial Plan; National Housing Strategy – Better Homes for People in Wales; PPW	Blaenau Gwent Community Plan ‘proud past, bright future’ 2005-2009, Ebbw Vale Urban Function Analysis, Brynmawr Urban Function Analysis, Tredegar Urban Function Analysis, Abertillery Urban Function Analysis, Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council UDP, Blaenau Gwent CBC Corporate Improvement Plan 06/07; Blaenau Gwent Housing Market Assessment; Blaenau Gwent Housing Strategy, Environmental Appraisal of the Blaenau Gwent UDP	Population
<i>Reduce levels of crime and fear of crime and promote safer neighbourhoods</i>		TAN 12 - Design; Wales – A Better Country, Achieving our Potential 2006-2013 – Strategic Action Plan; Wales Programme for Employment – Dec 2005	Blaenau Gwent Community Plan ‘proud past, bright future’ 2005-2009, Blaenau Gwent Community Safety Strategy 2005 - 2008, Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council UDP, Blaenau Gwent Healthier Future Strategy, Environmental Appraisal of the Blaenau Gwent UDP	Population, Human Health
<i>Reduce poverty and social exclusion and improve equality of opportunities amongst all social groups</i>		TAN2 – Planning and Affordable Housing, TAN13 – Transport, Wales – A Better Country,; Achieving our Potential 2006-2013 – Strategic Action Plan, Wales Programme for Employment – Dec 2005	Blaenau Gwent Development Plan for the Strategy for Older People In Wales , Blaenau Gwent Community Plan ‘proud past, bright future’ 2005-2009, Ebbw Vale Urban Function Analysis, Brynmawr Urban Function Analysis, Tredegar Urban Function Analysis, Blaenau Gwent Economic Development Strategy 2004 Blaenau Gwent Community Safety Strategy 2005 - 2008, Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council Tourism Strategy, Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council UDP, Blaenau Gwent CBC Corporate Improvement Plan 06/07, Blaenau Gwent	Population, Human Health

Sustainability Theme	Source			SEA Topics
	International	National/Regional	Local	
			Heritage Strategy	
Protect and provide local social, recreational and leisure facilities		TAN16 – Sport and Recreation; Sports Tourism in Wales: A framework for action; Climbing Higher – WAG Strategy for Sport and Physical Activity; Well Being in Wales; Walking and Cycling Strategy	Blaenau Gwent Community Plan 'proud past, bright future' 2005-2009, Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council Tourism Strategy, Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council UDP, Blaenau Gwent Healthier Future Strategy, Blaenau Gwent Heritage Strategy	Population, Human Health

3 BASELINE INFORMATION

INTRODUCTION

- 3.1 The next task in the SA covers the collection of baseline information. The review of other plans and programmes undertaken has provided a considerable amount of baseline information and this information has been complemented by collection of data on key indicators relating to the SEA topic areas, as well as additional social and economic indicators for the LDP area.
- 3.2 More specifically, the SEA Directive says that the Environmental Report should provide information on:

“relevant aspects of the current state of the environment and the likely evolution thereof without implementation of the plan” and the “environmental characteristics of the areas likely to be significantly affected” (Annex I (b) (c)) and

“any existing environmental problems which are relevant to the plan or programme including, in particular, those relating to any areas of a particular environmental importance, such as areas designated pursuant to Directives 79/409/EEC (Birds Directive) and 92/43/EEC (Habitats Directive)” (Annex I (c)).

Purpose of the Collection of Baseline Data

- 3.3 The aim of this exercise is to give an overview of the economic, social and environmental characteristics of the plan area and how these compare to the region and the rest of the country. This enables informed judgements to be made with regard to the likely evolution of the plan area in the future, which in turn enables judgements to be made about how the emerging LDP will promote sustainable development.
- 3.4 In accordance with national guidance⁹ local planning authorities should focus their baseline data collation on characteristics that will be directly affected by land use plans. The indicators used in the baseline tables therefore also provide a benchmark against which future monitoring can take place.

⁹ Local Development Plan Manual, Welsh Assembly Government, 2006

METHODOLOGY

- 3.5 The WAG guidance emphasises that the collection of baseline data and the development of the SA framework should inform each other. The guidance also stipulates the need to recognise that certain data may not be available at present, thus the process of data gathering is a continuous and evolving process, with the SA guiding plan making as new data become available. Where gaps in data arise, these should be reported to record any uncertainty or risks in the emerging SA.
- 3.6 In order to achieve this, a preliminary set of baseline data has been extracted from a wide range of available publications and datasets. Sources have included national government and government agency websites, census data, the Neighbourhood Statistics website and the review of plans and policies carried out as outlined in Section 2. No primary research has been conducted.
- 3.7 Detailed baseline data have been provided in Appendix A, which is organised into three datasets relating to environmental and socio-economic issues, each comprising a set of resource types. For each resource type, a quantitative appraisal of the current conditions has been provided wherever possible (in terms of the specified indicator), which is supplemented, where appropriate, by a supporting qualitative description.
- 3.8 Where applicable, ‘comparators and targets’ have been identified and an analysis of trends (both historic and anticipated future) against the targets has been summarised. Where the baseline is anticipated to perform poorly or well against the targets, an analysis of the underlying causes has been undertaken and this information has been subsequently used to inform the determination of ‘key issues’ in the next stage of the SA process presented in Section 4.
- 3.9 A summary of the key features of the baseline reported in Appendix A is provided below.

SUSTAINABILITY BASELINE – KEY FEATURES

Economic Characteristics

Incomes and Economic Activity

- 3.10 In terms of employment sectors, statistics indicate a tendency towards employment within the manufacturing sectors as representing a higher proportion of employment than the regional and national averages. The relative value of employment in this sector is reflected in wage levels, which are below regional averages: in 2006 the average gross weekly income for Blaenau Gwent was £346, compared to the regional average gross weekly income of £474.

- 3.11 The number of people economically inactive in 2005/06 was 12,400 people. This equates to 30.4% of the workforce, which is significantly above the Welsh average of 24.9%.

Entrepreneurial Dynamism

- 3.12 The key indicator used to assess economic enterprise is total VAT registrations – at the end of 2005 there were 940 businesses registered in Blaenau Gwent. During 2005 new registrations totalled 1.46 per 1000 population; however, in the previous year (2004), new registrations totalled 1.61 per 1000 population thus the percentage change between 2004 and 2005 was -9%. These statistics are broadly similar to the South East Wales region (-8%) and Wales (-9%) figures. In contrast, there were 80 deregistrations (1.2 per 1000 population) in Blaenau Gwent in 2005 (-9.6%) in comparison with -6.8% for Wales. A comparison at the regional level reveals that Blaenau Gwent has consistently experienced the second least number of new registrations over the past five years after Merthyr Tydfil and, in most recent years, registrations in Blaenau Gwent have been over 150 less than any other authority in the region (with the exception of Merthyr Tydfil, which is performing below Blaenau Gwent).

Retail

- 3.13 The central shopping areas in Blaenau Gwent are Abertillery, Blaina, Brynmawr, Ebbw Vale, and Tredegar. The towns are located within the deeply incised and roughly parallel valleys of the Sirhowy, Ebbw Fach and Ebbw Fawr rivers which flow in a north to south direction through the County Borough.
- 3.14 Tredegar is located in the Sirhowy valley to the North of the County Borough; Ebbw Vale sits along the Ebbw Fach river in the next valley towards the East; and Brynmawr, Blaina and Abertillery are situated in the Ebbw Fawr valley, with Brynmawr in the extreme North of the Borough, Abertillery in the South, and Blaina between them.
- 3.15 Out of centre retail parks such as Festival Park Factory Shopping Village in Ebbw Vale have created negative impacts upon the vitality and viability of town centres in Blaenau Gwent. High vacancy rates currently exist within many of the town centres¹⁰. However, the Council through mechanisms such as Commercial Improvement Grants and Town Centre Strategies are endeavouring to address this problem.
- 3.16 Blaenau Gwent experiences low car ownership rates, (35% of households with no car or van, compared to 26% in Wales) in conjunction with high levels of deprivation;

¹⁰ Blaenau Gwent UDP, Adopted July 2006.

meaning that accessibility to town centres may be difficult for some members of the community.

Social Characteristics

Housing

- 3.17 In 2000, 83.4% of the housing in Blaenau Gwent was within council tax bands A and B, compared to the South East which had 22% in band A and 26% in band B. Furthermore, seven of the 16 electoral divisions in Blaenau Gwent had more than 90% of housing within these two bands and only 0.09% of housing in Blaenau Gwent was within council tax bands G and H compared to 4% for the South East. This suggests that the overall size and market value of housing stock in the County Borough is relatively modest, particularly in the regional context.
- 3.18 The average house price in Blaenau Gwent in 2006 was £82,486 – this was nearly £50,000 less than the South East average, which was £131,462. Trend data indicates that the area has seen substantial increases in house prices in recent years, which is likely to be a reflection of the increase in house prices in Cardiff and Newport, encouraging people to buy further north. It is likely that this trend will continue with the new rail line and proportional increase in prices across Wales.
- 3.19 In 2001, 55% of Blaenau Gwent's housing stock consisted of terraced properties built pre 1919. This may be a further reason for lower average house prices in the County Borough since a higher representation of smaller properties, i.e. terraces and flats, will skew the statistic downwards. In addition to this, 8% of private properties were considered unfit (1,740) and a further 12% were classified as being in need of substantial repair (2,610) in the latest survey.
- 3.20 The total number of households in Blaenau Gwent was 29,586 in 2001. Average household sizes were above the national averages but below regional averages – 2.34 compared to 2.40 in the South East region and 1.87 in Wales.
- 3.21 According to the 2001 census, a significant proportion of properties in Blaenau Gwent were owned outright (62.62%). However, this was significantly less than regional and national averages, which were 72.79% and 71.3% respectively. There was also a significant percentage of council housing rental (24.34%) compared to regional and national averages of 13.59% and 17.9% respectively.

Population

- 3.22 The population of Blaenau Gwent has been falling since its peak of 127,611 in 1921 - according to the 2005 mid year population estimate the total was 68,400. In the context of the County Borough, the population is projected to grow by 7% between 2003 and 2011, which would equate to a total population of approximately 73,725 by 2011. However, although the overall longer term trend suggests a likely net increase, in recent years (1999-2002) the population has experienced a decline of -4.63%, attributed to a combination of accelerated out-migration and falling birth rates. Over the same period in the South East region as a whole, population grew at a rate of 0.034% and the national population increased by 1.59% in the same period.
- 3.23 An examination of population demographics indicates that Blaenau Gwent has a relatively ageing population in comparison to national averages, particularly notable for persons over 65 (16.89% compared to 16% for South East Wales, in 2001). In addition, the proportion of the population under the age of 16 is lower than the South East average.
- 3.24 A continuation of these trends is likely to result in conditions which will be increasingly difficult to sustain, both socially and economically, with a smaller proportion of workers being required to support a higher proportion of elderly dependents. This trend also places additional pressure on services and decreases demand for school places, particularly in the primary sector.

Health and Well Being

- 3.25 Life expectancies for both males and females across the County Borough are below national averages. Males have an average life expectancy of 73.8 years and females of 78.4 years – this compares to 75.8 for males and 80.3 for females nationally (2002 - 2004).
- 3.26 The proportion of people with limiting long term illness is above the South East and national averages: 28.26% compared to 23.4% in the South East and 23.3% in Wales. In addition, people who self-assessed their general health as 'good' (2001 Census) represented a lower proportion of the population than the South East and national averages: 59.38% in Blaenau Gwent compared to 64.48% in the South East and 60.06% in Wales.

Crime and Fear of Crime

- 3.27 In general terms, Blaenau Gwent has relatively low levels of crime, totalling 2,978 crimes in 2004/05 (including violence against the person, burglary in a dwelling, theft

of a motor vehicle and theft from a motor vehicle), falling to 2,731 crimes in 2005/06. Within this total, the majority of crime types appear to be falling in the area, including crimes related to violence, which represent the largest proportion of all recorded crimes in the County Borough. However, motor vehicle theft statistics appear to be higher and less stable than the regional average and theft from motor vehicles seems to be rising.

Education, Skills and Qualifications

- 3.28 Data relating to education, skills and qualifications in the area indicates a considerable disparity between Blaenau Gwent and the South East and Wales. In Blaenau Gwent the proportion of people holding NVQ level 2 in 2003 was 41.1% compared to 43.25% for the South East and 60% for Wales. Similarly, the proportion of people holding the higher level 4 qualification in 2003 was only 9.5% in Blaenau Gwent compared to 17.38% and 22.5% for the South East and Wales respectively.
- 3.29 There is also a lower percentage of the population achieving a level 4/5 qualification (such as a degree, HNC, HND) with only 13.6% in Blaenau Gwent compared to the Welsh average of 17.4%. Blaenau Gwent had 4,360 adults engaged in adult education in 2003, which represented 6.3% of the total population; this was lower than the Welsh average of 6.8%. Latest statistics also show that there was a lower proportion of 19 year olds with 5 GCSE's (A*-C), with 43% achieving this compared to the Welsh average of 56%. These educational attainment statistics have implications for the manner in which the local economy will be able to expand and grow over the Plan period.
- 3.30 In 2001, 45.02% of the Blaenau Gwent population held no qualifications, compared to 34.37% and 33% for the South East and Wales respectively. By 2003, this had considerably improved to approximately 13,000 persons, which represented 30.4% of the population at the time. Although this compares unfavourably to the Welsh average of 17.8% for the same year, the statistic does suggest that the trend is moving in a positive direction, with a substantial reduction in the proportion of the population with no qualifications.

Environmental Characteristics

Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna

- 3.31 There are two Special Areas of Conservation (SAC) that fall partly within the Blaenau Gwent area: Usk Bat Sites and Cwm Clydach Woodlands, each designated under the EC Habitats and Species Directives. Usk Bat Sites is one of the best areas in the United Kingdom for the lesser horseshoe bat. Some features of both SAC sites are found to be in favourable condition, whilst others are in an unfavourable condition.

3.32 There are also three Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) in the area:

- Cwm Merddog Woodlands,
- Brynmawr Sections (geological site) and
- Mynydd Llangatwg (Mynydd Llangattock).

3.33 The Cwm Merddog Woodlands site is in an unfavourable but recovering condition, Brynmawr Sections' condition is unfavourable maintained and the condition of Mynydd Llangatwg is partially favourable and partially unfavourable for different features. Part of the Brecon Beacons National Park also falls within the northern part of the Blaenau Gwent administrative area.

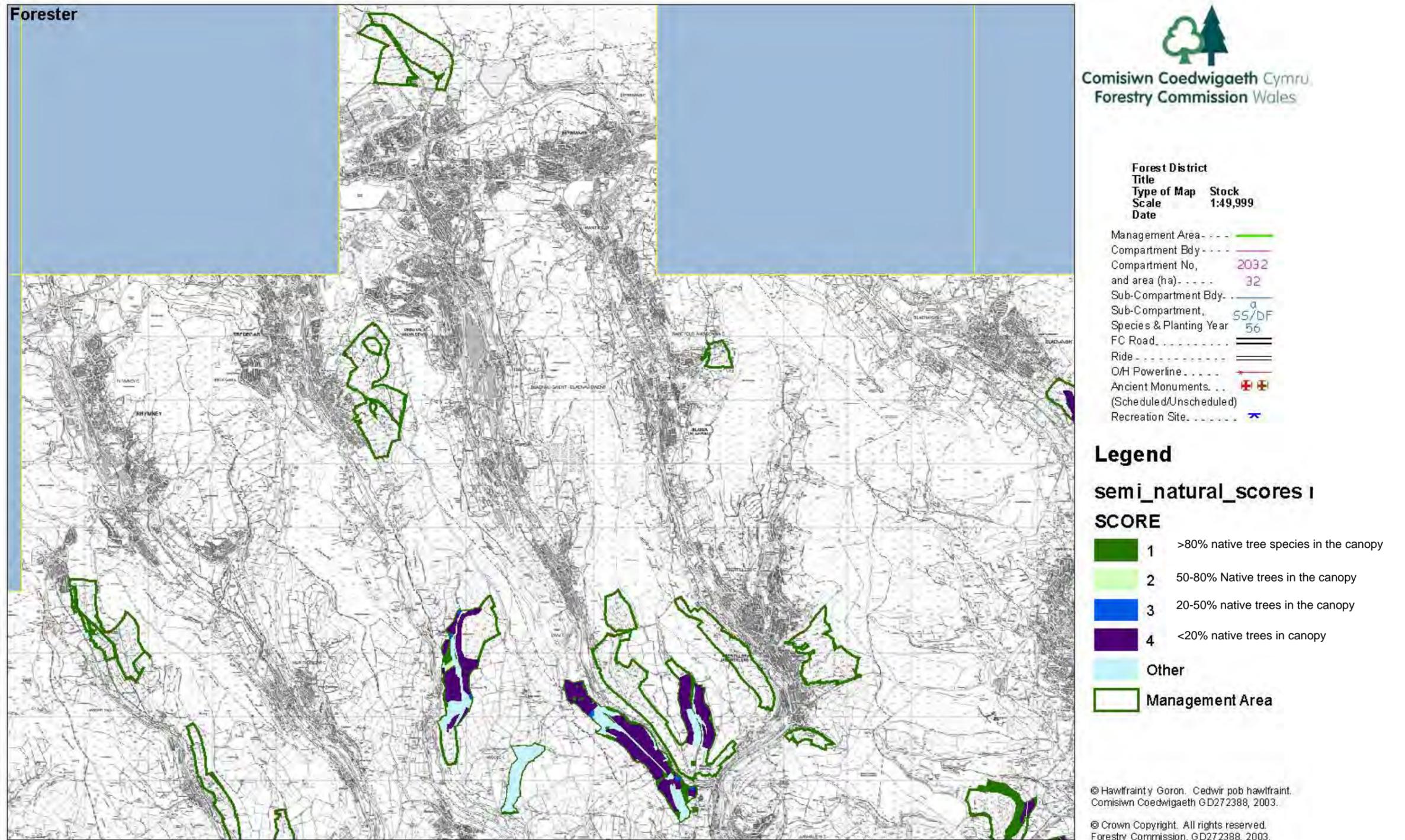
3.34 Cwm Clydach is designated as a National Nature Reserve (NNR). It is the largest and most representative area of native beechwood in South East Wales. Blaenau Gwent has one Local Nature Reserve (LNR) - the Silent Valley LNR, which includes Cwm Merddog and Coed Ty'n y Gelli SSSIs and covers a total area of 51.62 ha. The parts of the LNR that include SSSIs have been designated as such as a result of the presence of Ancient Semi-Natural Woodland, which is at Parc Bryn Bach (Country Park). The Silent Valley is designated as a Wildlife Trust Reserve (WTR). Ten candidate LNRs have been defined for the County Borough area:

- Beaufort Hills;
- Parc Nant-y-Waun;
- Sirhowy Hill Woodland and Cardiff Pond;
- Six Bells Colliery Site;
- Garden City;
- Roseheyworth Community Woodlands;
- Trevor Rowson Heritage Park;
- Cwmcellyn Pond;
- Cwmtillery Lakes;

- and Parc Bryn Bach.

3.35 There are 14 Ancient Semi-Natural Woodland (ASNW) sites and three Plantations on Ancient Woodland Sites (PAWS). The total number of SINC's is unknown. The first tranche of designations will include 60 SINC's. Subsequent tranches are planned, but it is unclear how many SINC's these will contain. Figure 3.1 maps all the sites of ecological importance in the Blaenau Gwent area and Figure 3.2 shows the Forestry Commission land management area and its 'Semi-naturalness score'.

Figure 3.2: Forestry Commission Land Management Areas in Blaenau Gwent



Cultural Heritage

3.36 Blaenau Gwent has 58 listed buildings, recognised for their special historical and architectural importance. The majority are Grade II listed, although of the total, ten fall into the higher category of Grade II*. However, there are also a number of listed buildings in the County Borough that appear on Cadw's register of listed buildings 'at risk', namely:

- British Steel Tinsplate Works General Office
- Former Boiler House at Dunlop Semtex Factory
- Ebbw Vale Adult Education Centre
- Stables and Barn at the Fountain Inn
- The Fountain Inn
- Milgatw - Agricultural Range at Milgatw
- Mount Pleasant Stores
- Roundhouse at Roundhouse Farm (1863 AA SW)
- Roundhouse at Roundhouse Farm (17086 AB NE)
- Agricultural Range at Roundhouse Farm
- Former Tredegar Company Shop

3.37 Currently there is one conservation area in Blaenau Gwent, Bedwellty House and Park. Additional conservation area designations under review include:

- Garden City;
- Ebbw Vale;
- St. Michael's Church area in Abertillery;
- St. Illtyds Church area in Brynithel;

- Castle Street and the Circle, Tredegar.

3.38 The South East Wales region, which comprises 10 local authority areas, contains approximately 56 Historic Parks and Gardens. Of these, only one falls within the boundary of Blaenau Gwent – the Bedwellty Park (also designated as a conservation area). This site is included in Cadw's 'Register of Parks and Gardens of Special Historic Interest in Wales'. Blaenau Gwent also has a number of Scheduled Ancient Monuments (SAMs), which include: -

- St Illtyd Castle Mound
- Incline Haulage Winding Engine,
- Mynydd Bedwellty
- Sirhowy Ironworks
- Marine Colliery Pumping Engine
- Clydach Railroad Bridge, Brynmawr
- Clydach Coal Levels.
- Tredegar Ironworks Cholera Cemetery

Air Quality and Greenhouse Gas Emissions

3.39 There are currently no designated Air Quality Management Areas (AQMAs) within the Blaenau Gwent area. However, at the regional level there are AQMAs in place in Cardiff and Newport as a result of significant traffic flows and peak hour congestion.

3.40 Data relating to estimated carbon dioxide emissions in 2004 indicate that the County Borough had slightly higher Industrial/Commercial and Domestic emissions in terms of proportions of total emissions than the average proportional breakdowns for the South East Wales authorities. However, as a percentage of the overall regional emissions total, Blaenau Gwent was contributing very little - only 3.5% of Industrial/Commercial and 4% of Domestic emissions in the South East region actually originate from Blaenau Gwent. When emissions are cross-referenced per capita, Blaenau Gwent compares favourably against the South East Wales average, producing 6.5 tonnes per capita as opposed to 9.8 tonnes per capita.

Water and Flood Risk

3.41 The main water courses in Blaenau Gwent are the rivers Ebbw Fach, Ebbw Fawr and Sirhowy.

3.42 From 1999 to 2005 the following trends for chemical and biological quality were observed at the sites monitored by the Environment Agency:

- Ebbw Fach (Afon Tyleri - Trib.Henwaun Coll.) - remained 'B' (Good) chemical classification in the period 1999-2005. Biological water quality deteriorated from 'B' (Good) in 2000 to 'C' (Fairly good) in 2003-2004.
- Ebbw Fach (Conf.Trib.Henwaun Coll-Conf.Nant Ystruth) - remained 'B' (Good) chemical classification in the period 1999-2005. Biological water quality deteriorated from 'B' (Good) in 2000 to 'C' (Fairly good) in 2004.
- Ebbw Fach (Ebbw Fawr Conf. - Afon Tyleri) – had a chemical classification of 'B' (Good) in 1999-2003, which improved to 'A' (Very good) in 2003-2005. Biological water quality was classified as 'D' (Fair) in 2000. Biological water quality of the site was not assessed in other years.
- Ebbw Fawr (Conf.Ebbw Fach - Conf.Nant Big) – chemical water quality improved from 'B' (Good) in 1999-2003 to 'A' (Very good) in 2003-2005. Biological water quality was classified as 'B' (Good) in 2000 deteriorating to 'C' (Fairly good) in 2004.
- Ebbw Fawr (Conf.Nant Big - Conf.Nant Merddog) – chemical water quality remained at 'B' (Good) level in 1999-2003 and then improved to 'A' (Very good) in 2003-2005. Biological water quality was assessed as B (Good) in 2000 deteriorating to 'C' (Fairly good) in 2004.
- Ebbw Fawr (Conf.Nant Kendon - Glandwr Bk.) – chemical water quality was classified as 'B' (Good) throughout the years 1999-2003 improving to 'A' (Very Good) in 2003-2005. Biological water quality remained C (Fairly good) classification in 2000-2003.
- Ebbw Fawr (Conf.Nant Merddog - Culvert Inlet) – chemical water quality was classified as 'C' (Fairly good) in 1999-2001 deteriorating to 'E' (Poor) in 2001-2003 and slightly improving to 'D' (Fair) in 2003-2005. Biological water quality remained stable at 'C' (Fairly good) level in 2000-2004.
- Ebbw Fawr (Culvert Inlet - Rassau Bk.) – chemical water quality was 'B' (Good) in 1999-2001 deteriorating to C (Fairly good) in 2001-03 and improving to 'B'

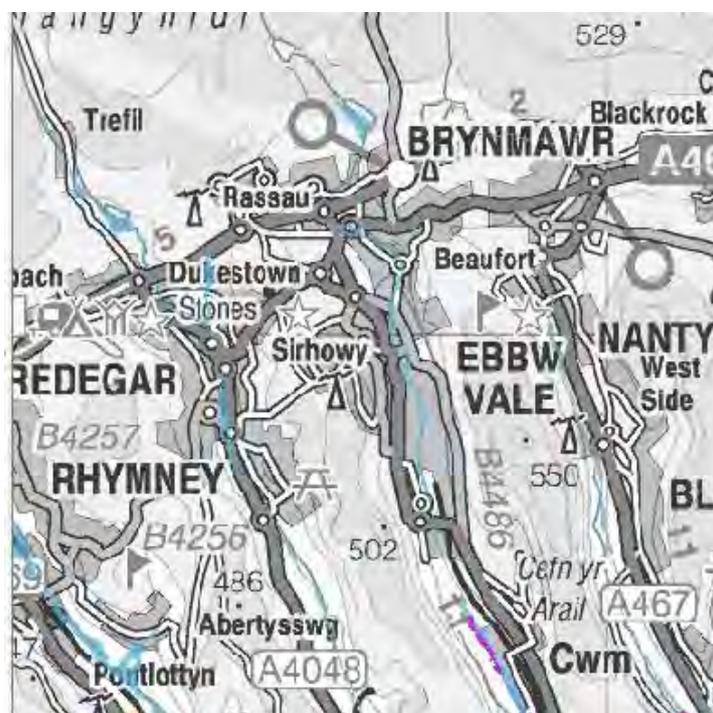
(Good) in 2003-2005. Biological water quality was at D (Fair) level in 2000 and improved to C (Fairly good) in 2002-2003.

- Ebbw Fawr (Glandwr Bk. - Conf.Ebbw Fach) – chemical water quality was ‘A’ (Very good) in 2005. Biological water quality on this site remained fairly good in 2000-2005.
- Sirhowy (Nant Melyn - Outlet Shon-Shefris Res. – chemical water quality remained at B (Good) level throughout 1999-2003 improving to ‘A’ (Very good) in 2003/2005. Biological water quality was ‘C’ (Fairly good) in 2000 improving to B (Good) in 2002 and subsequently declining back to ‘C’ (Fairly good) in 2005.
- Sirhowy (Nant Yr Helyg - Scotch Peter Trib. – chemical water quality remained at B (Good) level throughout 1999-2003 improving to ‘A’ (Very good) in 2003-2005. Biological water quality was C (Fairly good) in 2000 improving to ‘B’ (Good) in 2002 and then deteriorating back to ‘C’ (Fairly good) in 2005.
- Sirhowy (Scotch Peter Trib.-Nant Melyn) – chemical water quality was ‘E’ (Poor) in 2003-2005 – a decline from ‘C’ (Fairly good) in 2001-2003 and D (Fair) in 1999-2001. Biological water quality was assessed as ‘E’ (Poor) in 2000 improving to ‘C’ (Fairly good) in 2002 but then deteriorating to ‘D’ (Fair) in 2005.

3.43 Aggregate data for England and Wales for the same period indicate that there was a slight improvement in water quality: an increase from 91.9% (1999) of Good/Fair grades to 93.5% (2005) for chemical water quality and from 94.9% (2000) to 95.4% (2005) for biological water quality.

3.44 The Environment Agency maintains mapping of areas of known flood risk across the UK. An extract of the mapping for the Blaenau Gwent local authority area is included in Figure 3.3. This indicates that the principal areas of risk in the County Borough are associated with the river corridors that follow the north-south topography of the valleys through Blaenau Gwent. There are no parts of the County Borough that fall into the higher risk category of ‘extreme flood risk’.

3.45 Flood defences are only present in one location – to the north west of Cwm. These form part of a network of defences for the rivers Ebbw, Llwyd and Sirhowy. They are designed to be effective for a 1 in 100 year flood event and, to date, have performed acceptably.

Figure 3.3: Environment Agency Flood Risk Map for Blaenau Gwent

Key: Mid blue shaded area is at risk from flooding during a 1 in 200 year event (with no flood defences).
Purple shaded area depicts existing flood defences

Source: Environment Agency <http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk>

Waste

3.46 In 2004/05, the total municipal waste arisings in Blaenau Gwent were 54,853 tonnes, of which 22.5% was recycled or composted. The total household waste arisings were 44,578 tonnes. The majority of waste originates from industrial and commercial sources (not including special waste) – in 2003 waste from these sources totalled 56,971 tonnes, of which 17,422 tonnes went to landfill (31%). In order for Blaenau Gwent to meet the national maximum landfill 2009/10 target of 37,525 tonnes for the County Borough, based on predicted arisings of 53,883 tonnes for the County Borough, 16,358 tonnes will need to be diverted from landfill. This will require significant alterations to current waste production and management practices in the County Borough.

Energy

3.47 Expressed as a percentage of industrial and commercial energy consumption in the South East Wales region, Blaenau Gwent contributed 4.6% in 2003. The same percentage in respect of domestic energy consumption was 6.4%, with the statistic for transport based energy consumption being just 1%. It should be noted, however, that the relatively low proportional contribution may, in part at least, be explained by the fact that the South East Wales region includes the capital and second cities of Wales, together with the busiest section of the principal east-west road corridor (the M4

motorway from the Severn bridge to J32), which together make a significantly greater contribution to the regional totals.

- 3.48 Figures on national, regional and local gas consumption (Kwh) indicate that Blaenau Gwent uses a higher share of gas domestically when compared to the regional averages, but less industrially than neighbouring authorities. This may potentially be a reflection of Blaenau Gwent's housing conditions - there is a considerable amount of older housing stock in the local authority area that, due to its age, may be less energy efficient and this will be combined with the fact that the altitude results in a relatively cooler climate than neighbouring authorities.
- 3.49 There is no specific data relating to electricity generated from renewable sources within the Blaenau Gwent area alone. However, in 2003 it was estimated that 2.6% of electricity in Wales was generated from renewables, representing a slight increase from 2.44% in 2002. The UK has set a target of producing 10% of electricity from renewable sources by 2010.

Landscape, Land Use and Soil

- 3.50 The largest land use designation in the County Borough is open countryside (45%) and the defined urban area is only 23%. The remainder comprises a combination of other designations including rural settlements and forestry.
- 3.51 Blaenau Gwent has a history of potentially contaminating land uses that may have introduced soil contamination to the area. The 2003 Contaminated Land Strategy Review identified 1607 potentially contaminated sites in Blaenau Gwent of which there were 51 High Risk sites (previous or current uses include gas works, landfill sites, petrol stations and military land); 880 Medium Risk sites; and 676 Low Risk Sites. Sites with a history of contaminative usage that have been remediated include the former British Coal Workshops at Tredegar and the Dunlop Semtex site at Brynmawr.

Transport

- 3.52 The public rights of way network in the County Borough is 299.4km in length. 68% of this network is available to walkers. However, the distribution of the network is not even across the County Borough, and there are several factors arising from a lack of maintenance that have led to restricted usability of this facility. Three factors identified that need improving are: more circular routes- signed and advertised as such; the need to link paths together- defragmentation; and more long distance routes.
- 3.53 In terms of travel distances to work, in Blaenau Gwent the majority of the population travels less than 5km commuting distance. 31% of the County Borough's population

relies on the private car for their work journey, with only 6.6% of the population walking or cycling to work. In terms of car ownership, 45.1% of the resident population owns one car only, with 35.1% of Blaenau Gwent's residents neither owning nor having access to a car or van. In comparison to regional and national statistics, in general terms car ownership levels are considerably below average in Blaenau Gwent and a considerably greater proportion of the population is without access to a car.

- 3.54 Currently the nearest rail links are at the Valleys line station at Rhymney and West coast mainline at Abergavenny. Valleys lines provide access to and from Cardiff, which is linked with the Great Western line giving links eastward to London and westward to Swansea, Fishguard and the Republic of Ireland. Rhymney station has a good bus service (Route 20) to Tredegar including Parc Bryn Bach. Abergavenny Station links to the X3 service between Cardiff and Hereford via Pontypool and Cwmbran. The X4 service between Hereford and Cardiff via Brynmawr, Ebbw Vale, Tredegar, Merthyr and Pontypridd is available within a walking distance to the bus station.
- 3.55 The Ebbw Valley Railway Line, providing an hourly service to Cardiff Central, with six stations, is set to be re-opened to passenger transport in autumn 2007 for the first time since 1962. The stations will be located at Ebbw Vale Parkway, Llanhilleth, Newbridge, Crosskeys, Risca & Pontymister and Rogerstone on brownfield sites, of which only Ebbw Vale and Llanhilleth will be in the Blaenau Gwent County Borough area. Although these stations offer good interchange opportunities with local bus services, new bus routes are needed to connect more settlements, e.g. Tredegar, Brynmawr, Nantyglo and Blaina, with this railway line. National Cycle Network Route 47 crosses the line and runs south, parallel to the railway, from near Crosskeys Station. Cwmcarn Forest Drive, which has an off-road cycle route, is also accessible. The rail service from Abertillery to Newport and Cardiff is due to commence in the near future according to the Abertillery Urban Function Analysis.
- 3.56 The X15 and X16 bus links connect Brynmawr, Nantyglo, Blaina and Abertillery with Newport and Cardiff respectively. Other bus services include the X18 between Ebbw Vale and Newport, and the E3 and E4, both between Brynmawr, Ebbw Vale, Abertillery and Brynmawr, and the 22 service between Ebbw Vale and Newport via Pontypool. These bus links provide a good level of service during weekdays and on Saturday, connecting the Blaenau Gwent major towns with the area. Conversely, Sunday service is limited and some lateral connections between valleys are poor.
- 3.57 The area's principal road system provides A-road access to the motorway network (the M4, M5 and M50) and combined with the A470 and A465 Heads of the Valley roads, connects the area with the South East, South West, Midlands and London. Dualling work is being carried out to improve the motorway access.

3.58 The nearest airports to Blaenau Gwent are Cardiff International, Bristol and Birmingham. Locals are largely reliant on private transport or car hire to access the airports, as public transport links are limited to the proposed rail link to Cardiff, which will connect with the onward rail link from Cardiff to the airport.

Consultation Question 3:

Are any significant environmental, social or economic data missing or misrepresented?

4 KEY SUSTAINABILITY ISSUES

INTRODUCTION

4.1 The next task in the SA is the identification of sustainability issues. The identification of sustainability issues provides an opportunity to help define key issues for the LDP and to improve the LDP objectives and options. The analysis of sustainability issues both influences and is influenced by the development of the baseline and the SA framework, in particular in identifying and selecting indicators and targets.

4.2 The requirement to identify sustainability problems and issues arises from the SEA Directive, where the Environmental Report required under the Directive should include:

“any existing environmental problems which are relevant to the plan or programme including, in particular, those relating to any areas of a particular environmental importance, such as areas designated pursuant to Directives 79/409/EEC(Birds) and 92/43/EEC(Habitats)”(Annex I (d))

METHODOLOGY

4.3 Identification of key sustainability issues relevant to the Blaenau Gwent Local Development Plan area has been carried out. This work has been based on the review of relevant plans and programmes carried out and documented in Section 2, the analysis of the baseline data carried out and documented in Section 3, and discussion with key officers in Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council. As the SA develops with further stakeholder involvement, the identification of key issues is likely to evolve. Consultees are therefore invited to comment on whether any further key sustainability issues for the Blaenau Gwent area should be included to inform the development of the SA and the LDP.

4.4 Table 4.1 below presents the results of the preliminary identification of key sustainability issues. The list is not intended to be an exhaustive inventory of every potential sustainability issue that the LDP could consider. It is instead an outline of the priority areas where the LDP can have significant influence.

Table 4.1: Key Sustainability Issues

Key Issues	Implications for Plan	SEA Topics	Relationship to SA objective (Table 5.1)
Economic			
<p>High levels of economic inactivity and high benefit dependence</p> <p>30.4% of the working age population are economically inactive in the County Borough, which is over 5% more than the Wales average. Of that percentage, 10.4% of people consider themselves as 'wanting a job', which may indicate that there is a shortage of opportunities in the area. However, 20% are recorded as 'not wanting a job' – this statistic is also higher than the Wales average of 18.7% and could be interpreted as an indication of low aspirations or ambitions amongst the resident population. Reducing the numbers of economically inactive in the borough should be a key aim.</p> <p>In 2000 the unemployment rate was 9.6% which decreased to 7.5% by 2003/04. This is high compared to the rest of SE Wales and Wales averages and could be interpreted as a further indication of a lack of job opportunities in the area, or a lack of jobs matching the skills of the resident population. It is also important to note that a substantial proportion of the population of working age suffers from limiting long term illness and/or disability – 28.26% at the last census compared to 23.4% in the South East region and 23.3% across Wales as a whole. Whilst this does not necessarily preclude economic activity, it is likely that some sufferers appear in the statistics relating to economic inactivity.</p> <p>The wards of Ebbw Vale North and South, Brynmawr and Nantyglo have particularly high rates of unemployment in the context of the County Borough as a whole.</p>	<p>The plan needs to encourage the development of new job opportunities, and ensure that the distribution of new opportunities supports regeneration across the County Borough, particularly in the most deprived wards. Environmental enhancements could also be supported through the LDP, which would offer a greater incentive for new businesses to invest in the County Borough.</p> <p>The statistics suggest that there is some reluctance among certain sectors of the population to actively seek employment and thus the LDP should seek to raise aspirations – this could be achieved through a combination of regeneration activities including environmental and accessibility improvements and increased availability of training and education.</p>	<p>Population Human Health</p>	<p>Objective 1</p>

Key Issues	Implications for Plan	SEA Topics	Relationship to SA objective (Table 5.1)
<p>The proportion of the population of working age claiming job seekers allowance (JSA) is considerably above the regional and national averages – 4.1% in Blaenau Gwent compared to 2.4% nationally. In addition to this, the latest available statistics indicate that the 2005 rate (4.1%) has increased in recent years – it was 4.3% in December 2006 and 4.9% in April 2007. This means that the working and earning population of the County Borough is being forced to support an increasing amount of unemployed adults.</p> <p>The statistics also indicate that in many of the County Borough’s wards, over one third of all households receive Council Tax Benefit – the highest is Nantyglo, where 39.1% of all households receive this benefit. In addition, in many of the Blaenau Gwent wards almost one quarter of all households are in receipt of housing benefit of some type. This is also reflected in statistics relating to housing by tenure – in general terms owner occupation levels are low (62.2%, which is 10% lower than the regional average) and around one quarter of the population rely upon local authority owned housing or rent from registered social landlords.</p>			
<p>Limited employment opportunities and low household income</p> <p>Manufacturing accounts for 31.6% of all employment in Blaenau Gwent, which is almost twice the Wales average. Professional occupations in the County Borough account for 5.8% of all employment, whereas in the South East they account for 11.87%.</p> <p>An examination of employment by sector reveals that the local economy is predominantly based around</p>	<p>There is a need for the LDP to seek to encourage increased economic activity rates. This will require the provision of versatile and varied employment premises across the plan area. Particular emphasis will need to be placed on supporting both small and medium sized start up enterprises to foster a sense of entrepreneurial spirit, as well as providing high quality accommodation to support higher skilled professions and services.</p>	<p>Population Human Health</p>	<p>Objective 2</p>

Key Issues	Implications for Plan	SEA Topics	Relationship to SA objective (Table 5.1)
<p>manufacturing and service sectors..These sectors are traditionally lower skilled and lower paid than professional employment. The dominance of these sectors has therefore also influenced income and productivity levels – the gross value added (GVA) per head in Blaenau Gwent places the area in the bottom 5 authorities in its statistical area (NUTS 3); and the average incomes are significantly lower than the average for South East Wales and the Principality as a whole.</p> <p>From 2002 to 2005, average weekly household income in Blaenau Gwent has been less than that of the rest of the South East region and for the whole of Wales. Of particular note are the wards of Llanhillieth, Nantyglo, Cwmtillery and Tredegar where there is a very significant proportion of households with incomes of less than £5,000 per annum. All the wards in the County Borough show high proportions of households on earnings of less than £12.25k per annum. These low income figures are a reflection of the predominance of low skilled, low wage employment opportunities and the general low level of economic participation.</p> <p>Blaenau Gwent has a significantly lower amount of VAT registrations in all of the size band categories than the average for the South East authorities and Wales as a whole. In particular, it has very few larger registrations (employing over 10 staff). A comparison at the regional level reveals that Blaenau Gwent has consistently experienced the second least number of new registrations over the past 5 years after Merthyr Tydfil and in most recent years, registrations in Blaenau Gwent have been over 150 less than any other authority in the region (with the exception of Merthyr Tydfil). This appears to suggest that there is a lack of entrepreneurial culture in the County Borough.</p>	<p>There is also a need to encourage people of working age to settle in the area, thus it will be increasingly important to ensure that job opportunities are matched by access to housing that is suitable and affordable.</p>		

Key Issues	Implications for Plan	SEA Topics	Relationship to SA objective (Table 5.1)
<p>Tourism potential</p> <p>The landscape and heritage of Blaenau Gwent constitute a small mosaic of the many features of Wales with an intrinsic tourism value. However, due to the size and diversity of the County Borough, there is no dominant brand that defines the area as a tourist destination. Of particular note is the fact that only 3% of the land utilisation is for recreational purposes, which is a very small proportion compared to the 45% of the County Borough's area that is open countryside. Furthermore, many of the attractions are mainly for local people and there would be a need to review the current offer in order to create sites, attractions and/or products that appeal to an increased number and broader cross-section of visitors.</p> <p>In addition to the quality, range and type of attractions in the area, the development of the tourism economy would require considerable investment in upgrading all accommodation sectors.</p>	<p>As part of the wider effort to seek to diversify the local economy, the LDP should seek to support developments aimed at encouraging an increase in the recreational function of suitably accessible parts of open countryside. This will include specific consideration of the way in which tourism development is addressed and promoted through the LDP.</p>	<p>Population Landscape Cultural Heritage Biodiversity</p>	<p>Objective 3</p>
<p>High Vacancy Rates in Town centres</p> <p>According to the Adopted UDP July 2006, high town centre vacancy rates exist throughout Blaenau Gwent and there is a risk that town centres could decline in the face of competition from nearby retail centres outside the County Borough.</p>	<p>The LDP will need to ensure that traditional town centres effectively compete with adjoining areas for retail trade.</p>	<p>Population</p>	<p>Objective 4</p>
<p>Social</p>			
<p>Changing demographics and housing needs</p> <p>Since its heyday in 1921 when the population was 127,611, Blaenau Gwent has experienced continued population decline. Between 1982 and 2002 it</p>	<p>Demographics are a key influencing factor for a wide range of different development types – housing, education provision, open space and recreational</p>	<p>Population Human Health</p>	<p>Objective 5</p>

Key Issues	Implications for Plan	SEA Topics	Relationship to SA objective (Table 5.1)
<p>experienced a 7.2% drop. The population in 1991 was 73,250 and the population in 2003 was 68,900, which is over 100 less than two years previous. The projections for 2011 anticipate a reversal of this decline, but only estimate the population to be 500 more than the 1991 levels. However, the South East region and Wales as a whole have experienced population increases over the same period, and are projected to continue to increase substantially to 2011. These figures suggest Blaenau Gwent is a less desirable place to live and people are being drawn to places perceived to offer more opportunities. Allied to this, population decrease or stagnation can also act as a deterrent to prospective business investors, who tend to prefer to locate in areas that are perceived to be growing.</p> <p>An examination of the County Borough's 2001 demographics indicates that the 16 – 19 year old age bracket comprises the smallest proportion of the population, below regional averages. Conversely, the 45 – 64 and 65+ age groups comprise a larger population than the South East average, suggesting that there is an ageing population. In addition, the percentage of 0 – 4 year olds is also lower than the South East average by almost 1% and thus there is likely to be a developing trend of death rates outstripping birth rates over the coming years.</p> <p>Furthermore, strategy documentation relating to the County Borough suggests that there is a relatively high level of youth out-migration. This affects a variety of areas – a reduced population of childbearing age is unlikely to support an increase in population through increased birth rates; the loss of the younger population will affect social structure; and it is likely to be the more skilled persons that leave the area in search of better paid and more varied work opportunities, which has</p>	<p>opportunities, healthcare and community service. The LDP will need to take changing local demographics into consideration and offer an opportunity to seek the delivery of a more balanced and self-sufficient community. Housing choice will need to reflect the needs of and seek to attract people of households of different ages, sizes and life stages, including the provision of sheltered accommodation; community provision (healthcare/ community centres/nursing homes/social services support etc.) will need to accommodate the requirements of all ages; and open space provision will need to include both formal provision for play space, as well as more informal provision better suited to older age groups.</p>		

Key Issues	Implications for Plan	SEA Topics	Relationship to SA objective (Table 5.1)
<p>negative implications for the development of certain aspects of the local economy.</p>			
<p>Poor housing quality and mismatch of housing size/tenure with needs and demand</p> <p>55% of the current housing stock in Blaenau Gwent comprises terraces constructed before 1919. Overall in Blaenau Gwent 8% of the housing stock is considered unfit for habitation, and a further 12% is classified as being in need of substantial repair. In addition to this, 5.7% of houses are recorded as being vacant – in some parts of the country this would be due to second home purchases; however, in Blaenau Gwent this is a combination of uninhabitable properties and inevitable vacancies associated with the activity of the property market.</p> <p>The 2001 census indicated that there were still a number of houses without central heating and/or the sole use of bath/shower and toilet. From the census classifications, 'without central heating but with the sole use of a bath/shower and toilet' is the predominant statistic with a count of 712 houses for the County Borough as a whole – this is a reflection that there may be issues of poverty and deprivation in certain locations.</p>	<p>The quality and range of housing in Blaenau Gwent will be a critical element of the development of the County Borough – there is a need to ensure that poorer quality stock is improved and that new stock is designed to suit a range of needs and budgets.</p> <p>There is also a need to upgrade housing stock, including the provision of high quality larger homes more suited to attracting professionally qualified people to the area to take up residence and jobs.</p> <p>The improvement of existing stock will also benefit from improvement in accordance with holistic plans for regeneration to ensure that changes are an improvement to the area. Allied to this, the provision of housing may need to respond to the planned improvements to the rail infrastructure, particularly in terms of accommodating a potential increase in demand linked to rail commuting.</p>	<p>Population</p>	<p>Objective 6</p>
<p>Housing affordability problems</p> <p>Although prices have increased over the period 2000 – 2006, the average house price for Blaenau Gwent in 2006 was nearly £50,000 less than that of the Welsh average (82,486 compared to £136,419). This can be interpreted as an indication that Blaenau Gwent is perceived as a less desirable location in which to live than other neighbouring settlements, which could be a</p>	<p>In order to enable those wishing to buy as opposed to rent to access market housing, there will be a need to ensure that the choice of units is affordable and appealing in the context of local market conditions.</p>	<p>Population</p>	<p>Objective 7</p>

Key Issues	Implications for Plan	SEA Topics	Relationship to SA objective (Table 5.1)
<p>consequence of a number of factors including accessibility, perceived employment opportunities, quality of housing stock, environmental quality and lack of suitable accommodation. However, the opening of a new railway station in Ebbw Vale in 2007 is likely to lead to many workers from Cardiff, who will be attracted by the relatively low house prices in Blaenau Gwent, moving to the area. This is resulting in increased demand from buyers outside the area pushing the prices up.</p>			
<p>Low educational attainment</p> <p>The percentage of people with at least NVQ level 2 qualifications is below the regional average by over 2% (41.1% compared to 43.25%). Furthermore, both the County Borough and regional averages are considerably below the Welsh average, which is 60.3%. Of the County Borough's total population, only 9.5% hold qualifications to NQV level 4 or above, compared to the South East regional average, which is 17.38% and the national average, which is 22.5%.</p> <p>Considerably less than half of the County Borough's population (43%) are achieving 5 or more GCSEs grade A*-C – the national statistic is 51%. Llanhillieth and Sirhowy have particular issues with low attainment. In 2003 30.4% of the population had no qualifications. In the same year, that figure was 17.8% for Wales.</p> <p>Tredegar and Ebbw Vale North have particularly high percentages of non attendance in primary and secondary schools, likely to lead to low educational attainment.</p> <p>Only 6.3% of the total population of the County Borough was enrolled in higher education in 2003, which is a relatively low proportion.</p>	<p>There is a high proportion of the population with few or no qualifications; provision should be made for encouraging an increase in the percentage of people continuing into higher education – this must start at the primary level and follow through schooling at all levels.</p>	<p>Population</p>	<p>Objective 8</p>

Key Issues	Implications for Plan	SEA Topics	Relationship to SA objective (Table 5.1)
<p>Transport access constraints to the area</p> <p>By air, the nearest airports are Cardiff International, Bristol and Birmingham. There are a number of low cost options to access these airports, but there are limited public transport links, which make it difficult to promote the area as a short-break destination.</p> <p>Rail links are available, although these tend to follow the valley topography, focusing on longitudinal routes towards Cardiff. The nearest stations fall just outside the County Borough boundary and comprise the Valleys line station at Rhymney, with access to the West coast mainline being more distant at Abergavenny. The extension of the Ebbw Valley railway to a new halt in Ebbw Vale is currently under construction and will provide a connection to the Valley line Cardiff service within the County Borough boundary.</p> <p>The principal road system provides A-road access to the motorway network (the M4, M5 and M50) combined with the A470 and A465. Dualling work is being done to improve the access; however, there is a danger that this may increase the traffic flow passing through the area rather than bringing more visitors to it.</p> <p>The local bus service provides a reasonable level of service during weekday working hours and a range of services on Saturday; however, evening and weekend service coverage is poor, as are some lateral connections between valleys. This is a key issue, particularly given that the levels of car ownership (35.1% of households do not have access to a car or van, compared to 28.5% regionally and 26% nationally) and household income are relatively low in the County Borough, with particular areas of social and economic disadvantage.</p>	<p>The LDP should support provision of more public transport connections from the main centres such as Cardiff.</p> <p>Improvements to public transport provision in and around Blaenau Gwent will be important in enabling weekend trips with return on Sunday, and access to employment for people living in the County Borough outside of the urban areas.</p> <p>It is important to also ensure that by attracting people to Blaenau Gwent the environment and infrastructure is able to cope with increased car usage.</p> <p>The LDF should encourage improvements to the Rights of Way network, which will have benefits for tourism, health, heritage assets, air quality, and access to facilities for the population.</p>	<p>Population, human health, air, cultural heritage, climatic factors, material assets</p>	<p>Objective 9</p>

Key Issues	Implications for Plan	SEA Topics	Relationship to SA objective (Table 5.1)
<p>The Public Rights of Way network currently suffers from fragmentation and poor maintenance, restricting its use by walkers, horse riders and cyclists as an alternative mode of transport.</p>			
<p>Health</p> <p>Life expectancies for both males and females across the County Borough are below national averages. The proportion of people with limiting long term illness is above the South East and national averages: 28.26% compared to 23.4% in the South East and 23.3% in Wales. In addition, people who self-assessed their general health as 'good' (2001 Census) represented a lower proportion of the population than the South East and national averages: 59.38% in Blaenau Gwent compared to 64.48% in the South East and 60.06% in Wales.</p>	<p>The LDP can indirectly assist through the provision of better access to healthcare and recreation facilities and through economic development opportunities.</p>	<p>Population Health</p>	<p>Objective 10</p>
<p>Welsh language and culture</p> <p>Despite the rich industrial heritage of the locality, there are very few members of the population that actively make use of the Welsh language – over 90% of the population are either unable to speak Welsh or have no Welsh speaking communications.</p> <p>However, there is a distinctive 'valleys' culture apparent in the Blaenau Gwent area – this has developed from a strong sense of community and social networks that are not linked to the Welsh language.</p>	<p>In seeking to develop the distinctive identify of the County Borough, it will be important to determine what role the Welsh Language and Culture should have. The LDP can influence this through factors such as the provision of sites for Welsh medium schools and interpretation of heritage and social assets. In addition, the design of housing and community facilities and services should seek to actively support and further strengthen existing social networks, preserving the distinctive character of the Valleys communities.</p>	<p>Population Cultural Heritage Landscape</p>	<p>Objective 11</p>
<p>Crime and social deprivation</p> <p>In general terms, crime rates in Blaenau Gwent are broadly comparable and, if anything, slightly lower than the prevailing rate per 1000 for the whole of the South East region. Notwithstanding this, however, the overall</p>	<p>There will be a need for the Local Development Plan to minimise opportunities for criminal activity. This will primarily relate to design measures such as the mixing of house types and sizes, the location of public and</p>	<p>Population Human Health Material Assets</p>	<p>Objective 12</p>

Key Issues	Implications for Plan	SEA Topics	Relationship to SA objective (Table 5.1)
<p>rate is relatively high.</p> <p>Violence against the person seems to be significantly higher than the other crime rates. Potentially, this could be linked in part to poor urban design and a lack of planning for safe communities resulting in a number of areas in the County Borough where criminal activity is more likely to go undetected because, for example, visibility is hindered or there are no surveillance techniques in design.</p> <p>In terms of social deprivation, there are a variety of health related statistics that are commonly used as indications of social deprivation and/or disadvantage. In Blaenau Gwent, the analysis of the baseline has revealed the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The rate of teenage conceptions is considerably above the regional average – 60.4 per 1000 compared to 45.7 per 1000; • The proportion of pregnancies resulting in low birth weight babies is above regional and national averages. In particular Sirhowy, Ebbw Vale, South Abertillery and Nantyglo have high rates, particularly Sirhowy, which is 13.3%; • The proportion of the population stating their health as ‘good’ is only 59.38%. The regional average is 64.48% and the national average is 65.06%; • 28.26% of the working age population suffer from limiting long term illness, which is above the regional (23.4%) and national (23.3%) averages; • The proportion of the population that smokes is above the national average – 34% compared to 31%. • Life expectancy at birth is considerably below the national average – 73.80 for males and 78.4 for 	<p>private open space and the network of routeways, particularly for non-motorised users. In addition, careful consideration will need to be given to the siting of any commercial activities and security of vulnerable land-uses.</p> <p>Providing a range of leisure facilities for residents to participate in may reduce crime rates by providing other activities for people to participate in and provide opportunities for social integration. Accompanied with encouraging and facilitating higher education achievement and raising aspirations, particularly amongst the younger members of the community, this may also help to reduce teenage pregnancies</p> <p>It will also be necessary to ensure that housing standards are improved throughout the borough, either through grants or providing more job opportunities to increase household income.</p> <p>To a certain extent, some of the health statistics may be linked to the fact that Blaenau Gwent tends towards a more elderly population. However, the LDP may also offer an opportunity to help contribute to improved health through providing space and facilities for increased recreational and sporting pursuits; adopting an approach to design than seeks to safeguard air and water quality; and encouraging increased levels of walking and cycling.</p> <p>There are issues with car accessibility in the area; by seeking provision for increased access to health care, the health conditions of the people in the county borough may also improve.</p>		

Key Issues	Implications for Plan	SEA Topics	Relationship to SA objective (Table 5.1)
<p>females in Blaenau Gwent compared to 75.8 for males and 80.3 for females across Wales;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The death rate was higher than the South East regional average by over 2% in 2001. Deaths from circulatory disease were 40.9 per 1,000 and deaths from cancer were 26.1 per 1,000; The proportion of adults (aged 16+) who are obese is 59%, which is 5% higher than the South East average. <p>There is a significant number of Christian residents (44,973) in the borough and only very small minorities of other religions, Muslim being the 2nd highest religion with 152. There are also a large number of people who stated having no religion or did not state any religion; the sheer difference in numbers of religious groups could mean that problems relating to social exclusion and integration may occur in the borough.</p>			
Environment			
<p>High car usage and CO2 emissions</p> <p>There are significantly less people using public transport in Blaenau Gwent than the average statistics for the rest of the South East region and Wales as a whole – 5.4% of all commuting trips compared to 7.8% nationally. Use of car for commuting trips by the County Borough’s residents is slightly higher than the national average – 79.7% compared to 77.8%. However, a greater proportion of Blaenau Gwent’s residents commute to work on foot than nationally (12.5% compared to 10.4%). The share of road transport related CO₂ emissions in Blaenau Gwent is lower than the Wales average – 16% and 23% respectively. This may be a reflection of the socio-economic statistics, which indicate low car ownership rates in the County Borough.</p>	<p>The LDP should seek improved public transport and walking and cycling provision with new development to provide alternative transport modes in light of the potential future increase in car users in the area.</p>	<p>Air Climatic Factors Population Human Health Material Assets Landscape Biodiversity</p>	<p>Objectives 13 and 18</p>

Key Issues	Implications for Plan	SEA Topics	Relationship to SA objective (Table 5.1)
<p>Protection of ecological resources and biodiversity</p> <p>Blaenau Gwent has a limited number of sites designated on the basis of their ecological importance. Despite this, the local Biodiversity Action Plan identifies a very broad range of species and habitats considered worthy of protection from damage, coupled with detailed listings of the range of pressures that face these habitats (e.g. overgrazing; lack of traditional countryside management practices; presence of invasive species; under valuing of moorland habitats; chemicals; domestic pets, etc.). Consequently, the current lack of designations could be considered as a failure to fully recognise the presence of valuable resources in the area, which have an important potential role in the wider economic regeneration and tourism agendas. This is a particular issue given that the County Borough boundary encompasses part of the Brecon Beacons National Park.</p> <p>The total number of SINC (Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation) is unknown. The first tranche of designations will include 60 SINC. Subsequent tranches are planned.</p> <p>10 new LNR (Local Nature Reserves) are planned. These are aimed at increasing the awareness of and regulatory powers to protect the area's valuable natural assets.</p> <p>The County Borough includes the Cwm Merddog and Coed Ty'n y Gelli SSSIs near Cwm, which are both fine examples of ancient semi-natural woodlands.</p> <p>The use of 'off-road' vehicles is causing damage to valuable ecological resources.</p>	<p>The LDP will need to reflect both the principles and the results of the process of ecological site assessment – latest research suggests that at least 20 SINC and at least 5 new LNR should be designated without further delay. It is important that these areas are carefully mapped, monitored and protected from development. A further 40 SINC and 5 more LNR should ideally be implemented in the near future.</p> <p>There is an opportunity to create a valued landscape area for Blaenau Gwent which will help enhance its attraction as a place to live, work and visit. There are also opportunities to strengthen links between Blaenau Gwent and the Brecon Beacons National Park.</p> <p>Protection should also be afforded to the ancient woodlands within the area, supported by increased woodland cover if appropriate.</p>	<p>Biodiversity Flora and Fauna Soil Landscape Water</p>	<p>Objective 14</p>

Key Issues	Implications for Plan	SEA Topics	Relationship to SA objective (Table 5.1)
<p>Under appreciation and protection of heritage resources</p> <p>The South East Wales region has approximately 56 registered historic parks and Gardens. Out of the 10 regional authorities, Blaenau Gwent only has one registration – Bedwellty House and Park – which is a very low proportion. The Heritage Strategy recognises that the range and significance of archaeological monuments and sites with the County Borough is not well known and nor is it sufficiently recognised and appreciated.</p> <p>In addition to the above, despite the fact that the area has a considerable heritage resource (e.g. the Garden City, Sy Illtyd's Church, Castle Street and the Circle) and, as set out in the Heritage Strategy, the majority of the County Borough's buildings are over 100 years old, there is only one designated conservation area within the County Borough and 58 listed buildings, none of which are Grade 1. This means that heritage assets may face considerable development pressure, potentially to the detriment of their quality and potential integration into the establishment of tourism and visitor products and attractions.</p> <p>The above points are reinforced by the fact that nearly 20% of all of the listed buildings in the area are at risk. Degradation of the historic character of certain parts of the County Borough may also reduce the desire live and work in the area.</p>	<p>It will be important for the heritage assets of the County Borough to be thoroughly reviewed, restored and protected from detrimental development as appropriate. Enhancement of assets that are known to be at risk should also be supported through the LDP.</p> <p>The Heritage Strategy sets out aspirations to improve the educational value of existing heritage interpretation facilities/museums, together with a desire to develop the Nantyglo roundhouse complex as a high quality heritage centre and educational resources for both locals and visitors. The Plan will need to consider how these aims and objectives may best be achieved through planning policy.</p>	<p>Cultural Heritage Landscape Material Assets Soil Flora and Fauna</p>	<p>Objective 15</p>
<p>Limited supply of brownfield land</p> <p>The area is predominantly open countryside (45%), with only 23% of the total land area falling within the defined urban area and a further 9% designated as urban fringe. This is likely to present constraints to development on the</p>	<p>In order to balance sustainability issues associated with all three dimensions (social, economic and environmental), it will be of critical importance that the identification of development sites in the LDP is</p>	<p>Soil Biodiversity Fauna Flora</p>	<p>Objective 16</p>

Key Issues	Implications for Plan	SEA Topics	Relationship to SA objective (Table 5.1)
<p>basis of landscape and biodiversity value, which will either increase demand for the limited supply of brownfield land in the County Borough; or alternatively act as a deterrent to developers who may seek to identify less constrained sites in neighbouring authority areas.</p>	<p>effective in enabling the commercial reuse of brownfield land, including contaminated sites; and that the loss of valuable greenfield land to development is avoided wherever possible. Such land allocations will need to be informed by a robust understanding of the financial pressures of commercial development in order to ensure that all allocations have a realistic prospect of development in the LDP period.</p>		
<p>Contaminated sites</p> <p>Given the industrial legacy of the County Borough, there is a considerable number of contaminated sites (1607 sites in 2003), which may present future development issues as the cost of remediation will need to be factored into site development costs and, in some cases, may prove to be prohibitive. Historic trends lend support to this issue - there are only two major contaminated sites in Blaenau Gwent that have been remediated in preparation for development.</p>	<p>The LDP will need to ensure that remediation of contaminated land takes place before its development to reduce the threat to human health, water courses and biodiversity.</p>	<p>Soil Landscape Human Health Material Assets Water</p>	<p>Objective 17</p>
<p>Waste management</p> <p>Household waste arisings per household since 1998 have been increasing more rapidly in Blaenau Gwent than the South East local authority average. In 1998 Blaenau Gwent recorded 1,321 tonnes per household compared to 1,113 for the South East; by 2005 Blaenau Gwent's household arisings were 1,507 tonnes compared to a regional average of 1,284.</p> <p>In addition to household rates, waste arisings per person have also increased more rapidly in Blaenau Gwent than the regional average: in 1998 Blaenau Gwent residents produced an average of 511 tonnes of waste per person compared to 455 tonnes for the South East region as a</p>	<p>The LDP will need to promote a holistic approach to waste management. This includes the development of new waste management facilities, which should include waste treatment and recycling. In addition, there will be a need to address waste production at source through improved sustainable design of buildings and the provision of domestic sorting and composting facilities.</p>	<p>Material Assets</p>	<p>Objective 19</p>

Key Issues	Implications for Plan	SEA Topics	Relationship to SA objective (Table 5.1)
<p>whole; by 2005, the Blaenau Gwent average was 648 compared to 519 tonnes across the region.</p> <p>Higher than average and increasing household waste coupled with low participation in recycling schemes in the County Borough have important implications for housing renewal initiatives and the wider regeneration agenda.</p>			

Consultation Question 4:
Are there any additional sustainability problems or opportunities in the Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council Area that need to be considered in the development of the Local Development Plan?

5 SUSTAINABILITY APPRAISAL FRAMEWORK

INTRODUCTION

- 5.1 The next task in the SA is the development of the SA Framework of objectives, indicators. The SA Framework is a key component in completing the remaining work of the SA by synthesising the baseline information and sustainability issues into a systematic and easily understood tool that allows the prediction and assessment of effects arising from the implementation of the LDP. Though the SEA Directive does not specifically require the use of objectives or indicators in the SEA process, they are a recognised and useful way in which environmental effects can be described, analysed and compared at key stages of Local Development Plan making process.

METHODOLOGY

- 5.2 A draft SA Framework has been developed using an iterative process, based on the review of relevant plans and programmes, the evolving baseline and developing analysis of key sustainability issues. The identification of key sustainability issues is a continuous process which will be further informed through consultation with stakeholders.
- 5.3 The draft SA Framework of objectives, indicators and targets against which it is proposed to assess the LDP is set out in Table 5.1. It consists of objectives that may be expressed in the form of targets, the achievement of which should be measurable using identified indicators.
- 5.4 The 23 draft SA objectives have been worded so that they reflect one single desired direction of change for the theme concerned and do not overlap with other objectives. They include both externally imposed social, environmental and economic objectives and others devised specifically in relation to the context of the LDP being prepared and they are distinct from the LDP's objectives. SA objectives 1-19 have been derived taking specifically account of local circumstances and concerns feeding from the analysis of sustainability issues (see Table 4.1 for relationship of sustainability issues to SA objectives). SA objectives 20-25 are objectives mainly influenced by national environmental policy. Although there might not be a local issue associated with these objectives at present they must be pursued from a sustainability perspective in the Blaenau Gwent LDP.
- 5.5 A set of indicators has been derived to capture the change likely to arise from the LDP implementation and will play a role in the assessment itself. Where appropriate, locally relevant indicators have been proposed based on the review of local plans and programmes, the evolving baseline, and from developing the analysis of the key sustainability issues.

- 5.6 Where appropriate, existing data sources and indicators which are already monitored in the County Borough have been used. In some cases, specific new indicators will require monitoring by relevant bodies should significant effects relating to the SA objectives concerned be identified as part of the assessment of effects during SA Stage B. Developing a good balance of appropriate and reliable indicators across the set of SA objectives will be crucial in the development of an effective but also practical monitoring programme.

Consultation Question 5:

Do you agree with the proposed SA framework? Are objectives, targets and indicators suggested appropriate?

Table 5.1: Draft SA Framework

Key to Data Availability for Indicators

Bold = Known data for Blaenau Gwent

Italic = Known data for South East Wales Region

Underlined = Data for Blaenau Gwent and South East Wales Region currently unknown

No	Draft SA Objective	Potential Indicators	Target	SEA Topics
Economic				
1.	To promote economic growth and strengthen and diversify the local economy	Employment by sector	Reduce reliance on manufacturing sector	Population
		No. of business VAT registrations	Increase	
		<u>% change in total number of business VAT registrations</u>	Increase in registrations	
		<u>% of serviced employment sites</u>	Increase	
		<u>% of new employment floorspace generated</u>	Increase	
		<u>Zone A rental values in town centres</u>	Increase	
		GVA per capita	Increase	
2.	To increase levels of local employment and ensure distribution of opportunities support the most deprived wards	% of working age population that are economically inactive	Decrease	Population Human Health
		Proportion of population of working age claiming benefits	Decrease	
		% of the population of working age that are long term unemployed	Decrease	
		% increase in average earnings	Increase	
		Average household income	Increase	
		Proportion of population enrolled in adult education	Increase	
3.	To support the development of a strong	<u>Total number of visitors to attractions in Blaenau Gwent</u>	Increase	Population

	tourism economy in Blaenau Gwent, complementary to the regional offer	<u>Expenditure by sector</u>	Increase	Material Assets Landscape
		<u>Revenue by category of visitor</u>	Increase	
		<u>Tourist Days</u>	Increase	
4.	To enhance the viability and vitality of town centres	<u>% change in vacancies in town centres</u>	Reduce vacancies	Population
		<u>National retailer representation</u>	Increase national retailer representation	

Social				
5.	To meet identified housing needs	Number of completed dwellings by type and tenure	No target identified	Population
		<u>Breakdown of housing stock by size and tenure</u>	Achieve more equitable balance between types	
6.	To improve the quality of Blaenau Gwent's housing stock	<u>Number of houses meeting Welsh Housing Quality Standard (WHQS)</u>	100%	Human Health Material Assets
		Proportion of housing designated as unfit for habitation	0%	
		Proportion of housing designated as in need of significant repair	0%	
		Proportion of housing without central heating	0%	
		Proportion of housing without sole use of toilet/shower	0%	
7.	To secure the delivery and maintenance of quality affordable housing	<u>% Affordable Housing</u>	20%	Population
		<u>Average property price by size and tenure</u>	No target identified	
		<u>% of eligible residential planning permissions where affordable housing has been negotiated</u>	100%	Material Assets
		<u>Average house price to income ratio</u>	No target identified	

8.	To improve educational attainment and increase skills levels	Percentage of the adult population with no qualifications	Decrease	Population
		Proportion of adults with level 2 qualifications (5 GCSE A* - C or NVQ equivalent)	Increase	
		Proportion of adults with level 4 qualifications (degree and above)	Increase	
		Proportion of the population enrolled in adult education	Increase	
9.	To improve accessibility to education, employment, health, homes and community services for all sectors of the community	<u>Accessibility /availability of community facilities (schools, health and social facilities, nurseries, further education establishments, community halls, churches, libraries, residential homes for the elderly, cemeteries, open space, sports facilities, supported accommodation, theatres and cinemas)</u>	Distances from residents properties to community facilities as listed in the indicator to comply with the Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation.	Population Human Health
		<u>Length, connectivity and accessibility to public rights of way for walking, cycling and horse riding</u>	Increase	
		<u>No. of closures of local services and facilities</u>	Reduce	
		<u>Amount of new residential development within 30 minutes public transport time of: a GP and hospital</u>	Increase	
		<u>Proportion of local service centres served by a bus service with at least 30 min daytime frequency</u>	100%	
		<u>Proportion of homes in urban areas within 400m walking distance of a bus stop</u>	100%	
		<u>Proportion of rural settlements serviced by the DETR definition of an 'adequate' bus service (an hourly service within 10 mins walk of homes)</u>	100%	
		<u>Proportion of schools with green travel plans</u>	100%	
		<u>Proportion of employers with green travel plans</u>	100%	
10.	To promote community health and well-being	Life expectancy	To maintain/increase life expectancy Source: www.statistics.gov.uk	Population Human Health
		Death rate per 100,000 by Chronic Heart Disease	To reduce heart disease, stroke and related illnesses amongst people under 75 by at least 40 % by 2010 Source: UK Sustainable Development Quality of Life Indicators	

		Death rate per 100,000 by cancer	To reduce cancer amongst people under 75 by at least 20% by 2010 Source: UK Sustainable Development Quality of Life Indicators	
		Death rate per 100,000 by suicide	To reduce suicide and undetermined injury by at least 20% by 2010 Source: UK Sustainable Development Quality of Life Indicators	
		Death rate per 100,000 by accidents	To reduce accidents by at least 20% by 2010 Source: UK Sustainable Development Quality of Life Indicators	
		Community Satisfaction / perceptions surveys – Housing Estate Surveys	To decrease % of people who describe their health as poor	
		Indices of deprivation	To decrease % of population living in most deprived areas	
		Proportion of households not living within 400m of their nearest natural greenspace.	0% Source: CCW Accessible Greenspace Standards	
		Proportion of households within 800m walking distance of key health services	100%	
11.	To reduce crime, social disorder and fear of crime	Average crime rate per 1000 population	No target identified	Population
		Number of anti-social behaviour notices served	0	Human Health
		Violent crimes against the person per 1000 population	Reduce	
		<u>Fear of crime in Blaenau Gwent during the day and night</u>	Reduce	
		<u>Percentage of new housing that meets the 'secured by design' certification criteria</u>	Increase	
12.	Protect and enhance the Welsh Language and culture	Proportion of Welsh speakers	Increase	Population
		Welsh medium schools as a proportion of all schools	Increase	
		Bi-lingual published material	Increase	

Environmental				
13.	To encourage modal shift from private transport to sustainable transport	Annual average traffic flow per 1,000km of principal roads	Target not appropriate	Population Air Climatic Factors Human Health
		Proportion of households without access to a car/van	Stabilise	
		<u>Levels of public transport usage</u>	Increase	
		<u>No. and value of S106 agreements secured for improvements in public transport, walking and cycling</u>	Increase	
		<u>No. of safe routes to school schemes</u>	Increase – target should be 100%	
		<u>No. of green travel plans</u>	Increase – target should be 100% of employers	
		Modal split - % of population travelling to work by sustainable modes	Increase	
		Length of additional cycle network as a % of total length	Increase	
14.	To protect and enhance biodiversity across Blaenau Gwent	Condition of international, European, national, regional and locally designated sites of biodiversity interest	To halt the loss of biodiversity by 2010 – EU Sustainable Development Strategy	Biodiversity Flora and Fauna Landscape
		Number of actions within the LBAP that have been completed	100% completion	
		<u>% of LBAP species that are stable or increasing</u>	Increase	
		<u>Amount of greenspace important for wildlife corridors identified and safeguarded from development</u>	Increase	
15.	To conserve and enhance the heritage assets of Blaenau Gwent and their settings	Number and area of conservation areas	Increase	Cultural Heritage Landscape Material Assets
		Number of listed buildings on the 'at risk' register	Zero	
		<u>Number of conservation area appraisals and conservation area management plans undertaken/ implemented</u>	Increase	
		<u>Condition of designated parks and gardens of historic interest</u>	Improve	
16.	To make the best use of previously	<u>% new development on previously developed land</u>	60% of all new dwellings p.a.	Landscape Biodiversity

	developed land and existing buildings to minimise pressure for greenfield development	<u>% of residential sites developed at densities of over 30 dph</u>	100%	Flora and Fauna
		<u>Area of contaminated land remediated for development</u>	Increase	
		Proportion of residential premises that are vacant, unfit for habitation or in need of substantial repairs	Decrease	
17.	To conserve soil resources and their quality	No. and area of contaminated land sites	Decrease through remediation	Soil Material Assets, Human Health
		<u>Area of agricultural land by grade</u>	Maintain quality and productivity	
		<u>Area of redevelopment of brownfield sites</u>	Increase	
		<u>Area of greenfield land lost to development</u>	Target should be nil	
		<u>Number of development projects implementing soil creation and conservation techniques</u>	Target should be 100%	
18.	To reduce emissions of greenhouse gases, in particular of carbon dioxide	<u>Greenhouse gas emissions (CO₂ equivalent) by sector and per capita (tonnes per year)</u>	To reduce CO ₂ emissions by 20% by 2010 from a 1990 baseline figure (national target) <i>Source: UK Air Quality Strategy, 2000</i>	Climatic factors
19.	To reduce waste generation and maximise reuse and recycling	Total municipal waste arisings	Decrease	Population Water Soil Material Assets
		% of municipal waste recycled and composted	To recycle or compost at least 40 % of municipal waste by 2009/2010 and 58% of municipal waste by 2015/16 (TBC in new Welsh Strategy, Oct 2007) <i>Source: Wise About Waste 2000 (Welsh Strategy)</i>	
		% of commercial waste recycled	Increase	
		<u>% of municipal waste used to recover heat or energy</u>	Increase	
		<u>No. of waste management facilities in the County Borough</u>	Increase	
20.	To reduce air pollution and improve air quality	<u>Estimated background air pollution data</u>	To be below national targets for pollutants	Air, Climatic Factors Human Health
		<u>No. of exceedences of the 100ug/m³ 8 hour mean objective</u>	No more than 10 exceedences of the 100ug/m ³ 8 hour mean	
21.	To minimise the vulnerability of all	<u>% of highly sensitive development approved in flood risk areas contrary to TAN 15</u>	Zero	Population

	development to flooding	<u>% relevant permissions with SuDS schemes; incorporating reedbeds where appropriate</u>	Increase	Biodiversity Flora and Fauna Human Health Water
		<u>Number of properties at risk from flooding</u>	Decrease	
22.	To promote the use of sustainably sourced products and resources	<u>% of new build and retrofit meeting EcoHomes Very Good standard or above</u>	100%	Air Climatic Factors Human Health Population Material Assets
		<u>% of commercial buildings meeting BREEAM Very Good standard or above</u>	100%	
23.	To reduce water consumption	<u>Greywater recycling systems and water savings devices installed in new developments</u>	100%	Water Air Climatic Factors Material Assets
24.	To increase energy efficiency and generation and use of renewable energy across the County Borough	No. of buildings incorporating renewable energy production (solar panels, wind turbines, photovoltaic's, ground-source heat)	New build dwellings to be carbon neutral by 2016 <i>Source: Gordon Brown (UK Govt.)</i>	Climatic factors
		Energy consumption per capita	Decrease	
		<u>Electricity generated from renewable sources</u>	10% renewable energy target by 2010 <i>Source: UK Climate Change Programme</i>	
		<u>No. of planning permissions for renewable energy schemes</u>	Increase	
		No. of buildings incorporating renewable energy production (solar panels, wind turbines, photovoltaic's, ground-source heat)	Increase number year on year	
25.	To conserve and enhance surface and ground water quality	Biological river quality	Improve	Water
		Chemical river quality	Improve	
		<u>Groundwater quality</u>	Not worse or an improvement	

SA BASELINE DATA AND TRENDS

5.9 The SA Framework is the key tool used in the assessment of effects. The prediction of effects, in terms of their magnitude, frequency, duration, and spatial extent, is conducted via detailed analysis of the baseline data. It is thus important to ensure that critical aspects of the baseline can be directly related to the objectives and indicators of the SA Framework. Determining the significance of predicted effects is perhaps the most critical task in the SA. The picture that the baseline presents in terms of the SA Framework is the starting point for this.

5.10 Table 5.2 presents a preliminary analysis of the fundamental characteristics of the baseline (current conditions, current and future trends, and sensitivity to change) against the draft SA objectives using a simple three-point normative scale against a series of variables as follows:

- Current Conditions - good/moderate/poor;
- Current Trends – improving/stable/declining;
- Future Trends (without plan implementation) - improving/stable/declining;
- Sensitivity to Change – high/medium/low.

5.11 Sensitivity to change in the context of SA represents the extent to which, for instance, ecological thresholds may be close to being breached or carrying capacity exceeded, such that relatively small changes might be likely to induce disproportionately large effects, which in some instances might have wide-ranging and/or unexpected consequences. An example might be the decline of a particular wildlife population below the level at which it is viable in a particular habitat.

Existing Baseline Conditions and Current Trends

5.12 The existing social, economic and environmental baseline for the Blaenau Gwent is summarised in Section 3 and contained in the baseline data sets in Appendix A.

5.13 The quality of the baseline data gives an indication of the certainty with which the other four parameters are known, and this is presented in Table 5.2 using a similar colour-coded three-point scale (high/medium/low).

Predicted Future Trends

5.14 The SEA Directive requires the consideration of the likely evolution of the state of the environment without the implementation of the LDP. During the lifetime of the LDP it is

predicted that there will be a number of external influences and variables which could affect Blaenau Gwent.

5.15 From Table 5.2 it is clear that without the implementation of the LDP, the future trends show decline with regards to a number of SA objectives, primarily relating to the housing stock, the economy, biodiversity, emissions, protection of heritage assets and the development of sustainable approaches to transport.

5.16 Although the predicted evolution of the baseline without the implementation of the LDP is projected to result in a number of stable conditions in respect of the SA objectives, there is only one SA objective against which there is predicted to be some improvement. This relates to soil quality and the prediction has been made on the basis that market forces and current policies would result in some level of remediation works in respect of the considerable amount of contaminated sites in the County Borough.

5.17 There are notable data gaps relating to the SA objectives concerned with renewable energy generation and use; water quality; and the use of sustainable resources.

**Consultation Question 6:
Are judgements made concerning future baseline correct?**

Table 5.2: SA Baseline Data and Trends Summary

		<i>Local Baseline</i>		<i>Trends</i>		<i>Existing data quality</i>	<i>Comments/Explanation</i>
Draft SA Objective		Condition	Sensitivity to Change	Current	Future (without the LDP)		
Economic							
1	To promote economic growth and strengthen and diversify the local economy	Poor	Medium	Stable	Stable	Medium	Low levels of VAT registrations suggest current poor conditions for diversification of the local economy.
2	To increase levels of local employment and ensure distribution of opportunities to support the most deprived wards	Poor	Medium	Improving	Stable	Medium	High levels of economic inactivity and unemployment rates characterise the County Borough, although unemployment rates have improved recently.
3	To enable the development of a strong tourism economy in Blaenau Gwent, complementary to the regional offer	Moderate	Medium	Stable	Stable	Low	Blaenau Gwent presents a range of tourism opportunities including the Brecon Beacons. The sustainable tourism economy is likely to remain unchanged without implementation of the LDP.
4	To enhance the viability and vitality of town centres	Poor	Medium	Improving	Improving	Low	Many town centres within Blaenau Gwent have high rates of vacancy. However, improvements through mechanisms such as Commercial Improvement Grants and Town Centre Strategies are likely to continue into the future.
Social							
5	To meet identified housing needs	Poor	Medium	Stable	Stable	Medium	Poor housing quality and mismatch of housing size/tenure with needs and demand are current issues facing the variety and quality of Blaenau Gwent's housing stock.
6	To improve the quality of Blaenau Gwent's housing stock	Poor	Medium	Stable	Stable	Medium	
7	To secure the delivery and maintenance of quality affordable housing	Moderate	Medium	Stable	Stable	Medium	The average house price for Blaenau Gwent in 2006 was nearly £50,000 less than that of the Welsh Average. However, average prices are predicted to increase substantially as better rail links are provided to Cardiff.
8	To improve educational attainment and	Poor	Medium	Improving	Improving	High	Although current levels of education achievement are poor, improvements have

		<i>Local Baseline</i>		<i>Trends</i>		<i>Existing data quality</i>	<i>Comments/Explanation</i>
Draft SA Objective		Condition	Sensitivity to Change	Current	Future (without the LDP)		
	increase skills levels						been observed and these are likely to continue into the future without the implementation of the LDP and continuation with current UDP policies.
9	To improve accessibility to education, employment, health, homes and community services for all sectors of the community	Moderate	Medium	Stable	Stable	Medium	Levels of accessibility are likely to remain consistent without implementation of the LDP and continuation with current UDP policies.
10	To promote community health and well-being	Poor	Medium	Stable	Stable	Medium	The majority of health statistics illustrate that poor health is an ongoing issue in the County Borough.
11	To reduce crime, social disorder and fear of crime	Moderate	Low	Improving	Stable	Medium	In general terms, crime rates are broadly comparable and, if anything, slightly lower than rates for the South East region.
12	Protect and enhance the Welsh Language and culture	Moderate	Low	Stable	Stable	Low	Over 90% of the population are unable to speak Welsh or have no Welsh speaking communications.
Environmental							
13	To encourage modal shift from private transport to sustainable transport	Moderate	Medium	Stable	Improving	Medium	The extension of rail services to Ebbw Vale is likely to improve the patronage of sustainable modes of transport.
14	To protect and enhance biodiversity across Blaenau Gwent	Moderate	High	Stable	Improving	Medium	At the present time many important habitats are not protected and face a range of pressures. There are plans for 82 new ecological designations, comprising 72 new Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation and 10 Local Nature Reserves.
15	To conserve and enhance the heritage assets of Blaenau Gwent and their settings	Poor	High	Declining	Declining	High	Heritage assets may face considerable development pressure in the future due to the lack of heritage designations; despite the fact the area has a considerable heritage resource.
16	To make the best use of previously developed land and existing buildings to	Moderate	Medium	Stable	Stable	Medium	Settlements in Blaenau Gwent have very high density figures and low amounts of

		Local Baseline		Trends		Existing data quality	Comments/Explanation
Draft SA Objective		Condition	Sensitivity to Change	Current	Future (without the LDP)		
	minimise pressure for greenfield development						urban land are designated as Greenfield.
17	To conserve soil resources and their quality	Poor	Medium	Stable	Improving	Medium	Blaenau Gwent has a large number of contaminated sites that will require remediation prior to development. Remediation of sites will be required without the implementation of the LDP.
18	To reduce emissions of greenhouse gases (GHGs), in particular of carbon dioxide.	Moderate	Low	Stable	Improving	Medium	Government led initiatives are likely to lead to improvements in greenhouse gas emissions in the future without the implementation of the LDP.
19	To reduce waste generation and maximise reuse and recycling	Poor	Medium	Declining	Declining	High	Household waste raisings are increasing faster than the south east average and this trend is likely to continue.
20	To reduce air pollution and improve air quality	Good	Low	Stable	Stable	High	There are no Air Quality Management Area's currently designated in the County Borough.
21	To minimise the vulnerability of all development to flooding	Moderate	Medium	Stable	Stable	High	The principle areas of flood risk are located along the river corridors which follow the north-south topography of the valleys through Blaenau Gwent.
22	To promote the use of sustainably sourced products and resources	?	?	?	?	Low	State and trends currently unknown.
23	To reduce water consumption	?	?	?	?	Low	State and trends currently unknown
24	To increase energy efficiency and generation and use of renewable energy across the County Borough	?	?	?	?	Low	State and trends currently unknown.
25	To conserve and enhance surface and ground water quality	Moderate	Medium	Improving	Improving	Medium	Water quality improvements are likely to continue without implementation of the LDP.

Key:
 Current Conditions: Good/Moderate/Poor
 Current Trends: Improving/Stable/Declining
 Future Trends (without the plan):
 Improving/Stable/Declining

		<i>Local Baseline</i>		<i>Trends</i>		<i>Existing data quality</i>	<i>Comments/Explanation</i>
Draft SA Objective		Condition	Sensitivity to Change	Current	Future (without the LDP)		

Sensitivity to Change: High/Medium/Low

Data Quality: High/Medium/Low

6 REMAINING STAGES OF THE SA

INTRODUCTION

- 6.1 This chapter of the Scoping Report describes how the remaining stages of the SA will be carried out and the format that will be used in producing the final SA Report.
- 6.2 The SA process detailed in the WAG guidance covers five stages, A to E. This Scoping Report has covered Stage A by:
1. Identifying and reviewing other relevant policies, plans and programmes, and sustainable development objectives that will affect or influence the Planning Framework;
 2. Collecting relevant social, environmental and economic baseline information;
 3. Identifying key sustainability issues for the SA to address;
 4. Developing the SA Framework; and
 6. Providing the basis for consultation on the scope of the SA.
- 6.3 Table 6.1 shows the remaining steps involved in the SA of the LDP, based on the WAG guidance.

Table 6.1: Remaining Stages of the SA

Stage B – Developing and refining options and assessing effects
Testing the plan objectives against the SA objectives. Developing the plan options. Predicting the effects of the draft plan. Evaluating the effects of the draft plan. Considering ways of mitigating adverse effects and maximising beneficial effects. Proposing measures to monitor the significant effects of implementing the plan.
Stage C – Preparing the Sustainability Appraisal Report
Preparing SA Report.
Stage D – Consultation on the SA Report and draft Plan
Public participation on the SA Report and draft Plan. Assessing significant changes. Making decisions and providing information.
Stage E – Monitoring the significant effects of implementing the Plan
Finalising aims and methods for monitoring. Responding to adverse effects.

ASSESSMENT OF EFFECTS

Predicting Effects

- 6.4 This task will comprise systematic prediction of changes to the sustainability baseline arising from the implementation of the LDP. These can be compared both with each other and with the ‘do nothing’ or ‘business as usual’ scenario. As required by the SEA Directive, predicted effects will be fully characterised in terms of their magnitude, the time period over which they occur, whether they are permanent or temporary, positive or negative, probable or improbable, frequent or rare, and whether there are cumulative and/or synergistic effects. Ideally, the effects of the evolving plan should be predicted and assessed during the plan-making process to ensure that the final plan is as sustainable as possible.

Evaluating Effects

- 6.5 Assessing the significance of predicted sustainability effects is essentially a matter of judgement. Judgements of significance should be systematically documented, clearly setting out the following elements of the assessment:

- The particular characteristics of the effect which are deemed to make it significant;

- The certainty with which the assessment has been made (i.e. the quality of the data that has led to the judgement); and
 - Any assumptions that have been made in relation to the judgement.
- 6.6 In addition, the assessment of significance should also include information on one of the following, as appropriate:
- how the effect may be avoided; or
 - in the case of adverse effects, how its severity may be reduced; or
 - in the case of beneficial effects, how these benefits may be enhanced.
- 6.7 When carrying out this evaluation, the following will be considered for each LDP proposal or option, in line with the WAG guidance:
1. What exactly is proposed?
 2. Will the option, policy or proposal have a likely significant adverse effect in relation to each of the sustainability objectives or targets from Stage A?
 3. If so, can the effect be avoided or can the severity be reduced?
 4. If not, can the option be changed or eliminated?
 5. If the effect cannot be avoided, can the alternative be changed or eliminated?
 6. If its effect is uncertain, or depends on how the plan is implemented, how can the uncertainty be reduced?

Methodologies for Assessing Effects

- 6.8 Table 6.2 below, based on Annex 12 of the WAG/ODPM guidance, provides a useful summary of the range of techniques that can be used in the prediction and assessment of effects. In addition to expert judgement, causal chain/network analysis can prove especially useful in the prediction of cumulative, indirect and synergistic effects. GIS is useful in assessing the spatial/distributional characteristics of certain types of effect.

Table 6.2: Prediction and Assessment Techniques for SA

Technique	Prediction	Assessment
Expert judgement	✓	✓
Public participation		✓
Quality of Life Capital		✓
Geographical information systems	✓	✓
Network analysis	✓	
Modelling	✓	
Scenario/sensitivity analysis	✓	
Multi-criteria analysis		✓
Carrying capacity, ecological footprints		✓
Compatibility assessment		✓

6.9 It will be important to provide some realistic indication of the accuracy of predictions, but particularly in cases where predictions are close to expected thresholds, or are the result of cumulative, synergistic or indirect effects. The network analysis techniques mentioned above could be used to identify which effects will fall into this category.

Mitigation

6.10 For significant sustainability effects predicted to arise from implementation of the LDP, recommendations will be proposed in the SA Report for mitigation measures to prevent, reduce or offset adverse effects, and enhance positive effects.

Monitoring

6.11 A framework for monitoring significant sustainability effects arising from implementation of the LDP will be proposed in the SA Report, providing methods by which the sustainability performance of the plan can be recorded. The monitoring framework will be clearly linked to the objectives and indicators developed for the SA Framework.

SA Report

6.12 The SA Report incorporates the SEA Environmental Report, as required by the SEA Directive. Table 6.3 below presents the proposed structure and level of detail for the SA Report, taken from Annex 15 of the ODPM guidance. The SA Report will show that the Directive's requirements in relation to the Environmental Report have been met through clearly sign-posting in the SA Report the distinct information required by the Directive.

Table 6.3: SA Report Structure

Structure of report		Information to include
Components making up the environmental report		Table sign-posting the components of the SA Report which make up the Environmental Report for the purposes of the SEA Directive
1.	Summary and outcomes	Non-technical summary A statement of the likely significant effects of the plan Statement on the difference the process has made How to comment on the report
2.	Appraisal Methodology	Approach adopted to the SA When the SA was carried out Who carried out the SA Who was consulted, when and how Difficulties encountered in compiling information or carrying out the assessment.
3.	Background	Purpose of the SA and the SA Report Plan objectives and outline of contents Compliance with the SEA Directive/Regulations
4.	Sustainability objectives, baseline and context	Links to other strategies, plans and programme and sustainability objectives Description of the social, environmental and economic baseline characteristics and the predicted future baseline Main social, environmental and economic issues and problems identified Limitations of the information, assumptions made etc. The SA framework, including objectives, targets and indicators
5.	Plan issues and options	Main strategic options consider and how they were identified Comparison of the social, environmental and economic effects of the options How social, environmental and economic issues were considered in choosing the preferred options Other options considered, and why these were rejected Any proposed mitigation measures
6.	Plan policies	Significant social, environmental and economic effects of the preferred policies How social, environmental and economic problems were considered in developing the policies and proposals Proposed mitigation measures Uncertainties and risks

Structure of report		Information to include
7.	Implementation	Links to other tiers of plans and programmes and the project level (environmental impact assessment, design guidance, etc) Proposals for monitoring

APPENDIX A – BASELINE DATA TABLES

Table A.1: Baseline Data, Indicators and Trends for Socio-Economic Issues

Indicator	Quantified data (Blaenau Gwent)	Comparators (Quantified data for South Wales and Wales/England)	Targets	Trends	Issue identified	SEA topics	Source
Gross Value Added (GVA) and GVA per head	GVA per head 9,500 (2003)	Total GVA in Wales (£ million): 2005: 40,867 2004: 39,316 2003: 37,115 GVA per head in Wales (£): 2005: 13,813 2004: 13,316 2003: 12,633			GVA per head 60% of UK average (16,100) (2003) Gwent Valleys in the bottom 5 GVA per head in the NUTS3 Region (2003)	Population	ONS, Regional GVA December 2006 Larnig an labour market intelligence: area profile Blaenau Gwent http://www.statistics.gov.uk/pdfdir/lgva1205.pdf
Average Gross Weekly Earnings	2006 male full time weekly pay – £402.9 2006 female full time weekly pay – £267.2 2006 total full time mean weekly pay – £346.1	South East 2006 male full time weekly pay – £537.33 2006 female full time weekly pay – £411.37 2006 total full time mean weekly pay – £474.35	Blaenau Gwent 2008 Increase average weekly earnings to 82% GB levels (from 78% in 2000) Blaenau Gwent 2012 Increase average weekly earnings to 84% GB levels	Blaenau Gwent 2002 – 34.7% of households in borough had a gross annual income of less than £10,000. 1996 – lowest average earnings in GB, 72.4% of national average Full time mean weekly pay Male 2002 - £343.8 2003 - £381.5 2004 - £379.4 2005 - £426 Female 2002 - £275.3 2003 - £306.8 2004 - £305.4 2005 - £313.5 Total 2002 - £309.55 2003 - £344.15 2004 - £342.4 2005 - £369.75	Men are earning on average over £130 a week more than women. This may be due to the more established industrial and manufacturing makeup to the borough resulting in less well paid jobs for women. Across the south east the average earnings increase for both genders, over £130 for men and £140 for women with the deficit between the two genders still being around £130. From 2002 to 2005 weekly income has been less than that of the rest of the south east and for the whole of Wales.	Population	NOMIS Blaenau Gwent UDP

Scoping Report

Indicator	Quantified data (Blaenau Gwent)	Comparators (Quantified data for South Wales and Wales/England)	Targets	Trends	Issue identified	SEA topics	Source
				<p>South East Full time mean weekly pay</p> <p>Male 2002 - £438.98 2003 - £461.28 2004 - £480.89 2005 - £512.96</p> <p>Female 2002 - £349.78 2003 - £367.96 2004 - £381.34 2005 - £405.3</p> <p>Total 2002 - £394.38 2003 - £414.62 2004 - £431.115 2005 - £459.13</p> <p>Wales Full time mean weekly pay</p> <p>Male 2001 - £373.7 2002 - £383.9 2003 - £397.6 2004 - £417.7</p> <p>Female 2001 - £282.1 2002 - £290.5 2003 - £303.8 2004 - £320.5</p> <p>Total 2001 - £327.9 2002 - £337.2 2003 - £350.7 2004 - £369.1</p>			

Scoping Report

Indicator	Quantified data (Blaenau Gwent)	Comparators (Quantified data for South Wales and Wales/England)	Targets	Trends	Issue identified	SEA topics	Source
Gross Household Income (ward data)	<p>1998</p> <p>% less than £5,000 pa</p> <p>Abertillery – 12.3 Badminton – 11.0 Beaufort – 10.8 Blaina - 14 Brynmawr – 12.8 Cwm – 11.2 Cwmtillery – 16.9 Ebbw Vale N - 14 Ebbw Vale S – 12.2 Gerogetown – 10.5 Lanhilleth – 19.2 Nantyglo – 23.6 Rassau – 13.1 Sirhowy – 15.6 Six Bells – 13.8 Tredegar C & W – 16.1</p> <p>% less than 50% of £22.5k pa</p> <p>Abertillery – 36.8 Badminton – 35.5 Beaufort – 32.2 Blaina – 39.1 Brynmawr – 37.5 Cwm - 35 Cwmtillery 43.8 Ebbw Vale N – 40.2 Ebbw Vale S – 36 Gerogetown – 31.9 Lanhilleth – 48</p>				<p>There are particular household income issues in wards of Lanhilleth, Nantyglo, Cwmtillery and Tredegar all with high percentages of people earning less than £5000 per annum.</p> <p>All the wards show high levels of people on less than £11.25k per annum.</p> <p>These low income figures could reflect a combination of a lack of opportunities for higher paid employment; a lack of local skilled labour; and potentially that there may be a percentage of the population that are not able to participate in higher skilled jobs in these areas. They might also reflect the high percentage of the population unable to work, due to limiting long term illnesses?</p>	Population Human Health	Health and social needs June 2002 Blaenau Gwent

Scoping Report

Indicator	Quantified data (Blaenau Gwent)	Comparators (Quantified data for South Wales and Wales/England)	Targets	Trends	Issue identified	SEA topics	Source
	Nantyglo – 51.3 Rassau – 37.8 Sirhowy - 40 Six Bells - 39 Tredegar C & W – 41.8						
Working Age Economically Inactive	<p>Jan 2000 – 2,130 (9.6%) people unemployed</p> <p>July 2005-Jun 2006</p> <p>Proportion of the working age population that is economically inactive – 12,400 (30.4%)</p> <p>Wanting a job – 4,200 (10.4%)</p> <p>Not wanting a job – 8,100 (20%)</p> <p>Unemployed 2,000 (7.5%) (2003/04)</p> <p>2000 (ward data) Percentage of male unemployment in the economically active population (aged 15 – 64)</p> <p>Ebbw Vale North - 11.5 Ebbw Vale South - 11.1 Nantyglo - 10.4 Brynmaur - 10.2 Rassau - 10.0</p>	<p>Wales Proportion of the working age population that is economically inactive 24.9%</p> <p>Wanting a job – 6.2%</p> <p>Not wanting a job – 18.7%</p>	<p>Blaenau Gwent 2008</p> <p>Reduce unemployment to 4%</p> <p>2012</p> <p>Reduce unemployment to 3%</p>		<p>There is a high proportion of economically inactive people in the borough, over 5% more than that of the Wales average. 10.4% of people from that percentage are wanting a job which may indicate that there is a shortage of opportunities suited to local skills in the area. However, 20% are highlighted as not wanting a job. This statistic is also higher than the Wales average of 18.7%.</p> <p>In 2000 the unemployment rate was 6.9% which by 2003/04 had increased to 7.5%, further highlighting opportunity issues in the area.</p> <p>The wards of Ebbw Vale North and South, Brynmaur and Nantyglo have particularly high unemployment problems among the total of people unemployed.</p>	Population	<p>ONS annual population survey</p> <p>Blaenau Gwent UDP</p> <p>Health and social needs June 2002 Blaenau Gwent</p>

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Indicator	Quantified data (Blaenau Gwent)	Comparators (Quantified data for South Wales and Wales/England)	Targets	Trends	Issue identified	SEA topics	Source
	Cwmtillery - 9.1 Cwm - 9.0 Tredegar C&W - 8.8 Beaufort - 8.4 Badminton - 7.7 Six Bells - 7.6 Georgetown - 7.3 Sirhowy - 7.2 Blaina - 6.6 Abertillery - 6.5 Llanhilleth - 6.3 Percentage of female unemployment in the economically active population (aged 15 – 64) Ebbw Vale South - 5.8 Ebbw Vale North - 5.6 Cwm - 4.9 Brynmawr - 4.8 Cwmtillery - 4.8 Rassau - 4.6 Sirhowy - 4.5 Blaina - 4.3 Nantyglo - 4.2 Beaufort - 4.2 Six Bells - 4.2 Tredegar C&W - 3.9 Badminton - 3.6 Abertillery - 3.1 Llanhilleth - 2.9 Georgetown - 2.0 Total Percentage of unemployed people among the economically active population (aged						

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Indicator	Quantified data (Blaenau Gwent)	Comparators (Quantified data for South Wales and Wales/England)	Targets	Trends	Issue identified	SEA topics	Source
	15 – 64) Ebbw Vale North - 9.1 Ebbw Vale South - 9.0 Nantyglo - 8.0 Brynmawr - 8.0 Rassau - 7.8 Cwm - 7.5 Cwmtillery - 7.4 Tredegar C&W - 6.8 Beaufort - 6.6 Six Bells - 6.2 Sirhowy - 6.1 Badminton - 6.0 Blaina - 5.7 Abertillery - 5.2 Georgetown - 5.1 Llanhilleth - 5.0						
Working Age Economic Activity Rates	<p>2001</p> <p>All persons – 49,747 Economically Active – 27,564</p> <p>2003/04 (rounded statistics)</p> <p>All people economically active 29,000 (68.6%)</p> <p>In employment 26,000 (63.5%)</p> <p>Employees 24,000 (58.6%)</p> <p>Self employed 2,000 (4.35)</p> <p>Unemployed</p>	<p>South East Economically Active – 74.1% (2003/04 average)</p> <p>2003/04 Males Economically active – 78.6%</p> <p>In employment – 74.0%</p> <p>Employees – 61.4%</p> <p>Self employed – 12%</p> <p>Unemployed – 5.9%</p> <p>Females Economically active – 69.6%</p> <p>In employment – 66.7%</p>	<p>Blaenau Gwent 2008</p> <p>Increase labour market participation to 72% (from 67.5% in 2000)</p> <p>Increase employment rate to 64% (from 60.4% in 2000)</p> <p>Increase self employment rate to</p>	<p>Blaenau Gwent 1981 - 84.8% of men economically active. 53.8% of women economically active</p> <p>1991 – 18,398 men (77.1%) economically active 21,452 women (58.1%) economically active</p> <p>2001 People aged 16-74: economically active: employees part time – 10.26%</p> <p>People aged 16-74: economically active: employees full time – 35.68%</p> <p>People aged 16-74: economically active: Unemployed – 4.68%</p>	<p>In 1981 84.8% of men and 53.8% of women were economically active. More recently in 2003/04 these figures had altered quite significantly and were shown to be 72.3% and 64.7% respectively. These more recent figures for men and women are in both cases lower than the Welsh average.</p> <p>The total number of people economically active in the county borough in 2003/04 was 29,000 (68.6%). This was over 5% lower than the south east area which averaged 74.1% in total in the same year.</p>	Population	<p>Neighbourhood statistics 2001</p> <p>ONS annual population survey</p> <p>Local Area Labour Force Survey (Mar 2003-Feb 2004)</p> <p>Blaenau Gwent UDP</p> <p>ONS, 2001 Census (UV28 – Economic Activity)</p>

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Indicator	Quantified data (Blaenau Gwent)	Comparators (Quantified data for South Wales and Wales/England)	Targets	Trends	Issue identified	SEA topics	Source
	2,000 (7.5%) Males Economically active – 16,000 (72.3%) In employment – 14,000 (66.2%) Employees – 13,000 (59.3%) Self employed – 1,000 (5.9%) Unemployed – 1000 (8.4%) Females Economically active – 13,000 (64.7%) Employees – 12,000 (57.7%) In employment – 12,000 (60.5%) Self employed – 1,000 (2.6%) Unemployed – 1000 (5.5%)	Employees – 61.7% Self employed – 4.5% Unemployed – 4.2% Wales Economically Active – 75.1% (2006) Economically Active - unemployed – 5.2 (2006) South East All persons – 994,173 Economically Active – 605,474 Percentage of working age population economically active 61% South East (Average) All persons – 99,417 Economically Active – 60,507 Percentage of working age population economically active 61% Wales All persons – 2,075,347 Economically Active – 1,265,497 Percentage of working age population economically active 61%	9.7% (from, 9% in 2000) Blaenau Gwent 2012 Increase labour market participation to 74% Increase employment rate to 67% Increase self employment rate to 10%	People aged 16-74: economically inactive: retired – 14.71% People aged 16-74: economically inactive: student – 3.75% People aged 16-74: economically inactive: permanently sick /disabled – 13.79% 2002 7.9% unemployment 68.5% activity rates 63.1% employment rates Wales 1991 – 86.6% men economically active 67.6% women economically active (Mar 2003 – Feb 2004) All people economically active 74.2% In employment 70.5% Employees 61.6% Self employed 8.4% Unemployed 5.1%			

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Indicator	Quantified data (Blaenau Gwent)	Comparators (Quantified data for South Wales and Wales/England)	Targets	Trends	Issue identified	SEA topics	Source
<p>Employee Jobs By Occupation (%)</p>	<p>Year???</p> <p>Managers and Senior Officials – 10.6</p> <p>Professional Occupations – 5.8</p> <p>Associate Prof & Tech Occupations – 11.6</p> <p>Administrative and Secretarial Occupations – 11.4</p> <p>Skilled Trades Occupations – 9.2</p> <p>Personal Services Occupations – 11.0</p> <p>Sales and Customer Service Occupations – 7.9</p> <p>Process, Plant and Machine Operatives – 14.7</p> <p>Elementary Occupations – 17.1</p>	<p>South East</p> <p>Managers and Senior Officials – 12.54</p> <p>Professional Occupations – 11.87</p> <p>Associate Prof & Tech Occupations – 13.82</p> <p>Administrative and Secretarial Occupations – 12.85</p> <p>Skilled Trades Occupations – 9.85</p> <p>Personal Services Occupations – 7.65</p> <p>Sales and Customer Service Occupations – 9.04</p> <p>Process, Plant and Machine Operatives – 8.92</p> <p>Elementary Occupations – 13.08</p> <p>Wales</p> <p>Managers and Senior Officials – 12.5</p> <p>Professional Occupations – 11.3</p> <p>Associate Prof & Tech Occupations – 13.4</p> <p>Administrative and Secretarial Occupations – 12.1</p> <p>Skilled Trades Occupations – 12.3</p> <p>Personal Services Occupations – 8.5</p> <p>Sales and Customer Service Occupations – 8.3</p> <p>Process, Plant and Machine Operatives – 8.9</p>		<p>Blaenau Gwent</p> <p>Jan 2000 – new manufacturing accounted for 70% of all manufacturing employment (5,250)</p> <p>2000/01 – employment dominated by manufacturing (7,600) and other services (5,300)</p>	<p>Professional occupations in the borough account for 5.8% whereas in the south east they account for 11.87%. The employment is predominantly based around manufacturing and service industry; this may be a reason for the lower income rates. The lack of other opportunities may lead to out migration and commuting elsewhere to work, particularly for those residents educated to degree level or higher.</p>	<p>Population and Human Health</p>	<p>Apr 2005-Mar 2006 annual population survey (NOMIS)</p>

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Indicator	Quantified data (Blaenau Gwent)	Comparators (Quantified data for South Wales and Wales/England)	Targets	Trends	Issue identified	SEA topics	Source
		<i>Elementary Occupations – 12.4</i>					
Frequency of Home working	<i>Proportion of working population working mainly at or from home – 5.8% (2001)</i>	Wales Proportion of working population working mainly at or from home – 9.7% (2001)			In 2001 there was only a small percentage of people working from home, which is likely to mean the number of people using their cars for work is higher.	Population Human Health Air Climatic Factors	ONS, 2001 Census (Map 24, National SEA of WSP)
Percentage of Job Seekers Allowance Claimants	Dec 2006 - Proportion of resident working age population estimates claiming JSA (Rate) – 4.3% Feb 2003 Aged 18 – 24 – 645 (38.6%) Aged 25 – 49 – 770 (46%) Aged 50+ – 240 (14.3%) <i>Job Seekers Allowance Claimants (2005)</i> All people – 1,683 (4.1%) Male – 1,327 (6.2%) Female – 356 (1.8%)	Wales Feb 2003 Aged 18 – 24 - 34.1% Aged 25 – 49 - 49% Aged 50+ - 15.5% <i>Job Seekers Allowance Claimants (2005)</i> All people – 2.4% Male – 3.6 % Female – 1.2%		Blaenau Gwent Proportion of resident working age population estimates (Rate) Apr 2000 – 4.9 Apr 2001 – 4.9 Apr 2002 – 4.4 Apr 2003 – 3.8 Apr 2004 – 3.8 Apr 2005 – 4.0 Apr 2006 – 4.7	From April 2000 to April 2005 the proportion of resident working population claiming JSA had fallen from 4.9% to 4%. More recently in April 2006 that figure has risen again to 4.7%. 2003 saw Blaenau Gwent have 38.6% of people aged 18 – 24 (645 people) claim JSA which was higher than the Wales figure of 34.1%. Male unemployment in the borough in 2005 was significantly higher than female by nearly 1,000 people. JSA numbers close to double the rate for the whole of Wales in 2005 suggesting unemployment is a significant problem in the borough.	Population Human Health	NOMIS National Statistics (Feb 2003) Claimant Count (February 2005) national statistics
Percentage of Income Support Claimants	2005 – <i>Incapacity benefit: 62%</i> <i>Lone parent: 31%</i> <i>Carers and others: 8%</i>	Wales <i>Income support claimants by type – national percentages (August 2005):</i> <i>Incapacity benefit :60%</i>		Blaenau Gwent 1998 <i>% of persons aged 16 and over on income support (wards)</i>	The breakdown of income support claimants by type indicates that the situation in Blaenau Gwent is broadly comparable to that across Wales as a whole.	Population Human Health	ONS (Income Support Claimants, August 2005) Health and social needs June 2002 Blaenau Gwent

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Indicator	Quantified data (Blaenau Gwent)	Comparators (Quantified data for South Wales and Wales/England)	Targets	Trends	Issue identified	SEA topics	Source
	<p>2006 - Income Support Claimants (16 and over) - 4,050</p>	<p>Lone parent: - 32% Carers and others: -8%</p> <p>2006 - Income Support Claimants (16 and over) - 126,160</p>		<p>Abertillery – 9.6 Badminton – 9.6 Beaufort – 11.5 Blaina – 10.6 Brynmawr – 11.9 Cwm – 9.7 Cwmtillery – 13.4 Ebbw Vale N -12.7 Ebbw Vale S – 12.7 Gerogetown – 7.7 Lanhilleth – 14.4 Nantyglo – 17.5 Rassau – 11.2 Sirhowy – 12.9 Six Bells – 10.1 Tredegar C & W – 15.3</p> <p>% of persons aged 60 and over on income support</p> <p>Abertillery – 13.4 Badminton – 16.6 Beaufort – 18.3 Blaina – 15.3 Brynmawr – 21.4 Cwm – 17.6 Cwmtillery – 19.2 Ebbw Vale N – 21.8 Ebbw Vale S – 17.5 Gerogetown – 10.8 Lanhilleth – 16.9 Nantyglo – 21.8 Rassau – 14.4 Sirhowy – 18 Six Bells – 14.5 Tredegar C & W – 21</p> <p>% children aged 0 -15 in income support households</p> <p>Abertillery – 21.8 Badminton – 16.5 Beaufort – 26.5 Blaina – 22.4 Brynmawr – 20.6</p>	<p>In 1998 the figures for the percentage of people on income support or in income support households were particularly high in Nantyglo, Brynmawr, Cwmtillery, Tredegar and Ebbw Vale north and South.</p>		

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Indicator	Quantified data (Blaenau Gwent)	Comparators (Quantified data for South Wales and Wales/England)	Targets	Trends	Issue identified	SEA topics	Source
				Cwm – 18.6 Cwmtillery – 31.4 Ebbw Vale N – 27 Ebbw Vale S – 33.5 Gerogetown – 16.9 Lanhilleth – 35.5 Nantyglo – 46.3 Rassau – 31 Sirhowy – 31.6 Six Bells – 21.7 Tredegar C & W – 33.3			
Total VAT Registrations by Employment Size Band	2005/06 Total Enterprises - 830 0-4 employees – 550 – 66.3% 5-9 employees – 145 – 17.5% 10-19 employees – 55 – 6.6% 20+ employees – 80 – 9.6%	2005/06 South East Total Enterprises – 26,780 0-4 employees – 19,685 5-9 employees – 3,905 10-19 employees – 1,495 20+ employees – 1,705 South East Average Enterprises by authority – 2,678 0-4 employees – 1,969 – 73.5% 5-9 employees – 391 – 14.6% 10-19 employees – 150 – 5.6% 20+ employees – 171 – 6.4% Wales Total Enterprises – 74,115 0-4 employees – 57,615 5-9 employees – 9,415 10-19 employees – 3,490 20+ employees – 3,590 Wales Average 0-4 employees – 2619 5-9 employees – 428 10-19 employees – 159 20+ employees – 163		OBTAIN BG TOTAL VAT REG	Blaenau Gwent has a significantly lower number of VAT registrations than the average for authorities in the south east Wales region (830 compared to 2678). The representation of enterprises by size band indicates that Blaenau Gwent has a lower than average proportion of very small businesses compared to the average for south east Wales authorities (66.3% compared to 73.5%). Conversely, the representation of registrations of 20+ employees is above average – 9.6% compared to 6.4%. It has the second lowest number of VAT registrations in the south east after Merthyr Tydfil. This suggests that there is either a lack of entrepreneurial spirit, or insufficient support (premises, training, etc.) suitable to assist SMEs and	Population	ONS (Counts of VAT Based Enterprises by Employment Size Band 2005/06)

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Indicator	Quantified data (Blaenau Gwent)	Comparators (Quantified data for South Wales and Wales/England)	Targets	Trends	Issue identified	SEA topics	Source
					start ups.		
Number of new VAT Registrations per annum	<p>2005 Registrations – 100 (10.6%)</p> <p>Deregistrations – 80 (8.5%)</p> <p>Stock at the end of the year - 940</p>	<p>South East</p> <p>2005</p> <p>SE Total – 2930 Bridgend - 275 Rhondda Cynon Taff - 395 Vale of Glamorgan - 265 Merthyr Tydfil - 100 Cardiff - 800 Caerphilly - 270 Blaenau Gwent - 100 Torfean – 160 Newport – 305 Monmouthshire - 260</p> <p>Wales</p> <p>2005 total - 6430</p>		<p>Blaenau Gwent</p> <p>1998 - 85 1999 - 85 2000 - 85 2001 - 75 2002 - 75 2003 - 105 2004 - 110</p> <p>% change</p> <p>1997/98 – 31% 1998/99 – 0% 1999/00 – 0% 2000/01 – -12% 2001/02 – 0% 2002/03 – 40% 2003/04 – 5% 2004/05 – -9%</p> <p>South East</p> <p>1998 - 2745 1999 - 2770 2000 - 2790 2001 - 2725 2002 - 2900 2003 - 3165 2004 - 3185</p> <p>% change</p> <p>1997/98 – -4% 1998/99 – 1% 1999/00 – 1% 2000/01 – -2% 2001/02 – 6% 2002/03 – 9% 2003/04 – 1% 2004/05 – -8%</p> <p>1998 SE Total – 2745 Bridgend - 230 Rhondda Cynon Taff - 350 Vale of Glamorgan - 295</p>	<p>In 2002/03 Blaenau Gwent experienced a 40% increase in VAT registrations from the previous year. However, more recently it experienced a -9% drop. This was also experienced by the south east and Wales.</p> <p>A comparison at the regional level reveals that Blaenau Gwent has consistently experienced the second least number of new registrations over the past 5 years after Merthyr Tydfil, and in most recent years registrations in Blaenau Gwent have been over 150 less than any other authority in the region with the exception of Merthyr Tydfil.</p>		VAT Registrations/Deregistration By Industry (NOMIS)

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Indicator	Quantified data (Blaenau Gwent)	Comparators (Quantified data for South Wales and Wales/England)	Targets	Trends	Issue identified	SEA topics	Source
				<p>Merthyr Tydfil - 70 Cardiff - 770 Caerphilly - 265 Blaenau Gwent - 85 Torfaen - 135 Newport - 295 Monmouthshire - 250</p> <p>1999 SE Total - 2770 Bridgend - 250 Rhondda Cynon Taff - 335 Vale of Glamorgan - 285 Merthyr Tydfil - 80 Cardiff - 780 Caerphilly - 270 Blaenau Gwent - 85 Torfaen - 145 Newport - 265 Monmouthshire - 275</p> <p>2000 SE Total - 2790 Bridgend - 255 Rhondda Cynon Taff - 345 Vale of Glamorgan - 285 Merthyr Tydfil - 75 Cardiff - 815 Caerphilly - 235 Blaenau Gwent - 85 Torfaen - 150 Newport - 295 Monmouthshire - 250</p> <p>2001 SE Total - 2725 Bridgend - 245 Rhondda Cynon Taff - 340 Vale of Glamorgan - 240 Merthyr Tydfil - 75 Cardiff - 785 Caerphilly - 255 Blaenau Gwent - 75 Torfaen - 135 Newport - 300</p>			

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Indicator	Quantified data (Blaenau Gwent)	Comparators (Quantified data for South Wales and Wales/England)	Targets	Trends	Issue identified	SEA topics	Source
				<p>Monmouthshire - 275</p> <p>2002 SE Total - 2900 Bridgend - 255 Rhondda Cynon Taff - 365 Vale of Glamorgan - 315 Merthyr Tydfil - 70 Cardiff - 830 Caerphilly - 285 Blaenau Gwent - 75 Torfaen - 135 Newport - 290 Monmouthshire - 280</p> <p>2003 SE Total - 3165 Bridgend - 330 Rhondda Cynon Taff - 380 Vale of Glamorgan - 295 Merthyr Tydfil - 70 Cardiff - 830 Caerphilly - 335 Blaenau Gwent - 105 Torfaen - 165 Newport - 315 Monmouthshire - 325</p> <p>2004 SE Total - 3185 Bridgend - 280 Rhondda Cynon Taff - 430 Vale of Glamorgan - 320 Merthyr Tydfil - 110 Cardiff - 820 Caerphilly - 300 Blaenau Gwent - 110 Torfaen - 175 Newport - 320 Monmouthshire - 320</p> <p>Wales 1998 - 6165 1999 - 6120 2000 - 6290</p>			

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Indicator	Quantified data (Blaenau Gwent)	Comparators (Quantified data for South Wales and Wales/England)	Targets	Trends	Issue identified	SEA topics	Source
				2001 - 6025 2002 - 6430 2003 - 7145 2004 - 7040 % change 1997/98 – -2% 1998/99 – -1% 1999/00 – 3% 2000/01 – -4% 2001/02 – 7% 2002/03 – 11% 2003/04 – -1% 2004/05 – -9%			

Indicator	Quantified data (Blaenau Gwent)	Comparators (Quantified data for South Wales and Wales/England)	Targets	Trends	Issue identified	SEA topics	Source
Percentage of Vacant Properties	Percentage of households spaces which are unoccupied (second residences, holiday accommodation or otherwise vacant): 5.7% (2001)	Wales percentage of households spaces which are unoccupied (second residences, holiday accommodation or otherwise vacant): 5.2% (2001)			The percentage of vacant properties is higher than the Welsh average. Given the nature of the county borough, it is considered likely that this statistic represents unoccupied properties as opposed to second homes or holiday homes.	Population Human Health	ONS, 2001 Census (UV53 – Housing Stock)
Recorded Crime Figures of (i) theft of or from vehicles (ii) burglary in dwellings (iii) robbery	(Apr 05 – Mar 06) Violence against the person 1,436 (Apr 05 – Mar 06) Burglary in a dwelling 234 (Apr 05 – Mar 06) Theft of a motor Vehicle: 397 Apr 05 – Mar 06) Theft From a Motor Vehicle: 664	Wales Total Crime Rates Violence against the person 2002 – 36,453 2003 – 53,135 2004 – 53,014 2005 – 53,341 2006 – 52,639 Robbery		Blaenau Gwent Total Crime rates Violence against the person 2002 – 1,672 2003 – 2,751 2004 – 2,256 2005 – 1,664 2006 – 1,436	Violence against the person, although on a decreasing trend, seems to be significantly higher than the other crime rates, possibly reflecting poor urban design and planning for safe communities. There may be many areas in the borough where crime is prevalent because visibility	Population Human Health	Sustainable Development Indicators (Maps 115-116, National SEA of WSP) Notifiable Offences Recorded by the Police Series (using data from: Office for National Statistics, Population Estimates Unit)

Indicator	Quantified data (Blaenau Gwent)	Comparators (Quantified data for South Wales and Wales/England)	Targets	Trends	Issue identified	SEA topics	Source
		2002 – 1,030 2003 – 1,377 2004 – 1,280 2005 – 1,085 2006 – 1,134 Burglary in a Dwelling 2002 – 12,526 2003 – 14,954 2004 – 13,902 2005 – 11,697 2006 – 10,009 Theft of a motor 2002 – 16,954 2003 – 17,810 2004 – 16,133 2005 – 12,996 2006 – 11,696 Theft from a motor vehicle 2002 – 25,653 2003 – 31,066 2004 – 29,810 2005 – 26,061 2006 – 26,125		Robbery 2002 – 18 2003 – 10 2004 – 10 2005 – 11 2006 – 13 Burglary in a Dwelling 2002 – 283 2003 – 372 2004 – 252 2005 – 297 2006 – 234 Theft of a motor 2002 – 404 2003 – 424 2004 – 398 2005 – 409 2006 – 397 Theft from a motor vehicle 2002 – 447 2003 – 582 2004 – 505 2005 – 597 2006 – 664	is hindered or there are no surveillance techniques in design.		
Overall crime rate per 1000 population	Total number of offences Apr-Jun 2005 - 1573 Jul-Sep 2005 - 1433 Oct-Dec 2005 - 1632 Jan-Mar 2006 – 1334 Offences per 1000 population Apr-Jun 2005 – 22.9 Jul-Sep 2005 – 20.8 Oct-Dec 2005 – 23.7 Jan-Mar 2006 – 19.4	South East Total number of offences Apr-Jun 2005 – 32,693 Jul-Sep 2005 – 30,938 Oct-Dec 2005 – 31,174 Jan-Mar 2006 – 29,137 Offences per 1000			Crime rates are relatively high but compare favourably with the south east and Wales statistics	Population Human Health	SD Indicators, WSP Crime in England and Wales 2005/06 (British Crime Survey) Home Office Crime Statistics

Indicator	Quantified data (Blaenau Gwent)	Comparators (Quantified data for South Wales and Wales/England)	Targets	Trends	Issue identified	SEA topics	Source
		<p>population Apr-Jun 2005 – 26.8 Jul-Sep 2005 – 25.4 Oct-Dec 2005 – 25.6 Jan-Mar 2006 – 23.9</p> <p>England/Wales Total number of offences Apr-Jun 2005 – 1,400,465 Jul-Sep 2005 – 1,374,201 Oct-Dec 2005 – 1,374,886 Jan-Mar 2006 – 1,323,048</p> <p>Offences per 1000 population Apr-Jun 2005 – 26.4 Jul-Sep 2005 – 25.9 Oct-Dec 2005 – 25.9 Jan-Mar 2006 – 24.9</p> <p>Overall crime rates (per 1,000 population) in Wales 2005/06: 87</p> <p>Overall crime rate (per 1,000 population) 2005/06 for England and Wales: 103</p>					
Housing Completions	<p>Housing completions of all tenures (2002): 35</p> <p>Jan – Mar 2004</p> <p>Private Sector Starts - 21 Completions - 6</p>	<p>South East Jan – Mar 2004</p> <p>Private Sector Starts – 1,068 Completions – 952</p> <p>Registered Social Landlords</p>			<p>Housing completion rates in 2002 were very low. No trend data has been sourced as yet. However, continuation at this level would seriously undermine aspirations for growth in the County Borough.</p>	<p>Population Human Health Soil Landscape Material Assets</p>	<p>Welsh Housing Statistics 2002 (Map 77, National SEA of WSP)</p> <p>Welsh Housing Statistics quarterly - Jan - Mar – 2004 - http://new.wales.gov.uk/legacy_en/keypubstatistics</p>

Indicator	Quantified data (Blaenau Gwent)	Comparators (Quantified data for South Wales and Wales/England)	Targets	Trends	Issue identified	SEA topics	Source
	Registered Social Landlords Starts - 0 Completions - 0	Starts - 84 Completions - 74 Wales 2002 total: 8,530 Jan – Mar 2004 Private Sector Starts – 2,191 Completions – 1,753 Registered Social Landlords Starts - 122 Completions - 127					forwales/content/publication/housing/2004/sb73-2004/sb73-2004.pdf
Central Heating: characteristics of dwellings	2001 <i>With central heating and sole use of bath/shower and toilet (households)</i> Count – 28,802 Percentage – 97.35% <i>Without central heating and sole use of bath/shower and toilet (households)</i> Count – 27 Percentage – 0.09% <i>Without central heating , with sole use of bath/shower and toilet (households)</i> Count – 712 Percentage – 2.41% <i>With central heating, without sole use of bath/shower and toilet (households)</i> Count – 44 Percentage – 0.15%	Wales 2001 <i>With central heating and sole use of bath/shower and toilet (households)</i> Count – 1,115,461 Percentage – 92.26% <i>Without central heating and sole use of bath/shower and toilet (households)</i> Count – 1,878 Percentage – 0.16% <i>Without central heating , with sole use of bath/shower and toilet (households)</i> Count – 88,911 Percentage – 7.35% <i>With central heating, without sole use of bath/shower and</i>			In general terms Blaenau Gwent performs above average in these statistics, with only a small minority of households not enjoying central heating and sole use of bath/shower and toilet. However, a count of 712 households without central heating is a notable statistic, suggesting that there is room for improvement in the quality of the existing housing stock.	Population Human Health Air Climatic Factors	2001 Census

Indicator	Quantified data (Blaenau Gwent)	Comparators (Quantified data for South Wales and Wales/England)	Targets	Trends	Issue identified	SEA topics	Source
		toilet (households) Count – 2,798 Percentage – 0.23%					
Housing benefit	All claimants of housing benefit/council tax benefit (count) 2005 9,585 Percentage of people claiming housing benefit (ward data) Nantyglo - 34.8 EV North - 28.2 Sirhowy - 28.0 Tred C&W - 27.9 Cwmtillery - 26.9 Rassau - 25.9 Blaina - 25.0 Llanhilleth - 24.8 Beaufort - 24.6 Brynmawr - 22.7 EV South - 21.3 Badminton - 19.6 Georgetown - 14.0 Cwm - 13.9 Abertillery - 13.8 Six Bells - 13.5	South East All claimants of housing benefit/council tax benefit 2005 (count) 149,280 Wales All claimants of housing benefit/council tax benefit 2005 (count) 292,045			The wards of Nantyglo, Ebbw Vale North and South Tredegar and Cwmtillery have high percentages of people claiming housing benefit.	Population Human Health	Health and social needs June 2005 Blaenau Gwent
Council Tax Benefit	Percentage of households claiming council tax benefit (ward data)(Dec 2000) Nantyglo - 39.1 Sirhowy - 33.2 EV North - 32.6 Cwmtillery - 32.3 Tred C&W - 31.9 Llanhilleth - 30.6 Rassau - 29.0 Beaufort - 27.8	South East All claimants of housing benefit/council tax benefit 2005 (count) 149,280 Wales All claimants of housing			The wards of Nantyglo, Sirhowy, Ebbw Vale North and South Tredegar and Cwmtillery have high percentages of people claiming Council Tax benefit and housing benefit. This suggests that these wards are suffering particularly from low incomes, or have high proportions of single person households, either of which may be an	Population Human Health	Health and social needs June 2002 Blaenau Gwent

Indicator	Quantified data (Blaenau Gwent)	Comparators (Quantified data for South Wales and Wales/England)	Targets	Trends	Issue identified	SEA topics	Source
	Blaina - 27.7 Brynmawr - 26.4 EV South - 24.9 Badminton - 24.6 Six Bells - 21.7 Cwm - 19.2 Abertillery - 19.0 Georgetown - 17.9	<i>benefit/council tax benefit 2005 (count)</i> 292,045			indication of pockets of deprivation.		
Religion or Faith	2001 <i>Christian</i> – 44,973 <i>Buddhist</i> – 86 <i>Hindu</i> – 51 <i>Jewish</i> – 11 <i>Muslim</i> – 152 <i>Sikh</i> – 26 <i>Any other religion</i> – 161 <i>No religion</i> – 17,575 <i>Not stated</i> – 7,029	2001 Wales <i>Christian</i> – 2,087,242 <i>Buddhist</i> – 5,407 <i>Hindu</i> – 5,439 <i>Jewish</i> – 2,256 <i>Muslim</i> – 21,739 <i>Sikh</i> – 2,015 <i>Any other religion</i> – 6,909 <i>No religion</i> – 537,935 <i>Not stated</i> – 234,143			The majority of residents in the borough in 2001 were Christians (44,973, approx 64%) and only very small minorities of other religions, Muslim being the 2 nd highest religion in terms of representation with 152 residents practising the faith. There was also a large number of people who stated having no religion or did not state any religion. The sheer difference in numbers of religious groups could mean that problems relating to social exclusion and integration may occur in the borough and the LDP will need to be sensitive to this.	Population	Neighbourhood Statistics (2001)

Indicator	Quantified data (Blaenau Gwent)	Comparators (Quantified data for South Wales and Wales/England)	Targets	Trends	Issue identified	SEA topics	Source
Average House Prices	H.M Land Registry Oct-Dec 2003 Detached - £106,004 Semi-detached - £58,501 Terraced - £40,226 Flat/Maisonette - £23,050	England & Wales Average house price £131,462 (2006) UK average £201,090 (Dec 2006)		Blaenau Gwent Dec 2000 - £36,558 Dec 2001 - £38,019 Dec 2002 - £40,719 Dec 2003 - £51,675 Dec 2004 - £71,179 Dec 2005 - £79,239 Dec 2006 - £88,608 Wales Dec 2000 - £58,209 Dec 2001 - £65,318 Dec 2002 - £80,458 Dec 2003 - £98,120 Dec 2004 - £120,432 Dec 2005 - £125,089 Dec 2006 - £136,419	The average house price for Blaenau Gwent in 2006 was nearly £50,000 less than that of the Welsh average (£136,419). This suggests that Blaenau Gwent may be one of the less desirable authorities in which to live in Wales. As it is an average, it may also be a reflection on the nature of the overall housing stock, which may in general terms be more modest than other parts of Wales (i.e. smaller properties, lots of terraces and a high representation of flats) and also of affordability problems as large percentage of households on low incomes. Trend data do, however, indicate that the area has seen a substantial increase in house prices in the last six years, broadly tracking the proportional increase in prices across the Principality.	Population Human Health	Land Registry Residential Property Price Report, January-March 2003 (Map 70, National SEA of WSP) http://www.landregistry.gov.uk/houseprices/housepriceindex/report/default.asp Blaenau Gwent Housing strategy 2004 - 2009
Condition of Housing Stock	2003 - 31,387 households (total) (2.6% Welsh Housing Stock) 2003 - 94% (29,585) have people residing; remaining 6% (1,802) vacant Terraced House - 55.3% Semi-detached - 24.5%	Wales 2000 23% of dwellings had repair costs over £1,000 13% of homes were classified as unfit;			Many of the houses built pre 1919 may be in need of repair and modernisation and are likely to be less energy efficient than more modern properties. The percentage of unfit properties and those in	Population Human Health Air Climatic Factors Material Assets	Blaenau Gwent UDP http://www.jrf.org.uk/knowledge/findings/housing/H209.asp http://www.jrf.org.uk/knowledge/findings/housing/n10.asp

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Indicator	Quantified data (Blaenau Gwent)	Comparators (Quantified data for South Wales and Wales/England)	Targets	Trends	Issue identified	SEA topics	Source
	<p>Detached – 9.4% Purpose built flats – 8.5% Flats in Commercial building – 1.1% Converted/shared house – 1% Caravans/mobile home – 0.2%</p> <p>55% of housing stock was terraced properties built pre 1919 (2001)</p> <p>(2001) - 8% of private properties considered unfit (1,740) Further 12% needed substantial repair (2,610)</p> <p>Owner Occupied Stock</p> <p>Terraced – 69% Semi-detached – 16% Detached – 9% Flats – 3% Other 3%</p> <p>Council Owned Stock</p> <p>4 bed house – 1% 3 bed house – 52% 2 bed house – 17% 2 bed flat – 13% 1 bed flat – 1% OAP accommodation - 12% Sheltered housing – 4%</p>	<p>more than one in twenty lacked one or more basic amenities; one in five required repairs costing £1,500 or more.</p>			<p>need of substantial repair is considerable – this could be a reflection of low incomes and deprivation.</p> <p>The majority of the owner occupied housing stock is terraced housing. This may meet current needs for the area but does not give residents a choice of housing type in Blaenau Gwent or allow residents to meet their housing aspirations within Blaenau Gwent. It also means limited suitable provision is available for single people within the owner occupier sector.</p> <p>The vast majority of the council housing stock of Blaenau Gwent is 2-3 bed family accommodation and provision for the elderly. There is very little single person housing or housing to meet the needs of large families.</p>		
Household Size and Tenure	<p>2001 Average Household Size: 2.34 Average Number of Rooms</p>	<p>2001 South East Average Household Size: 2.396</p>		<p>Blaenau Gwent 1991 <i>Percentage of households non-owner occupied</i></p>	<p>The average household size is similar to that of the Welsh average. However, the average number of rooms is lower than the</p>	<p>Population Human Health</p>	<p>ONS, 2001 Census (KS18 – Tenure, KS20 – Household Composition, UV85 – Residents in Households)</p>

Indicator	Quantified data (Blaenau Gwent)	Comparators (Quantified data for South Wales and Wales/England)	Targets	Trends	Issue identified	SEA topics	Source
	<p>per Household: 5.14</p> <p>Housing tenure</p> <p>Owner occupied – 62.62 Rented from Council – 24.34 Housing association/registered social landlord – 4.53 Private landlord or letting agency – 6.1 Other – 2.41</p> <p>Communal Establishments</p> <p>People resident in communal establishments – 0.99 People resident in communal establishments of which people sleeping rough – 0.00 People resident in households – 99.01</p>	<p>Average Number of Rooms per Household: 5.517</p> <p>Owner occupied – 72.29 Rented from Council – 13.59 Housing association/registered social landlord – 4.75 Private landlord or letting agency – 6.46 Other – 2.91</p> <p>Communal Establishments</p> <p>People resident in communal establishments – 1.42 People resident in communal establishments of which people sleeping rough – 0.00 People resident in households – 98.58</p> <p>National average household size: 1.87</p> <p>National household tenure:</p> <p>Owner occupied: 71.3% Social rented: 17.9% Private rented: 7.4% Other rented: 3.3%</p>		<p><i>by ward</i></p> <p>Nantyglo - 61.0 Rassau - 50.3 Tredegar Central & West - 48.6 Ebbw Vale North - 48.5 Cwmtillery - 44.3 Sirhowy - 43.3 Llanhilleth - 43.2 Blaina - 42.1 Brynmawr - 40.9 Beaufort - 39.6 Badminton - 37.3 Ebbw Vale South - 35.6 Cwm - 19.7 Georgetown - 17.1 Six Bells - 14.5 Abertillery - 13.3</p> <p>2000 <i>Percentage of housing owned by local authority</i></p> <p>Nantyglo - 52.8 Rassau - 43.0 EV North - 36.2 Sirhowy - 33.9 Badminton - 31.3 Tred C&W - 30.7 Cwmtillery - 30.6 Beaufort - 30.6 Llanhilleth - 28.3 Blaina - 27.4 Brynmawr - 26.4 EV South - 24.3 Georgetown - 19.7 Cwm - 9.5 Abertillery - 2.0</p>	<p>Welsh average.</p> <p>The percentage of owner occupied housing is less than the Welsh average. This may reflect residents' inability to afford to buy housing in Blaenau Gwent, even though the average house price is relatively low. There is also a high percentage of homes rented from the council - 24.34% compared to 13.59% across Wales. Linked to this, trend data indicates that although the proportion of homes not owner-occupied has decreased since 1991, in certain wards the percentage remains considerable (e.g. Nantyglo, Rassau and Sirhowy).</p>		<p>ONS, 2001 Census (Map 74, National SEA of WSP)</p> <p>Health and social needs June 2002 Blaenau Gwent</p>

Indicator	Quantified data (Blaenau Gwent)	Comparators (Quantified data for South Wales and Wales/England)	Targets	Trends	Issue identified	SEA topics	Source
				Six Bells - 2.0			
Council tax bands (2000)	<p>Blaenau Gwent</p> <p>A – 55.16% B – 27.18% C – 9.26% D – 4.91% E – 2.94% F – 0.44% G – 0.04% H – 0.06% X – 0%</p> <p>A & B Llanhilleth - 94.9 EV North - 93.1 Cwmtillery - 93.1 Abertillery - 92.1 Six Bells - 92.1 Blaina - 90.9 EV South - 90.2 Cwm - 85.4 Nantyglo - 84.3 Tred C&W - 82.6 Georgetown - 75.0 Brynmawr - 74.4 Rassau - 74.2 Sirhowy - 72.5 Badminton - 69.3 Beaufort - 60.6</p> <p>G & H Brynmawr - 0.28 Tred C&W - 0.16 Cwm - 0.16 Beaufort - 0.12 EV South - 0.10 Nantyglo - 0.10 EV North - 0.09 Rassau - 0.07 Blaina - 0.05 Cwmtillery -0.04</p>	<p>South East Average</p> <p>A – 22% B – 26% C – 19% D – 13% E – 11% F – 5% G – 4% H – 0% X – 0%</p> <p>Wales Average</p> <p>A – 20% B – 25% C – 20% D – 15% E – 12% F – 5% G – 3% H – 0% X – 0%</p>			<p>83.4% of housing in Blaenau Gwent is within Council tax bands A & B. Seven of the sixteen electoral divisions have more than 90% of housing within these two bands.</p> <p>0.09% of housing in Blaenau Gwent is within council tax bands G & H. This suggests that the overall size and quality of housing stock in the County Borough is relatively modest, particularly in the regional context.</p>	Population	Health and social needs June 2002 Blaenau Gwent

Indicator	Quantified data (Blaenau Gwent)	Comparators (Quantified data for South Wales and Wales/England)	Targets	Trends	Issue identified	SEA topics	Source
	Sirhowy - 0.04 Llanhilleth - 0.00 Abertillery - 0.00 Six Bells - 0.00 Georgetown - 0.00 Badminton - 0.00						
Population	<p>2001 (census) 70,064</p> <p>2003 (UDP) 68,900</p> <p>6.44 per hectare (2001) (10,876 hectares)</p> <p>Ebbw Vale = 23,600 Abertillery = 16,600 Tredegar = 15,000 Nantyglo & Blaina = 9,100 Brynmawr = 5,600</p>	<p>South East 1,393,645</p> <p>2001 Average per hectare 6.09 (280,823 hectares)</p> <p>Wales 2,903,085</p> <p>2001 Average per hectare 4.07 (2,074,201 hectares)</p>		<p>Blaenau Gwent <i>Population change</i> 1999 – 2002 -4.63%</p> <p>1982 – 2002 -7.2%</p> <p><i>Population Decline</i> 1981 – 1991 5.84%</p> <p>1981 – 1991 Decline of 4% in 5 -24 year old age group</p> <p>1921 - population 127,611 (peak)</p> <p>1951 – 1991 20% population decline in BG</p> <p>1981 – 1991 6% decline though out migration</p> <p>1991 – population 73,250</p> <p>2011 – projection 73,725</p>	<p>Since 1921 when the population was 127,611, Blaenau Gwent has experienced substantial population decline. Between 1982 and 2002 it experienced a 7.2% drop. The population in 1991 was 73,250 and the population in 2003 was 68,900, over 100 less than two years previous. The future projections for 2011 only estimate the population to be 500 more than the 1991 figure; However, the South East of Wales and Wales as a whole have experienced population increase since 1999, suggesting Blaenau Gwent is becoming less of a desirable place to live and out migration is contributing to population decline.</p>	Population Human Health	ONS, 2001 Census (UV01 – Population) ONS, 2001 Census (Map 39, National SEA of WSP) WSP Topic Paper J: Population Unitary Authority Profiles, WAG

Indicator	Quantified data (Blaenau Gwent)	Comparators (Quantified data for South Wales and Wales/England)	Targets	Trends	Issue identified	SEA topics	Source
				<p>South East <i>Population change 1999 – 2002</i> 0.034%</p> <p>Wales <i>Population Growth 1999 – 2002</i> 1.59% 1982 – 2002 4.1%</p>			
Population Age Profile (%)	<p>(0 – 4) – 5.6%</p> <p>(5 – 15) – 15.7%</p> <p>(16 – 19) – 4.91%</p> <p>(20 – 24) – 32.3%</p> <p>(45 – 64) – 24.6%</p> <p>(65+) – 16.89%</p>	<p>South East (average)</p> <p>(0 – 4) – 6.07%</p> <p>(5 – 15) – 15.05%</p> <p>(16 – 19) – 5.19%</p> <p>(20 – 24) – 33.85%</p> <p>(45 – 64) – 23.85%</p> <p>(65+) – 16.00%</p>		<p>Blaenau Gwent <i>Population change by age group 0-25 age group 1981 – 2001 (%)</i> -19%</p> <p>Wales <i>Population change by age group 0-25 age group 1981 – 2001 (%)</i> -11%</p>	<p>The population of 16 – 19 year olds is the lowest percentage age group. 45 – 64 and 65+ age groups are slightly higher than the South East average suggesting there is an ageing population. The percentage of 0 – 4 year olds is also lower than the South East average by almost 1%.</p> <p>Population change In the 0 – 25 years olds range in Blaenau Gwent from 1981 – 2001 saw a 19% decrease whereas Wales only experienced an 11% decrease.</p>	Population	Census 2001
Ethnic Diversity (percentage)	<p><i>Asian or Asian British</i> – 0.31</p> <p><i>Black or Black British</i> – 0.09</p> <p><i>Chinese or other</i> – 0.17</p> <p><i>Mixed</i> – 0.25</p> <p><i>White</i> – 99.17</p>	<p>South East</p> <p><i>Asian or Asian British</i> – 1.39</p> <p><i>Black or Black British</i> – 0.40</p> <p><i>Chinese or other</i> – 0.51</p> <p><i>Mixed</i> – 0.85</p>			<p>Ethnic populations make up less than 1% of the Blaenau Gwent population, with over 99% being white in ethnic origin. For those minority groups, integration and social inclusion may be a problem.</p>	Population	<p>ONS, 2001 Census (KS06A – Ethnic Group and Identification as Welsh)</p> <p>ONS, 2001 Census (KS06A – Ethnic Group and Identification as Welsh)</p>

Indicator	Quantified data (Blaenau Gwent)	Comparators (Quantified data for South Wales and Wales/England)	Targets	Trends	Issue identified	SEA topics	Source
	<p>People Identifying themselves as Welsh – 12.01</p>	<p>White – 96.85</p> <p>People Identifying themselves as Welsh – 13.28</p> <p>Wales</p> <p>Asian or Asian British – 0.9%</p> <p>Black or Black British – 0.3%</p> <p>Chinese or other – 0.04%</p> <p>Mixed – 0.6%</p> <p>White – 97.9%</p> <p>People Identifying themselves as Welsh – 14.4%</p>			<p>There is a slightly lower proportion of people identifying themselves as Welsh in Blaenau Gwent than the South East regional or Welsh national averages (12.01% compared to 13.28% and 14.4% respectively).</p>		<p>WSP Topic Paper J: Population</p>
<p>Percentage of Welsh Speakers</p>	<p>2001 Welsh speakers as a percentage of total population aged 3 and over. Either speaks, reads or writes Welsh – 11.13</p> <p>Reads Welsh – 8.58</p> <p>Speaks Welsh – 9.47</p> <p>Understands spoken Welsh – 9.02</p> <p>Writes Welsh – 7.84</p>	<p>2001 Wales</p> <p>Aged 3 and over - 20.8%</p> <p>Aged 3 – 15 – 44%</p>			<p>Approximately 90% of the County Borough's population don't speak Welsh or have no Welsh speaking communications skills. This could be interpreted as a reflection of a lack of strong cultural heritage in the County Borough. It may also be an indication of difficulty in accessing welsh medium education.</p>	<p>Population</p>	<p>ONS, 2001 Census (UV84 – Welsh Language Skills)</p> <p>WSP Topic Paper J: Population</p> <p>2004 Welsh Language Use Survey, Welsh Language Board</p> <p>Blaenau Gwent UDP</p>

Indicator	Quantified data (Blaenau Gwent)	Comparators (Quantified data for South Wales and Wales/England)	Targets	Trends	Issue identified	SEA topics	Source
Net migration	Net migration of 16-24 year olds 1999-2001. -2.7% Net migration of 25-44 years olds 1999-2001 -1.1%	Wales Net migration of 16-24 year olds 1999-2001. -1.0% Net migration of 25-44 years olds 1999-2001 0.3%			The younger generation support the older generation in terms of contributing to the economy. The net out migration of young people from the County Borough will therefore prove unsustainable if the trend continues over time. In addition, if the young population are leaving with good levels of education then the out migration of skilled young workers may act as a disincentive for potential business investment in the area.	Population	ONS, 2001 Census (Maps 42 and 42a, National SEA of WSP)
Dependant Children	2001 <i>Households with dependant children (all ages)</i> Count – 9,447 Percentage – 31.93% <i>Households with an adult in employment with dependant children</i> Count – 2,583 Percentage – 8.73%	2001 Wales <i>Households with dependant children (all ages)</i> Count – 365,553 Percentage – 30.23% <i>Households with an adult in employment with dependant children</i> Count – 73,013 Percentage – 6.04%			The percentages of households with dependant children and adults in employment with dependant children are higher than the national averages. With Blaenau Gwent being a low earning area, the quality of life for the dependant children in these households might potentially be relatively low. As such, this statistic may be an indication of pockets of deprivation.	Population Human Health	Neighbourhood statistics Census 2001 (KS21)
Lone Parent Households	1991 <i>Male – 224 (count)</i> <i>In full time employment – 43.75%</i> <i>In part time employment – 4.91%</i> <i>Female – 2,427 (count)</i>	South East <i>Male – 3,875 (count)</i> <i>Female – 42,164 (count)</i> Total – 46,039 Average			There are high percentages of lone parent households in Rassau, Nantyglo and Ebbw vale North and South. Lone parent households are more likely to earn less and seek benefits, therefore putting less money back into the economy. Children in those households are	Population Human Health	Health and social needs June 2002 Blaenau Gwent (1991 census) Neighbourhood Statistics 2001 census (KS22)

Indicator	Quantified data (Blaenau Gwent)	Comparators (Quantified data for South Wales and Wales/England)	Targets	Trends	Issue identified	SEA topics	Source
	<p><i>In full time employment – 16.56%</i> <i>In part time employment – 19.61%</i></p> <p>Total – 2,651 (count)</p> <p><i>Percentage of lone parent households by ward.</i></p> <p>Rassau - 7.5 Nantyglo - 6.3 Ebbw Vale North - 6.1 Ebbw Vale South - 5.2 Beaufort - 4.5 Sirhowy - 4.4 Tredegar Central & West - 4.3 Llanhilleth - 4.2 Blaina - 4.1 Brynmawr - 3.7 Cwm - 3.4 Cwmtillery - 3.3 Six Bells - 3.3 Abertillery - 2.6 Badminton - 1.9 Georgetown - 1.5</p>	<p>Male – 388 (count) <i>In full time employment – 49.1%</i> <i>In part time employment – 5.14%</i></p> <p>Female – 4,216 (count) <i>In full time employment – 18.5%</i> <i>In part time employment – 23.6%</i></p> <p>Wales</p> <p><i>Male – 8,134 (count)</i> <i>Female – 79,831 (count)</i></p> <p>Total – 87,965 (count)</p> <p>Average</p> <p>Male – 370 (count) <i>In full time employment – 51%</i> <i>In part time employment – 6.3%</i></p> <p>Female – 3,629 (count) <i>In full time employment – 18.7%</i> <i>In part time employment –</i></p>			<p>more likely to have a lesser quality of life and experience other types of deprivation.</p>		

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Indicator	Quantified data (Blaenau Gwent)	Comparators (Quantified data for South Wales and Wales/England)	Targets	Trends	Issue identified	SEA topics	Source
		25.7%					
Percentage of second homes in the south east	2001 <i>Unoccupied spaces (second residence or holiday home accommodation) as a percentage of all unoccupied household spaces.</i> 2.1%	2001 Wales Average national percentage 23.2%			Only 2.1% of residences were unoccupied in Blaenau Gwent in 2001, which is very low relative to the Welsh average and indicates that it is not a place of choice to own a second home or have holidays in.	Population	ONS, 2001 Census (UV53 – Housing Stock)
Percentage of Population Born outside Wales	2001 7.9%	2001 Wales 24.6%			This statistic suggests that there is likely to be a strong sense of community identity, with only a very small percentage of the resident population having been born outside Wales.	Population	ONS, 2001 Census (Map 48, National SEA of WSP)
Population Density	2001 <i>Area (hectares)</i> 10,876 <i>Density per hectare</i> 6.44 <i>People per square km</i> 638	2001 South East <i>Area (hectares)</i> 280,823 <i>people per hectare</i> 6.9 Wales <i>Area 2,074,203</i> <i>People per hectare</i> 1.40 <i>People per square km</i> – 141			Blaenau Gwent has a population density that is higher than that of Wales; However, because of the area's typography its population is focused on a small number of relatively densely developed settlements within the valley floors, with much of the surrounding land being undeveloped.	Population	ONS, 2001 Census (UV02 – Population Density)

Indicator	Quantified data (Blaenau Gwent)	Comparators (Quantified data for South Wales and Wales/England)	Targets	Trends	Issue identified	SEA topics	Source
Percentage of low birth weight (LBW)	<p>Percentage of babies born (live and still births) after 24 weeks gestation with low birth weight (less than 2,500g) (2003)</p> <p>Total 65 (9.4%)</p> <p>(1994-98) Ward Data</p> <p>Sirhowy - 13.3 Ebbw Vale South - 10.3 Abertillery - 10.2 Nantyglo - 9.3 Beaufort - 8.6 Blaina - 8.0 Llanhilleth - 8.0 Ebbw Vale North - 7.8 Cwmtillery - 7.7 Cwm - 7.7 Tredegar C&W - 7.5 Georgetown - 7.4 Brynmawr - 6.9 Rassau - 6.3 Six Bells - 5.8 Badminton - 5.6</p>	<p>South East (2003)</p> <p>Total – 1,218</p> <p>Average 121.8 (6.4%)</p> <p>Wales (2003)</p> <p>Total – 2,175</p> <p>Average – 103.5 (7.1%)</p>			<p>Low birth weight babies create greater strain on the health service due to intensive care. They are more typically common among people of poor health, and are also more common in teenage pregnancies. The relatively high percentage of low birth rate babies in Blaenau Gwent may reflect these issues and, as such, suggests particular issues in Sirhowy, Ebbw Vale South, Abertillery and Nantyglo.</p>	Population Human Health	<p>Health and social needs June 2002 Blaenau Gwent</p> <p>Neighbourhood Statistics</p>
Teenage Conceptions	<p>Rate per 1000 (2003) 60.4</p>	<p>South East Rate per 1000 (2003) 45.7</p>			<p>Blaenau Gwent has a teenage conception rate of 60.4, which is considerably above the rate for the South East (45.7 per 1000). This places a considerable burden on health and social services, either through demand for terminations or for additional benefits and support should pregnancies carry to full term. Higher rates of teenage conception are also often linked to</p>	Population Human Health	<p>ONS (Teenage Conceptions, 2003)</p>

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Indicator	Quantified data (Blaenau Gwent)	Comparators (Quantified data for South Wales and Wales/England)	Targets	Trends	Issue identified	SEA topics	Source
					pockets of deprivation.		
Number of Play Areas	<p>Static play areas -53 Visitor play area – 3 Multi-use games areas (MUGAs) – 8 Wheeled sports areas – 10</p> <p>Local Play Areas</p> <p>Beaufont - 3 Cwm – 3 Badminton – 1 Rassau – 2 Ebbw Vale North – 3 Ebbw Vale South – 4 Brynmawr – 3 Abertillery – 2 Six Bells – 3 Llanhilleth – 6 Cwntillery – 5 Nantyglo – 7 Blaina – 5 Tredegar C & W – 1 Sirhowy – 3 Georgetown – 2</p> <p>Visitor Play Areas</p> <p>Abertillery – 1 Tredegar – 1 Brynmawr – 1</p> <p>MUGAs</p> <p>Beaufont - 1 Cwm – 1 Badminton – 1 Abertillery – 1 Llanhilleth – 1 Cwntillery – 1 Nantyglo – 1 Blaina – 1</p>		<p>Local Play Area – 56</p> <p>Visitor Play Areas – 5</p> <p>MUGAs – 16</p> <p>Wheeled Sports Areas - 16</p> <p>1 play area per 250 children under 14</p>		<p>A ratio of 1 play area per 250 children under 14 was originally set (1991 census) to ensure that static play provision was provided across the borough equitably. This ratio will remain the target as demographic figures for this age group have not dramatically changed since 1991 when the ratio was set.</p>		Blaenau Gwent Play Strategy 2004

Indicator	Quantified data (Blaenau Gwent)	Comparators (Quantified data for South Wales and Wales/England)	Targets	Trends	Issue identified	SEA topics	Source
	<p>Wheeled Sports Areas</p> <p>Cwm – 1 Rassau – 1 Ebbw Vale North – 2 Brynawr – 1 Six Bells – 1 Cwntillery – 1 Blaina – 1 Tredegar C & Wt – 2</p>						
General Health of Population	<p>2001 Proportion with a 'good' general state of health 59.38</p>	<p>2001 South East Proportion with a 'good' general state of health – 64.48</p> <p>Wales Proportion with a 'good' general state of health – 65.06%</p>			The county borough has a significantly lower proportion of people with a good general state of health than that of the South East and Wales.	Population Human Health	ONS, 2001 Census
Proportion of people with a limiting long-term illness	<p>2001 28.26%</p> <p>People with limiting long-term illness – 19,798</p> <p>People without a limiting long-term illness – 50,266</p>	<p>2001 South East 23.4%</p> <p>Wales 23.3%</p> <p>People with limiting long-term illness – 675,622</p> <p>People without a limiting long-term illness – 2,277,423</p> <p>England 17.9%</p>		Blaenau Gwent Standardised limiting long-term illness	Blaenau Gwent has a higher percentage of people with a limiting long-term illness than that of the South East. This could reflect poorer living conditions and standards of health in the county. Given the industrial legacy of the area, there is also a considerable likelihood that some illnesses are linked to manual labour and/or former mine working.	Population Human Health	ONS, 2001 Census (Map 65, National SEA of WSP) Neighbourhood statistics 2001 Census
Permanently Sick Persons	<p>Percentage of people permanently sick (ward data)(1991)</p> <p>Tredegar C&W - 11.2 Sirhowy - 9.9 Blaina - 9.9</p>				Tredegar, Sirhowy, Blaina, Nantyglo and Cwm had high levels of people permanently sick in 1991. This may reflect poorer the number with limiting long term illnesses, etc from past	Population Human Health	Health and social needs June 2002 Blaenau Gwent

Indicator	Quantified data (Blaenau Gwent)	Comparators (Quantified data for South Wales and Wales/England)	Targets	Trends	Issue identified	SEA topics	Source
	Nantyglo - 9.9 Cwm - 9.8 Llanhilleth - 9.0 Cwmtillery - 8.8 Rassau - 8.6 Six Bells - 8.2 Ebbw Vale North - 8.0 Brynmaur - 8.0 Beaufort - 7.9 Badminton - 7.9 Abertillery - 7.5 Georgetown - 7.1 Ebbw Vale South - 7.1				hazardous industrial work (mining)		
People of working age with disabilities	2001 Percentage of people of working age with disabilities' 21.2%	2001 Wales Percentage of people of working age with disabilities' – 15.2%			The percentage of people of working age with disabilities in Blaenau Gwent is significantly higher than the percentage for Wales, which further reflects the poor health conditions which exist in Blaenau Gwent.	Population Human Health	ONS, 2001 Census (Map 64, National SEA of WSP)
Life expectancy at birth for (i) men (ii) women	2001 life expectancy at birth – males: 73.80 Life expectancy at birth – females: 78.40	2001 Wales Life expectancy at birth – males: 75.8 Life expectancy at birth – females: 80.3			The significantly lower than average figures for life expectancy for both men and women, compared to figures for Wales, highlights the county borough's poor health conditions.	Human Health	ONS, 2001 Census (Life Expectancy at Birth, 2002-2004)
Death Rates by cause from (a) circulatory disease (b) cancer and (c) external causes	Death rate per 1,000 population (2001) 12.7 Death from circulatory disease per 1,000 (2001) 40.9	South East Death rate per 1,000 population (2001) 10.8 Death from circulatory disease per 1,000 (2001)			Blaenau Gwent's death rate per 1000 population is above the regional average by just under 2 per 1000. However, in general terms the statistics for the three principal causes are broadly comparable to the regional	Human Health	Source???

Indicator	Quantified data (Blaenau Gwent)	Comparators (Quantified data for South Wales and Wales/England)	Targets	Trends	Issue identified	SEA topics	Source
	<p>Death from cancer per 1,000 (2001) 26.1</p> <p>Deaths from all external causes per 1,000 (2001) 3.0</p>	<p>39.9</p> <p>Death from cancer per 1,000 (2001) 25.8</p> <p>Deaths from all external causes per 1,000 (2001) 2.8</p> <p>Wales Death from circulatory disease (2003) - 8,600</p> <p>Death from cancer (2003) - 8,400</p>			rates.		
Prevalence of smoking in all adults	<p>2004</p> <p>Proportion of adult smokers 34.0%</p>	<p>2004</p> <p>Wales Proportion of adult smokers 31%</p>		Given the relatively recent introduction of the smoking ban in Wales, it is likely that number of smokers will reduce.	The proportion of adult smokers is 3% higher than the proportion for Wales. Higher numbers of smokers could lead to poorer health and more strain on the health service, with potential decline in economic participation affecting the local economy.	Population Human Health	Digest of Welsh Local Area Statistics 2004
Prevalence of obesity	<p>Proportion of overweight or obese adults (aged 16+) 59%</p>	<p>Wales Proportion of overweight or obese adults (aged 16+) 54%</p>			The proportion adults (aged 16+) who are obese is 59%, which is 5% higher than the Wales proportion. Obesity can lead to health problems which can create strain on the health service, with potential decline in economic participation affecting the local economy	Population Human Health	Welsh Health Survey 2003/04
Proportion of (i) people consuming five	<p>Proportion of people consuming five fruit or vegetables per day</p>	<p>Wales Proportion of people consuming five fruit</p>			The proportion of people eating 5 or more fruit and vegetables per day is 4%	Population Human Health	Welsh Health Survey 2003/04

Indicator	Quantified data (Blaenau Gwent)	Comparators (Quantified data for South Wales and Wales/England)	Targets	Trends	Issue identified	SEA topics	Source
<i>or more portions of fruit and vegetables per day and (ii) in low-income households.</i>	35%	<i>or vegetables per day</i> 39% <i>Average fruit and vegetable consumption</i> 4.6 portions per day			lower than the Welsh average. A high percentage would mean the county is more likely to be of better health, reducing the strain on the health service.		
Percentage of people aged 16-74 with at least an NVQ level 2 qualifications or equivalent	17,000 (41.1%) (2003)	South East 43.25% (2001) Wales 60.3% (2003)		Blaenau Gwent 30.92% (2001) 1999 – 2000 data <i>are shown by primary school allocated to electoral division.</i> Wales 44% (2001)	The percentage of people with at least NVQ level 2 qualifications was substantially lower than the South East average in 2001, and considerably lower than that for Wales as a whole. There is potential causality between the type of job opportunities available, which do not include a high proportion of high end roles, and possible disincentives to educational achievement. Aspirations may also be lower in the locality as a result of a perceived lack of opportunities.	Population Human Health	ONS, 2001 Census (UV24 – Qualifications)
Proportion of population with at least an NVQ level 4 qualification or equivalent	4,000 (9.5%) (2003)	South East 17.38% (2001) Wales 22.5% (2003)	Blaenau Gwent 9.33% (2001) Wales 22.2% (2001)		Only 9.3% of Blaenau Gwent's population had at least NVQ level 4 qualifications in 2001 compared to the South East which had 17.38% and the Welsh average, which was 22.5%. A lack of high skilled employment opportunities may act as a deterrent for further study in the area. In addition, relatively low educational attainment at school may preclude progression into	Population	ONS, 2001 Census (UV24 – Qualifications) Health and social needs June 2002 Blaenau Gwent

Indicator	Quantified data (Blaenau Gwent)	Comparators (Quantified data for South Wales and Wales/England)	Targets	Trends	Issue identified	SEA topics	Source
Percentage of pupils achieving 5 or more GCSE grade A*-C or equivalent	43%	Wales 51%		Blaenau Gwent June 2000 667 sat GCSE Exams. Of these, 266 pupils achieved five or more A*-C grades (39.8%). Less than 50% of pupils achieved five or more A*- C grades in all except one of the county borough's electoral divisions Llanhilleth - 25.0 Sirhowy - 25.5 Tred C&W - 32.1 Beaufort - 33.3 Georgetown - 34.6 EV North - 36.4 Six Bells - 36.8 Nantyglo - 38.3 Cwm - 38.6 Cwmtillery - 40.0 Rassau - 41.5 EV South - 42.6 Blaina - 45.1 Brynmawr - 45.2 Abertillery - 46.3 Badminton - 75.0	further education. Less than 50% of the school population are achieving 5 or more GCSEs grade A*-C. Llanhilleth and Sirhowy have particular issues with low attainment. This mightreflect poor quality lifestyles, and with less people achieving higher grades the ability to attract investment by higher skilled businesses is less likely. A lower skilled workforce will also have implications in terms of the manner in which the local economy can expand in the future.	Population	Unitary Authority Profiles, WAG Health and social needs June 2002 Blaenau Gwent
Proportion of the population with no qualifications	13,000 (30.4%) (2003)	South East 34.37% (2001) Wales	Blaenau Gwent 45.02% (2001)	Compared to 2001, the statistics suggest that the	The high percentage of the population with no qualifications is likely to lead to unemployment or	Population	ONS, 2001 Census (UV24 – Qualifications) Local Area Labour Force

Indicator	Quantified data (Blaenau Gwent)	Comparators (Quantified data for South Wales and Wales/England)	Targets	Trends	Issue identified	SEA topics	Source
		17.8 (2003)	Wales 33% (2001)	trend is moving in a positive direction, with a significant reduction in the proportion of the population with no qualifications.	low skilled, low paid work.		Survey (Mar 2003-Feb 2004)
Number of adults engaged in adult education activities	Number of residents aged 19+ enrolled at further education institutions (2003/04): 4360 6.3% total population	Wales Number of residents aged 19+ enrolled at further education institutions (2003/04): 195,960 6.8% total population			The relatively small proportion of the total population enrolled in further education is likely to have a knock on effect on the economy in terms of development of higher skilled, higher paid jobs.	Population	Further Education, Work-Based Learning and Community Learning in Wales Statistics: 2003/04, Welsh Assembly Government
Percentage of non-attendance in primary and secondary schools	<i>Percent non-attendance for schools within each of the electoral divisions at primary and secondary school level combined (1999 – 2000)</i> Tredegar C&W - 11.4 Ebbw Vale North - 10.1 Cwmtillery - 9.8 Rassau - 9.4 Nantyglo - 9.2 Blaina - 9.0 Sirhowy - 9.0 Cwmtillery - 8.9 Llanhilleth - 8.4 Badminton - 8.3 Abertillery - 8.3 Brynmawr - 8.0 Six Bells - 7.8 Georgetown - 7.4 Ebbw Vale South - 7.1 Beaufort - 7.1				Tredegar and Ebbw Vale north have relatively higher percentages of non attendance in primary and secondary schools, likely to lead to lower educational attainment. Low attendance records can also be a reflection on deprivation.	Population	Health and social needs June 2002 Blaenau Gwent Health and social needs June 2002 Blaenau Gwent

Indicator	Quantified data (Blaenau Gwent)	Comparators (Quantified data for South Wales and Wales/England)	Targets	Trends	Issue identified	SEA topics	Source	
Truancy Rates	<p><i>Absenteeism by pupils of compulsory school age in all maintained primary and secondary schools and special schools.</i></p> <p>Primary Schools (2006) All absence – 8.4% Unauthorised Absence – 0.6</p> <p>Secondary Schools (2006) All absence – 10.3% Unauthorised Absence – 1.8%</p>	<p>South East Average</p> <p>Primary Schools (2006) All absence – 7.7% Unauthorised Absence – 1.2%</p> <p>Secondary Schools (2006) All absence – 10.6% Unauthorised Absence – 1.82%</p> <p>Wales</p> <p>Primary Schools (2006) All absence – 7.5% Unauthorised Absence – 1.0</p> <p>Secondary Schools (2006) All absence – 9.8% Unauthorised Absence – 1.7%</p>		<p>Blaenau Gwent</p> <p>Primary Schools</p> <p>2002/03 All absence – 7.2% Unauthorised Absence – 0.5%</p> <p>2003/04 All absence – 7.7% Unauthorised Absence – 0.8%</p> <p>2004/05 All absence – 8.0% Unauthorised Absence – 0.7%</p> <p>Secondary Schools</p> <p>2002/03 All absence – 9.9% Unauthorised Absence – 1.0%</p> <p>2003/04 All absence – 9.9% Unauthorised Absence – 2.3%</p>				<p>http://new.wales.gov.uk/docrepos/40382/40382313/statistics/schools-2006/sdr143-2006.pdf?lang=en</p> <p>http://new.wales.gov.uk/docrepos/40382/40382313/statistics/schools/1152752/sdr24-2007.pdf?lang=en</p>

Indicator	Quantified data (Blaenau Gwent)	Comparators (Quantified data for South Wales and Wales/England)	Targets	Trends	Issue identified	SEA topics	Source
				<p>2004/05 <i>All absence</i> – 9.5%</p> <p><i>Unauthorised Absence</i> – 1.5%</p> <p>South East Average Primary Schools</p> <p>2002/03 <i>All absence</i> – 7.4%</p> <p><i>Unauthorised Absence</i> – 0.8%</p> <p>2003/04 <i>All absence</i> – 6.9%</p> <p><i>Unauthorised Absence</i> – 1%</p> <p>2004/05 <i>All absence</i> – 7.2%</p> <p><i>Unauthorised Absence</i> – 1%</p> <p>Secondary Schools</p> <p>2002/03 <i>All absence</i> – 9.81%</p> <p><i>Unauthorised Absence</i> – 2.59%</p>			

Indicator	Quantified data (Blaenau Gwent)	Comparators (Quantified data for South Wales and Wales/England)	Targets	Trends	Issue identified	SEA topics	Source
				<p>2003/04 All absence – 9.75%</p> <p>Unauthorised Absence – 1.83%</p> <p>2004/05 All absence – 9.53%</p> <p>Unauthorised Absence – 1.76%</p> <p>Wales Primary Schools</p> <p>2002/03 All absence – 7%</p> <p>Unauthorised Absence – 0.6%</p> <p>2003/04 All absence – 6.7%</p> <p>Unauthorised Absence – 0.75%</p> <p>2004/05 All absence – 6.8%</p> <p>Unauthorised Absence – 0.7%</p> <p>Secondary Schools</p> <p>2002/03</p>			

Indicator	Quantified data (Blaenau Gwent)	Comparators (Quantified data for South Wales and Wales/England)	Targets	Trends	Issue identified	SEA topics	Source
				All absence – 9.5% Unauthorised Absence – 1.6% 2003/04 All absence – 9.4% Unauthorised Absence – 1.7% 2004/05 All absence – 9.4% Unauthorised Absence – 1.7%			
Level of literacy in adult population	[no data sourced to date]	Wales Entry level or below – 25% Level 1 – 37% Level 2 or above 38%					National Survey of Adult Basic Skills in Wales, 2004, Welsh Assembly Government
Level of numeracy in adult population	[no data sourced to date]	Wales Entry level or below – 53% Level 1 – 25% Level 2 or above – 22%					National Survey of Adult Basic Skills in Wales, 2004, Welsh Assembly Government

Table A2: Baseline Data, Indicators and Trends for Environmental Issues

Indicator	Quantified data (Blaenau Gwent)	Comparators (Quantified data for South Wales and Wales/England)	Targets	Trends	Issue identified	SEA topics	Source
PM₁₀ Concentrations	Background concentrations 2004: 15.9 µg/m ³ 2005: 16 µg/m ³	South East 2004 - 17 µg/m ³ 2005 - 17 µg/m ³		Overall PM ₁₀ concentrations predicted to decrease slightly within South East region by 2010		Air Climatic Factors Human Health	UK National Air Quality Archive (http://www.airquality.co.uk/) 'Air Quality in Wales', Welsh Air Quality Forum (2005)
NO₂ Concentrations	Background concentrations 2004: 10.1 µg/m ³ 2005: 9.8 µg/m ³	South East 2004 - 12 µg/m ³ 2005 - 12 µg/m ³		Overall NO ₂ concentrations predicted to decrease in the South East region by 2010		Air Climatic Factors Human Health	UK National Air Quality Archive (http://www.airquality.co.uk/) 'Air Quality in Wales', Welsh Air Quality Forum (2005)
National Atmospheric Emissions Inventory (NAEI) levels of key air pollutants (Benzene, 1,3-Butadiene, SO₂)	Benzene – 0.12 -1.3 Butadiene – 0.02 SO ₂ – 5.42	South East Benzene – 0.114 -1.3 Butadiene – 0.28 SO ₂ – 13.224				Air Climatic Factors Human Health	http://www.airquality.co.uk/archive/laqm/laqm.php
Carbon Emissions (tonnes)	Industry & Commercial – 248 (54%) Domestic – 144 (31%) Road Transport – 71 (16%) Land Use Change - -5 (1%) Total - 457 Per Capita CO ₂ (tonnes)- 6.5 Domestic per capita CO ₂ (tonnes) – 2.0 Percentage of regional emissions total originating from Blaenau Gwent	<u>South East</u> Ind & Com – 7119 (52%) Domestic – 3628 (26%) Road Transport – 3023 (22%) Land Use Change - -55 (0.4%) Total – 13,715 Per Capita CO ₂ (tonnes)- 9.8 Domestic per capita CO ₂ (tonnes) – 2.6 <u>Wales</u>			The biggest contributors to CO ₂ emissions in Blaenau Gwent are industrial and commercial (54%) and domestic (31%) sectors. The Wales averages for these sectors are 53% and 25% respectively. However the Percentage of the regional emissions total originating from Blaenau Gwent is only 3.5% for Industrial and Commercial and 4% for Domestic, meaning	Air Climatic Factors Human Health	Defra 2006: http://www.defra.gov.uk/environment/statistics/globatmos/regionalrpt/laregionalco2rpt20061127.xls

Indicator	Quantified data (Blaenau Gwent)	Comparators (Quantified data for South Wales and Wales/England)	Targets	Trends	Issue identified	SEA topics	Source
	Industry & Commercial – 3.5% Domestic – 4.0% Road Transport – 2.3%	Ind & Com - 16,539 (53%) Domestic – 7954 (25%) Road Transport - 7244 (23%) Land Use Change - -433 (1.4%) Total – 31,303 Per Capita CO ₂ (tonnes)- 10.8 Domestic per capita CO ₂ (tonnes) – 2.7			Blaenau Gwent is contributing very little to the total. The share of road transport related CO ₂ emissions in Blaenau Gwent is lower than the Wales average – 16% and 23% respectively. This suggests there may be a low car ownership rate. Blaenau Gwent only contributes 2.3% of the regional Total road transport carbon emissions. Domestic contributions are significantly higher in Blaenau Gwent: 31% compared to the South East and Wales (26% and 25% respectively). This may indicate that there is an above average proportion of energy inefficient housing.		
No. of conservation areas	At the moment there is one conservation area in BG - Bedwelty House and Park (the Park included in Cadw's Register of Parks and Gardens of Special Historic Interest in Wales). Identification of areas worthy of conservation will be constantly under review. Possibilities include Garden City, Ebbw Vale, St. Michael's	The South East Wales region includes a considerable number of designated conservation areas and, in comparison, Blaenau Gwent has relatively little protection of areas of heritage interest.		Number of designated sites under review and likely to increase.	Despite having a considerable number of sites of heritage interest, there is only one designation Conservation Area in the authority. This may result in development pressure eroding the character and value of heritage sites, which in turn may reduce the opportunities for	Cultural Heritage Landscape	The Ebbw Vale Works Environmental Statement 2007 BGCBC, personal communication with Heritage Officer, 23.04.2007

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Indicator	Quantified data (Blaenau Gwent)	Comparators (Quantified data for South Wales and Wales/England)	Targets	Trends	Issue identified	SEA topics	Source
	Church area in Abertillery, St. Illtyds Church area in Brynithel, Castle Street and the Circle, Tredegar. One more area is likely to be designated in the near future.				tourism in the area.		
No. of Listed Buildings and proportion at risk	58 listed buildings with ten listed as Grade II* in recognition of their special historical and architectural importance. The buildings particularly at risk are: -British Steel Tinplate Works General Office - Former Boiler House at Dunlop Semtex Factory -Ebbw Vale Adult Education Centre -Stables and Barn at the Fountain Inn -The Fountain Inn -Milgatw -Agricultural Range at Milgatw -Mount Pleasant Stores -Roundhouse at Roundhouse Farm (1863 AA SW) -Roundhouse at Roundhouse Farm (17086 AB NE) -Agricultural Range at Roundhouse Farm -Former Tredegar Company Shop	5475 in the South East region (c. 550 per LA area).		Without intervention, it is likely that the conditions of listed buildings will continue to deteriorate and an increased no. will enter the at risk register.	Nearly 20% of all the listed buildings in the area are at risk. Continuation of current trends would place these heritage assets at greater risk; however, the LDP provides an opportunity to improve this through regeneration and development that enhances the character of the surroundings and protects the buildings from further threat.	Cultural Heritage Landscape	http://www.blaenau-gwent.gov.uk/leisure/5931.asp Personal correspondence with the BGCBC Heritage Officer on 14.05.07 (new listed building - Aberbeeg Packhorse Bridge).
Archaeological Sites	Bedwellty Park - included in Cadw's Register of 'Parks and Gardens of Special Historic Interest in Wales' <i>Scheduled ancient monuments:</i> - St Illtyd Castle Mound -Incline Haulage Winding Engine, Mynydd Bedwellty -Sirhowy Ironworks	Registered Parks and Historic Gardens - South East approx – 56			The South East has approximately 56 registered historic parks and Gardens: out of 10 authorities Blaenau Gwent only has 1 registration - this is a significantly low proportion. There is an opportunity to improve the Area of Blaenau	Cultural Heritage Landscape	Blaenau Gwent UDP

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Indicator	Quantified data (Blaenau Gwent)	Comparators (Quantified data for South Wales and Wales/England)	Targets	Trends	Issue identified	SEA topics	Source
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Marine Colliery Pumping Engine -Clydach Railroad Section near Brynmawr -Clydach Coal Level -Tredegar Ironworks Cholera Cemetery 				<p>Gwent for tourism and landscape values.</p> <p>The area has a number of scheduled ancient monuments that could provide a basis for tourism.</p>		
No. & area of designated sites	<p>SAC:</p> <p>Usk Bat Sites (one of the best areas in the United Kingdom for lesser horseshoe bat) , 1686.4 ha (partially in the BG area)</p> <p>Site condition by feature name:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Blanket bog (other ombrogenous mire) - Unfavourable – judgement (confidence in assessment - high) • Calcareous grassland - Unfavourable – judgement (medium) • Natural inland rock exposures, screes & upland ledges - Favourable – judgement (medium) • Semi-natural broad-leaved woodland - Unfavourable – judgement (medium) • Heathland - Unfavourable – measured (high) • Raised Bog - Unfavourable – measured (high) • Vascular Plant assemblage (with several individually qualifying species) - Unfavourable - judgement (medium but most species doing ok) • Bryophyte Assemblage (with individually qualifying species) 			<p>The total number of SINC is unknown. The first tranche of designations will include 60 SINC. Subsequent tranches are planned, but it is unclear how many SINC these will contain</p>	<p>The area has a limited number of designated sights some which protect important species. The lack of designation and the Current designations do not reflect the valuable resources in the area. However there are plans for 70 new designations which will add to the ability to protect valuable resources and add to potential for a tourism industry</p>	<p>Landscape Biodiversity Flora and Fauna</p>	<p>The Ebbw Vale Works Environmental Statement 2007</p> <p>Blaenau Gwent Community Plan 2005-2009</p> <p>BGCBC, personal communication with Biodiversity Officer, 20.04.2007</p> <p>BGCBC LBAP 2002</p> <p>SEWBRcC, Biodiversity Search Results: Blaenau Gwent Designations (Sustainability Appraisal LDP), 18/05/2007</p>

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Indicator	Quantified data (Blaenau Gwent)	Comparators (Quantified data for South Wales and Wales/England)	Targets	Trends	Issue identified	SEA topics	Source
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Favourable – judgement (medium) • Lichen Assemblage - Favourable – judgement (medium) • Lesser Horseshoe Bats - Favourable judgement (medium) • Bat Assemblage - Favourable – judgement (medium) • Geology - Karst and Caves - Unknown • Geology - Karst and Caves - Unknown • Lesser Horseshoe Bats - Favourable – judgement (medium) • Lesser Horseshoe Bats - Favourable judgement (medium) • Lesser Horseshoe Bats - Favourable judgement (medium) <p>Cwm Clydach Woodlands / Coedydd Cwm Clydach, 28.81 ha ha (partially in the BG area)</p> <p>Site condition by feature name:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Geology - Lower Carboniferous - Unfavourable – judgement (confidence in assessment - high) • Geology - Upper Carboniferous - Unfavourable – judgement (medium) • Semi-natural broad-leaved woodland - Favourable – measured (medium) • Vascular Plant assemblage - Favourable – judgement (medium) • Fungi Assemblage - 						

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Indicator	Quantified data (Blaenau Gwent)	Comparators (Quantified data for South Wales and Wales/England)	Targets	Trends	Issue identified	SEA topics	Source
	<p>Favourable – judgement (medium)</p> <p>SSSI:</p> <p>Cwm Merddog Woodlands – 23.54 ha Unfavourable condition, recovering</p> <p>Brynmawr Sections - (geological site), 4.36 ha: Unfavourable maintained</p> <p>Mynydd Llangatwg (Mynydd Llangattock) - 1,681.30 ha</p> <p>Site condition by feature name:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Blanket bog (other ombrogenous mire) - Unfavourable – judgement (confidence in assessment - high) • Calcareous grassland - Unfavourable – judgement (medium) • Natural inland rock exposures, screes & upland ledges - Favourable – judgement (medium) • Semi-natural broad-leaved woodland - Unfavourable – judgement (medium) • Heathland - Unfavourable – measured (high) • Raised Bog - Unfavourable – measured (high) • Vascular Plant assemblage (with several individually qualifying species) - Unfavourable - judgement (medium but most species doing ok) • Bryophyte Assemblage (with individually qualifying species) 						

Indicator	Quantified data (Blaenau Gwent)	Comparators (Quantified data for South Wales and Wales/England)	Targets	Trends	Issue identified	SEA topics	Source
	<p>- Favourable – judgement (medium)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lichen Assemblage - Favourable – judgement (medium) • Lesser Horseshoe Bats - Favourable – judgement (medium) • Bat Assemblage - Favourable – judgement (medium) • Geology - Karst and Caves - Unknown <p><i>WTR</i> Silent Valley (SSSI CWM MERDDOG WOODLANDS) 45.70 ha</p> <p><i>National Parks:</i> The Brecon Beacons National Park</p> <p><i>Country Park</i> Brynbach - 121.8249 ha</p> <p><i>NNR</i> CWM CLYDACH - 24.26 ha</p> <p><i>LNRS</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Silent Valley - 51.62 ha (includes Cwm Merddog and Coed Ty'n y Gelli S.S.S.I.). Some of the reserve has been designated a SSSI – for ancient semi natural Woodland; <p><i>Candidate LNRS</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parc Nant-y-Waun - 20.51ha • Sirhowy Hill Woodland & Cardiff Pond - 81.55ha • Beaufort Hills - 81.61ha 						

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Indicator	Quantified data (Blaenau Gwent)	Comparators (Quantified data for South Wales and Wales/England)	Targets	Trends	Issue identified	SEA topics	Source
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Six Bells Colliery Site - 10.31 ha • Garden City - 43.29 ha • Roseheyworth Community Woodlands - 18.75 ha • Trevor Rowson Heritage Park- 9.3 ha • Cwmcellyn Pond - 4.03 ha • Cwmtillery Lakes - 9.88 ha • Parc Bryn Bach – 112.22 ha <p><i>Potential SINCs</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mynydd Manmoel - 294.70ha • Rose Heyworth - 18.70ha • Swffryd-fach - 14.39ha • Coalbrookvale - 19.35ha • Bryn-Bach School - 0.56ha • Beaufort Hill Ponds & Woodland - 63.07ha • Bryn Farm, Brynmawr - 19.31ha • Cefn Bach - 8.58ha • Garnlydan - 49.90ha • St. James Reservoir - 1.71ha • Parc Nant-y-Waun - 10.19ha • Six Bells Colliery Site - 10.28ha • Bourneville Slip, Blaina - 23.14ha • Waun y Pound - 17.9 ha • Mynydd Carn-y-Cefn and Cefn-yr-Arail - 418.00ha • Mynydd Bedwellte - 09.30ha • Waen Rydd Pond Group - 0.19ha • Waun Pwll Dwr Pond Group - 0.09ha • Twyn Blaenant Pond Group - 0.03ha • Ty Picca Pond Group - 0.03ha • Tir Watkin Pond Group - 0.18ha 						

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Indicator	Quantified data (Blaenau Gwent)	Comparators (Quantified data for South Wales and Wales/England)	Targets	Trends	Issue identified	SEA topics	Source
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Old Hafordian Pond & Woodland - 2.10ha • Ponds at West Monmouthshire Golf Course - 0.08 ha • South of Troedygwair - 9.81 ha • Garn-Cam-Isaf - 8.03 ha • East of Penrhiwgwingi - 2.43 ha • Cwmcelyn East - 1.69 ha • Cwmcelyn West - 5.75 ha • North of Hendre Gwyndwr - 8.98 ha • Llanerch Padarn West - 6.70 ha • East of Gwastad Farm - 6.53 ha • Coed y Gilfach - 9.54 ha • Coed Argoed - 10.92 ha • Craig Syffryd - 9.84 ha • Sofrydd Wood - 5.04 ha • Sirhowy Hill Woodlands & Cardiff Pond - 83.27 ha • Cwmcelyn Pond -1.40 ha • Cwmtillery Pond -1.28 ha • Shon Sheffrey's Reservoir Banks - 4.38 ha • Waunlwyd - 12.32 ha • Sheepfold Grasslands -12.36 ha • Tredegar Leisure Centre • Grasslands - 8.65 ha • Highlands Grassland - 3.31 ha • Lower Troedrhiwgwair -7.24 ha • Upper Troedrhiwgwair Grasslands -2.73 ha • Pine Tree House Grassland - 0.69 ha • North Pen-y-Lan Grassland - 0.47 ha • Tredegar Patch Grassland - 3.32 ha 						

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Indicator	Quantified data (Blaenau Gwent)	Comparators (Quantified data for South Wales and Wales/England)	Targets	Trends	Issue identified	SEA topics	Source
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trefil Village Grassland (1 of 2) -4.61 ha • Trefil Village Grassland (2 of 2) - 1.42 ha • South Pen-y-Lan Grassland - 0.45 ha • Hirgan Fields Grassland - 21.87 ha • Fairview Field - 0.71 ha • Garn-ddu Meadow - 0.90 ha • Lower Farm Field - 1.12 ha • The Fountain Inn Meadows - 4.31 ha • Chapel House Field- 4.12 ha • Bedwellty Pits Field -1.64 ha • Blaentillery Farm North - 10.84 ha • Blaentillery Farm South - 4.00 ha • Nine Arches Grassland - 5.53 ha • Milgatw Farm Grassland - 10.71 ha • Coed Troestre - 3.64 ha • West of Blaentillery Farm, Cwmtillery - 3.74 ha • Cwm Big North, Aberbeeg - 5.46 ha • Coedcae Coch, Aberbeeg - 7.19 ha • Industrial Estate Grasslands - 3.72 ha • Darren Due - 0.00 ha • Llanerch Padern East - 2.12 ha • Mulfran, Mynydd Coity, • Mynydd James & Gwastad - 2056.00 ha • Greenmeadow Farm - 37.59 ha • Garden City - 43.33ha 						
<p>Population of species and areas of priority habitat</p>	<p>The Local Biodiversity Action Plan provides a framework for reversing the decline of Blaenau Gwent's wildlife</p>				<p>Current factors affecting the habitat and associated species:</p>	<p>Landscape Biodiversity Flora and</p>	<p>http://biodiversitywales.org.uk/English/LocalToYou/area.aspx?id=18</p>

Indicator	Quantified data (Blaenau Gwent)	Comparators (Quantified data for South Wales and Wales/England)	Targets	Trends	Issue identified	SEA topics	Source
	<p>resource and includes 14 Habitat Action Plans and 21 Species Action Plans</p> <p><i>Species for which action plans have been prepared:</i></p> <p>Group Species</p> <p>Amphibians Great Crested Newt (<i>Triturus cristatus</i>) Birds Skylark (<i>Alauda arvensis</i>) Grey Partridge (<i>Perdix perdix</i>) Butterflies Pearl-bordered Fritillary (<i>Boloria euphrosyne</i>) Mammals Brown Hare (<i>Lepus europaeus</i>) Otter (<i>Lutra lutra</i>) Pipistrelle Bat (<i>Pipistrellus pipistrellus</i>) Lesser Horseshoe Bat (<i>Rhinolophus hipposideros</i>)</p> <p>Priority Habitats: Upland Oakwood Extent: Greater Gwent: Between 500-700 ha Blaenau Gwent: Unknown. More information is needed to fully assess the current status of the upland oak woodland resource in Blaenau Gwent.</p> <p>Upland mixed Ashwoods Extent: Greater Gwent: Estimated as in excess of 600 ha Blaenau Gwent: Unknown</p> <p>Wet woodland Greater Gwent: An area of</p>	<p>Priority Habitats: - Upland oakwood - National: Total area of UK Upland Oak woodlands is between 80,000- 110,000 hectares. Wales: An estimate of 39,000 ha, equivalent to 40% of the UK resource. - Upland mixed ashwoods National: The total resource is uncertain, although it is estimated as 67,500 ha in the UK action plan Wales: An estimate of</p>	<p>Selected targets: - Upland oakwood</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify opportunities for further expansion of existing oak woodland, with a view of expanding it by 10% through planting or natural regeneration. Encourage the 		<p>Upland Oakwood</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Overgrazing mostly by sheep and to a lesser extent rabbits leading to change in the woodland structure, ground flora impoverishment and lack of natural regeneration. Lack of traditional management practices, such as coppicing, leading to neglect and a reduction in structural and age diversity. Invasive species such as sycamore can lead to changes in the composition of the woods. Climate change has potential to change vegetation communities and atmospheric pollution to damage them. Invasive bracken halts natural regeneration. <p>Upland Mixed Ashwoods <i>Current factors affecting the habitat and associated species:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Overgrazing leading to a lack of natural regeneration. Cessation of traditional management practices, especially coppicing, has led to neglect. Invasion by non-native species, such as sycamore, leading to 	Fauna	<p>http://www.ukbap.org.uk/bap.aspx?ID=415</p> <p>BGCBC LBAP 2002</p>

Indicator	Quantified data (Blaenau Gwent)	Comparators (Quantified data for South Wales and Wales/England)	Targets	Trends	Issue identified	SEA topics	Source
	<p>approximately 200- 500 ha is present. Blaenau Gwent: Unknown. More information is needed to fully assess the current status of the wet woodland resource in Blaenau Gwent.</p> <p>Lowland beech and yew woodland Greater Gwent: 279 ha Blaenau Gwent: More information is needed on the extent and condition of surviving beech woodland resource in Blaenau Gwent. Beech and yew woodland has not been subject to extensive replanting although much of the woodland is a remnant of former larger stands especially in the west.</p> <p>Purple moor-grass and rush pasture Greater Gwent: Estimated at 420 ha from Phase 1 Survey (1990), approximately 0.75% of the UK resource. Blaenau Gwent: Unknown</p> <p>Calcareous grassland Greater Gwent: Unknown 52 ha, consisting of 44 hectares of unimproved habitat and 8 hectares of semi improved habitat recorded within the Phase 1 Habitat Survey of Gwent in 1995 (Westwood et al.). Blaenau Gwent: 4.73ha (estimate-there maybe some overlap between upland and</p>	<p>17,000 ha, equivalent to 25% of the UK resource</p> <p>Wet woodland National: The estimated total area of UK wet woodland lies between 50,000 – 70,000 ha.</p> <p>Wales: The estimate for Wales lies between 5,000 – 7,000 ha, equivalent to 10% of the UK resource.</p> <p>Lowland beech and yew woodland National: A habitat limited to southern England and Wales with an estimate total area of 30,000 hectares.</p> <p>Wales: An estimate of 3,000 ha, equivalent to 10% of the UK resource.</p> <p>Purple moor-grass and rush pasture National: 56,000 hectares Wales: 31,000 hectares</p> <p>Calcareous grassland National: 21,900ha - Upland; 33,333ha (estimate) - Lowland Wales: 800ha about 3.6% of the national resource – upland; 1,000 ha at least about 3% of the national resource – lowland.</p> <p>Dwarf Shrub heath UK and Ireland: The total</p>	<p>establishment of a Nursery in the area, which uses stock of only local provenance.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify and designate appropriate woodlands as SINC's. (By 2003) <p>Upland mixed ashwoods Determine the extent, distribution and condition of the resource over 1ha in BGCBC by 2003.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify opportunities for further expansion of existing ash woodland, with a view of expanding it by 15% of the known existing resource through planting or natural regeneration by 2006. Identify and designate appropriate 		<p>changes in the species composition of the woods.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The replacement of the woodlands with conifers after felling. A continuing threat is that these woods remain as conifer plantations for a second rotation where the original ground flora remains intact. Increased ecological isolation resulting from tree / hedgerow removal for agricultural practices. Climate change has potential to change vegetation communities and atmospheric pollution to damage them. Invasive bracken halts natural regeneration. <p>Wet Woodland <i>Current factors affecting the habitat and associated species:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Natural succession leading to development of drier woodland communities Habitat loss through clearance and conversion to other land uses. In particular development along rivers or stream corridors. Man made and natural changes to the hydrological regime on which the woodland depends e.g. flood 		

Indicator	Quantified data (Blaenau Gwent)	Comparators (Quantified data for South Wales and Wales/England)	Targets	Trends	Issue identified	SEA topics	Source
	<p>lowland in this figure.) – upland; Unknown – lowland. The limited resource of calcareous grassland has been severely depleted in recent decades and many remaining areas are now fragmented, with many sites containing small pockets of habitat of less than 1 hectare.</p> <p>Dwarf Shrub heath Gwent: 340 ha. of Lowland Heath: 2460 ha. of upland heath Blaenau Gwent: Unknown</p> <p>Blanket bogs Greater Gwent: An area of approximately 200- 500 ha is present. Blaenau Gwent: Unknown. More information is needed to fully assess the current status of this habitat in Blaenau Gwent.</p> <p>Mesotrophic standing waters Greater Gwent: 5 Candidate lakes are found in Gwent Blaenau Gwent: Approximately 10.9 ha</p> <p>Ponds and temporary water <i>Factors affecting this habitat and associated species:</i> Greater Gwent: Unknown Blaenau Gwent: Little is known about the extent of small ponds in the borough.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agricultural in-filling has been responsible for the loss of many farmland ponds. 	<p>area of lowland heath is 290,000 ha.</p> <p>National: 58,000 ha of lowland heath - 20% of the worlds total: 2,112,000 ha. of upland heath Wales: 62,500 ha.</p> <p>Blanket bogs National: The estimated total area of UK blanket bog is 1,475,000 ha.</p> <p>Wales: The estimate for Wales lies between 5,000 – 7,000 ha, equivalent to 10% of the UK resource</p> <p>Mesotrophic standing waters National: Approximately 600 known or potentially known mesotrophic lakes have been identified as part of the UK Mesotrophic Lakes Inventory but further work is required to quantify the complete resource</p> <p>Wales: A list of 33 sites under consideration as mesotrophic lakes has been established. Further information is required to confirm their status</p> <p>Ponds and temporary water National: There are 295,000 ponds in Britain.</p>	<p>woodlands as SINC's by 2003.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure the management plans and appropriate active management regimes are in place for all designated sites and other key sites by 2005. • Encourage the establishment of a Nursery in the area, which uses stock of only local provenance. <p>Wet woodland</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Determine the extent and distribution of the resource for all sites > 0.5 ha within BG by 2003. • Maintain current extent and improve condition of existing wet woodlands. <p>Once the condition is known management can be</p>		<p>alleviation schemes and subsequent economic development, leading to development of drier woodland types</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of appropriate management e.g. coppicing and inappropriate grazing etc. leading to lack of regeneration or changes in vegetation structure • Fragmentation of woods leading to increased likelihood of loss of wet wood component through development of drier woodland types • Lack of natural regeneration • Alder disease reduces Alder populations, thus changing the composition of alder woods. • Lack of financial support to encourage appropriate management • Invasion by introduced non native species such as Japanese Knotweed and Himalayan balsam which reduces quality of individual woodland sites • Changes in the composition of lower plant communities as a result of atmospheric pollution and global warming. • Water pollution reducing the quality of 		

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Indicator	Quantified data (Blaenau Gwent)	Comparators (Quantified data for South Wales and Wales/England)	Targets	Trends	Issue identified	SEA topics	Source
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Industrial and residential development has led to the loss or compromising of urban fringe pools and ponds through in-filling and draining. • Land-fill schemes continue to threaten the remaining pond resource. • Competition for alternative land-use, e.g. development • Natural in-filling, from sediment and marsh vegetation. • Rubbish tipping. • Over fishing. • Pollution (including mine water seepage and historical chemical dumping) is an on-going problem on many sites. • Lack of management or inappropriate management threatens many sites. • Occasionally over-enthusiastic management can destroy marginal and shallow water features of biodiversity value. <p>Gardens Greater Gwent: Unknown Blaenau Gwent: 25,411 gardens (maximum possible)</p>	<p>Wales: There are 4,500 ponds in Wales.</p> <p>Gardens</p> <p>National: At least 16 million (covering over a thousand square miles). (Readers digest statistics).</p> <p>Wales: Unknown</p>	<p>targeted where required.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify suitable candidates for designation as SINC by 2003. • Ensure appropriate management regimes are in place for all key wet woodland sites, by 2006. • Ensure that there is no loss of the current resource. • Create a further 5-7 ha of wet woodland on an existing wet woodland site by 2010 in line with the Greater Gwent Biodiversity Action group objectives. • Encourage the establishment of a Nursery in the area, which uses stock of only local provenance. 		<p>individual sites</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Difficulty with management due to poor access and boggy condition of site. <p>Lowland Beech and Yew Woodland <i>Beech and yew woodland is affected by the following:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grey squirrels strip the bark from young trees resulting in the death of the trees and changes in age and species composition. • Invasive woodland trees spreading into beech and yew woodland especially sycamore, Acer pseudoplatanus, rhododendron, Rhododendron ponticum and cherry laurel, Prunus laurocerasus. • The predominant old age structure of existing stands makes them prone to drought, storms and disease. • Grazing of the understory, particularly by sheep preventing natural regeneration. • Many owners of woodland lack expertise/interest or are unaware of the incentives available to correctly manage the woodland. • The loss of mature and dying trees will have an 		

Indicator	Quantified data (Blaenau Gwent)	Comparators (Quantified data for South Wales and Wales/England)	Targets	Trends	Issue identified	SEA topics	Source
			<p>Lowland beech and yew woodland Determine the extent and condition of the beech woodland in Blaenau so that by 2003 all woods over 2 hectares within BG should have been surveyed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintain current extent of beech woodlands. Improve the condition of 100% of beech woodland within SSSI's by 2010. Consider the establishment of a site or sites demonstrating good practice in both retention and management of existing beech woodland and the expansion of those 		<p>adverse affect on priority species.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> On steep sites some woodlands are inaccessible making fencing operations difficult and a low priority. Many sites are unstable and subject to land slide. <p>Purple moor-grass and Rush Pasture <i>Current factors affecting the habitat and associated species:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Agricultural improvement through drainage, cultivation, reseeding and fertiliser applications. Inappropriate management, including overgrazing by sheep and too frequent burning. Agricultural abandonment, leading to rankness and scrub encroachment through lack of grazing. Fragmentation and disturbance by developments such as housing, industry and road construction. Afforestation. Inappropriate land reclamation schemes where purple moor-grass and rush pasture is often viewed as 'wasteland'. Limited applicability of 		

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			<p>woodlands by 2015.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Initiate colonisation or planting of 10% of the existing beech woodland, expanding on existing woodland sites by 2010 in line with the Greater Gwent Biodiversity Action Group objectives. <p>Purple moor-grass and rush pasture Define extent and condition of purple moor-grass and rush pasture by completion of the upland survey and other locations (by 2003).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Secure sympathetic management agreements and/or conservation status (SINC) for at least 25% of purple moor-grass and rush 		<p>agri-environment schemes such as Tir Gofal. Much purple moorgrass and rush pasture is found on commons where its is difficult, though not impossible, to apply Tir Gofal.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lack of up to date survey information. Failure to digitise and analyse existing data. Lack of awareness of purple moorgrass and rush pasture within the Local Authority, landowners and the public. <p>Calcareous Grassland <i>Specific factors relating to the habitat decline include:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Industrial and residential development (including sites which are currently proposed for development in Unitary Development Plans). Agricultural 'improvements', including re-seeding and heavy applications of fertiliser and other chemicals. Lack of appropriate management by over-grazing, under-grazing and cessation of grazing (which allows the onset of scrub for example) – a particular problem 		

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			<p>pasture in BG (by 2004).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Seek opportunities to create/recreate 5% of purple moor-grass and rush pasture in BG. (by 2006). <p>Calcareous grassland</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Arrest the depletion of unimproved lowland calcareous grassland throughout the UK. Prepare and maintain a complete record of the habitat resource in BG by 2003. Maintain the ecological characteristics of the existing BG resource of calcareous grassland habitat. Secure appropriate management of calcareous grassland to favourable 		<p>where the habitat is included in common land, where grazing levels can be difficult to influence/control.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Unsympathetic management of road verges and other man-made sites. Fragmentation, isolation and disturbance of the habitat as a result of residential, industrial or road developments. Grant aided woodland planting or commercial forestry. Lack of biological information relating to the habitat and its associations with other habitats/species. An incomplete inventory identifying the extent of the habitat within Blaenau Gwent – sites may exist which have not yet been identified. Limited availability of agri-environment grants and in particular specific financial incentives for the management of lowland calcareous grassland. Lack of awareness of the nature conservation significance of the habitat, and particularly on the part of planning authorities, landowners/managers 		

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			<p>conservation status by 2010.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify sites which can be restored/re-created by an additional 10% of the total BG habitat resource, targeting those sites which are adjacent to or near to existing habitat (via land management and land purchases) where appropriate (e.g. Trefil Quarry). Minimum of 1ha by 2006. <p>Dwarf Shrub heath</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Define extent and condition of dwarf shrub heath by completion of the upland survey and other locations (by 2003). Secure sympathetic 		<p>and national or local government bodies.</p> <p>Dwarf Shrub Heath <i>Factors affecting the habitat and associated species:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Unsuitable grazing levels – too high or too low Erosion from recreational vehicles, bicycles and walkers Invasion by scrub and/or bracken Heathland fires Tree planting schemes shading out regenerating heather Developments especially industrial units Pipeline developments predominantly gas pipelines Emissions of nitrous oxide leading to artificial enrichment Emissions leading to acid rain Dwarf shrub heath is often on common land where achieving agreed grazing levels that harmonise nature conservation with agricultural land-use can sometimes be difficult Fragmentation caused by the above factors <p>Blanket Bogs <i>Factors affecting this habitat and associated species:</i></p>		

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			<p>management agreements and/or conservation status (SINC) for at least 25% of dwarf shrub heath in BG – by 2004</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review existing and proposed tree planting schemes to ensure that dwarf shrub heath is not adversely affected – by 2002 Recreate, adjacent to existing blocks of dwarf shrub heath, 5% of the total area by 2005. <p>Blanket bogs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Define extent and condition of blanket bog by completion of the upland survey and other locations (by 2003). Maintain current extent of blanket bogs Consider the 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Upland afforestation predominantly with coniferous trees Drainage of upland areas often to improve grazing Changes in grazing pressure lead to increased disturbance to the habitat Recreational pressure on uplands causing erosion on peatlands and disturbance to the habitat Pipelines, Pylons and Windfarms leading to development and destruction of the habitat Aerial pollution. The result of acid rain is to remove sphagnum from blanket bogs. Lack of financial support to encourage appropriate management Burning of moorland Failure of Tir Gofal to address moorland degradation by unsympathetic management. <p>Mesotrophic Standing Waters</p> <p><i>Factors affecting this habitat and associated species:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Eutrophication caused primarily by nitrates or phosphates in sewage or fertiliser run-off. Acidification may occur locally in areas with 		

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			<p>need to protect blanket bogs with Site of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC) status (by 2003)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create further blanket bog (5 Ha.) by constricting flows in existing mires by 2010 in line with the Greater Gwent Biodiversity Action Group objectives. • Enter into discussions with Commoners Associations to secure sympathetic grazing regimes. (by 2010) <p>Mesotrophic standing waters</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Define extent and condition of mesotrophic lakes (by 2003). • Maintain and improve the conservation 		<p>sensitive geology and soils, as a result of atmospheric deposition of pollutants.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The delicate balance of nutrients found within mesotrophic lakes means that their biological character is very sensitive to environmental change. Pollution arising from organic matter, silt, heavy metals and thermal discharges represents a major threat to this habitat. Pollution in the form of nutrient enrichment (particularly Phosphorus) often results from contamination with sewage effluent, accidental spillages and run-off from adjacent land used for agriculture and forestry. Algal blooms are a common symptom of enrichment • Lowering of water levels caused by over abstraction of surface or ground water; or by drainage. • Urbanisation and in-filling of ponds. • Inappropriate management on multiple use water bodies where activities (e.g. Recreation, fish farming) are not sensitively managed (e.g. by zoning), and where 		

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			<p>interest of standing open waters</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create new standing open waters of maximum wildlife benefit where possible <p>Ponds and temporary water</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Define number and condition of ponds by survey (by 2004). • Maintain and improve the conservation interest of ponds. <p>Gardens</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify those species that are common or rare in BG gardens. (by 2004) • Increase biodiversity in suburban environments. 		<p>surrounding habitats are inappropriately managed or neglected.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fish introduced for sport can also affect the delicate ecological balance of Mesotrophic lakes, through increased competition, release of nutrients and by introducing species such as microscopic crustaceans which play an important role in controlling algal populations. • Changes in surrounding land use that alters the water table, change the pollution load, or degrade or remove valuable adjacent habitat. In particular soil erosion from neighbouring land can add nutrients and reduce water clarity. • Recreation. Water borne traffic can damage aquatic plants and cause a decline in the macrophyte communities, which may favour algal growth. <p>Gardens <i>Factors affecting this habitat and associated species:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pesticides and fertilisers are detrimental to biodiversity. • Tidy gardens, where there is a lack of 		

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					decaying material left for micro-organisms and invertebrates. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tarmac and patios decrease the natural resource available for wildlife to use. • Alternative land-use, usually in the form of developments that either reduce the size of gardens or totally swallow them. • Drainage of garden pools, ponds and boggy areas reduce habitats suitable for amphibians and aquatic species. • Felling of mature trees and shrubs near to houses reduces opportunities for birds, bats and insects. • Small gardens found in many new housing developments. • Non-native plants introduced may not favour local wildlife. • Domestic pets can be a threat to wildlife e.g. cats. 		
Woodland cover	Cwm Merddog and Coed Ty'n y Gelli SSSIs near Cwm are fine examples of ancient semi natural woodland, notably beech woodlands at the western extremity of their range. It is a biological SSSI on the Silent Valley Local Nature Reserve. ASNW/PAWS sites:		Increase woodland cover by 10% over the next 10 years		The plan to increase woodland cover will provide Blaenau Gwent with a more attractive environment and help to combat Air Quality issues.	Landscape Biodiversity Flora and Fauna	Blaenau Gwent Community Plan 2005-2009 SEWBRc, Biodiversity Information Search Results: Blaenau Gwent Designations (Sustainability Appraisal LDP), 18/05/2007

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	Site ID 2051 – ASNW, 1.95ha 2055 – ASNW, 1.13 ha 2082 – ASNW, 7.16 ha 2083 – ASNW, 4.43 ha 2102 – ASNW, 15.53 ha 2114 – ASNW, 12.17 ha 2120 – ASNW, 3.05 ha 2131 – ASNW, 2.29 ha 2167 – ASNW, 4.26 ha 2175 – ASNW, 3.26 ha 2181 – PAWS, 12.10 ha 2182 – ASNW, 3.10 ha 2188 – PAWS, 82.72 ha 2209 – PAWS, 2.61 ha 2002 – ASNW, 8.62 ha 2199 – ASNW, 1.34 ha 2305 – ASNW, 1.46 ha						
Land utilisation	Open Countryside - 45% Defined urban area - 23% Enclosed agricultural land – 20% Urban fringe – 9% Recreation sites – 3%				The area is predominantly Open countryside which may present development opportunity issues. The defined urban area is only 23% and this could mean that opportunities are concentrated and people living outside the urban areas may be at disadvantage with getting access to employment and services. There is also only a small proportion of recreational sites at only 3%	Landscape Material Assets	The Countryside and Landscape Strategy 1998
Contaminated Land	2003 Contaminated Strategy Review: 1607 potentially contaminated sites, of which: - High Risk (previous or				There is a high proportion of contaminated sites which may present	Landscape Human Health Soil	Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council Contaminated Land Strategy, Environmental Health and Trading

Indicator	Quantified data (Blaenau Gwent)	Comparators (Quantified data for South Wales and Wales/England)	Targets	Trends	Issue identified	SEA topics	Source
	<p>current uses include gas works, landfill sites, petrol stations and military land) - 51</p> <p>- Medium Risk - 880</p> <p>- Low Risk - 676</p> <p>Sites with a history of contaminative usage, which have been remediated: the former British Coal Workshops at Tredegar and the Dunlop Semtex site at Brynmawr.</p>				future development issues as they cost of remediation might put investors off. There are only two sites that have had a history of contamination and have been remediated.		Standards Division
Water Quality (Biological and Chemical quality classified under the General Quality Assessment (GQA) scheme)	<p>The main water courses in Blaenau Gwent are the rivers Clydach, Ebbw Fach, Ebbw Fawr and Sirhowy</p> <p>Chemical water quality 2003/05:</p> <p>Clydach at:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • STW Disch.Pt-Conf.Trib.abv B.m'r Rndabt) – B (Good) <p>Ebbw Fach at:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Afon Tyleri - Trib.Henwaun Coll.- B (Good) • Conf.Trib.Henwaun Coll-Conf.Nant Ystruth - B (Good) • Ebbw Fawr Conf. - Afon Tyleri – A (Very good) <p>Ebbw Fawr at:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conf.Ebbw Fach - Conf.Nant Big – A (Very good) • Conf.Nant Big - Conf.Nant Merddog – A (Very good) • Conf.Nant Kendon - Glandwr Bk. – A (Very Good) • Conf.Nant Merddog - Culvert Inlet – D (Fair) • Culvert Inlet - Rassau Bk. – 	<p>England & Wales</p> <p>Chemical water quality (percentage length)</p> <p>Good/Fair - 93.5 (2005)</p> <p>Poor/Bad - 6.5 (2005)</p> <p>Biological quality (percentage length)</p> <p>Good/Fair - 95.4(2005)</p> <p>Poor/Bad - 4.6 (2005)</p>			<p>Chemical water quality:</p> <p>Clydach at:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • STW Disch.Pt-Conf.Trib.abv B.m'r Rndabt) – A (Very Good), 2001/03 and B (Good), 1999/2001. <p>Ebbw Fach at:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Afon Tyleri - Trib.Henwaun Coll.- B (Good), 2001/03 and B (Good), 1999/2001 •Conf.Trib.Henwaun Coll-Conf.Nant Ystruth - B (Good), 2001/03 and B (Good), 1999/2001 • Ebbw Fawr Conf. - Afon Tyleri – B (Good), 2001/03 and B (Good),1999/2001 <p>Ebbw Fawr at:</p>		Environment Agency: River Quality

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Indicator	Quantified data (Blaenau Gwent)	Comparators (Quantified data for South Wales and Wales/England)	Targets	Trends	Issue identified	SEA topics	Source
	<p>B (Good)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Glandwr Bk. - Conf.Ebbw Fach – A (Very good) <p>Sirhowy at:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nant Melyn - Outlet Shon-Shefris Res. – A (Very good) Nant Yr Helyg - Scotch Peter Trib. – A (Very good) Scotch Peter Trib.-Nant Melyn – E (Poor) <p>Biological water quality: 2005:</p> <p>Clydach at:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> STW Disch.Pt-Conf.Trib.abv B.m'r Rndabt) – B (Good) <p>Ebbw Fawr at:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Glandwr Bk. - Conf.Ebbw Fach – C (Fairly good) <p>Sirhowy at:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nant Melyn - Outlet Shon-Shefris Res. – C (Fairly good), Nant Yr Helyg - Scotch Peter Trib. - C (Fairly good), Scotch Peter Trib.-Nant Melyn – D (Fair) 			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conf.Ebbw Fach - Conf.Nant Big – B (Good) , 2001/03 and B (Good), 1999/2001 Conf.Nant Big - Conf.Nant Merddog – B (Good) , 2001/03 and B (Good), 1999/2001 Conf.Nant Kendon - Glandwr Bk. – B (Good) , 2001/03 and B (Good), 1999/2001 Conf.Nant Merddog - Culvert Inlet – E (Poor) , 2001/03 and C (Fairly good), 1999/2001 Culvert Inlet - Rassau Bk. – C (Fairly good) , 2001/03 and B (Good), 1999/2001 Glandwr Bk. - Conf.Ebbw Fach – B (Good) , 2001/03 and B (Good), 1999/2001 <p>Sirhowy at:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nant Melyn - Outlet Shon-Shefris Res. – B (Good) , 2001/03 and B (Good), 1999/2001 Nant Yr Helyg - Scotch Peter Trib. – B (Good) , 2001/03 and B (Good), 1999/2001 			

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Indicator	Quantified data (Blaenau Gwent)	Comparators (Quantified data for South Wales and Wales/England)	Targets	Trends	Issue identified	SEA topics	Source
				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scotch Peter Trib.-Nant Melyn – C (Fairly good) , 2001/03 and D (Fair), 1999/2001 Biological water quality: Clydach at: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • STW Disch.Pt-Conf.Trib.abv B.m'r Rndabt – C (Fairly good), 2000 and C (Fairly good), 2002 Ebbw Fach at: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Afon Tyleri - Trib.Henwaun Coll.- B (Good), 2000 and C (Fairly good), 2003 and 2004 •Conf.Trib.Henwaun Coll-Conf.Nant Ystruth - B (Good) , 2000 and C (Fairly good), 2004 • Ebbw Fawr Conf. - Afon Tyleri – D (Fair) , 2000 Ebbw Fawr at: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conf.Ebbw Fach - Conf.Nant Big – B (Good) , 2000 and C (Fairly good), 2004 • Conf.Nant Big - Conf.Nant Merddog – B (Good) , 2000 and C (Fairly good), 2004 			

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Indicator	Quantified data (Blaenau Gwent)	Comparators (Quantified data for South Wales and Wales/England)	Targets	Trends	Issue identified	SEA topics	Source
				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conf.Nant Kendon - Glandwr Bk. - C (Fairly good) , 2000 and C (Fairly good) , 2003 •Conf.Nant Merddog - Culvert Inlet - C (Fairly good) , 2000 and C (Fairly good), 2004 • Culvert Inlet - Rassau Bk. - D (Fair) , 2000 and C (Fairly good), 2002, and C (Fairly good) , 2003 • Glandwr Bk. - Conf.Ebbw Fach - C (Fairly good) , 2000 <p>Sirhowy at:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nant Melyn - Outlet Shon-Shefris Res. - C (Fairly good), 2000 and B (Good), 2002 • Nant Yr Helyg - Scotch Peter Trib. - C (Fairly good) , 2000 and B (Good), 2002 • Scotch Peter Trib.-Nant Melyn - E (Poor) , 2000 and C (Fairly good), 2002 <p>England & Wales</p> <p>Chemical water</p>			

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Indicator	Quantified data (Blaenau Gwent)	Comparators (Quantified data for South Wales and Wales/England)	Targets	Trends	Issue identified	SEA topics	Source	
				quality (percentage length) Good/Fair - 91.9 (1999), 94.3 (2002), 93.5 (2005) Poor/Bad - 8.1 (1999), 5.7 (2002), 6.5 (2005) Biological quality (percentage length) Good/Fair - 94.9 (2000), 95.3 (2003), 95.4(2005) Poor/Bad - 5.1 (2000), 4.7 (2003) 4.6 (2005)				
Renewable Energy (RE)	[no information sourced to date]		The WAG - 10% of electricity produced from renewable sources by 2010		There is a lack of information relating to the generation and use of renewable energy. This may be an indication that developments in this aspect of energy generation are in their formative stages.	Air Climatic Factors Human Health Soil Material Assets		
Energy Efficiency: Average SAP	[no information sourced to date]		Blaenau Gwent Energy Strategy - min 2% energy saving per annum shall be adopted over a three-		The cumulative target set out in the energy strategy indicates that there is a need to focus on improving energy efficiency within the LA area.	Air Climatic Factors Material Assets Human Health	Blaenau Gwent Energy Strategy	

Indicator	Quantified data (Blaenau Gwent)	Comparators (Quantified data for South Wales and Wales/England)	Targets	Trends	Issue identified	SEA topics	Source
			year period and reviewed annually.				
Annual Energy Consumption (Gwh)	2003 Industry & Commercial – 841.1 Domestic – 780.3 Transport – 252.5	2003 South East Ind & Com -18,333.3 Domestic – 12,203.3 Transport – 24,921.4 Wales Ind & Com 56,294.9 Domestic – 29,554.7 Transport – 24,921.4			Blaenau Gwent's contribution as a percentage of the South East for industrial commercial is 4.6% and 6.4% and 1% for Domestic and Transport respectively. These figures may not be as significant because energy consumption activity is on a much smaller scale than other areas in the south East, which houses the Capital city and second City where energy consumption activity is on a much larger scale	Material Assets Climatic Factors	http://www.dti.gov.uk/files/file19335.xls
Average Annual Gas Consumption (KWH)	2003 Average Domestic Consumption – 21,854 Average Industrial and Commercial Consumption – 458,411	2003 South East Average Domestic Consumption - 19,632.4 Average Industrial and Commercial Consumption – 902,509.6 Wales Average Domestic Consumption - 19,092 Average Industrial and Commercial Consumption – 896,725			The average domestic consumption for Blaenau Gwent is 21,854 Kwh, which is higher than the South East average at 19,632.4 Kwh. This may potentially be a reflection of Blaenau Gwent's housing conditions - there is a considerable amount of public housing stock in the LA area that, due to its age, may be less energy efficient.	Material Assets Climatic Factors	http://www.dti.gov.uk/files/file37898.xls

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Indicator	Quantified data (Blaenau Gwent)	Comparators (Quantified data for South Wales and Wales/England)	Targets	Trends	Issue identified	SEA topics	Source
Annual Road Fuel Consumption (Kwh) thousand tonnes	2002 Personal – 13.2 Freight – 6.4	2002 South East Average Personal – 52.9 Freight – 26.12 Wales Personal – 58.6 Freight – 28.1			Currently the fuel consumption is low in comparison with the south east and Wales, but if development is loaded into Blaenau Gwent as a result of the LDP, it is likely to be significantly altered.	Air Climatic Factors Material Assets	http://www.dti.gov.uk/files/file30072.xls
Area of Open Country	[awaiting data]	National Area: 996,573 Ha				Landscape	South East – Wales Spatial Plan Area Environmental Profile Draft October 2006
Area of Registered Common Land	[awaiting data]	South East: 5,261 Ha National Area: 115,283 Ha				Landscape	South East – Wales Spatial Plan Area Environmental Profile Draft October 2006
Area of Public Forest	[awaiting data]	South East: 20,596 Ha National Area: 99,261 Ha				Landscape	South East – Wales Spatial Plan Area Environmental Profile Draft October 2006
Area of Other Statutory Access Land	[awaiting data]	South East: 556,600Ha National Area: 612,098 Ha				Landscape	South East – Wales Spatial Plan Area Environmental Profile Draft October 2006
Area of Country Parks	[awaiting data]	South East: 1,433 Ha National Area: 3,854 Ha				Landscape	South East – Wales Spatial Plan Area Environmental Profile Draft October 2006
Length of Public Rights of Way	299.4Km, comprising: Footpaths: 68% Bridleway: 18% CRB (carriageway mainly used as a Bridleway): 12% CRF (carriageway mainly used as a footpath): 1% BOAT (byway open to all traffic): 1%	South East: 5,744.1 Km National Area: 33,217.6 km		Only 5% of the network is surveyed on an annual basis.	The distribution of the different sorts of rights of way is uneven across the County Borough. The backlog of maintenance of rights of way means that the 68% of rights of way accessible to walkers is	Landscape	South East – Wales Spatial Plan Area Environmental Profile Draft October 2006 The Blaenau Gwent Rights of Way Improvement Plan 2007 (draft)

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Indicator	Quantified data (Blaenau Gwent)	Comparators (Quantified data for South Wales and Wales/England)	Targets	Trends	Issue identified	SEA topics	Source
Use of Public Rights of Way	25% of population use footpaths on a daily basis. Most walk less than 4 miles, some walk 15 miles or more.				<p>not so. The factors restricting access are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overgrown vegetation • Feeling unsafe • Lack of knowledge about where paths are • Lack of signposting/ Waymarking; • Lack of a firm surface • Lack of suitable circular routes • Roads and motor traffic <p>The aspects that people felt needed improving the most, and that the LDF should address are the need for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More circular routes- signed and advertised as such • Need to link paths together- defragmentation • More long distance routes <p>Cyclists did not even know about which routes they could use, highlighting similar issues.</p>	Landscape, Human Health, Population, Air	The Blaenau Gwent Rights of Way Improvement Plan 2007 (draft)
Length of National Trail	0 Km.	<p>South East: 19.5 Km</p> <p>National Area: 640.1 km</p>				Landscape	South East – Wales Spatial Plan Area Environmental Profile Draft October 2006
Area of National Park	<i>[awaiting data]</i>	South East: 16,910 Ha				Landscape	South East – Wales Spatial Plan Area Environmental

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Indicator	Quantified data (Blaenau Gwent)	Comparators (Quantified data for South Wales and Wales/England)	Targets	Trends	Issue identified	SEA topics	Source
		National Area: 409721 Ha					Profile Draft October 2006
Area of Historic Landscape	[awaiting data]	South East: 41,260 Ha National Area: 410,968 Ha				Landscape	South East – Wales Spatial Plan Area Environmental Profile Draft October 2006
Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty	0Ha.	South East: 11,713 Ha National Area: 83,576 Ha				Landscape	South East – Wales Spatial Plan Area Environmental Profile Draft October 2006
Travel to Work Method	2001 Train - 75 Bus -1,010 Taxi - 201 Car or Van – 15,507 Motorcycle/Scooter - 142 Bicycle - 146 Walking – 3,135	2001 South East Average Train – 1,106 Bus – 3775.7 Taxi – 281.2 Car/Van – 34,701.6 Motorcycle – 421.8 Bicycle – 784 Walking – 5891.6 Wales Average Train – 646.2 Bus – 2730.1 Taxi – 252.5 Car/Van – 31,169.1 Motorbike – 4,573 Bicycle – 707.4 Walking – 5,301.8		Overall in Wales the trend is towards increased trip rates, with an emphasis on increased road based transport.	There are significantly less people using public transport in Blaenau Gwent than the rest of the south east average. The main emphasis is around use of the car however this is still over 50% less than the average for the south East local authorities. Increased development may significantly alter these figures and place more pressure on the environment with increased car use as Blaenau Gwent does not have the infrastructure to cope with significant increases in road usage.	Air Climatic Factors Soil Human Health Landscape Water	http://neighbourhood.statistics.gov.uk
Distance Travelled to Work	2001 Less 2Km – 6,059 2km – 5Km – 5,993 5Km -10 Km – 3,696	2001 South East Average Less 2Km – 11,809 2km - 5Km – 11,938			People in Blaenau Gwent are travelling significantly less distances compared to the averages for the	Air Climatic Factors Soil Human	http://neighbourhood.statistics.gov.uk

Indicator	Quantified data (Blaenau Gwent)	Comparators (Quantified data for South Wales and Wales/England)	Targets	Trends	Issue identified	SEA topics	Source
	10km – 20Km – 4,059 20Km – 30Km – 1,684 30Km – 40Km - 646 40Km – 60Km - 325 60+ Km – 345	5Km -10Km – 10,487 10km -20Km – 9,305 20Km -30Km – 3,603 30Km -40Km – 1,349 40Km -60Km - 325 60+ Km – 345 Wales Average Less 2Km – 11,232 2km -5Km – 9,765 5Km -10Km -9,568 10km-20Km -8,615 20Km -30Km -3,246 30Km -40Km -1,288 40Km -60Km - 939 60+ Km – 1,649			south east authorities as a whole. If access to a car is an issue it may be more difficult for people to travel so they are forced to find work in close proximity to their homes. If intense development was to occur around the borough, the distances travelled may significantly increase and may also encourage more people to commute into Blaenau Gwent, which is likely to have environmental consequences.	Health Landscape Water	
Road Accidents (Occupants Killed or Seriously Injured)	Jan 01 – Dec 01 - 15 Jan 02 – Dec 02 - 7 Jan 03 – Dec 03 - 15	South East Average Jan 01- Dec 01 - 32.2 Jan 02 -Dec 02 - 26.1 Jan 03 -Dec 03 - 33 Wales Average Jan 01- Dec 01 - 43.1 Jan 02 -Dec 02 - 41 Jan 03 -Dec 03 - 42.4			The number of people killed or seriously injured in Blaenau Gwent is significantly lower than the averages for South East Wales and Wales as a whole. However if as a result of the LDP there was intense development in the area, then Blaenau Gwent is unlikely to cope as well with increased traffic and these numbers may potentially significantly increase.	Human Health Population	http://neighbourhood.statist.ics.gov.uk
Distance Services (Miles)	<i>[no data sourced to date]</i>	South East Cycle Path <0.5 miles – 30% 0.5 – 1 miles -16% 1 – 2 miles - 7% 2 – 3 miles - 3%					http://www.sewta.gov.uk/PDF/AnnualReport0506.pdf

Indicator	Quantified data (Blaenau Gwent)	Comparators (Quantified data for South Wales and Wales/England)	Targets	Trends	Issue identified	SEA topics	Source
		Over 3 miles - 6% Don't Know - 33% Bus Stop <0.5 miles - 87% 0.5 – 1 miles – 8% 1 – 2 miles - 1% 2 – 3 miles - 0% Over 3 miles – 0% Don't Know – 0% Rail Station <0.5 miles – 16% 0.5 - 1 miles – 20% 1 – 2 miles – 18% 2 – 3 miles – 13% Over 3 miles – 28% Don't Know – 2%					
Car Ownership	2001 All households – 29,585 No car or van – 10,393 (35.1%) 1 car or van – 13,351 (45.1%) 2 car or van – 4,784 (16.2%) 3 car or van – 826 (2.8%) 4+ - 231 (0.85%) Total Vehicles – 26,412	2001 South East All households – 571,600 No car or van – 163,138 (28.5%) 1 car or van – 257,031 (45.1%) 2 car or van – 123,957 (21.8%) 3 car or van – 21,763 (3.8%) 4+ 5,711 (1%) Total Vehicles – 555,856 Wales All households – 1,143,121 No car or van – 297,665 (26%) 1 car or van – 520,040 (45.5%) 2 car or van – 262,068 (23%) 3 car or van – 49,111			The percentage of people in Blaenau Gwent without access to a car or van is 35.1% - this is significantly higher than the south east and Welsh averages at 28.5% and 26% respectively. The public transport in Blaenau Gwent is relatively poor when considered at the regional scale and this, coupled with high numbers of people without car access, means that there may be difficulties in access to employment, potentially resulting in higher numbers of people in local lower skilled employment.	Population Human Health Air Climatic Factors	http://neighbourhood.statistics.gov.uk

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Indicator	Quantified data (Blaenau Gwent)	Comparators (Quantified data for South Wales and Wales/England)	Targets	Trends	Issue identified	SEA topics	Source
		(4.3%) 4+ 14,237 (1.2%) Total Vehicles – 1,254,628					
Municipal Solid Waste Arisings (tonnes)	98/99 – 46,350 99/00 – 46,960 99/01 – 43,242 01/02 – 47,530 02/03 – 47,867 03/04 – 50,737 04/05 – 54,853	South East Average 98/99 – 70,422.2 99/00 – 69,942.4 99/01 – 71,067.4 01/02 – 75,278.2 02/03 – 76,221.5 03/04 – 79,797.5 04/05 – 84,261.7			Blaenau Gwent is producing far less municipal solid waste than the south Wales authority average, however further development is likely to increase this number significantly	Soil Human Health Air Climatic Factors	South East Wales Regional Waste Group, Annual Monitoring Report March 2006
Household Waste Arisings (tonnes)	98/99 – 36,415 99/00 – 37,209 99/01 – 35,886 01/02 – 38,142 02/03 – 35,586 03/04 – 38,402 04/05 – 44,578	South East Average 98/99 – 60,687.1 99/00 – 63,761.3 99/01 – 61,394.7 01/02 – 63,440.7 02/03 – 65,019.4 03/04 – 67,585.7 04/05 – 70,012.1		Direction of change is broadly towards an increase in household waste arisings.	The household waste arisings for Blaenau Gwent are significantly lower than the south east average. This is likely to be because Blaenau Gwent is less densely populated than other authorities in the region so as a total for the county, produces relatively less than other authorities. However, increased housing development and improvements to existing housing stock are likely to significantly increase household waste.	Soil Human Health Air Climatic Factors	South East Wales Regional Waste Group, Annual Monitoring Report March 2006

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Indicator	Quantified data (Blaenau Gwent)	Comparators (Quantified data for South Wales and Wales/England)	Targets	Trends	Issue identified	SEA topics	Source
Household Waste Arisings (Per Household) (tonnes)	97/98 - DNA 98/99 – 1,321 99/00 – 1,258 99/01 – 1,213 01/02 – 1,289 02/03 – 1,169 03/04 – 1,298 04/05 – 1,507	South East 97/98 – 1,092 98/99 – 1,113 99/00 – 1,170 99/01 – 1,126 01/02 – 1,164 02/03 – 1,193 03/04 – 1,240 04/05 – 1,284	By 2009/10 Arisings should be no more than those (for Wales) in 1997/98		The household waste arisings per household since 1998 have been increasing more rapidly than the south east; in 1998 Blaenau Gwent showed 1,321 tonnes per household compared to 1,113 for the south east. Then in 2005 Blaenau Gwent was 1,507 compared to 1,284. Increased housing development is likely to significantly increase these figures; Blaenau Gwent is not as capable of dealing with as high waste productions as other areas in the south east.	Soil Human Health Air Climatic Factors	South East Wales Regional Waste Group, Annual Monitoring Report March 2006
Household Waste Arisings (Per Person) (tonnes)	98/99 – 511 99/00 – 524 99/01 – 509 01/02 – 545 02/03 – 499 03/04 – 557 04/05 – 648	South East 98/99 – 455 99/00 – 478 99/01 – 460 01/02 – 476 02/03 – 486 03/04 – 503 04/05 – 519	By 2020 waste arisings per person should be less than 300kg per annum		The waste arisings per person since 1998 in Blaenau Gwent have been increasing more rapidly than the south east; in 1998 Blaenau Gwent showed 511 tonnes per person compared to 455 for the south east. Then in 2005 Blaenau Gwent was 648 compared to 519. Improved housing stock and development of affordable housing together with increased job opportunities is likely to increase to the population of the area and these numbers could significantly increase. Blaenau Gwent is also less equipped for dealing	Soil Human Health Air Climatic Factors	South East Wales Regional Waste Group, Annual Monitoring Report March 2006

Indicator	Quantified data (Blaenau Gwent)	Comparators (Quantified data for South Wales and Wales/England)	Targets	Trends	Issue identified	SEA topics	Source
					with high amounts of waste than other areas in the South East.		
Municipal Solid Waste Recycled or Composted (tonnes)	98/99 – 1,493 (3.2%) 99/00 – 1,476 (3.1%) 99/01 – 1,075 (2.5%) 01/02 – 1,401 (2.9%) 02/03 – 3,102 (6.5%) 03/04 – 9,389 (18.5%) 04/05 – 12,228 (22.3%)	South East 98/99 30,912 (4.4%) 99/00 37,654 (5.4%) 99/01 33,253 (4.7%) 01/02 48,372 (6.4%) 02/03 82,137 (10.8%) 03/04 137,074 (17.2%) 04/05 174,729 (20.7%)		Blaenau Gwent 2006/07 forecast 14,832 (25%) 2009/10 forecast 26,695 (40%) South East Wales 2006/07 forecast 227,844 (25%) 2009/10 forecast 410,069 (40%)	Blaenau Gwent compares relatively well with recycling to the south east: in 2005 it was 22.5% compared to 20.7% from the south east. Significant development may see more issues related to recycling for Blaenau Gwent as the capacity to cope is less than other areas, which may see them fail to meet their future targets	Soil Human Health Air Climatic Factors	South East Wales Regional Waste Group, Annual Monitoring Report March 2006
Land filled Biodegradable Municipal Solid Waste (tonnes)	2002/03 – 27,891 2003/04 – 25,498	South East Average 2002/03 – 41,774 2003/04 – 40,73.5 Actual Tonnes 2002/03 – 417,740 2003/04 – 407,335		Blaenau Gwent 2009/10 Landfill allowance -20,224 Diversion Required - 20,485 2012/13 NSW target - 10,221 Diversion Required - 35,572 South East Wales 2009/10 Landfill	Blaenau Gwent is sending less biodegradable waste to landfill than the south east. Increased development may, however, have a significant impact on the current situation.	Soil Human Health Air Climatic Factors	South East Wales Regional Waste Group, Annual Monitoring Report March 2006

Indicator	Quantified data (Blaenau Gwent)	Comparators (Quantified data for South Wales and Wales/England)	Targets	Trends	Issue identified	SEA topics	Source
				<p><i>allowance-</i> 315,024</p> <p><i>Diversion Required-</i> 310,331</p> <p><i>2012/13 NWSW target -</i> 203,667</p> <p><i>Diversion Required -</i> 499,772</p>			
<p>Industrial and Commercial Waste by management method 2003/03 (tonnes)</p>	<p>Land Disposal – 17,422 Land Recovery - 257 Re-used – 4,006 Recycled – 18,729 Thermal - 827 Transfer - 2,485 Treatment – 922 Unrecorded/ Unsampled – 12.323 Total – 56,971</p>	<p>South East Average</p> <p>Land Disposal 31,164.4 Land Recovery 930.8 Re-used 27,982.3 Recycled 39,991.2 Thermal 2,260.1 Transfer 4,251.9 Treatment 2,733.6 Unrecorded/ Unsampled 22,303.7 Total 131,619.1</p> <p>Actual Tonnes Land Disposal 311,644 Land Recovery 9,308 Re-used 279,823 Recycled</p>		<p>Blaenau Gwent Forecast arisings</p> <p><i>2008/09</i> – 54,650 <i>2009/10</i> – 53,883 <i>2010/11</i> – 53,257 <i>2011/12</i> – 52,746 <i>2012/13</i> – 52,329 <i>2013/14</i> – 51,992 <i>2014/15</i> – 51,723 <i>2016/16</i> – 51,457</p> <p>Forecast requirement for diversion from landfill</p> <p><i>(2003/03 I&C to Landfill – 17,422)</i></p> <p><i>2009/10 NWSW target</i> 37,525</p> <p>Diversion required 16,358</p> <p>South East Forecast arisings</p>	<p>Blaenau Gwent is generating less industrial and commercial waste by all management methods than the south east. In order to meet the NWSW landfill in 2009/10 Blaenau Gwent is going to need to divert 16,358 tonnes. Blaenau Gwent's forecasting a predicted reduction in industrial and commercial waste arisings. Increased development could affect these figures</p>	<p>Soil Human Health Air Climatic Factors</p>	<p>South East Wales Regional Waste Group, Annual Monitoring Report March 2006</p>

Indicator	Quantified data (Blaenau Gwent)	Comparators (Quantified data for South Wales and Wales/England)	Targets	Trends	Issue identified	SEA topics	Source
		399,912 Thermal 22,601 Transfer 42,519 Treatment 27,336 Unrecorded/ Unsampled 223,037 Total 1,316,191		2008/09 1,186,843 2009/10 1,170,180 2010/11 1,156,582 2011/12 1,145,484 2012/13 1,136,440 2013/14 1,129,114 2014/15 1,123,273 2016/16 1,117,490 Forecast requirement for diversion from landfill (2003/03 I&C to Landfill –311,644) 2009/10 NWSW target 746,423 Diversion required 423,757			

Indicator	Quantified data (Blaenau Gwent)	Comparators (Quantified data for South Wales and Wales/England)	Targets	Trends	Issue identified	SEA topics	Source
Special Waste	1999 – 18,307 2000 – 17,528 2001 – 21,763 2002 – 9,525 2003 – 11,426	South East Average 1999 – 25,263.9 2000 – 19,027.6 2001 – 12,995.0 2002 – 10,667.4 2003 – 10,923.7 Actual Tonnes 1999 – 252,639 2000 – 190,276 2001 – 129,950 2002 – 106,674 2003 – 109,237	Blaenau Gwent 2010 – 14,022 South East 2010 – 152,221	South East 2005 – 2015 Linear change from +5% towards -5% pa 2016 – 2025 -1% pa	In 2001 Blaenau Gwent was producing significantly more special waste (17,528) than the south east (12,995). In 2002 it cut that figure by half (9,525) and was under the south east average (10,667.4), but in 2003 it was slightly above again with 11,426 tonnes compared to 10,923.7. Dealing with special waste could become an issue for Blaenau Gwent.	Soil Human Health Air Climatic Factors	South East Wales Regional Waste Group, Annual Monitoring Report March 2006

