

# Adroddiad Cwmpasu Asesiad Cynaliadwyedd



# Blaenau Gwent

# Replacement Local Development Plan 2018-2033

## Cynllun Datblygu Lleol Newydd 2018 - 2033

## July / Gorfennaf 2019



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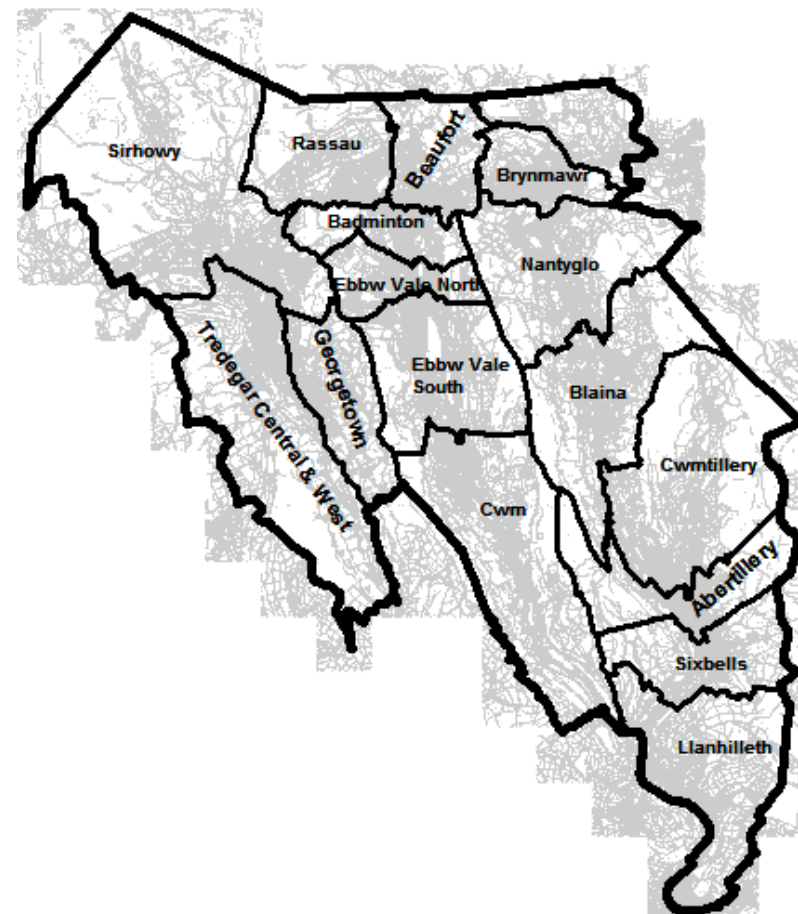
## 1.0 Background to the LDP and Purpose of the Integrated SA Scoping Report

### Introduction

**1.1** In accordance with the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act (2004), Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council adopted its first Local Development Plan (LDP) for its administrative area (as shown on Figure 1) in November 2012. Since 2013, the Council has undertaken, in accordance with statutory requirements, annual monitoring of the plan, with five Annual Monitoring Reports (AMRs) published to date. The AMR provides the basis for monitoring the effectiveness of the LDP objectives and strategic policies, the Plan's sustainability credentials and identifies any significant contextual changes that might influence its implementation.

**1.2** In November 2016, a full review of the Plan was triggered, being 4 years after the Plan's adoption. The Council have completed the review of the Local Development Plan with the final review report being published in September 2017. Based on the evidence contained in the review report, it was concluded that the LDP should be revised and that this should take the form of a full revision procedure.

Plan 1: Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council Area



## What is the revised LDP?

**1.3** As a full revision of the plan is to be undertaken this will result in the preparation and adoption of a revised LDP. The full revision process is generally the same as for the preparation of the first LDP and should build on the experience gained with the original LDP. The proposed approach, timescales and consultation arrangements are set out in the revised LDP Delivery Agreement which was agreed by the Welsh Government on 19<sup>th</sup> September 2018. As the statutory requirements are the same for the revision of the Plan as for the original LDP any revised LDP is required to be subject to Sustainability Appraisal.

## What is an integrated SA?

**1.4** The Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act (2004) sets out the requirement for each Local Planning Authority to produce a Local Development Plan (LDP). In accordance with the 2004 Planning Act, all LDPs are also required to be subject to a Sustainability Appraisal (SA). The role of the Sustainability Appraisal is to assess the extent to which the emerging planning policies will help to achieve the wider environmental, economic and social objectives of the LDP. The Local Development Plan Manual (WG, 2015), suggests that the SA should be an 'integral element of every stage of the plan preparation' (para 3.13).

**1.5** The European Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Directive 2001/42/EC and the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes (Wales) Regulations (2004) as amended (the SEA

regulations) require the 'environmental assessment' of certain plans and programmes prepared by local authorities, including LDPs. The aim of SEA is to provide high level of protection to the environment and to promote sustainable development by the integration of environmental considerations into the preparation and adoption of plans or programmes.

**1.6** The Local Development Plan Manual (2015) states that for development plans the requirements of the SEA regulations are best incorporated into the SA (para 3.2.1). Such an integrated approach will help to avoid unnecessary confusion and duplication. The SA therefore incorporates the requirements of the SEA. Throughout this document and in the accompanying Appendices where reference is made to the term 'SA' it should therefore be taken to incorporate the requirements of the SEA Directive. In line with the Directive, the SA will give consideration to the likely environmental effects of the plan, including those of strategic alternatives. The SA also has a role to help identify ways of reducing potential adverse impacts through suitable mitigation measures.

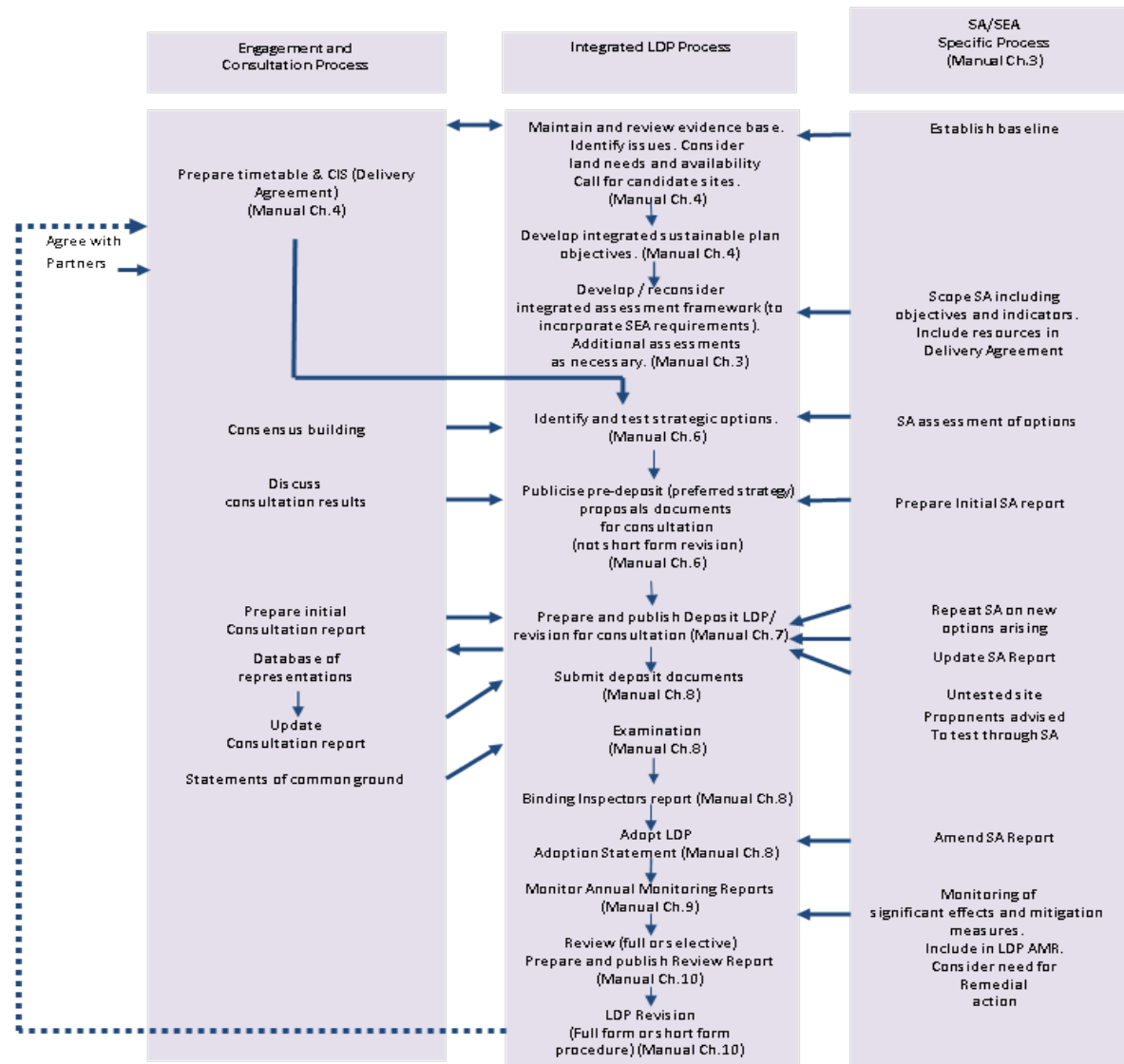
**1.7** The SA provides an enabling role in the promotion of sustainable development as an integrated part of the LDP preparation process. This includes an imperative role to consider the sustainability impacts of the LDP, including any proposed alternative approaches, at an early stage and throughout the LDP preparation. The SA can also provide the basis for monitoring the sustainability of the LDP during implementation as part of the wider LDP monitoring process. Figure 2.1 from the LDP Manual (2015) shows how LDP preparation, SA/SEA and consultation fit alongside

one another. It is important to note that SA is an iterative and on-going process and that stages and tasks in the SA process may be revisited and updated or revised as the plan develops, to take account of updated or new evidence as well as consultation responses. This is the approach to be followed in the SA for the revised Blaenau Gwent LDP.

**1.8** The outputs of the combined SA and SEA are sustainability reports that detail the appraisal process followed and include the results of impact assessments, together with recommendations on how the sustainability performance of the LDP could be improved.

**1.9** At the initial stage the sustainability report produced is the draft Scoping Report that sets out the background for the SA process that will be followed and considers the sustainability characteristics of the area.

## Main Stages of the LDP Process (Source: LDP Manual)



## Strategic Environmental Assessment Screening

**1.10** The adopted Blaenau Gwent LDP is subject to a full Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA), as required by the European Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive 2001/42/EC and the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes (Wales) Regulations (2004) as amended (the SEA Regulations), as part of the SA of the Plan. Under the SEA Regulations, however, all proposed ‘minor modifications’ to existing plans require the Responsible Authority to determine, in consultation with the SEA Consultation Authorities, whether a SEA is required as a result of the modification being likely to have significant effects on the environment. The LDP Manual 2nd Edition (Welsh Government (WG), 2015) advises that as the term ‘minor modification’ is not statutorily defined, any review of an existing LDP (and thus any revisions to or replacement of it) should be subject to SEA screening to determine the need for a full SEA. If it were to be determined that a full SEA is not required, however, this would make little difference, as all likely effects in relation to the environmental topics prescribed within Schedule 2 of the SEA Regulations will still need to be assessed to present a robust assessment of the sustainability of the emerging revised LDP, as required separately under the 2004 Act.

**1.11** As the Council has made the decision to undertake a full revision of the LDP it is likely that the replacement LDP will not simply be subject to ‘minor modification’ but comprise policies and site allocations that are substantially different from those in the existing LDP and which have the potential to result in significant

effects on the environment. It is therefore the Council’s view that a formal SEA be undertaken as part of the SA for the revised LDP.

## The relationship between the LDP, integrated SA, the Well Being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 and the Blaenau Gwent Well-being Assessment

**1.12** The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act gained Royal Assent in April 2015. The Act strengthens existing governance arrangements for improving the well-being of Wales by ensuring that sustainable development is at the heart of government and public bodies. It aims to make a difference to the lives of people in Wales in relation to a number of well-being goals including improving health, culture, heritage and sustainable resource use. The Act provides the legislative framework for the preparation of Local Well-being Plans which will replace Single Integrated Plans. The Act places a well-being duty on public bodies, including local authorities, to carry out sustainable development by contributing to the achievement of the seven well-being goals (as detailed in the table below).

**Table 1: Definition of Well-being of Future Generations Act Goals**

Goal	Description of the Goal
A Prosperous Wales	An innovative, productive low carbon society which recognises the limits of the global environment and therefore uses resources efficiently and proportionately (including acting on climate change); and which develops a skilled and well-educated population in an economy which



Goal	Description of the Goal
	generates wealth and provides employment opportunities, allowing people to take advantage of the wealth generated through securing decent work.
A Resilient Wales	A nation which maintains and enhances a biodiverse natural environment with healthy functioning ecosystems that support social, economic and ecological resilience and the capacity to adapt to change (for example climate change).
A Healthier Wales	A society in which people's physical and mental well-being is maximised and in which choices and behaviours that benefit health are understood.
A More Equal Wales	A society that enables people to fulfil their potential no matter what their background or circumstances (including their socio economic background and circumstances).
A Wales of Cohesive Communities	Attractive, viable, safe and well connected communities.
A Wales of Vibrant Culture and Thriving Welsh Language	A society that promotes and protects culture, heritage and the Welsh language, and which encourages people to participate in the arts, and sports and recreation.
A Globally Responsible Wales	A nation which, when doing anything to improve the economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales, takes account of whether doing such a thing may make a positive contribution to global well-being.

**1.13** The Act also sets out five ways of working needed for public bodies to achieve the seven well-being goals: (1) Long-term; (2) Integration; (3) Involvement; (4) Collaboration; (5) Prevention. Given that sustainable development is the core underlying principle of the LDP and SA there are clear associations between the aspirations of both the LDP and the Act.

**1.14** The revised LDP will play a part in contributing to the achievement of the well-being goals for Wales, and as such it is important that the SA Framework ensures that LDP policies are tested and developed in a manner which looks to maximise the contribution they can make to the achievement of these goals. The first stage of developing the SA Framework is to develop objectives against which the revised LDP can be assessed. As such, the initial set of well-being objectives published by the Welsh Government in 2016 have been used as a starting point to structure the Scoping Report. However as these cover the period 2016 – 2021 and the Welsh Government is committed to reviewing them, these will need to be considered as the SA and revised LDP progress.

**1.15** Under the provisions of the Well-being of Future Generations Act, every Public Service Board in Wales must publish a Local Well-being Plan. The Blaenau Gwent Local Well-being Plan was published in April 2018 and has clear links with the LDP and integrated SA where it relates to land use planning.

**1.16** The objectives for the Local Well-being Plan are indicated in the table below:



**Table 2: The Blaenau Gwent Local Well-being Plan Objectives**

1	Blaenau Gwent wants everyone to have the best start in life...	Ensuring early years of future generations are healthy, happy, free from harm and ready to succeed.
2	Blaenau Gwent wants safe and friendly communities...	Creating safer communities, where people feel safe and have good social connections, are socially responsible and have a good cultural life.
3	Blaenau Gwent wants to look after and protect its environment...	Creating a vibrant area that lives in harmony with it's natural environments, using resources in a fair and sustainable way.
4	Blaenau Gwent wants to forge new pathways to prosperity...	A place where people thrive and achieve their full learning and lifelong potential.
5	Blaenau Gwent wants to encourage and enable people to make healthy lifestyle choices in the places that they live, learn, work and play	A place where people live longer with better health, a place where healthy behaviours is the norm.

### Other appraisals incorporated into the SA

**1.17** As part of an integrated approach to the SA process, assessments will be made of the impacts of the Plan's policies and proposals on human health, equalities and on the Welsh language. Each of these will be assessed alongside all the other sustainability and environmental issues, enabling the effects of the Plan to be fully assessed in detail and the findings taken into account in the

development of the Plan. As these key aspects will be considered as part of the evidence base and included in the SA Framework for the revised LDP, the following additional impact assessments will be addressed through the SA process:

- Equalities Impact Assessment (EqIA);
- Welsh Language; and
- Health Impact Assessment (HIA).

**1.18** By incorporating these into the SA process it provides a robust and thorough mechanism for identifying issues and opportunities, assessing impacts including cumulative and indirect effects, and undertaking monitoring in a holistic way.

### Will a Habitat Regulations Assessment be undertaken?

**1.19** The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations (as amended) (2010) (the Habitats Regulations) require that HRA is applied to all statutory land use plans in England and Wales. The purpose of the HRA is to assess whether the plans proposals would have any significant adverse effect on designated sites defined under Regulation 10 of the Habitat Directive; which includes Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) and Special Protection Areas (SPAs).

**1.20** The HRA should not be incorporated into the SA or SEA, it should run parallel to the processes.

**1.21** Though there are no European sites within the Local Planning Authority of Blaenau Gwent there is a requirement to ascertain whether there are European sites within neighbouring

authorities whose integrity may be adversely affected by a LDP. A HRA was prepared for the first LDP, the Council will be undertaking a further assessment of the revised LDP – details of the proposed approach LDP are provided separately within an initial HRA Screening Report.

## The SA Process

**1.22** The purpose of the integrated SA and SEA is to test the emerging revised LDP for its contribution towards sustainable development, and to identify where there may be impacts on achieving greater sustainability to help inform the decisions made on the emerging LDP.

**1.23** There are five main stages in conducting an SA that need to be integrated into the revised LDP preparation:

<b>Stage 1</b>	Scoping – setting the context and objectives, establishing the baseline evidence and deciding on the scope.
<b>Stage 2</b>	Appraisal – developing and refining options and assessing effects.
<b>Stage 3</b>	Reporting – preparing the SA report.
<b>Stage 4</b>	Consulting – consulting on the preferred option of the development plan and the findings of the SA Report.
<b>Stage 5</b>	Monitoring – monitoring significant effects of implementing the development plan.

**1.24** The scoping stage is the first stage of the SA process, identifying the scope and level of detail of the information to be included in the SA report. This stage provides a valuable opportunity to gain an understanding of the plan area in order that the process of SA can be well informed by a full appreciation and understanding of local circumstances. Central to this scoping process is giving opportunities to those with specialist knowledge of sustainability issues and the area to have an input in to the SA.

**1.25** This document, the draft Scoping Report, is produced as a consultation document to allow all those with an interest in the SA process to feedback on the issues covered.

## Structure of the SA Scoping Report

**1.26** This document reports the scoping stage of the SA process for the revised Blaenau Gwent Local Development Plan. Following this introductory section 1 the report is structured into four further sections with two appendices:

- **Section 2** – this provides the policy context, setting out the key plans, policies and programmes of relevance to the SA of the revised Blaenau Gwent LDP.
- **Section 3** - this summarises some of the key sustainability issues that are considered to arise from an analysis of the collated baseline data together with the opportunities that the revised LDP will need to address.
- **Section 4** – this section focuses on the development of the SA framework and includes a review of the existing LDP SA

objectives, together with any amendments to the proposed SA objectives.

- **Section 5** - this sets out the proposed the SA Framework for the revised LDP
- **Section 6** – this sets out the next steps in the process, with a summary of the key SA tasks that will be undertaken together with the consultation details for this draft Scoping Report.
- **Appendix 1** – this provides a review of other plans, policies, programmes and strategies relevant to the LDP and sustainability objectives and suggests the ways that these can be taken into account during plan preparation.
- **Appendix 2** – this contains the baseline data for Blaenau Gwent. It is essential to provide an evidence base for considering environmental issues when establishing the impacts that a revised Local Development Plan (LDP) is likely to have on the existing situation in the County Borough.

## 2.0 Review of Plans, Policies and Programmes

### Introduction

**2.1** In order to establish a clear scope for the Sustainability Appraisal (SA), it is necessary (and a requirement of the SEA) to review and develop an understanding of the wider range of plans, policies and programmes that are relevant to the LDP. This includes International, European, National, Regional and Local level plans, policies and programmes. Summarising the aspirations of other relevant policies, plans and programmes promotes a systematic identification of the ways in which the LDP could help to fulfil them. The full list of plans, policies, and programmes reviewed is found in Appendix 1. The list is not exhaustive and does not provide a definitive account of their contents; however, it is considered that it provides a sufficient review of those relevant to the preparation of the revised LDP and identifies any social, economic, cultural and environmental objectives that should be considered within the SA.

**2.2** Each of the plans, policies, programmes and strategies were researched to develop an understanding of:

- The relevant objectives, targets and indicators; and
- The implications for the revised LDP and SA.

**2.3** Local planning authorities (LPA's) must engage constructively, actively and on an ongoing basis to maximise the effectiveness of LDP preparation in the context of strategic cross

boundary matters, and as such the surrounding development plans have also been included in the review. The implications of these development plans for the revised Blaenau Gwent LDP and SA will be considered at each SA stage to ensure that any identified issues remain relevant.

**2.4** The iterative nature of this work will ensure new plans, policies and programmes which are published as the revised LDP progresses can and will be taken into account.

### Key themes arising from the review

**2.5** There were many common themes identified in the review of plans, policies and programmes. Whilst specific results are contained in Appendix 1, Table 3 below summaries the key themes identified. These themes are also considered against the seven well-being goals and where they could make a contribution to the achievement of these goals.

**Table 3: Key Themes Resulting from the Review of Plans, Programmes, Policies and Strategies and Baseline Data**

<b>Key Themes from the Review</b>	<b>Relevant Well-being Goals</b>
<b>1. Population (socio economic issues)</b>	
Raise educational attainment and improve skills to help improve opportunities for life	A Prosperous Wales A Resilient Wales A Healthier Wales A More Equal Wales A Wales of Cohesive Communities A Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language
Promote quality employment opportunities and economic activity	A Prosperous Wales A Resilient Wales A Healthier Wales A More Equal Wales A Wales of Cohesive Communities A Globally Responsible Wales
Promote economic growth, diversity and business competitiveness to raise prosperity for all	A Prosperous Wales A Resilient Wales A More Equal Wales A Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language A Globally Responsible Wales
Improve access to good quality housing to ensure that everyone has the opportunity to live in a decent affordable home	A Prosperous Wales A Resilient Wales A Healthier Wales A More Equal Wales A Wales of Cohesive Communities A Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language A Globally Responsible Wales
Create safe, sustainable, balanced and cohesive communities	A Prosperous Wales A Resilient Wales A Healthier Wales

	A More Equal Wales A Wales of Cohesive Communities A Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language
2. Air	
Reduce air pollution and maintain or seek improvements in air quality	A Resilient Wales A Healthier Wales A Globally Responsible Wales
3. Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna	
Conserve, protect and enhance biodiversity interests, flora and fauna	A Prosperous Wales A Resilient Wales A Healthier Wales A Wales of Cohesive Communities A Globally Responsible Wales
4. Soil and Land	
Safeguarding of soil resources, maximising the efficient use of land and the remediation of contaminated land	A Resilient Wales A Globally Responsible Wales
5. Water	
Protect and improve the quality and quantity of water resources.	A Prosperous Wales A Resilient Wales A Healthier Wales A Wales of Cohesive Communities A Globally Responsible Wales
6. Material Assets (Minerals and Waste)	
Safeguarding of minerals and manage mineral extraction	A Resilient Wales A Globally Responsible Wales
Increase levels of reuse and recycling to achieve more sustainable waste management and reduce landfill	
7. Human Health	
Improve the health and well-being of the population and reduce health inequalities	A Prosperous Wales A Resilient Wales

Increase the amount of recreational open space and protect and enhance the access to high quality open space	A Healthier Wales A More Equal Wales A Wales of Cohesive Communities A Globally Responsible Wales
8. Cultural Heritage	
Protection, enhancement, conservation and preservation of heritage assets	A Prosperous Wales A Resilient Wales A More Equal Wales A Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language A Globally Responsible Wales
Contribute towards the future well-being of the Welsh language	
9. Landscape	
The protection and enhancement of designated landscapes, landscape character, landscape features and visual amenity	A Prosperous Wales A More Equal Wales A Wales of Cohesive Communities A Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language A Globally Responsible Wales
10. Climatic Factors	
Increasing the use of low carbon and renewable energy sources and resource efficiency	A Prosperous Wales A Resilient Wales A Healthier Wales A More Equal Wales A Wales of Cohesive Communities A Globally Responsible Wales
The location of new development should avoid areas where risks of flooding are unacceptable and cannot be mitigated	
Sustainable development that reduces the need to travel and promote active travel	
New development is designed to adapt to the future effect of climate change	



## 3.0 Baseline Information and Identification of Key Sustainability Issues and Opportunities

### Introduction

**3.1** The collection of baseline data is a requirement of the SEA regulations. The collection of the data is essential in providing an evidence base for considering environmental issues when establishing the impacts that a revised Local Development Plan (LDP) is likely to have on the existing situation in the County Borough. It provides a baseline for predicting the effects of alternative LDP strategies at the strategic options stage and it provides a benchmark against which future monitoring can take place. The SEA Regulations (Schedule 2) require that information is gathered on *'...the relevant aspects of the current state of the environment and the likely evolution thereof without implementation of the plan or programme'* and, *'...the environmental characteristics of the areas likely to be significantly affected'*.

### Baseline Information

**3.2** Understanding the characteristics of Blaenau Gwent's economic, social, cultural and environmental well-being is essential to understand the effects of a revised LDP. Characterising the environmental and sustainability baseline, issues and context is important in defining the framework for the SA. It involves the following elements:

- Characterising the current state of the environmental, social, cultural and economic well-being of Blaenau Gwent;

- Understanding future trends based on current trends and future projections that may impact on Blaenau Gwent's economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being; and
- Using this information to identify existing issues and opportunities which could be influenced by the revised LDP, recognising that whilst many of the issues will have land use implications the revised LDP will, in some instances, not be the best mechanism to address these issues.

**3.3** The SEA Regulations require that defined environmental issues are covered in the assessment process, these are:

- population
- air
- biodiversity
- flora
- fauna
- soil
- water
- material assets
- human health
- cultural heritage, including architectural and archaeological heritage
- landscape
- climatic factors
- the inter-relationship between the issues

**3.4** However, as the Sustainability Appraisal (SA) is encompassed within this process the issues to be covered need to be widened to include social and economic matters.

**3.5** Appendix 2 of this draft Scoping Report sets out the key information relating to Blaenau Gwent's environmental characteristics, population, economic characteristics and infrastructure. In accordance with SEA regulations, the Appendix reports on the unique aspects of Blaenau Gwent.

**3.6** The baseline data for Blaenau Gwent contained in Appendix 2 of this report is structured according to the seven well-being goals<sup>1</sup>

- A Prosperous Wales
- A Resilient Wales
- A Healthier Wales
- A More Equal Wales
- A Wales of Cohesive Communities
- A Wales of Vibrant Culture & Thriving Welsh Language
- A Globally Responsible Wales

**3.7** Whilst there are many overlaps between the baseline sets and topics, each of the baseline topics identified in the SEA Regulations are represented.

**3.8** The following section summarises some of the key sustainability issues that are considered to arise from an analysis of

this data together with the opportunities that the revised LDP will need to address. These are identified across the seven Wellbeing goals and ISA topic subheadings which stem from the baseline data (Appendix 2). These will be refined and updated alongside the emerging revised LDP as appropriate.

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<sup>1</sup> Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015

## Key Sustainability Issues and Opportunities

### A Prosperous Wales

#### Population - Employment and Economy

- Blaenau Gwent has the lowest GVA per head in Wales.
- Blaenau Gwent has the lowest percentage of working age population economically active and the largest percentage of the working age population who are economically inactive and not wanting a job compared to neighbouring authorities and the average for Wales.
- The level of unemployment for 20-24 and 16-19 year olds is higher than the Welsh average.
- Blaenau Gwent has the largest percentage of its working age population claiming key benefits. The rate of long term sickness is significantly higher than the all Wales level.
- Limited employment opportunities with a reliance on employment in manufacturing sector followed by wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles and human health and social work activities. The rate of self-employed is notably lower than the all Wales level.
- Blaenau Gwent has a lower percentage of its working age population in the managers and professional occupations (standard occupation classification groups 1-3) than Wales has. In contrast Blaenau Gwent has the highest percentage of its working age population in the standard occupation classification groups 8-9 compared to Wales as a whole.
- The average gross weekly pay for full-time workers in Blaenau has increased by £130.30 since 2009, although the average

remains less in Blaenau Gwent when compared to Wales but it is higher than Newport or Caerphilly.

- Compared to neighbouring authorities and Wales Blaenau Gwent has relatively high levels of out commuting from the County Borough and low levels of people commuting into the authority .
- Blaenau Gwent performs well in terms of superfast broadband speeds but very poorly in terms of ultrafast and mean download speeds.
- Since the last Destination Management Plan the area has seen a growth of 7.2% visitors. These visitors have contributed an extra 10.7% into the local economy with 8.8% increase in those directly employed in tourism.
- Some of the County Borough's town centres are generally performing well in terms of vacancy rates whilst others less so.
- The percentage of working age population with no qualification is more than double that of Monmouthshire, and more than the Welsh average.
- The percentage of people qualified to NQF level 3 or above has increased over the period 2012 to 2017 although it remains less than the Welsh average.

#### ***Opportunities for the revised LDP to address***

- *The revised LDP can encourage a diverse economy within the County Borough, specifically by ensuring that sufficient employment sites are located in attractive, accessible and sustainable locations and are of an appropriate size and type to meet the needs of the market/key economic sectors.*

- *The revised LDP can have some influence over commuting patterns through ensuring that more jobs are provided and wherever possible jobs and homes are located in close proximity to each other to provide greater opportunity for people to work locally.*
- *The revised LDP can contain policies to protect town centres from out of town developments and consider their evolving role/function.*
- *The revised LDP can contain policies that encourage tourism development while at the same time ensuring that the natural and built heritage that attracts visitors to the area is preserved and enhanced.*
- *The revised LDP can affect unemployment levels and the reluctance of certain sectors of the population to actively seek employment by encouraging growth in appropriate locations and of an appropriate type, and through a combination of regeneration activities including environmental and accessibility improvements and increased availability of training and education.*
- *Provision should be made for encouraging an increase in the percentage of the working age population attaining higher skill levels and enabling young people to reach their full potential.*
- *The revised LDP should encourage the working age population to settle in the area, thus it will be important to ensure that job opportunities are matched by access to housing that is suitable and affordable.*

- *Access to high speed internet can be a particular issue for those with low incomes. The revised LDP can help to address digital exclusion by seeking to support the delivery of high speed connections.*
- *The revised LDP has an opportunity to maximise the socio-economic benefits to the County that may accrue from the implementation of the Cardiff Capital Region City Deal and South East Wales Metro.*

## A Resilient Wales

### Air

- The air quality in Blaenau Gwent is good

#### **Opportunities for the revised LDP to address**

*The revised LDP can also take measures to ensure that the location of new development does not exacerbate air quality conditions in existing areas that are monitored or create issues in other areas.*

### Biodiversity, Flora & Fauna

- There is a wide range of habitats in Blaenau Gwent. The most significant habitats include: 3 Sites of Special Scientific Interest; 11 Local Nature Reserves; and 148 Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation, as well as numerous European protected species. These natural assets need to be conserved, enhanced and protected from the potential effects of new development.

- There is a need to safeguard and enhance the green infrastructure in the LDP area and the connectivity of the local environment.

***Opportunities for the revised LDP to address***

- *Internationally and nationally designated sites and protected species already have a high level of protection under national law and, therefore, should not be subject to significant harm. The revised LDP should ensure that new development does not cause harm to these interests and that where appropriate and necessary mitigation measures are taken to avoid any such adverse effects.*
- *The revised LDP can contain policies that protect and enhance the green infrastructure network in the County Borough. Green infrastructure can help to deliver multiple benefits across Blaenau Gwent, including air quality, water quality, flood risk and soil quality as well as positively impacting on health and well-being of the population.*
- *It will be necessary to undertake a Habitat Regulations Assessment to ensure any cumulative effects arising from the revised LDP through development in Blaenau Gwent and adjoining areas does not result in harm to internationally designated conservation areas.*

**Soil**

- Deep peat soils are one of Blaenau Gwent's critical natural assets. Peat supports the largest amount of soil carbon per unit area of any soils and when in good condition in wetlands play a

very important role in climate change by locking up carbon from the atmosphere.

- There is no best and most versatile agricultural land in the County Borough.
- The Blaenau Gwent area is predominantly natural land (67%), with only 20% of total land area built on, 5% green urban and 9% farmland. This is likely to present constraints to development on the basis of landscape and biodiversity value, which will either increase demand for brownfield land in the County Borough; or alternatively act as a deterrent to developers who may seek to develop less constrained sites in neighbouring areas.
- Notwithstanding the above, the average percentage of housing completions on brownfield land over the past 12 years is 81%.
- Blaenau Gwent has a long history of heavy industry including coal and mineral extraction and iron and steel manufacture. These industries were spread throughout the area and as a result there is likely to be a widespread dispersion of the contaminants associated with this sector of manufacturing.

***Opportunities for the revised LDP to address***

- *The identification of development sites in the LDP can enable the commercial reuse of brownfield land, including contaminated sites; and limit the loss of valuable greenfield land to development. Such land allocations will need to be informed by the robust understanding of the financial pressures of commercial development in order to ensure that all allocations have a real prospect of development in the revised LDP period.*

### Water Quality

- In Blaenau Gwent there are waterbodies classed as good. However most are 'moderate' or 'poor'. None are 'bad'.
- The six reservoirs in Blaenau Gwent are classed as moderate, and are primarily failing because they are artificial/heavily modified waterbodies.

#### ***Opportunities for the revised LDP to address***

- *The revised LDP needs to guide location and character of development in order to avoid harm to either surface or ground water quality.*

### Material Assets – Minerals and Waste

- Although Blaenau Gwent is making progress in the amount of municipal waste sent for reuse, recycling or composting the amount is the lowest when compared to surrounding neighbouring authorities and the Welsh average. There are therefore still improvements that need to be made if statutory requirements are to be met.
- Blaenau Gwent lies on the north eastern edge of the South Wales coalfield. The Coal Measures underlie the majority of the County Borough. The coal bearing rocks are overlain in the south of the County Borough by Pennant Sandstone, predominantly the Hughes and Grovesend Beds. There is an outcrop of carboniferous limestone on the edge of the coalfield in the north of the County Borough. There is a need to safeguard these resources in order to make an appropriate contribution to the sustainable supply of aggregates to the South Wales economy as a whole.

#### ***Opportunities for the revised LDP to address***

- *The LDP will need to promote a holistic approach to waste management. This includes the development of a new waste management facility, 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.*
- *The revised LDP can ensure that mineral resources are safeguarded and exploited in a sustainable fashion that enables Blaenau Gwent to meet its obligation to make a contribution to the requirements of the South Wales region.*

## A Healthier Wales

### Human Health

- Figures relating to the teenage conception rate in Blaenau Gwent was much higher than the Welsh average in 2001-3 The figures have now decreased and are generally in line with the Welsh average.
- The average life expectancy for both males and females in Blaenau Gwent is generally increasing. However life expectancy in Blaenau Gwent remains well below the Wales average.
- Blaenau Gwent has the lowest percentages of residents assessing their general health as very good health and good health when compared to all other local authorities. This is reflective of residents' lifestyles as Blaenau Gwent has the higher proportion of smokers and e cigarette users than Wales.

In terms of obesity levels, Blaenau Gwent has a higher percentage when compared to the Aneurin Bevan Health Board and Wales as a whole.

- Blaenau Gwent had the highest proportion of LSOAs in the most deprived 50% in Wales for the health domain.
- Most of Blaenau Gwent's residents have good access to natural green space, which can have positive effects on health and well-being. There is a need to protect and enhance this access to high quality open space.
- The amount of recreational open space has decreased in the County Borough since 2009 from 1.11 ha to 0.99 ha. There is a data gap in terms of assessing the efficiency of these recreation and open space areas.

#### **Opportunities for the revised LDP**

- *The design of the built environment can play an important role in creating a healthier Blaenau Gwent, many aspects of which are considered under other headings in this report, such as housing, active travel, development patterns, green infrastructure, flood risk, climate change, biodiversity and air quality.*
- *Good housing and access to well paid jobs and the potential consequential impact on living standards and health are important factors that can be addressed through the revised LDP.*
- *The revised LDP can affect the provision of public open space and recreation by protecting, where necessary, existing provision and requiring new development to make a contribution to the provision of new facilities.*

## **A More Equal Wales**

### **Population**

- Historically, the overall population in Blaenau Gwent has fallen since it peaked in 1921. More recently the rate of decline has been more stable, falling by just 3.4% in the 20 year period between the 1991 Census and 2011 Census.
- From 2001 to 2007 natural change played a significant part in population loss. However, the biggest contributor to change is net internal migration with losses of 100-300 on a number of occasions. The overall trend has changed from large net losses (over 600 a year) to increases of 100 a year. The population of Blaenau Gwent appears to be stabilising.
- The population density in Blaenau Gwent was 638 people per square kilometre, compared with 149 per square kilometre for Wales. Blaenau Gwent's population density is similar to neighbouring areas, all of which are significantly above the Welsh average.
- The latest Welsh Government population projections show a demographic profile in Blaenau Gwent that, if current trends continue the percentage of the population aged 0-15 will decrease by 2% by 2039. This is in contrast to the expected increase across Wales overall. The population aged 16-64 years is expected to decrease by 16% by 2039 which is of significant concern; and the over 65 population is expected to increase by 2039 in line with expectations across Wales.



### ***Opportunities for the revised LDP***

- Amongst other things, trends in age structure suggest that the LDP should take a role in strengthening the local economy, ensuring an appropriate economic base to enable people to live and work in the County and ensuring that demand for homes is satisfied, providing good quality affordable homes for those who need them.
- The revised LDP can contain policies that ensure that the housing provision is suitable for people of all ages, to create an equitable society, but also make an efficient use of housing.
- The revised LDP must decide on the level of growth appropriate for Blaenau Gwent and the spatial distribution of this growth.

## **A Wales of Cohesive Communities**

### **Multiple Deprivation**

- Blaenau Gwent had the highest percentage of LSOAs in the most deprived 10% in Wales, for income, education and community safety.

### **Housing**

- House prices in Blaenau Gwent are low compared to the Welsh average and neighbouring authorities. This can be interpreted that Blaenau Gwent is a less desirable location in which to live than other neighbouring areas, which could be a consequence of a number of factors including perceived employment opportunities, quality of housing stock, environmental quality and lack of suitable accommodation.

- Although Blaenau Gwent is one of the most affordable areas in Wales, there remains an affordability issue given the employment characteristics of the borough such as lower paid jobs and high dependence of people on benefits for example.
- 52% of the current housing stock in Blaenau Gwent comprises of terraced properties constructed pre1919, although there is considerable variation between areas.
- House building completions in Blaenau Gwent have been erratic since 2006 and fall well below the expected LDP figures so far having only built 39% of what is expected.
- Since adoption of the Plan Blaenau Gwent has failed to achieve a 5 year land supply.
- The latest Welsh Government housing projections indicate that the number of households in south east Wales will increase by 8.4% (46,500) between 2018 and 2033. Blaenau Gwent will have to accommodate a share of this growth both to fulfil its regional obligations as part of the Cardiff Capital Region and to ensure the viability of its own communities by addressing affordability and demographic issues.
- In 2015/16, the rate of households for whom homelessness was successfully prevented (for at least 6 months per 10,000 households) was 51%. This is high compared to other local authorities in the region, where the lowest was 26%. The Wales average for the same period is 35%. This needs to be closely monitored to avoid a reduction in the positive performance of Blaenau Gwent in preventing homelessness.
- The revised LDP should seek to ensure that the needs of the Gypsy and Traveller community are met.

### Crime

- Total crime in Blaenau Gwent has increased by 6% over the calendar year 2016. . The 4,895 offences account for 12.5% of all crime in Gwent and translate to a crime rate of 70.96 crimes per 1000 population which remains above Gwent's average (68.33).
- Blaenau-Gwent saw a significant reduction in antisocial behaviour (ASB) incidents during 2016 i.e. - 15% or 546 fewer incidents.

#### ***Opportunities for the revised LDP to address***

- The revised LDP should provide for a range of homes that meets the needs of the population and are high quality, warm, secure and energy efficient.
- The revised LDP should seek to ensure that the needs of the Gypsy and Traveller community are met.
- The revised LDP will affect the amount of affordable housing to be provided by both deciding on overall levels of growth and by setting thresholds and proportions to determine the amount of this residential development that is affordable. It can influence the type, tenure and nature of housing built within the County Borough.
- The revised LDP should seek to capitalise on infrastructure developments so that Blaenau Gwent is an area of choice with full access to good quality leisure and lifestyle amenities.

### Accessibility

- During weekdays and on Saturdays, the current frequency of bus services between hubs varies between 2 and 4 per hour

which is considered a limited service. Sunday service also remains limited.

- A further issue identified in the Well-being plan engagement related to the lack of bus routes to the main employment areas in Blaenau Gwent.
- Improvements have been made to rail provision, plans are underway to increase the frequency of rail services in Ebbw Vale and Llanhilleth to two trains per hour.

#### ***Opportunities for the revised LDP to address***

- *Being able to access services, jobs and markets is a key requirement for an area to be successful. The revised LDP can help to develop a transport network which improves connectivity within and outside of Blaenau Gwent.*

### **A Wales of Vibrant Culture and Thriving Welsh Language**

#### **Cultural heritage**

- Statistics show that whilst the Welsh language does not currently play a significant role in the County, with less than 10% of residents able to speak Welsh, this figure has risen since the 2001 Census (1.7%).
- Blaenau Gwent has a rich cultural heritage, including a conservation area, a historic park and garden, 13 scheduled ancient monuments, 2 historic landscape designations and 53 listed buildings. There are also 1,048 non designated historic assets in Blaenau Gwent. There is a need to preserve, protect and enhance these cultural assets.

**Opportunities for the Revised LDP to address**

- *The revised LDP needs to ensure that it takes into account equality issues in its policies and ensures that the Welsh language is safeguarded and supported.*
- *The revised LDP needs to take into account the need to preserve the historic and cultural heritage of Blaenau Gwent.*
- *There are opportunities for the revised LDP to provide a framework to recognise, protect, promote and enhance heritage assets which could help to deliver tourism and economic growth.*
- *The revised LDP can play a key role in 'place-making' by promoting good quality sustainable design that will enable new development to respect and enhance the existing distinctive character of Blaenau Gwent.*

**Landscape**

- Blaenau Gwent has a rich and diverse landscape bordering the Brecon Beacons National Park, and the Blaenavon Industrial Landscape World Heritage Site.
- Special Landscape Areas within Blaenau Gwent cover a total area of approximately 7,614 hectares, accounting for approximately 70% of the total local planning area within Blaenau Gwent area.
- There is a need to protect and enhance the landscape assets of the County Borough, protecting the key views and visual amenity of both the settlements and the wider countryside. As

these assets can extend beyond the boundary of the LDP area this protection incorporates cross-boundary landscapes.

**Opportunities for the Revised LDP to address**

- *The revised LDP needs to protect high quality landscapes throughout the County Borough and the setting of the Brecon Beacons National Park and the Blaenavon Industrial Landscape World Heritage Site.*

**A Globally Responsible Wales****Climatic Factors**

- As in the rest of the country carbon emissions are continuing to rise, with emissions from housing, and road transport the main contributing factors. There is a need to minimise the emissions of air pollutants.
- Blaenau Gwent's water supply is primarily from the three small reservoirs – Shon Sheffery and Upper and Lower Carno. In dry weather the smaller upland reservoirs can experience storage declines therefore abstractions from the river Usk and Wye can be transferred to relieve the demand. This uses a lot of energy and is not wholly sustainable in the long term.
- There has been an increase in the generation of renewable and low carbon energy generation recently with 15.208 MW of renewable energy generation projects being installed and 2.79 MW of low carbon energy developments being installed between 2013 and 2017.

- Blaenau Gwent is starting from a good position as it has the lowest carbon and ecological footprint of the neighbouring areas and is also below the whole of Wales average.
- Parts of the County, those areas adjacent to major water courses are vulnerable to flooding, a risk that is increasing through climate change and rising sea levels. 4,203 of people are affected by the risk of flooding.

***Opportunities for the Revised LDP to address***

- *The revised LDP can seek to minimise any polluting effects that might arise from new development in the County by encouraging appropriate patterns of development that seek to reduce the usage of private vehicles and to allow for increased walking, cycling and use of transport.*
- *The revised LDP can set targets to meet requirements and contain policies that encourage renewable and low carbon energy generation in appropriate locations and encourage the incorporation of appropriate renewable energy schemes within new developments.*
- *Concerns about climate change require that efforts are made to reduce the reliance on the private car and the consequent impact of carbon dioxide emissions. The revised LDP needs to consider appropriate patterns of development that promote a safe, efficient, accessible and sustainable transport system that provides opportunities for walking and cycling and encourages active travel.*
- *The revised LDP has a role to play in terms of reducing the risk from present day flood risk, as well as in relation to climate change adaptation and resilience.*

- *The revised LDP needs to guide the location of development away from flood risk areas or to fully mitigate any potential flood risks taking into full consideration the potential effects of climate change.*

## 4.0 Development of the SA Framework

### Introduction

**4.1** In order for a successful sustainability appraisal to be carried out it is essential to set out a standard definition of what is required from sustainable development in Blaenau Gwent. This can then be used as a constant against which LDP performance is assessed. The definition is set out in the form of a 'sustainability framework' for the SA of the LDP.

**4.2** This section identifies a proposed SA framework to assess the Likely Significant Effects from the emerging revised LDP. The framework is intended to show the diverse range of issues that are encompassed by the term 'sustainable development', with an objective set for each issue that shows what type of change would represent a movement towards sustainable development.

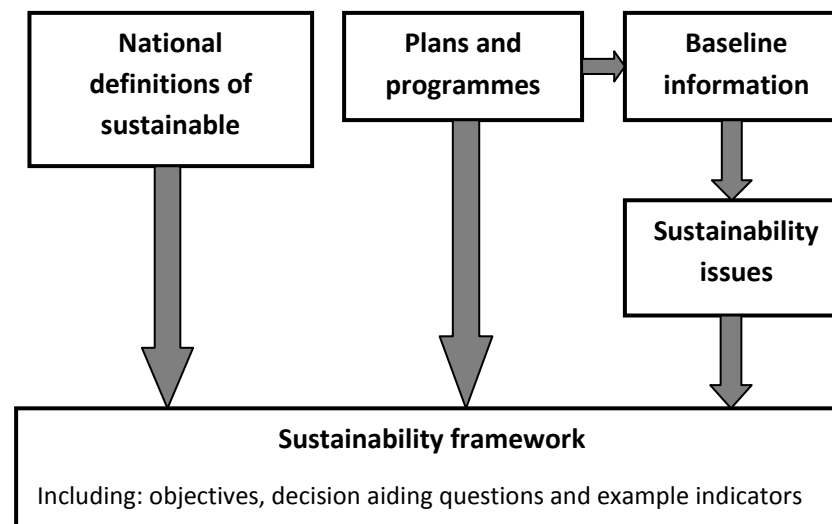
**4.3** The development of a sustainability framework is an essential output of the SA scoping exercise using information gathered on baseline characteristic issues and other plans and programmes to tailor a sustainable development definition to Blaenau Gwent's needs.

**4.4** The starting point for sustainability objectives is a basic understanding of sustainable development. The Well-being of Future Generations Act puts in place a 'sustainable development principle' which tells organisations how to go about meeting their

duty under the Act. In the Act, any reference to a public body doing something "in accordance with the sustainable development

principle" means that they'...*must act in a manner which seeks to ensure that the needs of the present are met without comprising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs*'. (Part 2 'improved well-being section 5 'the sustainable development principle, paragraph (1)').

### Approach undertaken to develop the sustainability framework



**4.5** There is the opportunity for this framework to be further refined through the process of targeted consultation on this draft

Scoping Report. Following this consultation period any responses received on the framework in Table 6 can be taken into account, and amendments and additions made where appropriate.

### Review of the Existing LDP SA Objectives

**4.6** While not specifically required by the Directive, SEA objectives are a recognised way of considering the environmental effects of a plan or programme and comparing the effects of alternatives. Another key element of the SA process is to consider whether the SA framework for the SA (incorporating SEA) of the first Blaenau Gwent LDP remains valid or if a revised framework is needed to allow the revised LDP SA to proportionately and effectively respond to the key sustainability issues identified in section 3. Table 4 lists the SA objectives of the existing Blaenau Gwent LDP framework and considers their continuing validity.

**Table 4: Review of the Existing Blaenau Gwent LDP SA Objectives**

<b>Blaenau Gwent Existing LDP SA Objective</b>		<b>Assessment of Continuing Validity of the Existing LDP SA Objective</b>
<b>Economic</b>		
1.	To promote economic growth and strengthen and diversify the economy	Given the evidence set out in the baseline data, the SA objective remains valid and rightly concentrates on promoting economic growth and strengthening and diversifying the economy. However the objective fails to acknowledge the fact that Blaenau Gwent has the lowest GVA per head in Wales and the average earnings are less than Wales as a whole therefore the objective should include wording reflecting increasing prosperity for Blaenau Gwent residents. Consideration also needs to be given to the regional aspirations and opportunities associated with the Cardiff Capital Region City Deal, South Wales Metro and a future Strategic Development Plan for the South East Wales region. Consideration needs to be given in the SA framework to how a revised LDP will take account of these factors.
2.	To increase levels of local employment and ensure distribution of opportunities	This SA objective remains valid and rightly concentrates on increasing levels of local employment and ensuring distribution of opportunities.
3.	To enable the development of a strong tourism economy in Blaenau Gwent, complementary to the regional offer	The SA objective remains valid given the submission of the renewal of outline planning permission on the Motor Resort Wales site which would, if approved have significant economic benefits for the region.
4.	To enhance the vitality and viability of town centres	An identified key sustainability issue is that for some of the town centres the vacancy rates are higher than the national average and there is a need to increase retail spend in the County Borough. Therefore this remains a valid indicator.
<b>Social</b>		
5.	To meet identified housing needs	The SA objective usefully focuses on meeting housing needs however, no details are provided to define the needs (for example number, quality, types, tenure, size etc) meaning that individual decision making questions are needed to address each form of housing need individually. Given the importance placed within PPW on planning for housing delivery, it will be critical for the SA framework for the revised LDP to include a SA objective regarding meeting housing needs.
6.	To improve the quality of Blaenau Gwent's housing stock	The baseline data suggests that there has been significant improvement in the quality of housing stock in particular in Registered Social Landlord properties. Therefore it is not necessary to include an objective



<b>Blaenau Gwent Existing LDP SA Objective</b>		<b>Assessment of Continuing Validity of the Existing LDP SA Objective</b>
		on improving the quality of housing stock, however there is a need to ensure that sufficient good quality houses are provided. Given the emphasis of the draft PPW 10 on sustainable placemaking, there is also considered the need to include reference to the delivery of housing in sustainable locations.
7.	To secure the delivery and maintenance of quality affordable housing	The validity of the maintenance element of the SA objective is questioned due to the significant improvement in the quality of housing stock as mentioned above. However the delivery of affordable housing remains a relevant issue based on the low level of highly skilled employment, the average earnings and the dependence on key benefits.
8.	To improve educational attainment and increase skill levels	This SA objective remains valid, although there has been an improvement it remains an issue in Blaenau Gwent.
9.	To improve accessibility to education, leisure, employment, health, homes and community services for all sectors of the community	This SA objective remains relevant. However the SA objective could be refined to avoid listing all the different sectors, instead the wording of jobs, services and facilities would cover all that is currently listed. The SA objective in its current form fails to address the promotion of active travel and sustainability as this is covered in objective 12 below. Therefore it is more appropriate for objective 12 to be covered in this objective. In addition consideration could also be given to non-transport accessibility issues such as improving high quality digital connectivity and utilities.
10.	To promote community health, social care and well-being	The SA objective remains valid and rightly focuses on promoting community health, social care and well-being. To ensure that the SA takes account of the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 and incorporates the Well-being and Health Impact Assessments as part of the SA process the SA framework should include a broader interpretation of health and well-being, capturing issues such as mental health, multiple deprivation and community safety.
11.	To reduce crime, social disorder and fear of crime	The issue of crime remains a relevant issue, however it is questioned whether a separate objective is required on community safety or whether this could be subsumed under health and well-being
12.	To encourage modal shift from private transport to sustainable transport	See commentary under objective 9 above.
<b>Environmental</b>		
13.	To protect and enhance biodiversity across Blaenau Gwent	The SA objective remains valid. However it fails to acknowledge geodiversity which is an issue for Blaenau Gwent. To address more fully the identified key sustainability issues and to ensure that the SA takes account of the Environment (Wales) Act (2016) the SA Framework should include reference to how

Blaenau Gwent Existing LDP SA Objective		Assessment of Continuing Validity of the Existing LDP SA Objective
		the revised LDP will safeguard and enhance green infrastructure and ecological connectivity in the LDP area.
14.	To conserve and enhance the heritage assets of Blaenau Gwent and their settings	The SA objective remains valid. However it should more broadly cover the historic environment and cultural assets. In addition recent guidance now requires that the SA process explicitly assesses the likely impacts of emerging LDPs on the welsh language. The SA Framework for the revised LDP should be broadened to capture the cultural and historic significance of the Welsh language.
15.	To make the best use of previously developed land and existing buildings to minimise pressure for greenfield development, where this will not result in damage or loss in biodiversity	The SA objective remains valid and relevant.
16.	To conserve soil resources and their quality	The safeguarding of soil resources remains a relevant and valid issue.
17.	To reduce emissions of greenhouse gases, in particular carbon dioxide	It is considered that a more standalone clearer climate change objective should be included in the SA Framework for the LDP Review. This would allow a holistic assessment of all climate change impacts and implications of the emerging replacement LDP to be carried out.
18.	To reduce waste generation and maximise reuse and recycling	The SA objective remains valid and relevant given the lower levels of recycling rates. However, the need to develop a circular economy and to implement the waste hierarchy should be covered.
19.	To maintain current air quality	This SA objective remains relevant and valid given that the air quality is good in Blaenau Gwent and there is a need to maintain the level.
20.	To maintain current low levels of vulnerability of all development to flooding	An objective in relation to flood risk is relevant, however the wording of the current objective is not clear therefore some amendment to the wording is required.
21.	To promote the use of sustainably sourced products and resources	The monitoring framework for the existing SA has failed to meaningfully monitor this objective therefore consideration should be given to subsuming this objective within another.
22.	To increase energy efficiency and generation and use of renewable energy across the County Borough	This SA objective remains valid and relevant, however it fails to take account of low carbon energy sources and so should be updated to reflect this.

Blaenau Gwent Existing LDP SA Objective		Assessment of Continuing Validity of the Existing LDP SA Objective
23.	To conserve and enhance surface and ground water quality	This SA objective has a narrow focus and should more broadly reflect the need to protect and enhance the water environment and water resources.
24.	Protect the quality and character of the landscape and enhance where necessary	To protect the quality and character of the landscape remains a relevant and valid issue.

**4.7** From the review above it can be seen that the objectives in the first LDP mostly remain largely relevant and valid. However, it is considered that there is a need to refine the number and structure of the objectives and take account of contextual changes since the LDP adoption.

**4.8** In terms of number, currently there are 24 SA objectives, of which several relate to one topic area, for example for housing there are 3 objectives. It is considered that a better approach is for there to be one objective relating to the topic therefore where there are multiple objectives it is proposed to merge these to form one objective.

**4.9** In terms of structure, the SA framework for the first LDP divided the objectives under the headings of social, economic and environmental. However as there is significant interrelationship with the objectives under these three areas, it is proposed that the structure of the objectives is developed around topic headings relating to the SA/SEA regulations, where possible.

**4.10** In terms of contextual changes since the LDP adoption, the emerging regional situation with regards to the Cardiff Capital Region City Deal and South Wales Metro needs to be considered. Issues such as demographic challenges, affordability, the dual economy, green economy and digital accessibility have achieved greater prominence since Plan adoption in 2014.

## **Proposed SA Objectives for the Revised LDP**

**4.11** The proposed SA objectives for the revision of the LDP will help to show whether the objectives of the Plan are beneficial for the environment, to compare the environmental effects of alternatives, or, where required, to suggest improvements. The objectives have been developed through a review of the plans, programmes and policies in Appendix 1 which resulted in the identification of key themes as set out in Table 3, the analysis of the baseline data in Appendix 2 and the identification of the key issues and opportunities in section 3 and a review of the existing LDP objectives (Table 4).

**Table 5: Proposed SA Objectives for the Revised LDP**

ISA Theme	ISA Objective
Economy and Employment	To promote economic growth and maximise the economic contribution of the area to the Cardiff City Region, strengthening and diversifying the economy, promoting tourism, enhancing the vitality and viability of town centres and increasing prosperity for all.
	To increase levels of local employment and ensure distribution of opportunities, whilst improving educational attainment and increasing skill levels.
Population and Communities	To provide a sufficient quantity of good quality market and affordable homes in sustainable locations to meet identified needs.
	To enhance design quality to create great places for people.
Health and well-being	To improve the health and well-being of the population including physical and mental health, social well-being and community safety.
Equality, diversity and social inclusion	To reduce poverty and inequality; tackle social exclusion; and promote community cohesion.
Transport and Movement	To improve access for all to the jobs, services and facilities they need whilst supporting a reduction in the use of private transport by promoting active travel and encouraging modal shift to sustainable transport, and improving access to high quality digital communications and utilities.
Natural Resources (Air, Land, Minerals and Water)	To identify and pursue any opportunities to reduce, or at least, minimise population exposure to air pollution.
	To make the best use of previously developed land and existing buildings to minimise pressure for greenfield development and protecting where possible higher grade agricultural land.
	To promote the circular economy by reducing waste generation and maximising reuse and recycling, ensuring the use of natural resources and the provision of an adequate supply of minerals.
	To conserve, protect and enhance the water environment, water quality and water resources.
Biodiversity and Geodiversity	To conserve, protect and enhance biodiversity and geodiversity interests within and surrounding Blaenau Gwent.
Historic Environment	To conserve and enhance the significance of the County Borough's historic environment, cultural assets (including the use of the Welsh language) and heritage assets and their settings.
Landscape	To protect and enhance the quality and character of the landscape.

ISA Theme	ISA Objective
Climate Change	To mitigate and adapt to the effects of climate change through increasing energy efficiency and generation and use of low carbon and renewable energy sources.
Flood Risk	To reduce and manage the risk of flooding.

## 5.0 Integrated SA Framework

### Proposed Sustainability Appraisal Framework for the Revised LDP

**5.1** The Sustainability Appraisal (SA) Framework tries to identify those matters of environmental, economic and social capital that are basic to achieving more sustainable development. The SA Framework in Table 6 below identifies a sustainability objective that clarifies what is being sought from development that would represent a movement towards greater sustainability. The diverse range of issues covered demonstrates the complexity and scope of issues that need to be addressed in seeking more sustainable development.

**5.2** The SA objectives are explained through an indicative set of decision aiding questions. These are not intended to be an exhaustive list but simply aim to add clarity to the objective by defining the measures a revised LDP could take to achieving more sustainable development.

**5.3** The SA Framework also identifies possible indicators that could be developed into the LDP monitoring framework to monitor the sustainable implementation of the LDP. These indicators express a 'direction of change' that the Plan could bring about to make a positive step towards achieving more sustainable development. At this stage they are only examples of the type of indicator that may be suitable for monitoring. Many are based on the existing SA indicators for the first LDP, others are on the

information from the baseline data, whilst others are left more broadly to identify matters which could be gathered in the future. In some instances it is not possible to identify an indicator, reasons for this include where there is no reliable way of gathering data on an issue as it is more qualitative than quantitative, or where an indicator is of no use as the reasons for change are more likely to be attributable to the implementation of strategies other than the LDP. As the revised LDP emerges it will be necessary to prepare a set of indicators to monitor implementation, by including sustainability indicators in the monitoring system it will ensure that monitoring for sustainability is an integral part of monitoring and review procedures for the LDP.

**5.4** The SA framework has been developed using the scoping process that has been completed to date. This includes:

- The baseline data collection that has helped to identify the main sustainability issues facing the County Borough so that these can be incorporated into the SA framework as objectives. In addition the baseline information has been used to develop potential indicators for monitoring.
- The review of plans, policies and programmes has helped to find other sustainability objectives for the area that this sustainability appraisal will need to recognise and incorporate into the framework.

**5.5** There is an opportunity for this framework to be further refined through the process of public consultation on this draft



Scoping Report. Following the 5 week consultation period any responses received on the framework in Table 6 below can be taken into account, and amendments and additions made where appropriate.

**Table 6: Proposed SA Framework**

ISA Objectives	Proposed SA Decision Aiding Questions – Will the Revised LDP...	Well-being Goal (where the themes may make a contribution)	Possible SA Indicators showing the desired direction of change increase or more (+); decrease, less or none (-); and no change(nc).
<b>Economy and Employment</b>			
1. To promote economic growth and maximise the economic contribution of the area to the Cardiff City Region, strengthening and diversifying the economy, promoting tourism, enhancing the vitality and viability of town centres and increasing prosperity for all.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Present opportunities to attract and provide a sufficient range of high quality and accessible employment land to facilitate the sustainable expansion of new jobs?</li> <li>• Help to diversify the local economy?</li> <li>• Encourage inward investment and sustainable expansion of resident businesses?</li> <li>• Support innovation and new enterprises?</li> <li>• Present opportunities to support and enhance the vitality and viability of the town centres?</li> <li>• Present opportunities to increase retail spend in the borough?</li> <li>• Maximise the economic benefits from the Cardiff Capital Region City Deal and a future Strategic Development Plan for the South East Wales region</li> </ul>	A Prosperous Wales A Resilient Wales A More Equal Wales A Wales of Cohesive Communities A Wales of Vibrant Culture and thriving Welsh language A Globally Responsible Wales	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Amount of allocated employment land delivered: +</li> <li>• Employment by sector: +</li> <li>• Percentage of working age people who are self-employed: +</li> <li>• Amount of major retail, office and leisure development delivered: +</li> <li>• Average gross weekly pay for full time workers: +</li> <li>• Annual vacancy rate in town centres: -</li> <li>• Retail spend in the County Borough: +</li> <li>• Proportion of Comparison and Convenience retail uses in the town centres: +</li> <li>• Amount of revenue generated by the tourist industry: +</li> <li>• Number of day visitors: +</li> <li>• Number of stay visitors: +</li> <li>• Number of tourism developments delivered: +</li> </ul>
2. To increase levels of local	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improve access to employment</li> </ul>	A Prosperous	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Percentage of residents working in area of</li> </ul>

ISA Objectives	Proposed SA Decision Aiding Questions – Will the Revised LDP...	Well-being Goal (where the themes may make a contribution)	Possible SA Indicators showing the desired direction of change increase or more (+); decrease, less or none (-); and no change(nc).
employment and ensure distribution of opportunities, whilst improving educational attainment and increasing skill levels	<p>especially for local people?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increase and diversify employment opportunities?</li> <li>• Enhance opportunities for education and lifelong learning?</li> <li>• Improve educational attainment and skills levels, especially within the working age population?</li> </ul>	<p>Wales A Healthier Wales A More Equal Wales A Wales of Cohesive Communities</p>	<p>residence: +</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Percentage of residents working in area of residence: +</li> <li>• Percentage of working age population who are economically active: +</li> <li>• Percentage of working age population who are economically inactive: -</li> <li>• Percentage of working age population not wanting a job: -</li> <li>• Proportion of working age population claiming benefits: -</li> <li>• Percentage of employment by standard occupation classification: + in higher classifications</li> <li>• Percentage of working age population with no qualifications: -</li> <li>• Percentage of working age population qualified to NQF level 3: +</li> <li>• Amount of learning infrastructure delivered: +</li> </ul>
<b>Population and Communities</b>			
3. To provide a sufficient quantity of good quality market and affordable homes in sustainable locations to meet identified needs.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Present opportunities to increase delivery of housing to meet the range of identified needs?</li> <li>• Help to reduce homelessness?</li> <li>• Increase mix, range and affordability of housing?</li> <li>• Provide adequate pitches and</li> </ul>	<p>A Prosperous Wales A Resilient Wales A Healthier Wales A More Equal Wales A Wales of</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Population level of Blaenau Gwent: +</li> <li>• Number of households: +</li> <li>• Net number of additional affordable and general market dwellings built: +</li> <li>• Percentage of vacant properties: -</li> <li>• Average house price to income ratio: -</li> <li>• Provision of gypsy and traveller accommodation</li> </ul>

ISA Objectives	Proposed SA Decision Aiding Questions – Will the Revised LDP...	Well-being Goal (where the themes may make a contribution)	Possible SA Indicators showing the desired direction of change increase or more (+); decrease, less or none (-); and no change(nc).
	<p>plots required for Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Show people?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide opportunities to meet housing needs to enable people to remain in Blaenau Gwent?</li> </ul>	<p>Cohesive Communities A Globally Responsible Wales</p>	<p>to meet identified demand: +</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Number of homeless people: -</li> </ul>
4. To enhance design quality to create great places for people	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Promote high quality design which strengthens local distinctiveness and fosters a sense of place?</li> <li>• Facilitate the right development in the right place?</li> <li>• Create buildings that last and are adaptive to change?</li> </ul>	<p>A Prosperous Wales A Healthier Wales A More Equal Wales A Wales of Cohesive Communities</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Number of planning applications refused on design grounds</li> <li>• Proportion of development on allocated land</li> </ul>
5. To improve the health and well-being of the population including physical and mental health, social well-being and community safety	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Protect and improve access to healthcare services and facilities?</li> <li>• Reduce health inequalities and improve the physical and mental health and well-being of communities?</li> <li>• Facilitate or encourage active travel or physical recreation?</li> <li>• Increase the accessibility and quality of recreation, leisure, open space and green infrastructure provision without comprising other functions that open spaces and green infrastructure support?</li> </ul>	<p>A Prosperous Wales A Resilient Wales A Healthier Wales A More Equal Wales A Wales of Cohesive Communities A Globally Responsible Wales</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hectares of recreational open space per 1,000 population (FIT Standard): +</li> <li>• Number of people with access to greenspace within 400m of their home as a percentage of all people: +</li> <li>• Percentage of population within 1km of cycle network: +</li> <li>• Overall index of multiple deprivation: +</li> <li>• Life Expectancy: +</li> <li>• Provision of health infrastructure:</li> <li>• Provision of community and recreation facilities: nc</li> <li>• Number of developments exceeding TAN 11 or</li> </ul>

ISA Objectives	Proposed SA Decision Aiding Questions – Will the Revised LDP...	Well-being Goal (where the themes may make a contribution)	Possible SA Indicators showing the desired direction of change increase or more (+); decrease, less or none (-); and no change(nc).
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Have an effect on communities in terms of increased noise generating activities?</li> <li>Have an effect on communities and settlements in terms of community safety and cleanliness?</li> </ul>		BS4142 Noise requirements
<b>Equalities, diversity and social inclusion</b>			
6. To reduce poverty and inequality; tackle social exclusion and promote community cohesion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reduce poverty and social exclusion?</li> <li>Promote social cohesion and integration?</li> <li>Reduce fuel poverty?</li> <li>Offer the potential for investment, regeneration or renewal in areas experiencing high levels of multiple deprivation?</li> </ul>	A Prosperous Wales A Resilient Wales A Healthier Wales A More Equal Wales A Wales of Cohesive Communities A Globally Responsible Wales	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Index of Multiple Deprivation: -</li> <li>Megawatt hours of domestic gas and electricity consumption</li> </ul>
<b>Transport and Movement</b>			
7. To improve access for all to the jobs, services and facilities they need whilst supporting a reduction in the use of private transport by promoting active travel and encouraging modal shift to sustainable transport, and improving access to high quality digital communications and	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Increase accessibility to jobs, services and facilities?</li> <li>Improve connectivity within Blaenau Gwent and to other areas?</li> <li>Reduce car dependencies and encourage a shift to more sustainable modes of travel for people and freight?</li> </ul>	A Prosperous Wales A Resilient Wales A Healthier Wales A More Equal Wales A Wales of Cohesive Communities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Number and distribution of LSOAs in bottom 10% of most deprived in terms of access to services: <b>nc</b></li> <li>Frequency of bus between hubs and to employment areas: <b>+</b></li> <li>Frequency of rail services: <b>+</b></li> <li>The percentage of the total length of rights of way in Blaenau Gwent that are easy to use by the</li> </ul>

ISA Objectives	Proposed SA Decision Aiding Questions – Will the Revised LDP...	Well-being Goal (where the themes may make a contribution)	Possible SA Indicators showing the desired direction of change increase or more (+); decrease, less or none (-); and no change(nc).
utilities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support the increased uptake of active travel?</li> <li>• Improve the accessibility and capacity and safety of the transport network?</li> <li>• Enhance the frequency, quality and integration of public transport?</li> <li>• Enhance the provision of high quality communications infrastructure?</li> </ul>	A Wales of Vibrant Culture and Thriving Welsh Language A Globally Responsible Wales	general public: + <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No. and value of planning contributions secured for improvements in public transport, walking and cycling</li> <li>• Digital connectivity in the area: +</li> </ul>
<b>Natural Resources (Air, Land, Minerals and Water)</b>			
8. To identify and pursue any opportunities to reduce, or at least, minimise population exposure to air pollution.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maintain or improve air quality?</li> <li>• Prevent and reduce emissions of harmful pollutants?</li> </ul>	A Resilient Wales A Healthier Wales A Globally Responsible Wales	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Background air pollution: -</li> <li>• Critical loads of pollutants are not exceeded on internationally and nationally designated sites by new development: -</li> </ul>
9. To make the best use of previously developed land and existing buildings to minimise pressure for greenfield development and protecting where possible higher grade agricultural land.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Make the best use of land including through prioritising the development of brownfield sites?</li> <li>• Enable safe and appropriate restoration of contaminated land?</li> <li>• Have an effect on previously undeveloped greenfield or agricultural land?</li> </ul>	A Prosperous Wales A Resilient Wales A Globally Responsible Wales	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Average density of housing development permitted on allocated sites</li> <li>• Amount of new development permitted on previously developed land (brownfield development and conversions) expressed as a percentage of all development permitted: +</li> <li>• No and area of contaminated land sites remediated through development: +</li> <li>• Amount of greenfield and open space lost to development which is not allocated in the plan</li> </ul>
10.To promote the circular economy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Minimise the production of waste?</li> </ul>	A Prosperous	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Amount of waste arising, and managed by</li> </ul>

ISA Objectives	Proposed SA Decision Aiding Questions – Will the Revised LDP...	Well-being Goal (where the themes may make a contribution)	Possible SA Indicators showing the desired direction of change increase or more (+); decrease, less or none (-); and no change(nc).
by reducing waste generation and maximising reuse and recycling, ensuring the use of natural resources and the provision of an adequate supply of minerals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Promote the principles of the circular economy?</li> <li>Increase recycling rates and reduce waste to landfill?</li> <li>Provide appropriate sites for more sustainable waste management including re-processing, recycling and storage?</li> <li>Safeguard mineral resources and enable sustainable levels of extraction?</li> </ul>	Wales A Resilient Wales A Globally Responsible Wales	<p>management type: +</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Delivery of appropriate sites for sustainable waste management</li> <li>Number of years land bank of permitted aggregate reserves: +</li> <li>The extent of primary land-won aggregates permitted expressed as a percentage of the total capacity required, as identified in the Regional Technical Statement</li> </ul>
11.To conserve, protect and enhance the water environment, water quality and water resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Improve the quality of waterbodies helping to meet the objectives of the Water Framework Directive?</li> <li>Maintain or enhance the ecological and chemical status of the water environment?</li> <li>Effect the volume of surface water run off into or abstraction from water bodies?</li> <li>Support improvements to water infrastructure?</li> </ul>	A Prosperous Wales A Resilient Wales A Healthier Wales A Wales of Cohesive Communities A Globally Responsible Wales	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Permissions which include measures to improve the water environment, water quality and water resources</li> <li>Implementation of sustainable urban drainage systems on all qualifying developments: +</li> </ul>
<b>Biodiversity and Geodiversity</b>			

ISA Objectives	Proposed SA Decision Aiding Questions – Will the Revised LDP...	Well-being Goal (where the themes may make a contribution)	Possible SA Indicators showing the desired direction of change increase or more (+); decrease, less or none (-); and no change(nc).
12.To conserve, protect and enhance biodiversity and geodiversity interests across Blaenau Gwent including improving green infrastructure provision and safeguarding soil resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Have an effect on nationally or locally designated sites?</li> <li>• Safeguard against habitat loss or fragmentation?</li> <li>• Improve access to nature and greenspace?</li> <li>• Present opportunities to enhance or manage important habitats or species and or provide a net gain?</li> <li>• Protect and enhance important soil resources?</li> <li>• Remediate known contamination of land and groundwater?</li> <li>• Protect or enhance protected trees or important woodland areas?</li> </ul>	A Prosperous Wales A Resilient Wales A Healthier Wales A Wales of Cohesive Communities A Globally Responsible Wales	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Number of developments which have an adverse effect on European sites: <b>nc</b></li> <li>• Area of SSSI lost to development per annum: <b>nc</b></li> <li>• Area of SINC lost to development per annum: - <b>nc</b></li> <li>• Area of LNR lost to development per annum: <b>nc</b></li> <li>• Amount of protected woodland and trees lost to development per annum: <b>nc</b></li> <li>• No and area of contaminated land sites remediated through development: <b>+</b></li> <li>• Number of people with access to greenspace within 400m of their home as a percentage of all people: <b>+</b></li> <li>• Number of developments completed that maintain and/or incorporate green infrastructure: <b>+</b></li> <li>• Number of licences related planning applications impacting on protected species per year: <b>-</b></li> <li>• The amount of habitat loss without appropriate mitigation, compensation and enhancement for protected species: <b>-</b></li> </ul>
<b>Historic Environment</b>			
13.To conserve and enhance the significance of the County Borough's historic environment, cultural assets (including the use of the Welsh language) and	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Conserve, protect and enhance the historic environment assets of national, regional and local importance and their settings?</li> <li>• Promote high quality and sensitive</li> </ul>	A Prosperous Wales A Resilient Wales A More Equal Wales	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Number of listed buildings and historic sites: <b>nc</b></li> <li>• Number of listed buildings or archaeological sites enhanced: <b>+</b></li> <li>• Number of listed or local buildings of historical value brought into use for tourism: <b>+</b></li> </ul>



ISA Objectives	Proposed SA Decision Aiding Questions – Will the Revised LDP...	Well-being Goal (where the themes may make a contribution)	Possible SA Indicators showing the desired direction of change increase or more (+); decrease, less or none (-); and no change(nc).
heritage assets and their settings.	reuse and regeneration of historic buildings and historic townscapes? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Safeguard and increase the use of the welsh language?</li> </ul>	A Wales of Vibrant Culture & Thriving Welsh Language A Globally Responsible Wales	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Number and area of conservation areas: <b>nc</b></li> <li>Proportion of welsh speakers: <b>+</b></li> <li>Welsh medium schools as a proportion of all other schools: <b>+</b></li> </ul>
<b>Landscape</b>			
14.To protect and enhance the quality and character of the landscape.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Protect and enhance landscape character?</li> <li>Protect visual amenity and valued views?</li> </ul>	A Prosperous Wales A Resilient Wales A Wales of Vibrant Culture & Thriving Welsh Language A Globally Responsible Wales	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Proportion of valued landscape lost to development: <b>-</b></li> <li>Number of developments which negatively affect the Brecon Beacons National Park or the Blaenavon Industrial Landscape World Heritage Site: <b>-</b></li> <li>Proportion of landscape characterised and managed: <b>+</b></li> </ul>
<b>Climate Change</b>			
15.To mitigate and adapt to the effects of climate change through increasing energy efficiency and generation and use of low carbon and renewable energy sources.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Help to reduce greenhouse gas emissions?</li> <li>Support the minimisation of energy use?</li> <li>Support the delivery of renewable and low carbon energy and reduce dependency on non renewable sources?</li> </ul>	A Prosperous Wales A Resilient Wales A Healthier Wales A More Equal Wales A Wales of Cohesive Communities A Globally Responsible Wales	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Capacity of renewable energy developments installed per annum: <b>+</b></li> <li>Capacity of low carbon energy developments installed per annum: <b>+</b></li> <li>Carbon footprint by area: <b>-</b></li> <li>Ecological footprint per person: <b>-</b></li> <li>Carbon dioxide emissions per capita, by sector: <b>-</b></li> </ul>
<b>Flood Risk</b>			

ISA Objectives	Proposed SA Decision Aiding Questions – Will the Revised LDP...	Well-being Goal (where the themes may make a contribution)	Possible SA Indicators showing the desired direction of change increase or more (+); decrease, less or none (-); and no change(nc).
16.To reduce and manage the risk of flooding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Seek to minimise new development prone to flood risk or mitigate the potential for such risk?</li> <li>• Manage residual flood risk appropriately and avoid new flood risks?</li> <li>• Promote the development of sustainable urban drainage systems?</li> </ul>	A Resilient Wales A Healthier Wales A Globally Responsible Wales	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Number of permissions for development on flood zones C1 and C2 not meeting all TAN 15 tests: -</li> <li>• Implementation of sustainable urban drainage systems on all qualifying developments</li> </ul>

**Table 7: Coverage of the SEA Directive Topics by Proposed SA Objective**

SEA Directive Topic	Proposed SA Objective
Population	1, 2 ,3, 4, 5, 7
Air	8
Biodiversity	4, 11, 12, 14, 15
Flora	4, 12, 14, 15
Fauna	4, 12, 14, 15
Soil	9, 12
Water	11, 15, 16,
Material assets	1, 2, 4, 7, 10, 13,
Human health	1,2, 3, 5, 6, 7, 9, 11, 12, 15, 16
Cultural heritage, including architectural and archaeological heritage	4, 13,
Landscape	5, 9, 10, 12, 14
Climatic factors	7, 8, 15

**Table 8: Coverage of other integrated assessments by Proposed SA Objective**

Impact Assessment	Proposed SA Objective
Health	1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 11, 12, 15, 16
Inequalities	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
Welsh Language	4, 13

## 6.0 NEXT STEPS

### Introduction

**6.1** This section outlines a summary of the key SA tasks and consultation for the SA of the revised Blaenau Gwent Local Development Plan.

### Summary of SA Tasks

**6.2** The Blaenau Gwent revised LDP Delivery Agreement states that two iterations of the revised LDP will be consulted upon, the Preferred Strategy at Pre-Deposit stage and the LDP Deposit Plan. The LDP Deposit Plan will subsequently be subject to an independent examination and maybe changed at this stage, following which it will be considered for formal adoption as the replacement LDP for the Blaenau Gwent planning area. The SA/SEA process runs alongside the development of the emerging revised plan and, as an iterative and ongoing process, stages and tasks in the SA process may be revisited and updated or revised as the Plan progresses, to take account of updated or new evidence as well as consultation responses.

**6.3** The SA is an assessment tool that helps to inform decision making. The findings of the SA, alongside the wider evidence base, will assist the Council in relation to the selection or rejection of alternative and development of policy for the revised LDP.

**6.4** The following gives a summary of the SA tasks which will be undertaken during the process:

- **A Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report** (this report) – This will identify the existing sustainability issues in the Blaenau Gwent area and provide baseline information along with a review of plans, policies programmes and strategies relevant to the LDP. The existing SA indicators and objectives will be reviewed and amended as necessary. A revised Sustainability Framework will be produced.
- **An Initial Sustainability Appraisal Report (ISAR)** – This will predict and evaluate the effects of the LDP options, spatial strategy and strategic policies on the social, environmental, cultural and economic objectives as set out in the Scoping Report. The ISAR will be published at the same time as the Preferred Strategy.
- **A Sustainability Appraisal Report (SAR)** – An updated SAR will be published at the same time as the Deposit Plan.
- **A Final Sustainability Appraisal Report (SAR)** – This will bring together all the elements of the SA and take into account the binding recommendations of the Planning Inspector. The Final SAR will be published following receipt of the Inspectors Report.
- A Sustainability Appraisal Adoption Statement will be published to explain how the sustainability considerations and the Sustainability Assessment have been taken into consideration in the production of the revised LDP.

## SA of Candidate Sites

**6.5** The Stage 1 initial call for candidate sites (November 2018 – January 2019) will assist the Council with understanding what land is available to inform the LDP Preferred Strategy. Sites submitted at this stage will only be subject to a high level assessment to identify insurmountable constraints to development. It is considered that the individual sites submitted at this stage do not need to be assessed against the SA/SEA framework as these sites will only be used as market evidence used to shape the Preferred Strategy. Following the publication of the Preferred Strategy a call for further information and more candidate sites will be undertaken. Those sites still in the process will be subject to a more detailed assessment. It is during this stage that the candidate sites will be assessed against the Council's Sustainability Appraisal framework.

## Health and Equalities Impact Assessment

**6.6** Consideration of effects on equality and health will be made throughout the SA process. The SA topics, objectives and framework contain several direct and indirect links to health and equality.

## Collaboration with neighbouring Local Authorities

**6.7** This draft Scoping Report has been developed in collaboration with the neighbouring Local Planning Authorities of Torfaen County Borough Council and Monmouthshire County Council. It is intended that following this initial scoping stage the

three Local Planning Authorities will tender for consultants to undertake the remainder of the SA process on a joint basis, if appropriate.

## Consultation

**6.8** As with the emerging revised LDP, the SA will be consulted on at key stages in the process:

- Draft SA Scoping Report (October – November 2018)
- The Initial Sustainability Appraisal Report (ISAR) will be consulted on alongside the Preferred Strategy (November – December 2019)
- The Sustainability Appraisal Report (SAR) with any amendments resulting from the consultation on the ISAR will be consulted on alongside the Deposit Plan (October – November 2020)

**6.9** This Draft SA Scoping Report identifies the issues and defines a proposed SA Framework (Section 4) for undertaking the SA of the revised Blaenau Gwent LDP. This report will be subject to consultation with the SEA statutory bodies, CADW and Natural Resources Wales, for a 5 week period from the 31st October 2018 to 5<sup>th</sup> December 2018. Any consultation responses received will be considered and inform the final SA Scoping Report which will then be developed into the initial SA Report of the Preferred Strategy.

## **Appendix 1 - Review of Plans, Programmes and Policies**

## Appendix 1 - Review of Plans, Programmes and Policies

In order to establish a clear scope for the SA, it is necessary (and a requirement of SEA) to review and develop an understanding of the wider range of plans, policies and programmes that are relevant to the Plan. This appendix summarises the outcome of a review of International, European, UK, National and Local plans, policies and environmental protection objectives. Summarising the aspirations of other relevant policies, plans, programmes and sustainability objectives promotes a systematic identification of the ways in which the LDP could help to fulfil them. The list is not exhaustive and does not provide a definitive account of their contents; however, it is considered that it provides a sufficient review of those relevant to the preparation of the replacement LDP and identifies any social, economic, cultural and environmental objectives that should be considered within the SA.

Plans/Programmes	Overview of Purpose and Key Requirements	Key Implications for LDP	Key Implications for SA
<b>1. Population (including relevant socio-economic issues)</b>			
<b>International</b>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• United Nations (2016) Habitat III (Quinto)</li> <li>• United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (1998)</li> <li>• The Aarhus Convention</li> </ul>	These documents provide an international framework for promoting sustainable development within all decision making. National and local developments should take sustainability into account and openly share relevant information with the public.	The revised LDP should set out policies and proposals which promote sustainable development and safeguards transparency in decision making. The LDP Review process itself must also be objective, transparent, evidence based and conducted fairly.	The SA Framework should provide a holistic suite of assessment criteria to determine the contribution of any replacement LDP to the delivery of sustainable development.
<b>European – all legislative and policy frameworks are informed by relevant higher level international frameworks</b>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• European Commission (2003) Public Sector Information Directive (PSI) 2003/98/EC</li> <li>• European Commission (2010) Europe 2020: A strategy for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth, Growth within: A Circular Economy Vision for a Competitive Europe</li> <li>• European Commission (2013) Towards Social Investment for Growth and Cohesion</li> </ul>	These documents provide a European framework to further social cohesion, freedom of information, economic growth and inclusion.	The revised LDP should set out policies and proposals for relevant socio-economic issues as outlined in the European Policies.	The SA Framework should include objectives to facilitate positive growth for the economy and improving social cohesion.

Plans/Programmes	Overview of Purpose and Key Requirements	Key Implications for LDP	Key Implications for SA
2014-2020 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>McKinsey Centre for Business and Environment (2015)</li> </ul>			
<b>National (UK) - all legislative and policy frameworks are informed by relevant higher level European and international frameworks</b>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Enterprise and Regulatory Reform Act 2013</li> <li>The Plan for Growth (BIS, 2011)</li> <li>Equality Act 2010, Local Growth: Realising every Place's potential (BIS, 2010)</li> <li>HM Government (2013) Aviation Policy Framework</li> </ul>	These documents provide a framework at the UK level to promote strong, sustainable and balanced growth across all economies. They aim to encourage investment and create an equal opportunity environment.	The revised LDP should set out policies and proposals for the promotion of sustainable growth within the Blaenau Gwent area for the benefit of its resident population.	The SA Framework should include objectives to the promotion of economic growth as designated by national policy.
<b>National (Wales) - all legislative and policy frameworks are informed by relevant higher level UK, European and international frameworks</b>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Well Being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015</li> <li>Housing (Wales) Act 2014</li> <li>Growth and Competitiveness Commission (2016)</li> <li>Cardiff Capital Region City Deal – Report and Recommendations</li> <li>Welsh Government Valleys Task Force Our Valleys, Our Future (July 2017)</li> <li>Welsh Government Future Trends Report (2017)</li> <li>The Strategy for Older People in Wales: Living Longer, Ageing Well (2013-2023)</li> </ul>	These policies are informed by International, European and UK policies and broadly focus on progressive agendas for increasing economic growth and enhancing social well-being in Wales.	The revised LDP should set out policies and proposals relating to relevant socio-economic and population issues within the Blaenau Gwent area.	The SA Framework should include objectives relating to the creation of acceptable policies for the benefit of the population. The quality of social services, job provision, equality legislation and economic growth targets should be considered in a holistic



Plans/Programmes	Overview of Purpose and Key Requirements	Key Implications for LDP	Key Implications for SA
<p>(Welsh Government)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014</li> <li>• Welsh Government (2007) One Wales – A Progressive Agenda for the Government of Wales</li> <li>• Welsh Government (2009) Getting On Together - a Community Cohesion Strategy for Wales</li> <li>• Welsh Government (2009) Improving Lives and Communities – Homes in Wales</li> <li>• Welsh Government (2006) Play Policy Implementation Plan</li> <li>• Welsh Government (2009) Farming, Food and Countryside: Building a Secure future – A New Strategy for Farming</li> <li>• Welsh Government (2009) Living Well Living Independent Lives</li> <li>• Welsh Government (2010) Economic Renewal: A New Direction</li> <li>• Welsh Government (2010) Food for Wales, Food from Wales 2010-2020</li> <li>• Welsh Government (2010) Fulfilled Lives, Supportive Communities</li> <li>• Welsh Government (2010) Welsh Medium Education Strategy 2010</li> <li>• Welsh Government (2011) Sustainable Social Services for Wales: A Framework for Action</li> <li>• Welsh Government (2011) Rights of Children</li> </ul>			<p>manner.</p>

Plans/Programmes	Overview of Purpose and Key Requirements	Key Implications for LDP	Key Implications for SA
<p>and Young Persons (Wales) Measure 2011</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Welsh Government (2013) Partnership for Growth: The Welsh Government Strategy for Tourism 2013 – 2020</li> <li>• Welsh Government (2013) Vibrant and Viable Places New Regeneration Framework</li> <li>• Welsh Government (2013) The Strategy for Older People in Wales 2013-2023</li> <li>• Welsh Government (2013) Framework for Action on Independent Living</li> <li>• Welsh Government (2014) Declaration of Rights for Older People</li> <li>• Welsh Government (2014) Housing (Wales) Act 2014</li> <li>• Welsh Government (2015) Green Growth Wales: Investing in the Future</li> <li>• Welsh Government (2015) Child Poverty Strategy for Wales</li> <li>• Welsh Government (2015) Volunteering Policy, Supporting Communities, Changing Lives</li> <li>• Welsh Government (2016) Strategic Equalities Plan</li> <li>• Welsh Government (2016) Social Services: The national outcomes framework for people who need care and support and carers who need support</li> <li>• Welsh Government (2016) Early Years Outcomes Framework</li> <li>• Welsh Government (2017) Prosperity for All</li> </ul>			

Plans/Programmes	Overview of Purpose and Key Requirements	Key Implications for LDP	Key Implications for SA
<p>:The National Strategy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Welsh Government 2015/16 Review of evidence of inequalities in Wales</li> <li>• Welsh Government Future Trends Report (2017)</li> <li>• Welsh Government Population and Household Projections (2017)</li> </ul>			
<b>Wales National Planning Policy</b>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Welsh Government Planning Policy Wales (Edition 9, November 2016)</li> <li>• Welsh Government (2015) Technical Advice Note 1: Joint Housing Land Availability Studies</li> <li>• Welsh Government (2006) Technical Advice Note (TAN) 2: Planning and Affordable Housing</li> <li>• Welsh Government (2016) Technical Advice Note (TAN) 4: Retail and Commercial Development</li> <li>• Welsh Government (2010) Technical Advice Note (TAN) 6: Planning for Sustainable Rural Communities</li> <li>• Welsh Government (2013) Technical Advice Note (TAN) 13: Tourism</li> <li>• Welsh Government (2009) Technical Advice Note (TAN) 16: Sport, Recreation and Open Space</li> <li>• Welsh Government (2014) Technical Advice Note (TAN) 23: Economic Development</li> </ul>	<p>These documents set out the national planning policy of the Welsh Government. Planning Policy Wales (PPW) sets out the land use planning policies of the Welsh Government. It is supplemented by a series of Technical Advice Notes (TANs). Procedural advice is given in circulars and policy clarification letters. It translates Welsh Government's commitment to sustainable development into the planning system so that it can play an appropriate role in moving towards sustainability.</p> <p>The planning system should support economic and employment growth alongside social and environmental considerations within the context of sustainable development. They should aim to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• co-ordinate development with infrastructure provision;</li> <li>• support national, regional, and local economic policies and strategies;</li> </ul>	<p>The revised LDP should provide policies, proposals, advice and guidance relating to relevant socio-economic and population issues within Blaenau Gwent.</p>	<p>The SA Framework should include objectives relating to socio-economic issues including economic competitiveness and economic growth, employment provision, social wellbeing, housing and open space.</p>

Plans/Programmes	Overview of Purpose and Key Requirements	Key Implications for LDP	Key Implications for SA
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>align jobs and services with housing, wherever possible, so as to reduce the need for travel, especially by car; and</li> <li>promote the re-use of previously developed, vacant and underused land.</li> </ul>		
<b>Regional Plans</b>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Welsh Government Tech Valleys Strategic Plan (April 2018)</li> <li>Welsh Government Our Valleys, Our Future Delivery Plan (November 2017)</li> </ul>	The Tech Valleys Strategic Plan (April 2018) builds on the Vision Statement published in December 2017. The purpose of the plan is to set out how innovative technologies will be attracted to Ebbw Vale and the South Wales valleys. The plan also includes how it will complement other initiatives and the expected economic benefits.	The revised LDP should provide policies, proposals, advice and guidance relating to sustainable economic growth, diversity and employment opportunities.	
<b>Local (BGCBC &amp; Neighbouring Local Authorities) - all legislative and policy frameworks are informed by relevant higher level Welsh, UK, European and international frameworks</b>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Blaenau Gwent Local Development Plan (2012)</li> <li>Blaenau Gwent Well Being Assessment (2017)</li> <li>Blaenau Gwent Well-being Plan 2018-2023 (2018)</li> <li>Blaenau Gwent Corporate Plan 2018-2022</li> <li>More than Homes – A Local Housing Strategy for Blaenau Gwent 2014-2018</li> <li>Blaenau Gwent Destination Management Plan 2016-19</li> <li>Blaenau Gwent Investment Prospectus (2017)</li> <li>Blaenau Gwent Welsh in Education</li> </ul>	<p>The adopted Blaenau Gwent Local Development Plan and other local policies and plans regarding socio economic issues broadly address the following themes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Create a network of sustainable vibrant valley communities</li> <li>Create opportunities for sustainable economic growth and promote learning and skills</li> <li>Create safe, healthy and vibrant communities</li> </ul> <p>The Blaenau Gwent Well-being Assessment (2017) summarises the challenges to economic, environmental and social well-</p>	The revised LDP should provide land use policies, proposals and guidance relating to the well-being and prosperity of the residents in Blaenau Gwent. These should include policies for employment and economic growth, housing which addresses the needs of all sectors of the community and infrastructure.	The SA Framework should include objectives in relation to economic growth, employment, skills and education, tourism, health, equality and social inclusion.

Plans/Programmes	Overview of Purpose and Key Requirements	Key Implications for LDP	Key Implications for SA
<p>Strategic Plan 2017-2020</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Blaenau Gwent Strategy for Older People 2015-2017</li> <li>• Blaenau Gwent Supporting People Local Commissioning Plan 2018/2021</li> <li>• Blaenau Gwent Regeneration and Economic Development Baseline Report 2017-18</li> </ul>	<p>being affecting residents of Blaenau Gwent as required under the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015. Informed by the Well-being Assessment, the Blaenau Gwent Public Service Board (2018-2023) sets key socio economic objectives:</p> <p><b>Best Start in Life for Everyone</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Understand more about early years services including their quality and where the gaps are</li> <li>• Development of a road map</li> <li>• Ensure public services are Adverse Childhood Experiences ready</li> <li>• Explore how well-being hubs can help give children the best start in life</li> </ul> <p><b>Safe and Friendly Communities</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Use the skills, experiences and resources of local people to create strong, connected communities</li> <li>• Develop area based approaches responding to community safety issues;</li> <li>• Create age friendly communities</li> </ul> <p><b>Forge New Pathways to Prosperity</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maximise the opportunities for prosperity through regional projects such as the Cardiff Capital Region City Deal</li> <li>• Ensure people have the right skills for the future</li> <li>• Respond to welfare reform to ensure</li> </ul>		

Plans/Programmes	Overview of Purpose and Key Requirements	Key Implications for LDP	Key Implications for SA
	<p>there is support</p> <p><b>Encourage and enable People to make healthy lifestyles choices in the places they live, work and play</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Promote healthy lifestyle behaviours</li> <li>• Help people to reduce and avoid unhealthy harming behaviours</li> <li>• Remove the barriers that stop people making healthier choices</li> </ul> <p>One of the priorities of the Blaenau Gwent Corporate Plan is economic development and regeneration where the aims are to</p> <p>to provide a variety of homes; provide effective employment support and access to skills development; increase the start-up business rate, retention and growth of local businesses and attract new inward investment; develop digital infrastructure and improve connectivity; develop a portfolio of potential energy opportunities; and develop a new vision for town centres ensuring their long term future.</p>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council Local Development Plan – adopted Nov 2012</li> <li>• Brecon Beacons National Park Local Development Plan –adopted Dec 2013</li> <li>• Torfaen County Borough Council Local Development Plan - adopted Dec 2013</li> <li>• Powys County Council Local Development</li> </ul>	<p>The LDPs set out the land-use planning framework for neighbouring local authorities.</p>	<p>The LDP should seek to ensure that all significant cross boundary issues are identified and addressed. They should also seek to maximise any potential opportunities that could arise through the requirement for development plan</p>	<p>The SA should seek to ensure that all significant cross boundary issues are identified and addressed. They should also seek to maximise any potential opportunities that could</p>

Plans/Programmes	Overview of Purpose and Key Requirements	Key Implications for LDP	Key Implications for SA
Plan –adopted April 2018 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Caerphilly County Borough Council Local Development Plan –adopted November 2010</li> </ul>		compatibility and consistency. This includes potential opportunities for the provision of infrastructure that could have benefits for local communities.	arise through the requirement for development plan compatibility and consistency. This includes potential opportunities for the provision of infrastructure that could have benefits for local communities.
<b>2. Air</b>			
<b>International</b>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Geneva Convention on Long Range Transboundary Air Pollution (1979)</li> </ul>	The aim of the Convention is that Parties shall endeavour to limit and, as far as possible, gradually reduce and prevent air pollution including long-range transboundary air pollution. Parties develop policies and strategies to combat the discharge of air pollutants through exchanges of information, consultation, research and monitoring.	The revised LDP should set out policies, proposals to improve air quality and reduce pollution and to consider air quality in the planning of new development allocations. Promotion of low carbon initiatives and sustainable transport modes.	The SA Framework should include objectives relating to improving air quality and associated health impacts and to minimise air pollution in new development.
<b>European – all legislative and policy frameworks are informed by relevant higher level international frameworks</b>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>European Commission (2001) National Emissions Ceiling Directive 2001/81/EC</li> <li>European Commission (1991) The Nitrates Directive 91/676/EEC</li> <li>European Commission (2005) EU Thematic Strategy on Air Quality</li> </ul>	These documents provide a European framework to protect and enhance air quality. These include measures to limit values and alert thresholds for air pollutants and a requirement for reporting of air quality and production of action plans where thresholds are exceeded.	The replacement LDP should set out policies, proposals to improve air quality and reduce pollution and to consider air quality in the planning of new development allocations and	The SA Framework should include objectives relating to improving air quality and associated health impacts and to minimise air pollution in

Plans/Programmes	Overview of Purpose and Key Requirements	Key Implications for LDP	Key Implications for SA
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>European Union (2005) Emissions Trading Scheme</li> <li>European Commission (2008) Ambient Air Quality and Cleaner Air for Europe Directive 2008/50/EC and Air Quality Framework Fourth Daughter Directive 2004/107/EC 1</li> <li>European Commission (2010) Industrial Emissions Directive (integrated pollution prevention and control) (Directive 2010/75/EU)</li> <li>European Commission (2001) The Clean Air for Europe Programme (CAFÉ)</li> </ul>		<p>adhere to European legislation. Promotion of low carbon initiatives and sustainable transport modes should be considered.</p>	<p>new development.</p>
<b>National (UK) - all legislative and policy frameworks are informed by relevant higher level European and international frameworks</b>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Environment Act (1995)</li> <li>The Air Quality Standards Regulations (2010) as amended, Air Quality Strategy for England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland,</li> <li>Defra (2010) Air Pollution: Action in a Changing Climate</li> <li>Defra (2011) Air Quality Plans for the Achievement of EU Air Quality Limit Values for Nitrogen Dioxide (NO<sub>2</sub>) in the UK: List of UK and National Measures</li> <li>UK's Air Quality Action Plan (Defra, revised January 2016),</li> <li>Revised UK Air Quality Plan for Tackling Nitrogen Dioxide (Improving air quality in the UK: tackling nitrogen dioxide in our towns and cities) (Consultation Draft May</li> </ul>	<p>These documents provide a UK framework to implement objectives that promote the reduction of the levels of air pollution such as Nitrogen Dioxide.</p>	<p>The revised LDP should set out policies and proposals for the preservation of acceptable levels of air quality.</p>	<p>The SA Framework should include objectives relating to protection of and improvement of air quality and associated health impacts and to minimise air pollution in new development.</p>



Plans/Programmes	Overview of Purpose and Key Requirements	Key Implications for LDP	Key Implications for SA
2017)			
<b>National (Wales) - all legislative and policy frameworks are informed by relevant higher level UK, European and international frameworks</b>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Air Quality Standards (Wales) Regulations (2010)</li> <li>Welsh Government (2018) Consultation Document 'Tackling roadside nitrogen dioxide emissions in Wales'</li> </ul>	<p>These regulations bring into law in Wales the limits set out in European Union (EU) Daughter Directives on Air Quality. The regulations require that Welsh Ministers divide Wales into air quality zones. There are two zones: North and South Wales. It provides a Wales framework for the protection and improvement of air quality in accordance with limits set within European legislation.</p>	<p>The revised LDP should set out policies and proposals for the preservation of acceptable levels of air quality.</p>	<p>The SA Framework should include objectives relating to protection of air quality and air pollution controls, and acceptable air quality levels for protection of human health purposes.</p>
<b>Wales National Planning Policy</b>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Welsh Government Planning Policy Wales (2016, Edition 9)</li> </ul>	<p>These documents provide national planning policy in respect of air. Development plans are important vehicles for the promotion of environmental protection and should enable consideration of the effects which proposed developments, and transport demand associated with them, may have on air or water quality and the effects which air or water quality may have on proposed developments. Local planning authorities should take account of such quality objectives when preparing development plans and should work closely with pollution control authorities in the preparation of these plans and when determining planning applications. The planning system should determine whether</p>	<p>The revised LDP should provide policies and proposals relating to air quality.</p>	<p>The SA Framework should include objectives relating to reducing air pollution and improving air quality.</p>

Plans/Programmes	Overview of Purpose and Key Requirements	Key Implications for LDP	Key Implications for SA
	a development is an acceptable use of land and should control other development in proximity to potential sources of pollution rather than seeking to control the processes or substances used in any particular development.		
<b>Regional</b>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>N/A</li> </ul>			
<b>Local</b>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Blaenau Gwent Air Quality Progress Report 2017</li> </ul>	This report fulfils the requirements of the Local Air Quality Management (LAQM) process as set out in the Environment Act 1995 and associated government guidance. The LAQM process places an obligation on all local authorities to regularly review and assess air quality in their areas and to determine whether or not the air quality objectives are being achieved. Where exceedances occur, or are likely to occur, the local authority must then declare an Air Quality Management Area (AQMA) and prepare an Air Quality Action Plan (AQAP) within 18 months of declaration setting out the measures it intends to put in place in pursuit of the objectives. Action plans should then be reviewed and updated where necessary at least every 5 years. This Progress Report does not identify the need for Blaenau Gwent to proceed to a detailed	The revised LDP should continue to promote measures to reduce air pollution and improve air quality. Development plan policies should take account of national air quality objectives. The development plan policies on air quality should be informed by Planning Policy Wales, which in line with the current draft recently consulted upon will approach air quality more robustly in the light of The Well-being of Future Generations Act (Wales) 2015.	The SA Framework should include objectives that seek to reduce air pollution and to maintain air quality or seek improvements thereon.

Plans/Programmes	Overview of Purpose and Key Requirements	Key Implications for LDP	Key Implications for SA
	assessment for any of the seven pollutants identified in the UK's National Air Quality Strategy.		
<b>3. Biodiversity, Flora &amp; Fauna</b>			
<b>International</b>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (1979) The Bonn Convention</li> <li>• AEWA (1995) Convention on the Agreement on the Conservation of African – Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds The Bonn Convention</li> <li>• UNESCO (1971) The RAMSAR Convention on Wetlands (1971)</li> <li>• UNESCO (1972) Convention concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage</li> <li>• UNESCO (1973) Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora</li> <li>• United Nations (1992) The Rio Convention on Biodiversity</li> <li>• United Nations (1992) The Rio Declaration on Environment and Development</li> <li>• EU Biodiversity Strategy – Our Life Insurance, Our Nature Capital: An EU Biodiversity Strategy (2011)</li> </ul>	These documents provide an international framework to protect sites designated at the international level for reasons of biodiversity conservation and important species form harm.	The revised LDP should set out policies proposals and advice for the avoidance of effects on biodiversity in the development strategy and in allocating sites for development.	The SA Framework should include objectives that seek the conservation and enhancement of designated sites for biodiversity.
<b>European – all legislative and policy frameworks are informed by relevant higher level international frameworks</b>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Council of Europe (1981) Convention on</li> </ul>	These policies provide a European framework to protect sites designated at	The revised LDP should set out policies and, proposals	The SA Framework should include

Plans/Programmes	Overview of Purpose and Key Requirements	Key Implications for LDP	Key Implications for SA
<p>the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats - The Bern Convention,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• European Union (2001) SEA Directive (2001/42/EC)</li> <li>• European Commission (2004) Environmental Liability Directive 2004/35/EC,</li> <li>• European Commission – EU Directive on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora</li> <li>• European Commission - EU Birds Directive (Directive 2009/147/EC/ on the conservation of wild birds), ,</li> <li>• EU Biodiversity Strategy - Our Life Insurance, Our Nature Capital: An EU Biodiversity Strategy (2011-2020), European Commission (2008) Environmental Quality Standards Directive 2008/105/EC</li> </ul>	<p>the European level for reasons of biodiversity conservation and important species from harm.</p>	<p>for the protection of biodiversity in accordance with European legislation &amp; policy</p>	<p>appropriate objectives to assess potential habitat loss, recreational impacts, water abstraction, pollution and disturbance effects from policies, proposals, advice and guidance contained within any revised LDP.</p>
<b>National (UK) - all legislative and policy frameworks are informed by relevant higher level European and international frameworks</b>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• HM Government (1981) Wildlife and Countryside Act</li> <li>• HM Government (1990) Environmental Protection Act</li> <li>• HM Government (1995) Environment Act 1995</li> <li>• The Protection of Badgers Act 1992</li> <li>• Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000</li> <li>• Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act (2006)</li> </ul>	<p>These documents provide a framework at the UK level to provide protection for protected species and habitats.</p>	<p>The revised LDP should set out policies and proposals for the protection of protected habitats and species, including any special protection areas.</p>	<p>The SA Framework should include objectives relating to national policy on the protection of Biodiversity, flora and fauna.</p>

Plans/Programmes	Overview of Purpose and Key Requirements	Key Implications for LDP	Key Implications for SA
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Defra (2007) Conserving Biodiversity the UK Approach 2007</li> <li>Defra, Scottish Government, Welsh Assembly Government (2008) The Invasive and Non-Native Species Framework Strategy for Great Britain</li> <li>Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 (2010)</li> <li>HM Government (2010) Environmental Permitting (England and Wales) Regulations</li> <li>HM Government (2010) The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations (2010) as amended (2011)</li> <li>UK National Ecosystem Assessment (2011) UK National Ecosystem Assessment: Understanding Nature's Value to Society</li> <li>The UK Post 2010 Biodiversity Framework (JNCC, 2012),</li> <li>Joint Nature Conservation Committee and Defra (2012) UK Post-2010 Biodiversity Framework</li> <li>The Natural Environment White Paper (DEFRA, 2012),</li> <li>The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations), 25 Year Environment Plan (UK Government, 2018)</li> </ul>			
<b>National (Wales) - all legislative and policy frameworks are informed by relevant higher level UK, European and international frameworks</b>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Environmental Damage (Prevention and</li> </ul>	These documents provide a framework at	The revised LDP should set	The SA Framework

Plans/Programmes	Overview of Purpose and Key Requirements	Key Implications for LDP	Key Implications for SA
<p>Remediation) (Wales) Regulations 2009</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Welsh Assembly Government (2009) Woodlands for Wales Strategy</li> <li>• Wales Biodiversity Partnership (2010) Wales Biodiversity Framework</li> <li>• Welsh Assembly Government (2015) The Nature Recovery Plan for Wales – Setting the course for 2020 and beyond</li> <li>• National Assembly for Wales Environment (Wales) Act, 2016</li> </ul>	<p>the Welsh level to protect biodiversity interests, including designated sites and important species.</p>	<p>out policies and proposals for the protection of biodiversity, flora and fauna.</p>	<p>should include objectives relating to the preservation, protection and conservation of biodiversity.</p>
<b>Wales National Planning Policy</b>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Welsh Government (2016) Planning Policy Wales (Edition 9)</li> <li>• Welsh Government (2009) Technical Advice Note (TAN) 5: Nature Conservation and Planning</li> <li>• Welsh Government (1997) Technical Advice Note (TAN) 10: Tree Preservation Orders</li> </ul>	<p>These documents provide national planning policy in respect of Biodiversity. Development Plans should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• identify all international, national and local designated sites (including potential SPAs, candidate SACs and listed Ramsar sites);</li> <li>• provide criteria against which a development affecting the different types of designated site will be assessed, reflecting their relative significance;</li> <li>• include locally-specific policies for the conservation and, where appropriate, enhancement of landscape and amenity;</li> <li>• provide for the conservation and, where appropriate, enhancement of biodiversity and landscape outside designated areas, in particular identifying opportunities to conserve</li> </ul>	<p>The revised LDP should set out policies, proposals, advice and guidance relating to the protection, preservation and enhancement of biodiversity, flora and fauna in accordance with national planning policy.</p>	<p>The SA Framework should include objectives relating to the protection, enhancement and conservation of biodiversity.</p>

Plans/Programmes	Overview of Purpose and Key Requirements	Key Implications for LDP	Key Implications for SA
	<p>important local habitats and species, and to safeguard and manage landscape features of major importance for nature conservation or amenity;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• make appropriate provision for Local Nature Reserves;</li> <li>• include, where appropriate, locally-specific policies for conserving native woodland and protecting and planting trees;</li> <li>• clarify how biodiversity will be safeguarded outside statutory designated sites without unduly restricting development that is otherwise appropriate;</li> <li>• provide for the protection and enhancement of open space of conservation value, seeking to identify opportunities to promote responsible public access for enjoyment and understanding of the natural heritage where this is compatible with its conservation and existing land uses; and</li> <li>• recognise the potential of, and encourage land uses and land management practices that help to secure carbon sinks.</li> </ul>		
<b>Regional</b>			
N/A			
<b>Local (BGCBC &amp; Neighbouring Local Authorities) - all legislative and policy frameworks are informed by relevant higher level Welsh, UK, European and</b>			

Plans/Programmes	Overview of Purpose and Key Requirements	Key Implications for LDP	Key Implications for SA
<b>international frameworks</b>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Blaenau Gwent Local Biodiversity Action Plan 2015</li> <li>• Blaenau Gwent Public Service Board Well-being Assessment (2017)</li> <li>• Blaenau Gwent Public Service Board Well Being Plan for Blaenau Gwent 2018-2033</li> </ul>	<p>The objectives of the LBAP are to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increase awareness and educate people about the importance of biodiversity conservation</li> <li>• Encourage communities to get involved in protecting their local biodiversity resource</li> <li>• Increase and share knowledge about sites and species</li> <li>• Identify the current location and extent of habitats and species in Blaenau Gwent</li> <li>• Enhance and protect existing habitats and to restore areas to create new ones</li> <li>• Halt the loss of biodiversity in Blaenau Gwent in line with national and local targets by 2020</li> </ul> <p>The Blaenau Gwent Well-being Assessment (2017) summarises the challenges to economic, environmental and social well-being affecting residents of Blaenau Gwent as required under the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015. Informed by the Well-being Assessment, the Blaenau Gwent Public Service Board (2018-2023) sets key environmental objectives:</p> <p><b>Look after and protect its Environment</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lead on taking action against climate change through delivery of a carbon positive impact</li> </ul>	<p>The revised LDP should set out policies and proposals to protect and enhance biodiversity, flora and fauna.</p>	<p>The SA Framework should include objectives relating to conservation, protection and enhancement of biodiversity interests.</p>



Plans/Programmes	Overview of Purpose and Key Requirements	Key Implications for LDP	Key Implications for SA
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Promote active travel to reduce the collective carbon footprint</li> <li>Make Blaenau Gwent a cleaner, greener place where nature can thrive</li> </ul>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council Local Development Plan – adopted Nov 2012</li> <li>Brecon Beacons National Park Local Development Plan –adopted Dec 2013</li> <li>Torfaen County Borough Council Local Development Plan - adopted Dec 2013</li> <li>Powys County Council Local Development Plan –adopted April 2018</li> <li>Caerphilly County Borough Council Local Development Plan –adopted November 2010</li> </ul>	The LDPs set out the land-use planning framework for neighbouring local authorities.	The LDP should seek to ensure that all significant cross boundary issues are identified and addressed. They should also seek to maximise any potential opportunities that could arise through the requirement for development plan compatibility and consistency. This includes potential enhancements to those designated and non-designated natural environment sites (landscape, biodiversity and heritage) and other networks that cross LA boundaries.	The SA should seek to ensure that all significant cross boundary issues are identified and addressed. They should also seek to maximise any potential opportunities that could arise through the requirement for development plan compatibility and consistency. This includes potential enhancements to those designated and non-designated natural environment sites (landscape, biodiversity and heritage) and other networks that cross LA boundaries.
<b>4. Soil</b>			

Plans/Programmes	Overview of Purpose and Key Requirements	Key Implications for LDP	Key Implications for SA
<b>International</b>			
• N/A			
<b>European – all legislative and policy frameworks are informed by relevant higher level international frameworks</b>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>European Commission (2006) European Thematic Strategy on Soil Protection</li> <li>European Commission (2006) Environmental Liability Directive 2004/35/EC</li> </ul>	These documents provide a European framework to promote the sustainable use of soil resources, soil restoration and the prevention of land degradation.	The revised LDP should set out policies, proposals, and guidance for the sustainable use of soils within local development.	The SA Framework should include objectives relating to contaminated land remediation, soil quality and pollution to ground receptors. Consequential human health and ecological risks and impacts should also be considered in a holistic manner.
<b>National (UK) - all legislative and policy frameworks are informed by relevant higher level European and international frameworks</b>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Guiding Principles for Land Contamination</li> <li>HM Government (1986) Agriculture Act (with numerous revisions) 1986</li> </ul>	These documents provide a framework at the UK level to identify and remediate contaminated land, as well as regarding the management of agricultural land.	The revised LDP should set out policies, proposals, advice and guidance for the protection of agricultural assets and land contamination policies.	The SA Framework should include objectives relating to contaminated land remediation, soil quality and pollution to ground receptors. Consequential human health and ecological risks and impacts should also be considered in a holistic manner.
<b>National (Wales) - all legislative and policy frameworks are informed by relevant higher level UK, European and international frameworks</b>			
• Joint Nature Conservation Committee	These documents provide a framework at the Welsh level regarding the avoidance	The revised LDP should provide policies, proposals,	The SA Framework should include

Plans/Programmes	Overview of Purpose and Key Requirements	Key Implications for LDP	Key Implications for SA
<p>(ongoing) Geological Conservation Review</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Welsh Assembly (2012) Contaminated Land (Wales) (Amendment) Regulations 2012</li> <li>Environment (Wales) Act (2016)</li> <li>The Nitrate Pollution Prevention (Wales) Regulations (2016)</li> </ul>	<p>and remediation of contaminated land and the creation of a geological profile of Wales.</p>	<p>advice and guidance for local developments which may be taking place on protected areas or contaminated land.</p>	<p>objectives relating to contaminated land remediation, soil quality and pollution to ground receptors.</p> <p>Consequential human health and ecological risks and impacts should also be considered in a holistic manner.</p>
<b>Wales National Planning Policy</b>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Welsh Government (2016) Planning Policy Wales (Edition 9)</li> </ul>	<p>This document requires the preparation of LDPs to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Take account of the physical and environmental constraints on development of land, including, for example, the level of contamination and stability</li> <li>Ensure new development is not undertaken without an understanding of the risks, including those associated with the previous land use, mine and landfill gas emissions, and rising groundwater from abandoned mines;</li> <li>Ensure new development does not take place without appropriate remediation;</li> <li>Ensure consideration is given to the potential impacts which remediation of land contamination might have upon the natural and historic environments;</li> <li>Ensure new development is not</li> </ul>	<p>The revised LDP should provide policies, proposals, advice and guidance relating to the safeguarding and efficient use of land and soil resources.</p>	<p>The SA Framework should include objectives relating to the safeguarding and efficient use of land and soil resources.</p>

Plans/Programmes	Overview of Purpose and Key Requirements	Key Implications for LDP	Key Implications for SA
	<p>undertaken without an understanding of the risks, including those associated with subsidence, landslips or rock falls;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure development does not take place without appropriate precautions;</li> <li>• Take account of coastal / land erosion risks; and</li> <li>• Seek to restore unstable and contaminated land.</li> </ul>		
<b>Regional</b>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• N/A</li> </ul>			
<b>Local (BGCBC &amp; Neighbouring Local Authorities) - all legislative and policy frameworks are informed by relevant higher level Welsh, UK, European and international frameworks</b>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Blaenau Gwent Contaminated Land Strategy (2002)</li> </ul>	The main objective of the strategy under the Part IIA regime is to provide an improved system for the identified and remediation of land, where contamination is causing unacceptable risks to human health or the wider environment.	The revised LDP should set out land use policies, proposals and guidance to restore contaminated land.	The SA Framework should include objectives relating to contaminated land.
<b>5. Water</b>			
<b>International</b>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• United Nations (1982) Convention on Law of the Sea</li> </ul>	This convention demonstrates the rights and responsibilities of nations for fair use of the world's oceans.	The revised LDP should set out policies, proposals, advice and guidance for the objective of ensuring that all development activities adhere with the conventions guidelines.	The SA Framework should include objectives relating to the impact of development on rivers.
<b>European – all legislative and policy frameworks are informed by relevant higher level international frameworks</b>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• European Commission (1991) The Urban</li> </ul>	These documents provide a European	The revised LDP should set	The SA Framework

Plans/Programmes	Overview of Purpose and Key Requirements	Key Implications for LDP	Key Implications for SA
<p>Waste Water Directive 91/271/EEC</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• European Commission (1998) The Drinking Water Directive 98/83/EC</li> <li>• European Commission (2000) The Water Framework Directive (Directive 2000/60/EC)</li> <li>• European Commission (2006) The Bathing Waters Directive 2006/7/EC</li> <li>• European Commission (2006) Groundwater Directive 2006/118/EC</li> <li>• European Commission (2007) The Floods Directive 2007/60/EC</li> <li>• European Commission (2008) Marine Strategy Framework Directive 2008/56/EC</li> </ul>	<p>framework which seeks to protect the quality of the water environment, including through ensuring safe levels for bathing and drinking water and by promoting sustainable urban drainage.</p>	<p>out policies for mitigating flood risk, protecting the drinking water supply and the protection of the community from unsafe water levels.</p>	<p>should include objectives relating to the quality of the water environment and water resources, as well as to manage flood risks.</p>
<b>National (UK) - all legislative and policy frameworks are informed by relevant higher level European and international frameworks</b>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• HM Government (1973) The Protection of Wrecks Act 1973</li> <li>• HM Government (2003) The Water Environment (Water Framework Directive) (England and Wales) Regulations</li> <li>• Change DEFRA (2005) Safeguarding Sea Life The Pitt Review</li> <li>• Environment Agency (2005) Cleaner Coasts , Healthier Seas: EA Marine Strategy</li> <li>• HM Government (2007) Offshore Marine Conservation (Natural Habitats, &amp;c.) Regulations 2007 (as amended 2010)</li> <li>• Department for Transport (2007) Ports Policy Review Interim Report</li> <li>• Learning Lessons from the 2007 Floods (2008)</li> </ul>	<p>These documents provide a framework at the UK level regarding flood risk management and the protection of water and coastal environments</p>	<p>The revised LDP should set out policies, proposals, advice and guidance relating to the management and flood risk</p>	<p>The SA Framework should include objectives relating to flood risk mitigation.</p>

Plans/Programmes	Overview of Purpose and Key Requirements	Key Implications for LDP	Key Implications for SA
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Flood and Water Management Act (2010),</li> <li>• Defra (2007) Fisheries 2027: A long-term vision for sustainable fisheries</li> <li>• HM Government (2009) Flood Risk Regulations</li> <li>• Defra (2009) Our Seas – a Shared Resource: High Level Marine Objectives</li> <li>• HM Government (2009) The Marine and Coastal Access Act</li> <li>• HM Government (2010) Flood and Water Management Act 2010</li> <li>• HM Government (2010) Marine Strategy Framework Directive - putting in place the legal framework for implementation</li> <li>• DECC (2010) Marine Energy Action Plan</li> <li>• DEFRA (2010) Adapting to Coastal Change: Developing a Policy Framework</li> <li>• NERC (2010) Marine Environmental Mapping Programme (MAREMAP)</li> <li>• UK Marine Monitoring and Assessment Strategy (2010) Charting Progress 2: The State of UK Seas</li> <li>• Welsh Government (2011) Strategic Policy position on Water</li> <li>• DEFRA (2011) Marine Policy Statement</li> <li>• Department for Transport (2011) National Policy Statement for Ports</li> <li>• NI Executive, Scottish Government, Welsh Assembly Government (2011) UK Marine Policy Statement, Inshore Fisheries and</li> </ul>			

Plans/Programmes	Overview of Purpose and Key Requirements	Key Implications for LDP	Key Implications for SA
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Conservation Authorities Bylaws (various)</li> <li>Natural England and JNCC (2011) Marine Conservation Zone (MCZ) Project</li> <li>Defra (2012) Marine Strategy Part 1: UK Initial Assessment and Good Environmental Status</li> <li>Environment Agency (2013) Groundwater Protection Policy and Practice (GP3)</li> <li>Healthier Seas: EA Marine Strategy 2017</li> </ul>			
<b>National (Wales) - all legislative and policy frameworks are informed by relevant higher level UK, European and international frameworks</b>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>HM Government (1973) The Protection of Wrecks Act 1973,</li> <li>HM Government (2003) The Water Environment</li> <li>HM Government (2003) The Water Environment (Water Framework Directive) (England and Wales) Regulations 2003</li> <li>Welsh Government (2004) Technical Advice Note 15: Development and Flood Risk</li> <li>Environment Agency (2005) Cleaner Coasts, Healthier Seas: EA Marine Strategy</li> <li>Defra (2005) Safeguarding Sea Life Welsh Government (2007)</li> <li>Department for Transport (2007) Ports Policy Review Interim Report,</li> <li>Defra (2007) Fisheries 2027: A long-term vision for sustainable fisheries</li> <li>The Pitt Review: Learning Lessons from the 2007 Floods (2008)</li> <li>Welsh Water (2008) Surface Water</li> </ul>	<p>These documents provide a framework at the UK level regarding flood risk management and the protection of water and coastal environments.</p>	<p>The revised LDP should set out policies and proposals relating to the management of flood risk.</p>	<p>The SA Framework should include objectives relating to the quality of water environment and managing flood risk.</p>

Plans/Programmes	Overview of Purpose and Key Requirements	Key Implications for LDP	Key Implications for SA
<p>Management Strategy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• HM Government (2009) The Marine and Coastal Access Act</li> <li>• Defra (2009) Our Seas – a Shared Resource: High Level Marine Objectives</li> <li>• HM Government (2009) Flood Risk Regulations</li> <li>• Defra (2010) Adapting to Coastal Change: Developing a Policy Framework</li> <li>• DECC (2010) Marine Energy Action Plan</li> <li>• Flood and Water Management Act (2010)</li> <li>• HM Government (2007) Offshore Marine Conservation (Natural Habitats, &amp;c.) Regulations 2007 (as amended 2010)</li> <li>• UK Marine Monitoring and Assessment Strategy (2010) Charting Progress 2: The State of UK Seas</li> <li>• NERC (2010) Marine Environmental Mapping Programme (MAREMAP)</li> <li>• HM Government (2010) Marine Strategy Framework Directive - putting in place the legal framework for implementation, HMG, NI Executive, Scottish Government, Welsh Assembly Government (2011)</li> <li>• Welsh Government (2011) Strategic Policy Position on Water</li> <li>• Natural England and JNCC (2011) Marine Conservation Zone (MCZ) Project</li> <li>• Department for Transport (2011) National Policy Statement for Ports</li> </ul>			



Plans/Programmes	Overview of Purpose and Key Requirements	Key Implications for LDP	Key Implications for SA
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Defra (2012) Marine Strategy Part 1: UK Initial Assessment and Good Environmental Status</li> <li>• Welsh Government (2013) Wales Marine and Fisheries Strategic Action Plan</li> <li>• Environment Agency (2013) Groundwater Protection Policy and Practice (GP3)</li> <li>• Welsh Water (2014) Final Water Resources Management Plan</li> <li>• Environment Agency (2015) The Severn River Basin Management Plan</li> <li>• Welsh Government (2015) Water Strategy for Wales</li> <li>• Welsh Government (2015) Wales Marine Evidence Report</li> <li>• Welsh Government Environment Act 2016</li> <li>• (Water Framework Directive) (England and Wales) Regulations 2017</li> <li>• UK Marine Policy Statement, Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authorities Bylaws (various)</li> </ul>			
<b>Wales National Planning Policy</b>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Welsh Government (2016) Planning Policy Wales (2016) (Edition 9)</li> <li>• Welsh Government (1998) Technical Advice Note (TAN) 14: Coastal Planning</li> <li>• Welsh Assembly Government (2004) Technical Advice Note (TAN) 15: Development and Flood Risk</li> </ul>	<p>These documents provide national planning policy on flooding. The general approach of PPW, supported by the TAN, is to advise caution in respect of new development in areas at high risk of flooding by setting out a precautionary framework to guide planning decisions. The overarching aim of the precautionary framework is to direct</p>	<p>The revised LDP should provide policies and proposals relating to the precautionary approach to flood risk, protection and enhancement of water quality, water resources and the water environment.</p>	<p>The SA Framework should include objectives relating to the precautionary approach to flood risk, protection and enhancement of water quality, water resources</p>

Plans/Programmes	Overview of Purpose and Key Requirements	Key Implications for LDP	Key Implications for SA
	<p>new development away from those areas which are at high risk of flooding; take account of the physical and environmental constraints on development of land, including flood risk; and consider PPW (2015) 'Infrastructure and Services' objectives when considering the effects of development on water supply and waste water management, development plans and water and development management and water.</p> <p>Development plans should take water-related issues into account from an early stage in the process of identifying land for development and redevelopment.</p> <p>New development should be located and its implementation planned in such a way as to allow for sustainable provision of water services, in particular minimising vulnerability to the impacts of climate change. Design approaches and techniques that improve water efficiency and minimise adverse impacts on water resources, surface water quality, the ecology of rivers and groundwater should be encouraged</p> <p>As part of LDP preparation planning authorities are required to engage Natural Resources Wales and adjacent local</p>		<p>and the water environment.</p>

Plans/Programmes	Overview of Purpose and Key Requirements	Key Implications for LDP	Key Implications for SA
	planning authorities. When preparing LDPs, LPAs should consult with adjacent authorities and Natural Resources Wales and ensure that, as well as not being at risk itself, development does not increase the risk of flooding elsewhere.		
<b>Regional</b>			
• N/A			
<b>Local (BGCBC &amp; Neighbouring Local Authorities) – all legislative and policy frameworks are informed by relevant higher level Welsh, UK, European and international frameworks</b>			
• Blaenau Gwent Flood Risk Management Strategy (May 2013)	<p>In line with the flood risk regulations BGCBC were required to develop, maintain, apply and monitor a Strategy for Local Flood Risk Management. This document – Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council – Flood Risk Management Strategy sets out to satisfy the requirements of the Flood and Water Management Act 2010.</p> <p>The strategy includes the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the Risk Management Authorities in Blaenau Gwent;</li> <li>• the flood risk management functions that may be exercised by those Authorities in relation to the area;</li> <li>• the objectives for managing Local Flood Risk;</li> <li>• the measures proposed to achieve those objectives;</li> <li>• how and when the measures are</li> </ul>	The flood risk objectives should inform a precautionary approach to development and flood risk in the LDP strategy. The approach to the location of new development should avoid areas where risks of flooding are unacceptable and cannot be mitigated.	The SA Framework should include objectives relating to mitigating and managing flood risk

Plans/Programmes	Overview of Purpose and Key Requirements	Key Implications for LDP	Key Implications for SA
	<p>expected to be implemented;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>the potential costs and benefits of those measures;</li> <li>the assessment of local flood risk for the purpose of the strategy;</li> <li>how and when the Strategy is to be reviewed; and</li> <li>how the Strategy contributes to the achievement of wider environmental objectives.</li> </ul>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Blaenau Gwent Flood Risk Management Plan (FRMP) (2015)</li> </ul>	<p>This Flood Risk Management Plan sets out how Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council will over the next 6 years manage flooding so that the communities most at risk and the environment benefit the most. In doing so, this FRMP takes forward the objectives and actions set out in the Flood Risk Management Strategy.</p> <p>This FRMP also aims to achieve some of the objectives set out in the Welsh Government's National Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management Strategy which provides the national framework for flood and coastal erosion risk management in Wales through four overarching objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Reducing the consequences</b> for individuals, communities, businesses and the environment from flooding and coastal erosion.</li> <li><b>Raising awareness of and engaging</b></li> </ul>	<p>The Flood risk objectives should inform a precautionary approach to development and flood risk in the LDP strategy. The approach to the location of new development should avoid areas where risks of flooding are unacceptable and cannot be mitigated.</p>	<p>The SA Framework should include objectives relating to mitigating and managing flood risk</p>

Plans/Programmes	Overview of Purpose and Key Requirements	Key Implications for LDP	Key Implications for SA
	<p><b>people in the response</b> to flood and coastal erosion risk.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Providing an effective and sustained response</b> to flood and coastal erosion events.</li> <li>• <b>Prioritising investment</b> in the most at risk communities</li> </ul>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council Local Development Plan – adopted Nov 2012</li> <li>• Brecon Beacons National Park Local Development Plan –adopted Dec 2013</li> <li>• Torfaen County Borough Council Local Development Plan - adopted Dec 2013</li> <li>• Powys County Council Local Development Plan –adopted April 2018</li> <li>• Caerphilly County Borough Council Local Development Plan –adopted November 2010</li> </ul>	The LDPs set out the land-use planning framework for neighbouring local authorities.	The LDP should seek to ensure that all significant cross boundary issues are identified and addressed. They should also seek to maximise any potential opportunities that could arise through the requirement for development plan compatibility and consistency.	The SA should seek to ensure that all significant cross boundary issues are identified and addressed. They should also seek to maximise any potential opportunities that could arise through the requirement for development plan compatibility and consistency.
<b>6. Material Assets</b>			
<b>International</b>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• United Nations (1989) Basel Convention</li> </ul>	This convention seeks to reduce the movements of hazardous waste between nations and the amounts/toxicity of waste generated.	The revised LDP should set out policies, proposals, advice and guidance for the reduction in toxic waste generated.	The SA Framework should include objectives relating to resource efficiency, land use, waste management, energy, connectivity and accessibility.

Plans/Programmes	Overview of Purpose and Key Requirements	Key Implications for LDP	Key Implications for SA
<b>European – all legislative and policy frameworks are informed by relevant higher level international frameworks</b>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>European Commission (1999) Landfill Directive (1999/31/EC)</li> <li>European Commission (2002) Environmental Noise Directive (END) 2002/49/EC</li> <li>European Commission (2002) Mineral Waste Directive 2006/21/EC</li> <li>European Commission (2003) Public Sector Information Directive (PSI) 2003/98/EC</li> <li>European Commission (2004) Environmental Liability Directive 2004/35/EC</li> <li>European Commission (2008) Waste Framework Directive 2008/98/EC</li> <li>European Commission (2011) Roadmap to a Single European Transport Area</li> <li>Towards a Circular Economy: A Zero Waste Programme for Europe (2014)</li> <li>EU Directive on the Incineration of Wastes</li> <li>EU Waste Oil Directive</li> <li>EU Energy Performance of Buildings Directive (Directive 2018/844)</li> <li>European Commission (2002) Mineral Waste Directive 2006/21/EC</li> </ul>	<p>These documents provide a European framework to promote the sustainable management of waste and to move toward a circular economy on waste. All EU member states will have new recovery and recycling targets at 5 year intervals Some important targets by 2020:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reduction of level of biodegradable waste sent to landfills will have to be reduced by 35% compared to 1995 levels.</li> <li>By 2020, 50% of certain waste materials from households and other origins similar to households for re-use and recycling, and 70% preparing for re-use, recycling and other recovery of construction and demolition waste.</li> <li>The UK is required to source 15% of energy needs from renewable sources, including biomass, hydro, wind and solar power by 2020. The SA Framework should include objectives relating to resource efficiency, land use, waste management, energy, connectivity and accessibility.</li> </ul>	<p>The revised LDP should set out policies and proposals promoting sustainable waste management and the proper disposal of waste in line with European directives.</p>	<p>The SA Framework should include objectives relating to resource efficiency, land use, and waste management.</p>
<b>National (UK) - all legislative and policy frameworks are informed by relevant higher level European and international frameworks</b>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>HM Government (1995) Environment Act 1995,</li> <li>Waste and Emissions Trading Act 2003 (Amended)</li> </ul>	<p>These documents provide a framework at the UK level regarding infrastructure development, environmental permitting, waste management and energy generation</p>	<p>The revised LDP should set out policies and proposals, for the efficient use of material assets, to facilitate</p>	<p>The SA Framework should include objectives relating to resource efficiency, land</p>

Plans/Programmes	Overview of Purpose and Key Requirements	Key Implications for LDP	Key Implications for SA
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Hazardous Waste Regulations 2005 (England and Wales)</li> <li>• Landfill Regulations 2002 (England and Wales, amended 2005)</li> <li>• Meeting the Energy Challenge: A White Paper on Energy (DECC, 2007),</li> <li>• Department for Transport (2008) Delivering a Sustainable Transport System</li> <li>• HM Government (2010) Environmental Permitting (England and Wales) Regulations</li> <li>• HM Government (2010) Waste (Wales) Measure 2010</li> <li>• The UK Renewable Energy Strategy (2009)</li> <li>• HM Treasury (2011) UK Plan for Growth</li> <li>• The Waste Regulations 2011 (England and Wales)</li> <li>• DEFRA (2013) Reducing and Managing Waste Policy</li> <li>• DEFRA, 2013, Waste Incineration (England and Wales) Regulations 2002</li> <li>• HM Treasury (2014) National Infrastructure Plan</li> <li>• The Environmental Permitting (England and Wales) (Amendment) Regulations 2016</li> <li>• National Planning Policy for Waste (DCLG, 2014)</li> <li>• The Waste Electronic Equipment (Amendment) Regulations SI 2010/1155 amending The Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE) (Waste</li> </ul>		renewable and low carbon energy generation sources and sustainable waste management.	use, waste management, energy, connectivity and accessibility.

Plans/Programmes	Overview of Purpose and Key Requirements	Key Implications for LDP	Key Implications for SA
Management Licensing) (England and Wales) Regulations 2006,)			
<b>National (Wales) - all legislative and policy frameworks are informed by relevant higher level UK, European and international frameworks</b>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Welsh Government (2008) One Wales: Connecting the Nation, Welsh Assembly Government (2008)</li> <li>• Sustainable Development Commission (2009) Low Carbon Wales</li> <li>• Wales Transport Strategy, Welsh Government (2010) Towards Zero Waste One Wales: One Planet. The Overarching Waste Strategy Document for Wales</li> <li>• Welsh Government (2012) Sustaining a Living Wales: A Green Paper on a New Approach to Natural Resource Management in Wales</li> <li>• Welsh Government (2012) Wales Infrastructure Investment Plan</li> <li>• Welsh Government (2013) Active Travel (Wales) Act</li> <li>• Cardiff Capital Region (2015) Powering the Welsh Economy,</li> <li>• Active Travel Act (Wales) 2013</li> <li>• Natural Resources Wales (2015)</li> <li>• LIFE Natura 2000 Programme for Wales Natural Resources Wales (2016)</li> <li>• State of Natural Resources Report (SoNaRR),</li> <li>• Welsh Government (2015) Green Growth Wales: Local Energy</li> <li>• Welsh Government (2016) Active Travel</li> </ul>	These documents provide a Welsh Policy framework for the protection of natural resources, infrastructure development strategies and investment plans, and transport strategies and policies.	The revised LDP should provide policies and proposals for the enhancement and protection of material assets within the County Borough.	The SA Framework should include objectives relating to waste regulations, protection of natural resources, resource management, infrastructure development strategy, and green growth.



Plans/Programmes	Overview of Purpose and Key Requirements	Key Implications for LDP	Key Implications for SA
<p>Action Plan for Wales</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Welsh Government (2016) Energy Efficiency in Wales: A Strategy for the Next 10 years 2016-2026</li> <li>Welsh Government (2017) Natural Resources Policy</li> </ul>			
<b>Wales National Planning Policy</b>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Welsh Government (2016) Planning Policy Wales (Edition 9)</li> <li>Welsh Government (2002) Technical Advice Note (TAN) 19: Telecommunications</li> <li>Welsh Government (2004) Minerals</li> <li>Welsh Government (2007) Technical Advice Note (TAN) 18:</li> <li>Transport Technical Advice Note (MTAN) Wales 1: Aggregates Welsh Government (2004)</li> <li>Welsh Government (2009) Minerals Technical Advice Note (MTAN) Wales 2: Coal</li> <li>Welsh Government (2014) Technical Advice Note (TAN) 21: Waste</li> </ul>	<p>These documents provide national planning policy and guidance in respect of transport, waste, minerals and infrastructure. In preparation of the LDP:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Welsh Government supports a transport hierarchy in relation to new development that establishes priorities in such a way that, wherever possible, they are accessible in the first instance by walking and cycling, then by public transport and then finally by private motor vehicles. Careful consideration needs to be given to the allocation of new sites which are likely to generate significant levels of movement in Local Development Plans to ensure that access provisions which promote walking and cycling, as well as by public transport are included from the outset.</li> <li>Development plan strategies and policies need to be consistent and integrated with the strategies and policies contained in LTPs, Road Traffic</li> </ul>	<p>The revised LDP should provide policies and proposals relating to sustainable transport infrastructure development, waste management and the sustainable use of natural resources.</p>	<p>The SA Framework should include objectives relating to promotion of a sustainable transport hierarchy, infrastructure development, waste management and the sustainable use of natural resources.</p>

Plans/Programmes	Overview of Purpose and Key Requirements	Key Implications for LDP	Key Implications for SA
	<p>Reduction Reports, air quality and noise action plans and local well-being plans, and take account of information from the local authority's annual air quality reports, national noise maps, the public service board's assessment of local wellbeing and any area statements issued by Natural Resources Wales under the Environment (Wales) Act 2016. Any LTP proposal that directly involves the development or use of land, or has land use implications, should appear as a policy or proposal in the development plan.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure that transport centred projects' undergo an assessment in accordance with the Welsh Transport Appraisal Guidance (WeITAG).</li> <li>• Development plans provide the main means for achieving integration between land use and transport. They must provide an explanation of the authority's transport aims and the way in which the transport policies support the other objectives of the plan. Development plans should provide the means for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- examining the relationship between transport and land use planning;</li> <li>- promoting the integration and co-ordination of transport and land use planning;</li> </ul> </li> </ul>		

Plans/Programmes	Overview of Purpose and Key Requirements	Key Implications for LDP	Key Implications for SA
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- promoting strategies to reduce the need to travel</li> <li>- set out the land use/transportation strategy, addressing accessibility and the provision of strategic and integrated transport facilities, including roads, railways and interchanges;</li> <li>- ensure that new housing, jobs, shopping, leisure and services are highly accessible by walking, cycling and public transport;</li> <li>- locate major generators of travel demand within existing urban areas, or in other locations that can be well served by walking, cycling and public transport;</li> <li>- encourage higher density and mixed-use development near public transport nodes, or near corridors well served by public transport;</li> <li>- ensure that development sites which are highly accessible to non-car modes are used for travel intensive uses, reallocating their use if necessary;</li> <li>- in rural areas, designate local service centres, or clusters of settlements where a sustainable functional linkage can be demonstrated, as the preferred locations for new</li> </ul>		

Plans/Programmes	Overview of Purpose and Key Requirements	Key Implications for LDP	Key Implications for SA
	<p>development;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- include specific measures to promote active travel in accordance with the Active Travel (Wales) Act 2013;</li> <li>- set out policies to promote the use of public transport including new and improved interchange facilities and, where appropriate, park and ride schemes;</li> <li>- include appropriate traffic management policies;</li> <li>- identify the primary road network, including trunk roads, and separately identify the core network;</li> <li>- identify proposals for new roads and major improvements to the primary route network and the broad policy on priorities for minor improvements;</li> <li>- include policies and proposals relating to the development of transport infrastructure other than roads;</li> <li>- identify, and where appropriate protect, routes required for the sustainable movement of freight;</li> <li>- protect disused transport infrastructure, including railways, rail sidings, ports, harbours and inland waterways from development that would compromise their future transport use, where re-use is a</li> </ul>		

Plans/Programmes	Overview of Purpose and Key Requirements	Key Implications for LDP	Key Implications for SA
	<p>possibility; and</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- minimise the adverse impacts of transport infrastructure projects on the natural, historic and built environment and on local communities.</li> </ul> <p>LDPs should maximise the use of existing infrastructure and should consider how the provision of different types of infrastructure can be co-ordinated.</p> <p>LDPs should consider PPW (2016) 'Infrastructure and Services' objectives when considering the effects of development on the management of waste, development plans and waste planning, development management and waste planning.</p> <p>LDPs should set out policies and proposals for the location of telecommunications equipment, allocating sites for major developments and including criteria-based policies to guide telecommunications developments where sites other than those identified in the plan may be proposed.</p> <p>Local planning authorities must develop a strategic and long-term approach to infrastructure provision when preparing development plans. They should consider both the siting requirements of the utility</p>		

Plans/Programmes	Overview of Purpose and Key Requirements	Key Implications for LDP	Key Implications for SA
	<p>companies responsible for these services to enable them to meet community needs and the environmental effects of such additional uses. Development may need to be phased, in consultation with the relevant utilities providers, to allow time to ensure that the provision of utilities can be managed in a way consistent with general policies for sustainable development.</p> <p>It is essential that local planning authorities consult utility companies and other infrastructure providers and Natural Resources Wales at an early stage in the formulation of land use policies. Welsh Government guidance in Local Development Plan Wales (2015) provides details of the bodies which must be consulted about particular issues to ensure that plan policies are realistic and capable of implementation.</p>		
<b>Regional</b>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Welsh Government - Turning Heads – A Strategy for the Heads of the Valleys 2020, 2006</li> <li>• Welsh Government - City Regions Final Report July 2012</li> <li>• South East Wales Regional Aggregates Working Party – Regional Technical Statement 2014</li> <li>• Cardiff capital Region City Deal (2015)</li> </ul>			

Plans/Programmes	Overview of Purpose and Key Requirements	Key Implications for LDP	Key Implications for SA
<p>Powering the Welsh Economy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• South East Wales Valleys Local Transport Plan, January 2015</li> <li>• Western Power Distribution – Innovation strategy 2017</li> <li>• South East Wales Transport Alliance Regional Transport (March 2010)</li> </ul>			
<b>Local (BGCBC &amp; Neighbouring Local Authorities) - all legislative and policy frameworks are informed by relevant higher level Welsh, UK, European and international frameworks</b>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Blaenau Gwent Public Service Board Wellbeing Assessment (2017)</li> <li>• Blaenau Gwent Public Service Board Well Being Plan for Torfaen 2018-2033</li> <li>• South East Wales Valleys Local Transport Plan (February 2015)</li> <li>• Blaenau Gwent Active Travel Plan</li> <li>• Blaenau Gwent Draft Rights of Way Improvement Plan (2007-2017)</li> <li>• Blaenau Gwent Corporate Plan 2018-2022</li> </ul>	<p>The Blaenau Gwent Well-being Assessment summarises the challenges to economic, environmental and social well-being for residents in the Blaenau Gwent area in accordance with the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales Act 2015). Informed by the Well-being Assessment, the Well-being Plan (2018-2023) identifies measures to improve well-being, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Promote active travel to reduce carbon footprint</li> <li>• Promote healthy lifestyles like taking exercise</li> </ul> <p>The South East Wales Valleys Local Transport Plan prepared for Blaenau Gwent, Caerphilly, Merthyr Tydfil, Rhondda Cynon Taf and Torfaen sets down the vision and objectives for transport in the SE Wales Valleys area and provides a short and long term programme of interventions to work</p>	<p>Any revised LDP should provide policies, proposals and advice and guidance in relation to waste, recycling, safeguarding of minerals and promotion of a safe, efficient, accessible and sustainable transport system and provide opportunities for walking and cycling.</p>	<p>The SA Framework should include objectives relating to the relative accessibility of proposed new developments and objectives to ensure that they are supported by sustainable transport measures. Objectives relating to waste, recycling and safeguarding of minerals should also be included.</p>

Plans/Programmes	Overview of Purpose and Key Requirements	Key Implications for LDP	Key Implications for SA
	<p>towards achieving these goals. The short-term programme sets down those schemes that are priorities for the next 5 years up to 2020. The longer-term programme identifies aspirations up to 2030.</p> <p>The vision, goals and objectives identified in the RTP were considered to be core to the direction of the LTP and were taken forward as the vision, goals and objectives of the SE Wales Valleys LTP.</p> <p>One of the priorities of the Blaenau Gwent Corporate Plan is strong and environmentally smart communities where the aim is to increase rates of recycling to achieve national targets and to improve access to and quality of open spaces.</p>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council Local Development Plan – adopted Nov 2012</li> <li>• Brecon Beacons National Park Local Development Plan –adopted Dec 2013</li> <li>• Torfaen County Borough Council Local Development Plan - adopted Dec 2013</li> <li>• Powys County Council Local Development Plan –adopted April 2018</li> <li>• Caerphilly County Borough Council Local Development Plan –adopted November 2010</li> </ul>	<p>The LDPs set out the land-use planning framework for neighbouring local authorities.</p>	<p>The LDP should seek to ensure that all significant cross boundary issues are identified and addressed. They should also seek to maximise any potential opportunities that could arise through the requirement for development plan compatibility and consistency.</p>	<p>The SA should seek to ensure that all significant cross boundary issues are identified and addressed. They should also seek to maximise any potential opportunities that could arise through the requirement for development plan compatibility and consistency.</p>



Plans/Programmes	Overview of Purpose and Key Requirements	Key Implications for LDP	Key Implications for SA
<b>7. Human Health</b>			
<b>International</b>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• United Nations (1989) UN convention on the Rights of the Child 1989</li> <li>• World Health Organisation (1999)</li> <li>• Guidelines for Community Noise (1999)</li> <li>• United Nations 2016 Committee on the Rights of Child recommendations Report</li> <li>• World Health Organisation (2004)</li> <li>• Children's Environment and Health Action Plan for Europe</li> </ul>	These documents provide the international framework which recognises the importance of the preservation and protection of human health when undertaking development activities.	The revised LDP should set out policies and proposals for the prevention of negative effects to human health from local developments in line with international legislation.	The SA Framework should include objectives relating to the protection of human health.
<b>European – all legislative and policy frameworks are informed by relevant higher level international frameworks</b>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Noise Directive (Directive 2002/49/EC) European Commission (2002)</li> <li>• Environmental Noise Directive (END) 2002/49/EC</li> <li>• European Commission (2007) Together for Health - A Strategic Approach for the EU 2008-2013</li> </ul>	These documents provide a European framework to reduce noise pollution and promote a strategic vision for improving health standards	The revised LDP should set out policies and proposals for the improvement of health and wellbeing, including in relation to reducing noise pollution.	The SA Framework should include objectives for acceptable noise and other safety levels for the protection of human health.
<b>National (UK) - all legislative and policy frameworks are informed by relevant higher level European and international frameworks</b>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Health Protection Agency (2007) Children's Environment and Health Action Plan</li> <li>• Health Protection Agency (2008) Health Effects of Climate Change in the UK 2008 - An update of the department of Health report 2001/2002, Health Protection Agency (2009) Health Strategy for the United Kingdom 2</li> <li>• Health and Safety Executive (2009) The Health and Safety of Great Britain: Be Part</li> </ul>	These documents provide a framework at the UK level to reduce health inequalities and to improve public health while promoting active lifestyles	The revised LDP should set out policies and proposals for access to good quality health services as set out in International and European legislation.	The SA Framework should include objectives relating to tackling health issues and creating adequate health and safety guidelines.

Plans/Programmes	Overview of Purpose and Key Requirements	Key Implications for LDP	Key Implications for SA
<p>of the Solution,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sustainable Development Commission (2010) Sustainable Development: The Key to Tackling Health Inequalities</li> <li>• The Marmot Review</li> <li>• The Health and Social Care Act (2012)</li> <li>• Child Obesity Plan (2016)</li> </ul>			
<b>National (Wales) - all legislative and policy frameworks are informed by relevant higher level UK, European and international frameworks</b>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Welsh Government (2006) Climbing Higher – A Strategy for Sport and Physical Activity</li> <li>• Welsh Government (2008) Designed to Add Value - a third dimension for One Wales</li> <li>• Welsh Government (2009) Rural Health Plan</li> <li>• Wales Government (2010) Setting the Direction: Primary and Community Services Strategic Delivery programme</li> <li>• NHS Wales (2011) Together for Health</li> <li>• Welsh Government (2012) Working Differently – Working Together</li> <li>• Welsh Government (2012) Together for Mental Health: A Strategy for Mental Health and Wellbeing in Wales</li> <li>• Welsh Government (2013) A Noise Action Plan for Wales 2013-2018</li> <li>• National Assembly for Wales (2014) Social Services and Well Being (Wales) Act 2014</li> <li>• The Active Travel (Wales) Act (2015)</li> <li>• Public Health Wales (2015) A Healthier,</li> </ul>	<p>These documents provide a framework at the Welsh level to improve the physical and mental health of the population</p>	<p>The revised LDP should set out policies and proposals for key health provisions.</p>	<p>The SA Framework should include objectives relating to adequate health provisions for all communities regardless of location.</p>

Plans/Programmes	Overview of Purpose and Key Requirements	Key Implications for LDP	Key Implications for SA
<p>Happier and Fairer Wales</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>National Assembly for Wales (2016) Public Health (Wales) Bill</li> <li>Children's Commissioners for Wales (2016) Annual Report 15-16</li> <li>Welsh Government / NHS (2016) Measuring the health and well-being of a nation: Public Health Outcomes Framework for Wales</li> <li>Public Health (Wales) Act 2017</li> </ul>			
<b>Wales National Planning Policy</b>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Welsh Assembly Government (2016) Planning Policy Wales (Edition 9)</li> <li>Welsh Assembly Government (1997) Technical Advice Note (TAN) 11: Noise</li> </ul>	<p>These documents provide national planning policy in respect of health. PPW requires the planning system to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Contribute to the protection and, where possible, the improvement of people's health and wellbeing as a core component of achieving the well-being goals and responding to climate change.</li> <li>Consideration of the possible impacts of developments – positive and/or negative – on people's health at an early stage will help to clarify the relevance of health and the extent to which it needs to be taken into account</li> <li>Development plan policies should be designed to ensure, as far as is practicable, that noise-sensitive developments, such as hospitals, schools and housing, that need to be located</li> </ul>	<p>The revised LDP should provide policies, proposals, advice and guidance relating to the promotion of health and wellbeing and to ensure developments are planned without adverse effects in terms of noise in line with relevant regulations.</p>	<p>The SA Framework should include objectives relating to all aspects of human health and wellbeing and to the mitigation of noise impacts to new development</p>

Plans/Programmes	Overview of Purpose and Key Requirements	Key Implications for LDP	Key Implications for SA
	<p>close to the existing transportation infrastructure to facilitate access, are designed in such a way as to limit noise levels within and around those developments.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Development plan policies and decisions on planning applications should take into account national air quality objectives, EU limit and target values.</li> <li>• World Health Organisation guidelines on the health effects of noise and national indicators set by the Welsh Ministers under the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015, together with information from the local authority's annual air quality reports, national noise maps and any area statements issued by Natural Resources Wales under the Environment (Wales) Act 2016.</li> </ul>		
<b>Regional</b>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Gwent Childhood Obesity Strategy (July 2015)</li> <li>• Gwent Regional Partnership Board: Area Plan (April 2018)</li> <li>• Aneurin Bevan University Health Board: Integrated Medium Term Plan (March 2018)</li> <li>• Aneurin Bevan University Health Board: Clinical Futures strategy</li> </ul>	<p>These plans set out the range and level of services that are to be provided in response to population need. They include the details of specific services that are planned.</p>	<p>The replacement LDP should set out policies and proposals for key health provision for the area.</p>	<p>The SA Framework should include objectives relating to adequate health provisions for all communities regardless of location.</p>

Plans/Programmes	Overview of Purpose and Key Requirements	Key Implications for LDP	Key Implications for SA
<b>Local (BGCBC &amp; Neighbouring Local Authorities) - all legislative and policy frameworks are informed by relevant higher level Welsh, UK, European and international frameworks</b>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Blaenau Gwent Public Service Board Well-being Assessment (2017)</li> <li>Blaenau Gwent Public Service Board Well Being Plan for Blaenau Gwent 2018-2033</li> <li>Annual Report of the Director of Social Services for Blaenau Gwent 2016-2017</li> <li>Blaenau Gwent Corporate Plan 2018-2022</li> </ul>	<p>The Blaenau Gwent Well-being Assessment (2017) summarises the challenges to economic, environmental and social well-being affecting residents of Blaenau Gwent as required under the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015. Informed by the Well-being Assessment, the Blaenau Gwent Public Service Board (2018-2023) sets key health objectives:</p> <p><b>Encourage and enable People to make healthy lifestyles choices in the places they live, work and play</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Promote healthy lifestyle behaviours</li> <li>Help people to reduce and avoid unhealthy harming behaviours</li> <li>Remove the barriers that stop people making healthier choices</li> </ul> <p>One of the priorities of the Blaenau Gwent Corporate Plan is strong and environmentally smart communities where the aim is to improve access to and quality of open spaces.</p>	<p>The revised LDP should provide land use policies and proposals which promote the good health of all of the County Borough's residents by providing new developments which foster the opportunity for healthier lifestyles and protecting the open space and countryside from unnecessary development.</p>	<p>The SA Framework should include objectives relating to tackling both health issues and their causes and consider the impact of new development on residents' health and well-being.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council Local Development Plan – adopted Nov 2012</li> <li>Brecon Beacons National Park Local Development Plan –adopted Dec 2013</li> <li>Torfaen County Borough Council Local</li> </ul>	<p>The LDPs set out the land-use planning framework for neighbouring local authorities.</p>	<p>The LDP should seek to ensure that all significant cross boundary issues are identified and addressed. They should also seek to maximise any potential opportunities that could arise</p>	<p>The SA should seek to ensure that all significant cross boundary issues are identified and addressed. They should also seek to maximise</p>

Plans/Programmes	Overview of Purpose and Key Requirements	Key Implications for LDP	Key Implications for SA
<p>Development Plan - adopted Dec 2013</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Powys County Council Local Development Plan –adopted April 2018</li> <li>Caerphilly County Borough Council Local Development Plan –adopted November 2010</li> </ul>		<p>through the requirement for development plan compatibility and consistency. This includes potential opportunities for the provision of infrastructure that could have benefits for local communities.</p>	<p>any potential opportunities that could arise through the requirement for development plan compatibility and consistency. This includes potential opportunities for the provision of infrastructure that could have benefits for local communities.</p>
<b>8. Cultural Heritage</b>			
<b>International</b>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>UNESCO (2001) Convention on the Protection of Underwater Cultural Heritage</li> <li>UNESCO (2001) Convention on the Protection of Underwater Cultural Heritage United Nations (1979) Geneva Convention</li> <li>World Cities Culture Report 2015 – measures and cultural assets, UNESCO (1972) Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage</li> </ul>	<p>These documents provide an international framework to identify and protect cultural heritage assets. They aim to ensure the cultural heritage assets have a function in the community and are integrated into various planning programmes.</p>	<p>The revised LDP should set out policies, proposals, advice and guidance for the protection, preservation and presentation of cultural heritage assets as set out in international policy.</p>	<p>The SA Framework should include objectives relating to the preservation, conservation, protection and enhancement of the historic environment.</p>
<b>European – all legislative and policy frameworks are informed by relevant higher level international frameworks</b>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>European Convention on the Protection of Archaeological Heritage (1992)</li> </ul>	<p>This document provides a European framework for the protection of designated cultural and archaeological heritage sites in accordance with European legislation.</p>	<p>The revised LDP should set out policies, proposals, advice and guidance for the preservation and protection</p>	<p>The SA Framework should include objectives relating to protection of heritage</p>

Plans/Programmes	Overview of Purpose and Key Requirements	Key Implications for LDP	Key Implications for SA
		of cultural and archaeological heritage within the County Borough.	assets
<b>National (UK) - all legislative and policy frameworks are informed by relevant higher level European and international frameworks</b>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979</li> <li>• HM Government (1979) Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979</li> <li>• The Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990</li> <li>• HM Government (1996) The Treasure Act 1996</li> <li>• HM Government (2002) The National Heritage Act 2002</li> <li>• Department for Culture, Media &amp; Sport (2007) Heritage Protection for the 21st Century</li> <li>• Heritage Protection for the 21st Century: White Paper (DCMS, 2007),</li> <li>• Department for Culture, Media &amp; Sport (2013) Scheduled Monuments &amp; Nationally Important but Non-Scheduled Monuments</li> </ul>	These documents provide a framework at the UK level regarding the protection and conservation of cultural and heritage assets, including listed buildings, ancient monuments and archaeological resources.	The revised LDP should set out policies, proposals, advice and guidance for the protection and promotion of cultural and heritage assets in the Blaenau Gwent area.	The SA Framework should include objectives relating to the protection, enhancement, conservation and preservation of heritage assets.
<b>National (Wales) - all legislative and policy frameworks are informed by relevant higher level UK, European and international frameworks</b>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Valuing the Welsh Historic Environment Welsh Government (2010)</li> <li>• Welsh Language (Wales) Measure 2011, Cymraeg 2050 A million Welsh speakers</li> <li>• Environment (Wales) Act 2016</li> <li>• National Assembly for Wales (2016)</li> </ul>	These documents provide a framework at the Welsh level regarding the protection of cultural heritage; including heritage assets and the use of the Welsh language	The revised LDP should provide policies, proposals, advice and guidance for the protection, preservation and presentation of cultural heritage and where possible,	The SA Framework should include objectives relating to the protection of cultural heritage assets.

Plans/Programmes	Overview of Purpose and Key Requirements	Key Implications for LDP	Key Implications for SA
<p>Environment (Wales) Act 2016</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Welsh Government Historic Environment (Wales) Act 2016</li> <li>Light Springs through the Dark: A vision for culture in Wales (2016)</li> <li>Welsh Government (2010) Valuing the Welsh Historic Environment</li> </ul>		<p>the inclusion of the Welsh language wherever relevant in the Blaenau Gwent area.</p>	
<b>Wales National Planning Policy</b>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Welsh Assembly Government (2016) Planning Policy Wales (Edition 9)</li> <li>Welsh Government Technical Advice Note (TAN) 12: Design (2016)</li> <li>Welsh Government Technical Advice Note (TAN) 20: Planning and the Welsh Language (2017)</li> <li>Technical Advice Note (TAN) 24: The Historic Environment (2017)</li> </ul>	<p>These documents provide national planning policy on cultural heritage.</p> <p>Local planning authorities should not repeat national policy but include clear robust policies on design in their development plans which address local issues and should be based on relevant evidence. These should set out the planning authority's design expectations. They should not impose architectural styles or particular tastes but should secure good quality design as applied to the local context (local distinctiveness).</p> <p>Plans may incorporate targeted design policies for major areas of change or protection, strategic sites or for certain types of development.</p> <p>Local circumstances may provide opportunities for local planning authorities to set local requirements on strategic sites identified in LDPs that exceed the minimum required by Building Regulations.</p>	<p>The revised LDP should set out policies and proposals relating to the protection and enhancement of the historic environment and the promotion of the Welsh language.</p>	<p>The SA Framework should include objectives relating to the protection and enhancement of the historic environment and the promotion of the Welsh language.</p>



Plans/Programmes	Overview of Purpose and Key Requirements	Key Implications for LDP	Key Implications for SA
	<p>Provide policies relating to the protection and preservation of world heritage sites, archaeological remains, listed buildings and conservation areas, local historic assets and historic parks and gardens.</p> <p>Identify locally specific policies in relation to the historic environment and cover those heritage assets deemed to be important considerations from a local planning perspective.</p> <p>Development plans should also set out proposals for re-use or new development affecting historic areas and buildings, which may assist in achieving the Welsh Government's objectives for urban and rural regeneration.</p> <p>Development plans must only identify locally specific policies in relation to the historic environment. Locally specific policies for the historic environment must be distinctive and only cover those heritage elements deemed as important considerations from a local planning perspective during the determination of planning applications.</p> <p>In preparing plans and assessing proposals for development, local planning authorities</p>		

Plans/Programmes	Overview of Purpose and Key Requirements	Key Implications for LDP	Key Implications for SA
	<p>must keep under review their access to records of the historic environment in their area.</p> <p>Historic environment records must be used as a key source of information for the formulation of development plans and advice on their use should be sought from the Welsh Archaeological Trusts.</p> <p>When preparing a development plan, local planning authorities are required to undertake a Strategic Environmental Assessment and a Sustainability Appraisal. An assessment of the cultural heritage is one of the baseline studies in this process and requires consultation with Cadw.</p> <p>Development plans must reflect that World Heritage Sites have been inscribed by UNESCO because of their Outstanding Universal Value. These sites can also contribute to a national and local sense of community and to sustainable economic development and regeneration. They can cover more than one authority's jurisdiction and there is a need to ensure there are consistent planning policies in the relevant development plans.</p> <p>Provide policies and or guidance relating to</p>		

Plans/Programmes	Overview of Purpose and Key Requirements	Key Implications for LDP	Key Implications for SA
	<p>the protection and preservation of world heritage sites, archaeological sites, listed buildings and conservation areas, local historic assets and historic parks and gardens</p> <p>The Planning (Wales) Act 2015 contains provisions relating to the consideration of the Welsh language in the appraisal of development plans and in dealing with applications for planning permission.</p> <p>Local planning authorities must consider the likely effects of their development plans on the use of the Welsh language in the Sustainability Appraisal of their plans, and should keep their evidence up to date. All local planning authorities should include in the reasoned justifications to their development plans a statement on how they have taken the needs and interests of the Welsh language into account in plan preparation, and how any policies relating to the Welsh language interact with other plan policies The sustainability appraisal is required to include an assessment of the likely effects of the plan on the use of the Welsh language in the area of the authority developments.</p>		
<b>Regional</b>			

Plans/Programmes	Overview of Purpose and Key Requirements	Key Implications for LDP	Key Implications for SA
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>N/A</li> </ul>			
<b>Local (BGCBC &amp; Neighbouring Local Authorities) - all legislative and policy frameworks are informed by relevant higher level Welsh, UK, European and international frameworks</b>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council Welsh Language Promotion Strategy (2017-2022)</li> <li>Blaenau Gwent Annual Welsh Language Monitoring Report 2015/16, 2016/17 and 2017/18</li> <li>Blaenau Gwent Public Services Board Well-Being Plan (2018-2023)</li> <li>Blaenau Gwent Public Services Board Well-being Assessment April 2017</li> </ul>	<p>This Welsh Language Promotion strategy sets out the methodology for promoting the Welsh language and facilitating the use of the language in Communities within the Borough. The approach is structured around five focus areas which reflect the Welsh Government's current Welsh language strategy. The Council, with the assistance of Partners from all sectors, and the support of the Welsh speaking community in Blaenau Gwent, will aim to increase the number of welsh speakers on an average annual basis of 70 for the next 33 years.</p>	<p>The revised LDP should provide policies and proposals relating to the preservation and promotion of the welsh language and promote the economic, environmental and social well-being in Blaenau Gwent.</p>	<p>The SA Framework should include objectives relating to the preservation of cultural heritage assets and the welsh language.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council Local Development Plan – adopted Nov 2012</li> <li>Brecon Beacons National Park Local Development Plan –adopted Dec 2013</li> <li>Torfaen County Borough Council Local Development Plan - adopted Dec 2013</li> <li>Powys County Council Local Development Plan –adopted April 2018</li> <li>Caerphilly County Borough Council Local Development Plan –adopted November</li> </ul>	<p>The LDPs set out the land-use planning framework for neighbouring local authorities.</p>	<p>The LDP should seek to ensure that all significant cross boundary issues are identified and addressed. They should also seek to maximise any potential opportunities that could arise through the requirement for development plan compatibility and consistency. This includes</p>	<p>The SA should seek to ensure that all significant cross boundary issues are identified and addressed. They should also seek to maximise any potential opportunities that could arise through the requirement for</p>

Plans/Programmes	Overview of Purpose and Key Requirements	Key Implications for LDP	Key Implications for SA
2010		potential enhancements to those designated and non-designated natural environment sites (landscape, biodiversity and heritage) and other networks that cross LA boundaries.	development plan compatibility and consistency. This includes potential enhancements to those designated and non-designated natural environment sites (landscape, biodiversity and heritage) and other networks that cross LA boundaries.
<b>9. Landscape</b>			
<b>International</b>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>European Landscape Convention (The Florence Convention 2000)</li> </ul>	This document provides a European framework to define and protect important landscapes which contribute to cultural and social heritage and quality of life.	The revised LDP should set out policies and proposals for the preservation of landscapes within the local area and should recognise the significance of landscapes during the creation of new policy.	The SA Framework should include objectives relating to landscape features, landscape character and visual impacts.
<b>European – all legislative and policy frameworks are informed by relevant higher level international frameworks</b>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>UNESCO (1972) Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage,</li> <li>Council of Europe (2000) European Landscape Convention</li> <li>UNESCO (2001) Convention on the Protection of Underwater Cultural Heritage</li> </ul>	These documents provide an international framework to identify and protect cultural heritage assets. They aim to ensure the cultural heritage assets have a function in the community and are integrated into various planning programmes.	The revised LDP should set out policies, proposals, and guidance for the protection, preservation and presentation of cultural heritage assets as set out in international policy.	The SA Framework should include objectives relating to protection of heritage assets and cultural heritage.

Plans/Programmes	Overview of Purpose and Key Requirements	Key Implications for LDP	Key Implications for SA
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>World Cities Culture Report 2015 – measures and cultural assets</li> </ul>			
<b>National (UK) - all legislative and policy frameworks are informed by relevant higher level European and international frameworks</b>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>HM Government (1949) National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949</li> <li>HM Government (1967) Forestry Act 1967</li> <li>Hedgerow Regulations 1997</li> <li>HM Government (2000) Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000</li> <li>HM Government (2006) Commons Act 2006</li> <li>Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act (2006)</li> <li>HM Government (2006) Commons Act 2006</li> </ul>	These documents provide a framework at the UK level regarding the protection of national parks, countryside and rural communities including rights of way and protection of forests.	The revised LDP should set out policies and proposals for the protection of landscapes and hedgerows; including protected areas within the County Borough.	The SA Framework should include objectives relating to landscape features, landscape character and visual impacts
<b>National (Wales) - all legislative and policy frameworks are informed by relevant higher level UK, European and international frameworks</b>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Countryside Council for Wales (now Natural Resources Wales) (2001) Register of Landscapes of Historic Interest, Natural Resources Wales (ongoing) LANDMAP Programme</li> <li>Environment (Wales) Act 2016</li> </ul>	These documents provide a framework at the Welsh level regarding the protection and mapping of natural resources, protected and important landscapes of historic interest.	The revised LDP should provide policies and proposals for the preservation of protected landscapes and natural resources within the Blaenau Gwent area.	The SA Framework should include objectives relating to landscape features, landscape character and visual impacts.
<b>Wales National Planning Policy</b>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Welsh Government Planning Policy Wales (2016) (Edition 9)</li> <li>Technical Advice Note (TAN) 7 Outdoor Advertisement Control</li> </ul>	<p>These documents provide national planning policy in respect of landscape. They require:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Development Plans to set out the locational policy framework for the conservation and enhancement of the natural heritage within the context of an integrated strategy for social, economic and environmental development in line</li> </ul>	The revised LDP should set out policies and proposals and guidance relating to the protection and enhancement of designated landscapes, local landscape character, landscape features and visual amenity.	The SA Framework should include objectives relating to the protection and enhancement of designated landscapes, landscape character, landscape features and

Plans/Programmes	Overview of Purpose and Key Requirements	Key Implications for LDP	Key Implications for SA
	<p>with sustainability principles.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Plans should seek to conserve and enhance the natural heritage in ways which bring benefits to local communities and encourage social and economic progress.</li> <li>Development Plans to be informed by a sustainability appraisal commencing at the outset of the plan.</li> </ul> <p>LDP's should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>identify all international, national and local designated sites (including potential SPAs, candidate SACs and listed Ramsar sites);</li> <li>provide criteria against which a development affecting the different types of designated site will be assessed, reflecting their relative significance;</li> <li>include locally-specific policies for the conservation and, where appropriate, enhancement of landscape and amenity;</li> <li>provide for the conservation and, where appropriate, enhancement of biodiversity and landscape outside designated areas, in particular identifying opportunities to conserve important local habitats and species, and to safeguard and manage landscape features of major importance for nature conservation or amenity;</li> </ul>		visual amenity.

Plans/Programmes	Overview of Purpose and Key Requirements	Key Implications for LDP	Key Implications for SA
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• make appropriate provision for Local Nature Reserves;</li> <li>• include, where appropriate, locally-specific policies for conserving native woodland and protecting and planting trees;</li> <li>• clarify how biodiversity will be safeguarded outside statutory designated sites without unduly restricting development that is otherwise appropriate;</li> <li>• provide for the protection and enhancement of open space of conservation value, seeking to identify opportunities to promote responsible public access for enjoyment and understanding of the natural heritage where this is compatible with its conservation and existing land uses; and</li> <li>• recognise the potential of, and encourage land uses and land management practices that help to secure carbon sinks.</li> </ul>		
<b>Regional</b>			
• N/A			
<b>Local (BGCBC &amp; Neighbouring Local Authorities) - all legislative and policy frameworks are informed by relevant higher level Welsh, UK, European and international frameworks</b>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Blaenau Gwent Public Service Board Well-being Assessment (2017)</li> <li>• Blaenau Gwent Public Service Board Well</li> </ul>	The Blaenau Gwent Well-being Assessment (2017) summarises the challenges to economic, environmental and social well-	The revised LDP should provide policies and proposals for the	The SA framework should include objectives relating to



Plans/Programmes	Overview of Purpose and Key Requirements	Key Implications for LDP	Key Implications for SA
<p>Being Plan for Blaenau Gwent 2018-2033</p>	<p>being affecting residents of Blaenau Gwent as required under the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015. Informed by the Well-being Assessment, the Blaenau Gwent Public Service Board (2018-2023) sets key environmental objectives:</p> <p><b>Look after and protect its Environment</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lead on taking action against climate change through delivery of a carbon positive impact</li> <li>• Promote active travel to reduce the collective carbon footprint</li> <li>• Make Blaenau Gwent a cleaner, greener place where nature can thrive</li> </ul>	<p>preservation of protected landscapes and natural resources within the BGCBC planning area.</p>	<p>landscape features, landscape character and visual impacts.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council Local Development Plan – adopted Nov 2012</li> <li>• Brecon Beacons National Park Local Development Plan –adopted Dec 2013</li> <li>• Torfaen County Borough Council Local Development Plan - adopted Dec 2013</li> <li>• Powys County Council Local Development Plan –adopted April 2018</li> <li>• Caerphilly County Borough Council Local Development Plan –adopted November 2010</li> </ul>	<p>The LDPs set out the land-use planning framework for neighbouring local authorities.</p>	<p>The LDP should seek to ensure that all significant cross boundary issues are identified and addressed. They should also seek to maximise any potential opportunities that could arise through the requirement for development plan compatibility and consistency. This includes potential enhancements to those designated and non-designated natural environment sites (landscape, biodiversity and heritage) and other networks</p>	<p>The SA should seek to ensure that all significant cross boundary issues are identified and addressed. They should also seek to maximise any potential opportunities that could arise through the requirement for development plan compatibility and consistency. This includes potential enhancements to those designated and non-</p>

Plans/Programmes	Overview of Purpose and Key Requirements	Key Implications for LDP	Key Implications for SA
		that cross LA boundaries.	designated natural environment sites (landscape, biodiversity and heritage) and other networks that cross LA boundaries.
<b>10. Climatic Factors</b>			
<b>International</b>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• United Nations (1994), The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change</li> <li>• United Nations (1997) Kyoto Protocol to the UN Convention on Climate Change</li> <li>• United Nations (2009) The Copenhagen Accord</li> <li>• United Nations (2010) Cancun Adaptation Framework, United Nations (2016) Paris Agreement</li> </ul>	These documents provide an international framework identifying the need for climate change mitigation and adaptation action.	The revised LDP should set out policies and proposals, that promote the adaption to the effects of and mitigation of climate change.	The SA Framework should include objectives to adapt to the effects of climate change, promote energy efficiency, resource efficiency, sustainable transport, greenhouse gas emissions (GHG) and climate change mitigation.
<b>European – all legislative and policy frameworks are informed by relevant higher level international frameworks</b>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• European Union (2001) SEA Directive (2001/42/EC)</li> <li>• European Commission (2001) National Emissions Ceiling Directive 2001/81/EC</li> <li>• European Commission (2002) Energy Performance in Buildings Directive 2002/49/EC</li> <li>• European Union (2005) Emissions Trading Scheme (EU ETS)</li> </ul>	<p>These documents provide a European framework to respond to the global challenge of climate change. They promote and seek to secure the minimisation of future climate change through mitigation and the implementation of adaptation measures to the future effects of climate change.</p> <p>In respect of the UK a key aim is that we are required to ensure 15% of energy needs are</p>	The revised LDP should set out policies that adapt to the effects of climate change and contribute to mitigation of further climate change.	The SA Framework should include objectives for increasing use of low carbon and renewable energy sources, resource efficiency, sustainable development that reduces the need to travel and to ensure

Plans/Programmes	Overview of Purpose and Key Requirements	Key Implications for LDP	Key Implications for SA
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• European Commission (2007) The Integrated Climate and Energy Package</li> <li>• European Commission (2007) The Integrated Climate and Energy Package</li> <li>• European Commission (2009) Renewable Energy Directive (2009/28/EC)</li> <li>• European Commission (2010) Energy 2020 - A Strategy for Competitive, Sustainable and Secure Energy</li> <li>• European Commission (2011) A Roadmap for Moving to a Competitive Low Carbon Economy in 2050</li> <li>• European Commission (2012) Energy Efficiency Directive (2012/27/EU)</li> <li>• European Council (2013) Seventh EU Environmental Action Plan (EAP) (2013-2020)</li> <li>• European Commission (2013) Strategy on Adaptation to Climate Change</li> <li>• European Commission (2013) Seventh Environmental Action Programme to 2020 'Living well, within the limits of our planet'</li> <li>• European Commission (2014) 2030 Policy Framework for Climate and Energy</li> </ul>	<p>delivered from renewable sources, including biomass, hydro, wind and solar power by 2020.</p>		<p>new development is designed to adapt to the future effects of climate change.</p>
<b>National (UK) - all legislative and policy frameworks are informed by relevant higher level European and international frameworks</b>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• HM Government (2006) The Stern Review: The Economics of Climate Change</li> <li>• HM Government (2006) The Stern Review: The Economics of Climate Change</li> <li>• HM Government (1998) Petroleum Act</li> </ul>	<p>These documents provide a framework at the UK level regarding the need to mitigate and adapt to climate change. The Climate Change Act 2008 sets a legally binding target of reducing the UK's GHG emissions</p>	<p>The revised LDP should set out policies and proposals to minimise environmental effects from new development and to promote</p>	<p>The SA Framework should include objectives for increasing use of low carbon and renewable energy</p>

Plans/Programmes	Overview of Purpose and Key Requirements	Key Implications for LDP	Key Implications for SA
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Committee on Climate Change (2008) Building a Low-Carbon Economy - the UK's Contribution to Tackling Climate</li> <li>• HM Government (2008) Climate Change Act 2008</li> <li>• HM Government (2008) The Energy Act 2008</li> <li>• Health Protection Agency (2008) Health Effects of Climate Change in the UK 2008 - An update of the Department of Health report 2001/2002</li> <li>• DECC (2009) UK Ports for the Offshore Wind Industry: Time to Act</li> <li>• DECC (2009) Framework for the Development of Clean Coal</li> <li>• HM Government (2009) The Climate Change Act 2008 (2020 Target, Credit Limit and Definitions) Order 2009</li> <li>• Environment Agency (2010) Managing the Environment in a Changing Climate</li> <li>• DECC (2011) The Carbon Plan Carbon Plan: Delivering our Low Carbon Future</li> <li>• DECC (2011) National Policy Statements for Energy Infrastructure</li> <li>• DECC (2011) UK Renewable Energy Roadmap</li> <li>• Defra (2012) UK Climate Change Risk Assessment: Government Report</li> <li>• Defra (2013) The National Adaptation Programme: Making the Country Resilient to</li> </ul>	<p>by 80% by 2050 compared with 1990 and requires a programme of rolling carbon budgets to be set to achieve this.</p>	<p>use of renewable and low carbon technologies and minimising emissions of GHG emissions.</p>	<p>sources, resource efficiency, sustainable development that reduces the need to travel and to ensure new development is designed to adapt to the future effects of climate change.</p>

Plans/Programmes	Overview of Purpose and Key Requirements	Key Implications for LDP	Key Implications for SA
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• a Changing Climate</li> <li>• DECC (2014) UK National Energy Efficiency Action Plan</li> <li>• HM Government (2015) Ozone-Depleting Substances Regulations 2015</li> <li>• HM Government (2017) UK Climate Change Risk Assessment</li> </ul>			
<b>National (Wales) - all legislative and policy frameworks are informed by relevant higher level UK, European and international frameworks</b>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Welsh Government (2006) Environment Strategy for Wales</li> <li>• Sustainable Development Commission (2009) Low Carbon Wales</li> <li>• Welsh Government (2010) Climate Change Strategy for Wales</li> <li>• Welsh Government (2010) Low Carbon Revolution – the Welsh Government Energy Policy Statement</li> <li>• Welsh Assembly Government (2010), Capturing the Potential: A Green Jobs Strategy for Wales,</li> <li>• Welsh Government (2011) Marine Renewable Energy Strategic Framework</li> <li>• Welsh Government (2011) Policy Statement: Preparing for a Changing Climate</li> <li>• Welsh Assembly Government (2011) Preparing Wales for Climate Change: Adaptation Delivery Plan,</li> <li>• Welsh Government (2012) Energy Wales: A Low Carbon Transition</li> <li>• Welsh Assembly Government (2016)</li> </ul>	<p>These documents provide a framework at the Welsh level to respond to the need to mitigate and adapt to the effect of climate change. The framework focuses on seeking to decarbonise key economic sectors, encouraging renewable and low carbon energy generation and enhancing the reliance of the natural environment.</p>	<p>The revised LDP should set out policies and proposals to promote reduced energy and energy usage in new development, utilisation of renewable and low carbon energy sources, and promotion of sustainable design. Also to minimise environmental effects from new development and to promote use of renewable and low carbon technologies and minimising emissions of Greenhouse Gases.</p>	<p>The SA Framework should include objectives relating to renewable energy use, resource efficiency, sustainable transport, GHG emissions and climate change mitigation.</p>

Plans/Programmes	Overview of Purpose and Key Requirements	Key Implications for LDP	Key Implications for SA
<p>Environment (Wales) Act 2016</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Committee on Climate Change (2017) UK Climate Change Risk Assessment 2017 Evidence Report, Summary for Wales</li> </ul>			
<b>Wales National Planning Policy</b>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Welsh Government Planning Policy Wales (2016) (Edition 9),</li> <li>Welsh Government (2005) Technical Advice Note (TAN) 8: Renewable Energy</li> </ul>	<p>These documents provide the national planning policy on mitigating and adapting the effects of climate change. In their land allocation policies and proposals, local planning authorities should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ensure that tackling the causes and consequences of climate change is taken into account in locating new development.</li> <li>Local planning authorities should consider the contribution that their settlement strategies can make to tackling the causes of climate change and the need to deal with the consequences of climate change</li> <li>Local planning authorities should guide appropriate renewable and low carbon energy development by undertaking an assessment of the potential of all renewable energy resources and renewable and low carbon energy opportunities within their area and include appropriate policies in development plans. Local planning authorities are encouraged to work collaboratively in order to gather</li> </ul>	<p>The revised LDP should provide policies, proposals, advice and guidance relating to climate change mitigation and adaptation.</p>	<p>The SA Framework should include objectives relating to climate change mitigation and adaptation.</p>

Plans/Programmes	Overview of Purpose and Key Requirements	Key Implications for LDP	Key Implications for SA
	<p>evidence on a sub-regional basis wherever possible</p> <p>The Welsh Government's objectives in relation to infrastructure and climate change to promote the generation and use of energy from renewable and low carbon energy sources at all scales and promote energy efficiency, especially as a means to secure zero or low carbon developments and to tackle the causes of climate change.</p>		
<b>Regional</b>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>N/A</li> </ul>			
<b>Local (BGCBC &amp; Neighbouring Local Authorities) - all legislative and policy frameworks are informed by relevant higher level Welsh, UK, European and international frameworks</b>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Renewable Energy Assessment (March 2011)</li> <li>Blaenau Gwent Public Service Board Well-being Assessment (2017)</li> <li>Blaenau Gwent Public Service Board Well Being Plan for Blaenau Gwent 2018-2033</li> <li>Blaenau Gwent Flood Risk Management Strategy</li> <li>Blaenau Gwent Flood Risk Management Plan</li> <li>Blaenau Gwent Corporate Plan 2018-2022</li> </ul>	<p>The Welsh Government has set a challenging 40% reduction in CO<sub>2</sub> emissions across all sectors, as set out in A Climate Change Strategy for Wales 2011. A Renewable Energy Assessment has been prepared to assess the potential of the Blaenau Gwent area to contribute to national greenhouse gas emission reduction targets.</p> <p>The Blaenau Gwent Well-being Assessment (2017) summarises the challenges to economic, environmental and social well-being affecting residents of Blaenau Gwent as required under the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015. Informed by</p>	<p>The revised LDP should provide policies, proposals and guidance to protect communities against flood risk and to support the movement to a lower carbon economy. This should include the provision of a supportive policy framework for renewable and low carbon energy generation in appropriate locations and the incorporation of appropriate renewable energy schemes within new developments. A policy framework that</p>	<p>The SA Framework should include objectives relating to energy use and energy efficiency, emissions and climate change mitigation. It should also include objectives which mitigate against flood risk.</p>

Plans/Programmes	Overview of Purpose and Key Requirements	Key Implications for LDP	Key Implications for SA
	<p>the Well-being Assessment, the Blaenau Gwent Public Service Board (2018-2023) sets key environmental objectives:</p> <p><b>Blaenau Gwent wants to look after and protect its environment</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Lead on action against climate change through delivery of a carbon positive project</li> </ul>	ensures that new development is not at risk from flooding.	
<b>11. Interrelated Effects</b>			
<b>International</b>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>United Nations (1992) The Rio Declaration on Environment and Development,</li> <li>United Nations (2002) The World Summit on Sustainable Development</li> <li>Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development, Communication COM (2005) 666: Taking Sustainable use of resources forward</li> </ul>	Commits the sustainable use of resources and promotes sustainable development.	The revised LDP should set out policies and proposals for the promotion of sustainable development.	The SA Framework should include guidance for achieving sustainable development goals.
<b>European – all legislative and policy frameworks are informed by relevant higher level international frameworks</b>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>European Spatial Development Perspective,</li> <li>European Commission (1999) European Spatial Development Perspective (ESDP) (97/150/EC</li> <li>EU Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Directive (Directive 2001/42/EC on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment)</li> <li>EU Environmental Action Programme: Living</li> </ul>	These documents provide an overarching European framework to support the delivery of sustainable development, including through spatial planning systems.	The revised LDP should set out policies and proposals for the promotion of sustainable development goals as set out by International Legislation and policy.	The SA Framework should include objectives relating to sustainable development targets.



Plans/Programmes	Overview of Purpose and Key Requirements	Key Implications for LDP	Key Implications for SA
<p>Well, Within the Limits of Our Planet</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• European Sustainable Development Strategy 2001 (Renewed 2006, Reviewed 2009)</li> <li>• European Commission (2009) Review of the EU Sustainable Development Strategy European Commission</li> <li>• European Union (2001) SEA Directive (2001/42/EC), European Union (2014) Environmental Impact Assessment Directive 2014/52/EU amending Directive 2011/92/EU</li> </ul>			
<b>National (UK) - all legislative and policy frameworks are informed by relevant higher level European and international frameworks</b>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• HM Government (1990) Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990</li> <li>• HM Government (2000) Transport Act 2000</li> <li>• The UK Sustainable Development Strategy (HM Government, 2005)</li> <li>• Sustainable Development Commission (2005) One Future – Different Paths. Shared Framework for Sustainable Development</li> <li>• HM Government (2006) Government of Wales Act 2006</li> <li>• Mainstreaming Sustainable Development, Department for Transport (2008) Delivering a Sustainable Transport System</li> <li>• National Planning Policy Framework (DCLG, 2012), Planning Practice Guidance, Defra (2011)</li> <li>• HM Government (2017) The Wales Act</li> <li>• Royal Town Planning Institute (2017) Digital</li> </ul>	<p>These documents provide a framework at the UK level to promote sustainable development and sustainable transport initiatives.</p>	<p>The revised LDP should set out policies and, proposals for the promotion of sustainable development.</p>	<p>The SA Framework should include objectives relating to sustainable development targets.</p>

Plans/Programmes	Overview of Purpose and Key Requirements	Key Implications for LDP	Key Implications for SA
Economy and Town Planning			
<b>National (Wales) - all legislative and policy frameworks are informed by relevant higher level UK, European and international frameworks</b>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Welsh Assembly Government (2008) People, Places, Future – The Wales Spatial Plan</li> <li>Welsh Assembly Government (2009) One Wales: One Planet</li> <li>Welsh Government (2011) Rural Development Plan for Wales (2014-2020)</li> <li>Welsh Assembly Government (2012) City Regions Final Report</li> <li>Planning (Wales) Act 2015</li> <li>Welsh Government (2016) Welsh Assembly Government Prosperity for all: the National Strategy Programme for government, Taking Wales Forward 2016-2021</li> <li>Environment (Wales) Act, 2016,</li> <li>Welsh Government: Wales We Want National Conversation, Reforming Local Government: Resilient and Renewed – Welsh Assembly Government Whitepaper (Jan 2017)</li> <li>Welsh Government Valleys Task Force Our Valleys, Our Future (July 2017)</li> <li>Welsh Government A New Sustainable Development Scheme for Wales (2018)</li> </ul>	<p>These documents provide a Welsh framework for sustainable urban and rural development, city regional development and spatial planning. The Valleys Task force document is a high level action plan for the South Wales Valleys which outlines its priorities for the future. The document identifies Ebbw Vale as a strategic hub which will inform the LDP Strategy for the area.</p>	<p>The revised LDP should provide policies and proposals for adhering to sustainable development, and delivering sustainable growth opportunities within the strategy areas.</p>	<p>The SA Framework should include objectives relating to sustainable development targets and promotion of regeneration.</p>
<b>Wales National Planning Policy</b>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Welsh Government Planning Policy Wales (2016) (Edition 9)</li> </ul>	<p>The Planning (Wales) Act 2015 introduced a statutory purpose for the planning system in Wales – any statutory body carrying out a</p>		

Plans/Programmes	Overview of Purpose and Key Requirements	Key Implications for LDP	Key Implications for SA
	<p>planning function must exercise those functions in accordance with the principles of sustainable development as set out in the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015. The planning system is therefore necessary and central to achieving the sustainable development of Wales.</p> <p>Development plans need to provide a framework to stimulate, guide and manage change towards sustainability. They should secure a sustainable settlement pattern which meets the needs of the economy, the environment and health, while respecting local diversity and protecting the character and cultural identity of communities. In their land allocation policies and proposals, local planning authorities should:</p> <p>Promote sustainable patterns of development, identifying previously developed land and buildings, and indicating locations for higher density development at hubs and interchanges and close to route corridors where accessibility on foot and by bicycle and public transport is good;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• maintain and improve the vitality, attractiveness and viability of town, district, local and village centres;</li> </ul>		

Plans/Programmes	Overview of Purpose and Key Requirements	Key Implications for LDP	Key Implications for SA
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• foster development approaches that recognise the mutual dependence between town and country, thus improving linkages between urban areas and their rural surroundings;</li> <li>• locate development so that it can be well serviced by existing infrastructure (including for energy supply, waste management and water);</li> <li>• ensure that development encourages opportunities for commercial and residential uses to derive environmental benefit from co-location;</li> <li>• locate development in settlements that are resilient to the effects of climate change, by avoiding areas where environmental consequences and impacts cannot be sustainably managed. Where development takes place in areas of known risks, ensure that the development is designed for resilience over its whole lifetime;</li> <li>• ensure that tackling the causes and consequences of climate change is taken into account in locating new development.</li> </ul> <p>Local planning authorities should consider the contribution that their settlement strategies can make to tackling the causes of climate change and the need to deal with</p>		

Plans/Programmes	Overview of Purpose and Key Requirements	Key Implications for LDP	Key Implications for SA
	<p>the consequences of climate change.</p> <p>Local planning authorities should assess the extent to which their development plan settlement strategies and new development are consistent with minimising the need to travel and increasing accessibility by modes other than the private car.</p> <p>Development plans should encourage a mix of uses in town centres and other appropriate places to add activity and choice of places in which to live.</p> <p>Local planning authorities need to consider establishing Green Belts and making local designations, such as green wedges. Both Green Belts and green wedges must be soundly based on a formal assessment of their contribution to urban form and the location of new development and can take on a variety of spatial forms.</p>		
<b>Regional</b>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Cardiff Capital Region City Deal (2017), Emerging Cardiff City Region (South East Wales) Strategic Development Plan</li> </ul>	<p>The Cardiff City Region City Deal is a 20 year / £1.28 billion investment programme which aims to achieve a 5% uplift in the Region's GVA by delivering a range of programmes which will increase connectivity, improve physical and digital infrastructure, as well as regional business</p>	<p>The preparation of any revised LDP will need to be informed by the emerging City Deal and aligned with the preparation of a future emerging Cardiff City Region SDP to ensure that once</p>	<p>A separate SA/SEA process will need to be undertaken for the emerging Cardiff City Region SDP.</p> <p>The SA Framework</p>

Plans/Programmes	Overview of Purpose and Key Requirements	Key Implications for LDP	Key Implications for SA
	<p>governance. Over its lifetime, local partners expect the City Deal to deliver up to 25,000 new jobs and leverage an additional £4 billion of private sector investment by 2036. It has 6 Objectives:-</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Connecting the Cardiff Capital Region;</li> <li>2. Investing in innovation and the digital network;</li> <li>3. Developing a skilled workforce and tackling unemployment;</li> <li>4. Supporting enterprise and business growth;</li> <li>5. Housing development and regeneration; and</li> <li>6. Developing greater city-region governance across the Cardiff Capital Region.</li> </ol> <p>The Cardiff Capital Region is considering the need to prepare a SDP for the Cardiff Capital Region.</p>	<p>adopted, both documents provide a coherent framework for effectively and efficiently addressing relevant planning issues.</p>	<p>proposed for use in the SA of the LDP Review should be kept under review and tested for compatibility against the SA Framework for the Cardiff City Region SPD once this has been produced.</p>
<b>Local (BGCBC &amp; Neighbouring Local Authorities) - all legislative and policy frameworks are informed by relevant higher level Welsh, UK, European and international frameworks</b>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Blaenau Gwent Public Service Board Wellbeing Assessment (2017)</li> <li>• Blaenau Gwent Public Service Board Well Being Plan 2018-2033</li> </ul>	<p>These documents provide an assessment of social, economic, environmental, and cultural well-being for the area of Blaenau Gwent and its communities, as well as looking at the state of well-being of the people in the area. They identify the socio-economic and wellbeing challenges affecting residents within Blaenau Gwent</p>	<p>The LDP must respond to the locally identified well-being objectives and demonstrate compliance with the Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015.</p>	<p>The SA Framework should include objectives relating to all aspects of health and well-being, including each of the well-being objectives defined</p>

Plans/Programmes	Overview of Purpose and Key Requirements	Key Implications for LDP	Key Implications for SA
	and identify well-being objectives and associated measures to address these. The aim of assessment and well-being plan is to improve the well-being and future sustainability of communities across Blaenau Gwent.		within the Well-being Plan for Blaenau Gwent.

## **Appendix 2 – Baseline Information**



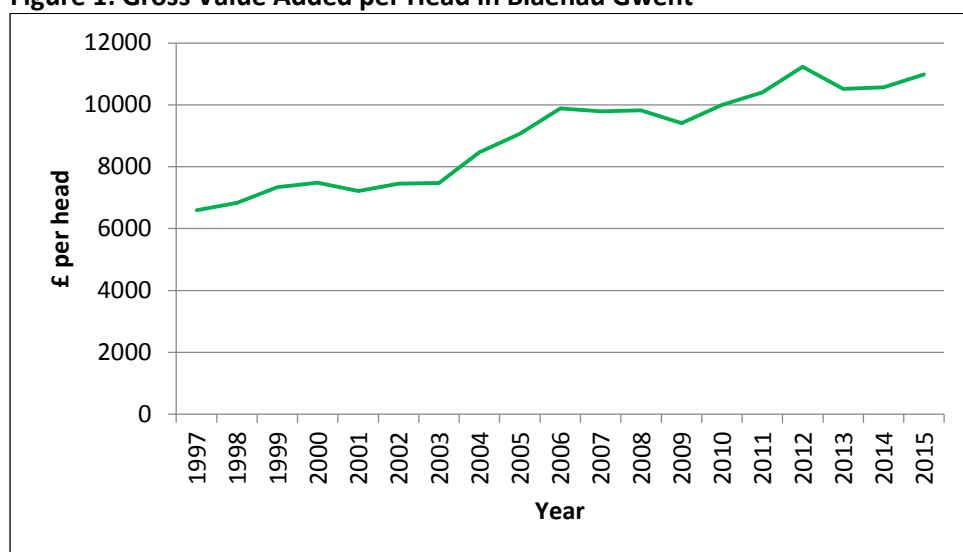
## 1.0 A Prosperous Wales

### Population - Employment & Economy

#### *GVA per head*

There has been no change in position for Blaenau Gwent in terms of GVA per head. In 2003 and 2015 Blaenau Gwent had the lowest GVA per head of all local authorities in Wales. In 2015, the GVA per head in Blaenau Gwent was £10,980 per head, which is less than the GVA per head in 2012. In 2012, the GVA per head was £11,230, the highest since 1997. This could be attributed to the development of the former steelworks site in Ebbw Vale at this time.

**Figure 1: Gross Value Added per Head in Blaenau Gwent**



Source: ONS – Gross Value Added per head (income approach by Local Authority)

#### *Enterprise Births and Deaths*

**Figure 2: Enterprise Births and Deaths in Blaenau Gwent**

Year	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Births	95	140	125	190	170	190	180
Deaths	150	115	135	110	150	130	145
+/-	-55	+25	-10	+80	+20	+60	+35

Source: Office for National Statistics

Business births have been above business deaths in Blaenau Gwent since 2013, however since 2014 business deaths have increased.

#### *Working Age Population*

Blaenau Gwent has a higher percentage of its population at working age (16-64) than Wales as a whole, although the difference is marginal at 1.3%.

**Figure 3: Working Age Population (aged 16-64) (2017)**

	<b>Blaenau Gwent (Numbers)</b>	<b>Blaenau Gwent %</b>	<b>Wales %</b>
All people – working age	43,700	62.8	61.5
Males – working age	21,700	63.3	62.2
Females – working age	22,000	62.3	60.9

Source: ONS Population Estimates – local authority based by five year age band  
% is a proportion of total population

### *Economic Activity*

**Figure 4: Economically Active (Apr 2017-Mar 2018)**

	<b>Economically active (1)</b>	<b>In employment (1)</b>	<b>Employees (1)</b>	<b>Self employed (1)</b>	<b>Model based unemployed (2)</b>
<b>Blaenau Gwent</b>	<b>71.7%</b>	<b>67.1%</b>	<b>58.1%</b>	<b>8.3%</b>	<b>6.0%</b>
Caerphilly	75.2%	70.2%	63.1%	6.3%	5.8%
Torfaen	79.0%	75.6%	67.5%	7.5%	4.9%
Monmouthshire	81.0%	78.0%	62.4%	14.7%	3.5%
Newport	78.0%	74.2%	67.6%	6.1%	5.4%
Wales	76.5%	72.7%	62.5%	9.7%	4.9%

Source: Nomis

(1) % are for those of working age (16-64)

(2) % is proportion of economically active

Blaenau Gwent has the lowest percentage of working age population economically active than all of the surrounding authorities and compared to Wales as a whole. Blaenau Gwent also has the largest percentage of the working age population who are economically inactive and not wanting a job than all surrounding authorities and Wales as a whole.

**Figure 5: Economic Inactivity (Apr 2017-Mar 2018)**

	<b>Economically Inactive</b>	<b>Wanting a job</b>	<b>Not wanting a job</b>
<b>Blaenau Gwent</b>	<b>28.3%</b>	<b>22.1%</b>	<b>77.9%</b>
Caerphilly	24.8%	28.9%	71.1%
Torfaen	21%	25.7%	74.3%
Monmouthshire	19%	24.5%	75.5%
Newport	22.0%	35.35%	64.7%
Wales	23.5%	24.3%	75.7%

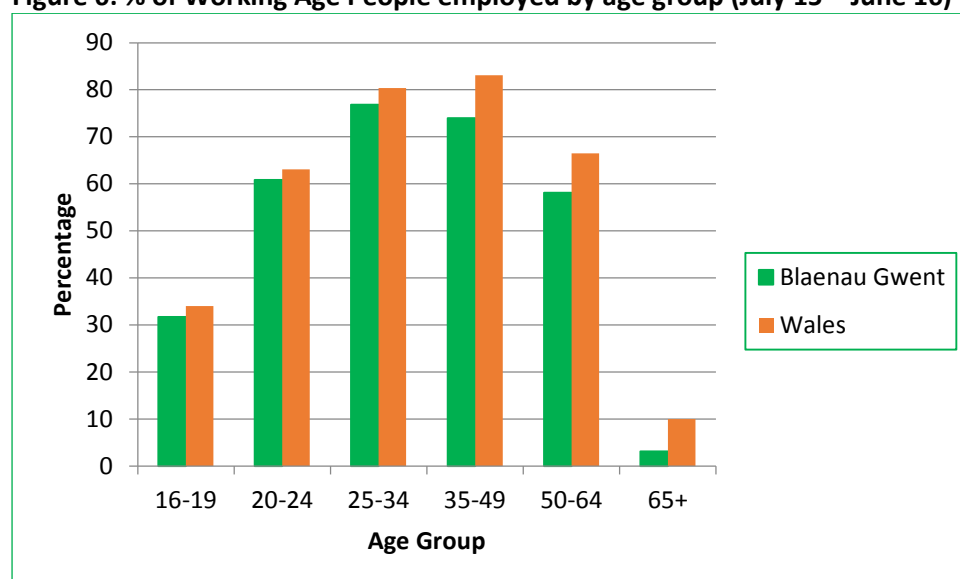
Source: Nomis

% is a proportion of those economically inactive

Figure 6 below shows the employment rate by age group in Blaenau Gwent compared to Wales. In Blaenau Gwent the employment rate ranges for working age from 31.7% in the 16-19 age group to 76.8% in the 25-35 age group. The lower employment rates for 16-19 and 20-24 year olds can be explained in part by the number of students while the lowest rates for 65 and over are due to retirement.

The general profile is similar at an all Wales level. However, the employment rate for Wales is higher than Blaenau Gwent for each age group, and also continues to rise to an older age group than in Blaenau Gwent, peaking at 83.1% for 35-49 year olds.

**Figure 6: % of Working Age People employed by age group (July 15 – June 16)**



Source: Office for National Statistics

**Figure 7: Unemployment Rate by Age Group and Local Authority (March 2018)**

Local Authority	Age Group							
	16+ (%)	16-64 (%)	16-19 (%)	20-24 (%)	25-34 (%)	35-49 (%)	50-64 (%)	65+ (%)
Blaenau Gwent	6.1	6.4	28.3	16.5	5.2	2.8	4.9	!
(Wales)	4.9	5.0	22.4	9.5	5.3	2.5	3.0	2.4

Source: Annual Population Survey ONS

The unemployment rate in Blaenau Gwent ranges between 28.3% for 16-19 year olds and 4.9% for 50-64 year olds. For Wales this is 22.4% and 3.0% respectively. Other than for 25-34 year olds the unemployment rate is higher in Blaenau Gwent for all other age groups.

There is a difference in unemployment rate in the 20-24 year age group, 16.5% in Blaenau Gwent compared to 9.5% in Wales. There is also a difference between the unemployment rate in the 16-19 age group, 28.3% in Blaenau Gwent compared to 22.4% in Wales. This is an improved picture from 2015-16 where the Blaenau Gwent Well-being Assessment identified that there was a significant difference in the unemployment rate in the 20-24 year age group, 22.8% in Blaenau Gwent compared to 9.7% in Wales.

### *Benefit Dependence*

**Figure 8: Working age key benefit claimants (November 2016)**

	Blaenau Gwent	Caerphilly	Torfaen	Monmouthshire	Newport	Wales
Total	20.35%	17.4%	16.5%	10.0%	15.7%	14.4%
Job seekers	2.3%	1.8%	1.1%	0.8%	2.0%	1.4%

Incapacity benefits	<b>12.0%</b>	10%	9.8%	5.9%	8.5%	8.4%
Lone parents	<b>1.6%</b>	1.3%	1.3%	0.6%	1.5%	1.2%
Carers	<b>2.9%</b>	2.8%	2.5%	1.5%	2.3%	2.2%
Other on income related benefits	<b>0.3%</b>	0.2%	0.3%	0.1%	0.2%	0.2%
Disabled	<b>1.1%</b>	1.1%	1.2%	0.8%	0.9%	0.7%
Bereaved	<b>0.2%</b>	0.2%	0.2%	0.2%	0.2%	0.2%

Source: Nomis

% is a proportion of resident population

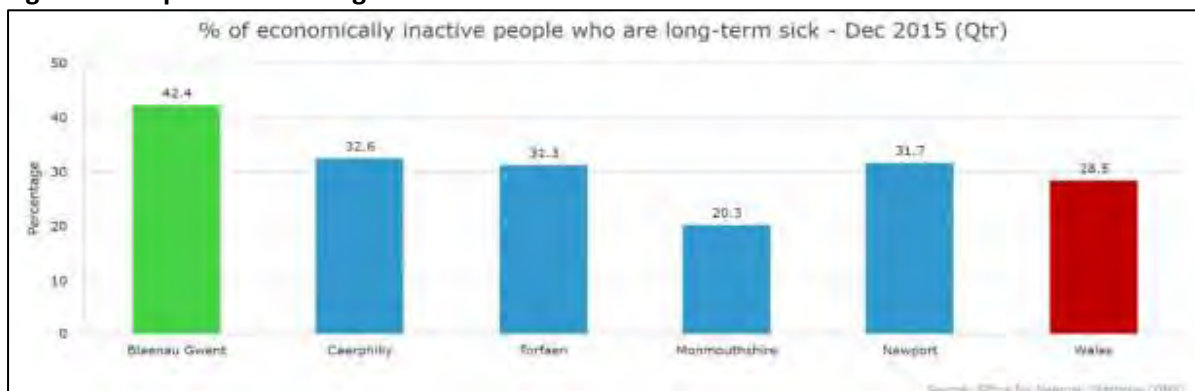
When compared to other surrounding authorities, in 2016, Blaenau Gwent has the largest percentage (20.35%) of its working age population claiming key benefits, in fact over 1/5 of the working age population.

The percentage of working age people claiming Job Seekers' Allowance in Blaenau Gwent was 2.3% in November 2016 which has significantly decreased since 2009 when the percentage was above 7% (Source: Blaenau Gwent Well-being Assessment). The percentage for Wales has also decreased. The gap between Wales and Blaenau Gwent has narrowed with a 1.1% difference in 2016 rather than a 3.2% difference in 2009.

### *Long term Sickness*

Figure 9 below shows that 42.4% of those who are economically inactive in December 2015 were long term sick. This compares to 28.5% for Wales for the same period.

**Figure 9: People who are long term sick**

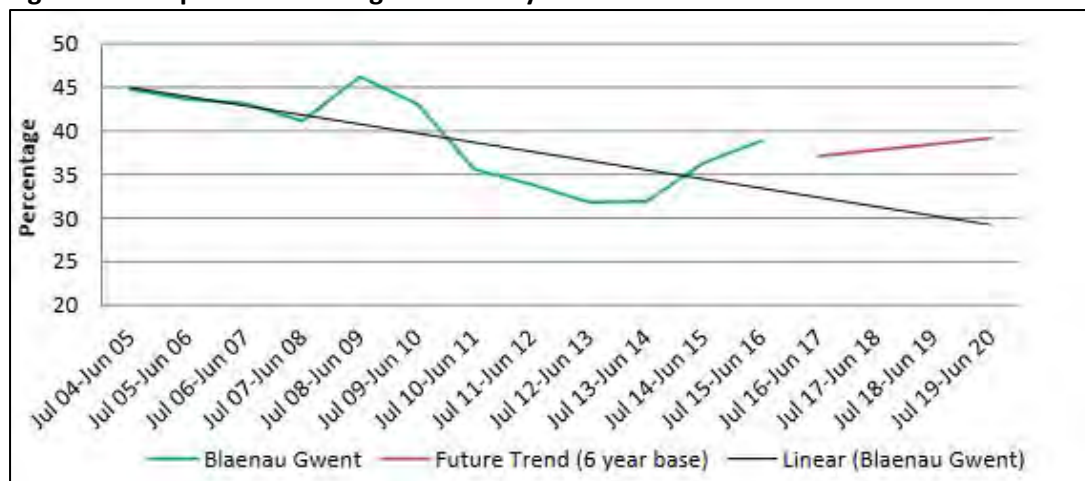


Source: Office for National Statistics

Figure 10 below shows that the 5 year fall in long term sickness in Blaenau Gwent during 2008 to 2014, from 46.2% to 31.9% was followed by a 2 year increase, rising to 38.9% in 2016. Although an increase was also seen at a Wales level over the same period, Blaenau Gwent still has 10.4% more long term sickness of its economically inactive population than the Wales level in 2016.

In terms of long term sick overall a downward trend has been seen over the last 12 years. Therefore, a future projection of this shows a general decrease in the rate of long term sickness over the next 4 years. However, where the future projection is based on the latest 6 years, the next 4 years shows a general increase in the rate of long term sickness.

**Figure 10: People who are long term sick by time**



Source: Office for National Statistics

### *Employment by Sector*

**Figure 11: % Employment by Standard Occupation Classification (April 2017-March 2018)**

	Blaenau Gwent Numbers	Blaenau Gwent (%)	Wales (%)
Soc 2010 Major Group 1-3	10,200	33.9%	40.6%
1. Managers, Directors and Senior Officials	3,100	10.3%	9.3%
2. Professional Occupations	3,900	12.7%	18.0%
3. Associate Professional & Technical	3,200	10.5%	13.1%
Soc 2010 Major Group 4-5	5,700	19.1%	22.4%
4. Administrative & Secretarial	2,500	8.1%	10.5%
5. Skilled Trades Occupations	3,300	10.8%	11.8%
Soc 2010 Major Group 6-7	6,000	19.8%	18.2%
6. Caring, Leisure and Other Service Occs	4,100	13.6%	9.8%
7. Sales and Customer Service Occs	1,800	6.1%	8.3%
Soc 2010 Major Group 8-9	8,200	27.2%	18.9%
8. Process Plant & Machine Operatives	4,600	15.1%	7.4%
9. Elementary Occupations	3,600	11.8%	11.3%

Source: Nomis

% is a proportion of all persons in employment

Blaenau Gwent has a lower percentage (33.9%) of its working population in the standard occupation classifications 1 to 3, i.e. managers, professional occupations and associate professional and technical, than Wales (40.6%). In contrast, Blaenau Gwent has the highest percentage (27.2%) of its working age population in the standard occupation classification group 8-9 (process plant and machine operatives and elementary occupations) compared to Wales as a whole at 18.9%.

## Employee Jobs in Blaenau Gwent

**Figure 12: Employee Jobs (2016)**

	Blaenau Gwent (Employee Jobs)	Blaenau Gwent %	Wales %
Total Employee Jobs	18,000		
Full time	12,000	66.7	65.2
Part time	6,000	33.3	34.8
<b>Employee Jobs by Industry</b>			
B : Mining and quarrying	50	0.3	0.2
C : Manufacturing	4,000	22.2	11.4
D : Electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning supply	0	0	0.6
E : Water supply; sewerage, waste management and remediation activities	350	1.9	0.9
F : Construction	900	5.0	5.5
G : Wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles	3,000	16.7	15.1
H : Transportation and storage	400	2.2	2.9
I : Accommodation and food service activities	1,250	6.9	8.9
J : Information and communication	75	0.4	2.3
K : Financial and insurance activities	200	1.1	2.3
L : Real estate activities	400	2.2	1.6
M : Professional, scientific and technical activities	350	1.9	4.2
N : Administrative and support service activities	700	3.9	6.6
O : Public administration and defence; compulsory social security	1,000	5.6	8.6
P : Education	1,750	9.7	10.1
Q : Human health and social work activities	3,000	16.7	16.1
R : Arts, entertainment and recreation	500	2.8	2.5
S : Other service activities	250	1.4	1.5

Source: Nomis

In comparison to Wales, Blaenau Gwent has a marginally lower proportion of employee jobs accounted for by part-time employment. The largest employment sector in Blaenau Gwent is manufacturing (C) accounting for 22.2% of all employment whereas in Wales it is 11.4%. This is followed by Wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles (G) and human health and social work activities (Q) both with 16.7% compared to 15.1% and 16.1% for Wales respectively. This may be the reason for the lower income rates. The lack of opportunities may lead to out migration and commuting elsewhere to work, particularly for those residents educated to degree level or higher.

### *Self Employed*

The percentage of working age people self-employed in June 2016 was 6.1% (2,800) in Blaenau Gwent. This compares to 9.3% for Wales for the same period. Over the period June 2013 to June 2016 the percentage of self-employed increased by 2.3% of working age. This compares to an increase of 0.4% in Wales (Source: Blaenau Gwent Well-being Assessment).

## Earnings by Residence

**Figure 13: Gross Weekly Pay for Full-Time Workers**

Year	Blaenau Gwent (£'s)	Caerphilly (£'s)	Monmouthshire (£'s)	Newport (£'s)	Torfaen (£'s)	Wales (£'s)
2009	<b>361.00</b>	414.0	512.8	443.7	430.0	444.90
2013	<b>404.50</b>	468.2	579.5	469.6	446.4	476.90
2014	<b>395.90</b>	473.1	582.1	469.6	468.9	480.00
2015	<b>403.50</b>	478.7	610.5	463.2	485.6	487.60
2016	<b>433.90</b>	484.7	619.4	471.2	491.0	498.30
2017	<b>491.30</b>	488.8	619.6	486.0	519.3	505.90
<b>Difference (£'s) between 2009 and 2017</b>	<b>+130.3</b>	<b>+74.8</b>	<b>+106.8</b>	<b>+42.3</b>	<b>+89.3</b>	<b>+61</b>

Source: Nomis

In 2017, the average gross weekly pay for full-time workers living in Blaenau Gwent was £491.30 compared to £361.00 in 2009 and £505.90 in Wales for 2017. Although the average gross weekly pay is less in Blaenau Gwent when compared to Wales in 2017, it is higher than Newport and Caerphilly.

The difference in the average gross weekly pay between 2009 and 2017 shows that when comparing Blaenau Gwent to the surrounding authorities and Wales, Blaenau Gwent has seen the greatest increase in gross average weekly pay since 2009 although it remains below the Welsh average.

**Figure 14: Hourly-Pay Excluding Overtime**

Year	Blaenau Gwent (£'s)	Caerphilly (£'s)	Monmouthshire (£'s)	Newport (£'s)	Torfaen (£'s)	Wales (£'s)
2013	<b>10.13</b>	11.45	14.89	11.87	11.26	12.00
2014	<b>10.09</b>	12.04	14.90	11.35	11.53	12.01
2015	<b>10.55</b>	12.35	16.46	11.79	12.20	12.30
2016	<b>11.09</b>	12.29	16.36	12.06	12.36	12.66
2017	<b>12.00</b>	12.69	16.34	12.13	13.12	12.75
<b>Difference (£'s) between 2013 and 2017</b>	<b>+1.87</b>	<b>+1.24</b>	<b>+1.45</b>	<b>+0.26</b>	<b>+1.86</b>	<b>+0.75</b>

Source: Nomis

In 2017, the hourly pay excluding overtime in Blaenau Gwent was £12.00 which is the lowest of all surrounding authorities and Wales. However there is a significant difference between the hourly pay in 2013 to 2017 in Blaenau Gwent, an increase of £1.87. In fact

when compared to surrounding authorities and Wales, Blaenau Gwent has witnessed the biggest increase.

### *Commuting*

**Figure 15: Summary Commuting Statistics 2017**

Area of residence	% residents working in Wales	% residents working in area of residence	Commuting		
			Out of authority (thousands)	Into the authority (thousands)	Net inflow
<b>Blaenau Gwent</b>	<b>89</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>15.5</b>	<b>5.5</b>	<b>-10</b>
Torfaen	94	54	20.1	13.9	-6.2
Monmouthshire	82	58	18.6	17.1	-1.5
Newport	87	66	24.1	35.3	-11.2
Wales	96	69	94.3	41.9	52.4

Source: Stats Wales

89% of Blaenau Gwent residents work in Wales which is below the welsh average of 96% although higher than Monmouthshire and Newport. In contrast to the surrounding authorities and Wales as a whole, Blaenau Gwent has the lowest percentage of residents (49%) working in Blaenau Gwent itself.

### *Digital Connectivity*

Digital connectivity has become increasingly important over the current LDP period. Ofcom suggest that there are differences throughout the UK where in 2017 the fixed broadband average download speed (Mbit/s) was 33.4 in Wales compared to 47.8 in England, where 51% of connections were made on 30Mbit/s or higher compared to 43% in Wales. Equally, Wales had a higher proportion of connections with an average of 10Mbit/s or less (25%) than England (20%).

**Figure 16: Digital Connectivity**

Area	Superfast UK (>24 Mbps) (1)	Superfast EU (>30 Mbps) (1)	Ultrafast (>100 Mbps) (1)	Mean Upload Speed (Mbps)	Mean Download Speed (Mbps)
<b>Blaenau Gwent</b>	<b>98.68%</b>	<b>98.04%</b>	<b>1.39%</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>21</b>
Torfaen	96.83%	96.7%	30.35%	5.3	24.5
Monmouthshire	87.6%	86.95%	6.17%	5.3	22.7
Newport	97.56%	97.44%	68.62%	6.8	33.7
Wales	94.7%	94.30%	33.76%	5.8	26.2
England	95.87%	95.57%	57.23%	6.9	31.4

Source: ThinkBroadband

(1) Coverage percentages include both residential and business premises and is based around postcode level data.

Blaenau Gwent performs well in terms of superfast speeds but very poorly in terms of ultrafast and mean download speeds.

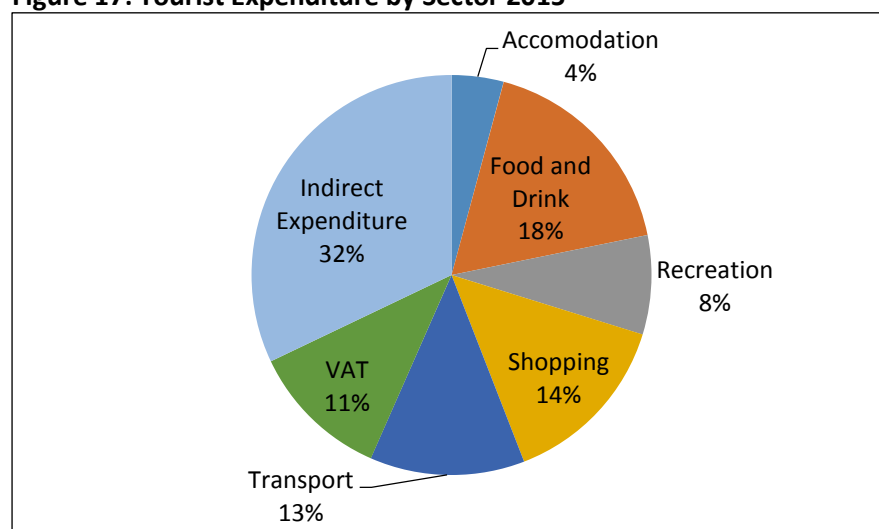


## Tourism

### Tourism Expenditure

The Local Authority continually monitors the volume and value of tourism and uses the Scarborough Tourism Economic Activity Monitor (STEAM) to achieve this. The 2015 reports shows that Blaenau Gwent received 675,530 visitors who spent a total of 864,250 days in the area. These visits brought £43.2 million into the local economy and supported the full time equivalent of 582 jobs. Since the last Destination Management Plan the area has seen a growth of 7.2% visitors. These visitors have contributed an extra 10.7% into the local economy with an 8.8% increase in those directly employed in tourism.

**Figure 17: Tourist Expenditure by Sector 2015**



Source: Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council STEAM Report

### Tourist Accommodation

**Figure 18: Bedstock – Serviced Accommodation**

Serviced Accommodation	2015		Change on 2004	
	Est.	Beds	Est.	Beds
Serviced Accommodation Total	17	287	+2	+109
+50 room hotels	0	0	0	0
11-50 room hotels	2	141	+1	+110
<10 room hotels/others	15	146	+1	-1

Source: Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council STEAM Report

**Figure 19: Bedstock – Non Serviced Accommodation**

Non Serviced Accommodation	2015		Change on 2004	
	Est.	Beds	Est.	Beds
Non Serviced Accommodation Total	3	188	-1	+20
Self catering	2	8	-1	-28
Static caravans/chalets	0	0	0	
Touring caravans/camping	1	180	0	+48

Source: Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council STEAM Report

In total, the bedstock for Blaenau Gwent is 475 bedspaces. Over half (60%) are serviced bedspaces, 1.7% are self-catered with the remaining 38% being caravan and camping bedspaces. The number of bed spaces has increased in serviced and non-serviced accommodation since 2004. The most significant increase being in serviced accommodation of 11-50 room hotels which reflects the opening of a national chain hotel in Ebbw Vale and its recent extension. The number of beds from touring caravans and camping has also grown this is a reflection of the annual Festivals.

#### *Tourist Information Centre*

Blaenau Gwent has one tourist information centre at Parc Bryn Bach, Tredegar.

### **Retail**

#### *Retail Hierarchy*

The Retail Hierarchy for Blaenau Gwent is defined by the Local Development Plan as follows:

##### **Principal Town**

- Ebbw Vale

##### **District Town Centres**

- Abertillery,
- Brynmawr
- Tredegar

##### **Local Town Centres**

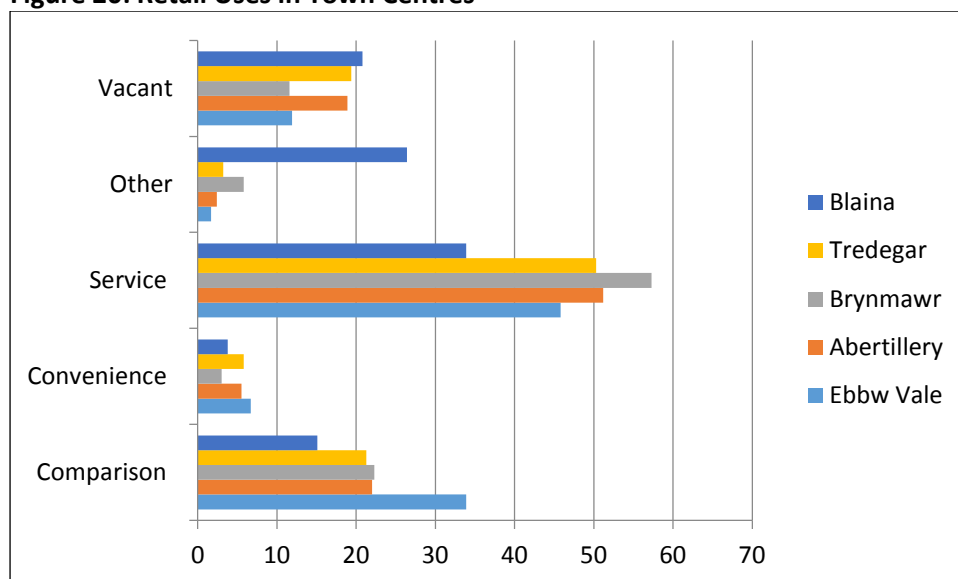
- Blaina

Since the adoption of the LDP, work has been undertaken to identify neighbourhood centres as follows:

- Marine Street, Cwm, Ebbw Vale
- Park Place, Waunlwyd, Ebbw Vale
- Church Street, Ebbw Vale
- Hilltop Shopping Centre, Tredegar Road, Ebbw Vale
- Beaufort Rise, Ebbw Vale
- Cambridge Gardens, Ebbw Vale
- Queensway, Garnlydan, Ebbw Vale
- Attlee Way, Tredegar
- Park Place, Tredegar
- Alexandra Road, Six Bells
- Commercial Road, Llanhilleth

## Retail uses in town centres

**Figure 20: Retail Uses in Town Centres**



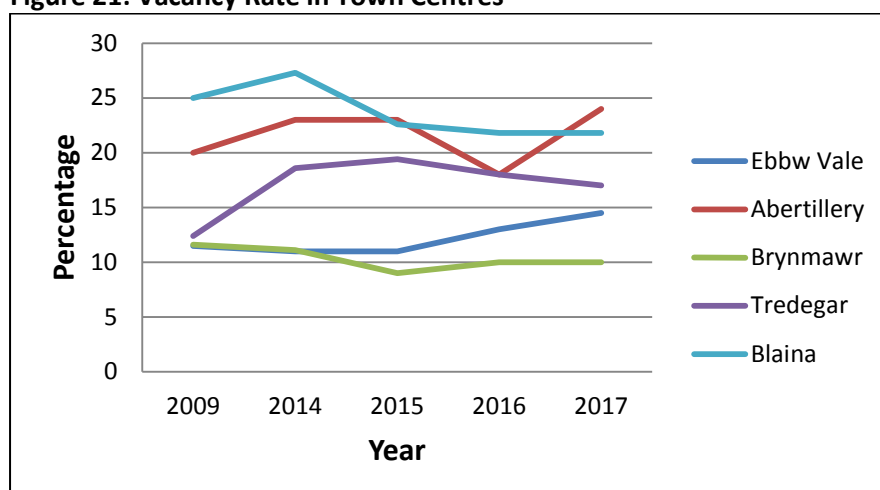
Source: Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council Annual Town Centre Surveys 2017

The 2017 Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council annual town centre surveys recorded a range of uses within the town centres and reflects a wider trend of a decrease in the proportion of convenience outlets and an increase in the proportion of service outlets.

## Vacancy Rates

The overall vacancy rate for the town centres is 16.4% (2017). The Welsh national average town centre vacancy rate is 13% (January 2018). The overall Blaenau Gwent vacancy rate is higher than the town centre Welsh average.

**Figure 21: Vacancy Rate in Town Centres**



Source: Blaenau Gwent Annual Town Centre Survey Information

The current vacancy rate for Ebbw Vale is 11.9% (2017) which compares favourably to the Welsh average of 13% (January 2018). Ebbw Vale Town Centre has performed reasonably

since 2009 with some increases and decreases over the period. The vacancy rate is 0.4% higher than that in 2009.

The current vacancy rate (2017) for Abertillery is 18% which is 5% higher than the Welsh average in 2018. The vacancy rate is 1.2% less than in 2009, which is an improvement.

The current vacancy rate for Brynmawr town centre is the lowest for all the town centres and it has performed well in terms of its vacancy rates between 2009 and 2017. In 2017, however the vacancy rate at 11.7% was the highest recorded since 2009.

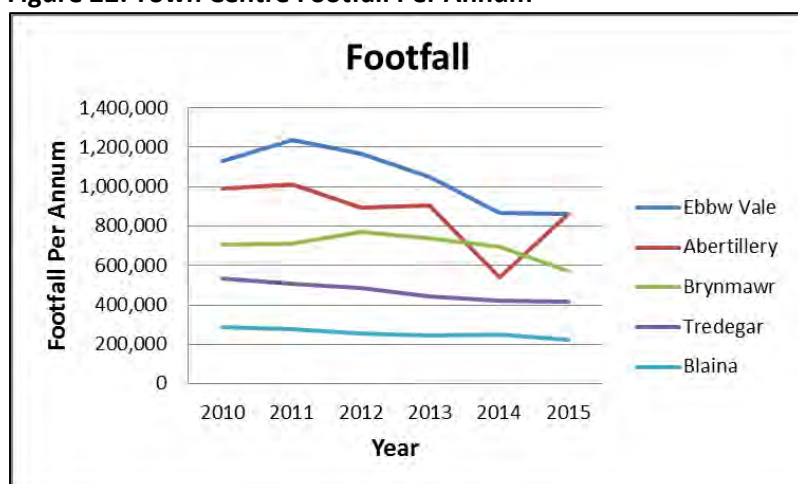
Tredegar town centre has not performed well between 2009 and 2017, experiencing an overall increase in the vacancy rate (+6.6%). The current vacancy rate of 19% remains well above the Welsh average in 2018.

Blaina's vacancy rate has reduced by 4.2% between 2009 and 2017 with a current figure of 20.8%. Whilst this indicates that the Town Centre's performance has improved, it should be recognised that the vacancy rate remains the highest of all town centres within the County Borough and continues to be significantly above the Welsh average in 2018.

### *Footfall*

The Council also monitors annual footfall data per annum for each town centre. The figure below highlights the changes over a five year period between 2010 and 2015. Here it can be seen that all town centres have generally experienced a gradual decline in footfall over this period, indicating that the town centres are less vibrant and attractive to shoppers. It should be noted that Abertillery's anomalous reduction in footfall during 2014 was the result of reduced levels of access caused by physical improvement works to the Town Centre.

**Figure 22: Town Centre Footfall Per Annum**



Source: Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council

## Education

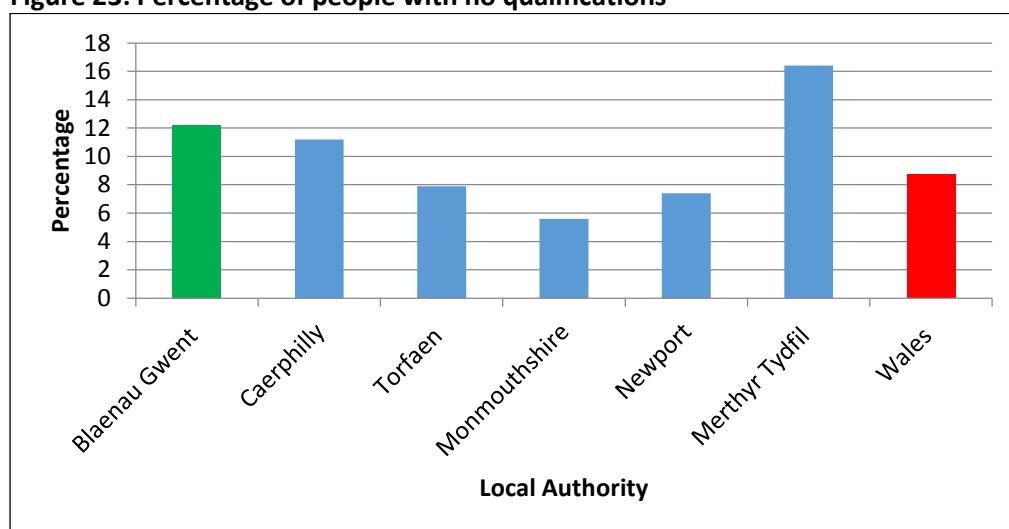
There are 22 primary schools in Blaenau Gwent, spread throughout the County Borough. There are 6 in and surrounding Ebbw Vale, 5 in Tredegar, 3 in Nantyglo and Blaina, 2 in Brynmawr and 2 in Llanhilleth. The Abertillery Learning Community provides 3-16 learning for primary and secondary age pupils based on 5 campus sites; 4 of which are primary and 1 is a secondary school. In addition to the 1 secondary school in Abertillery, there are a further 3, 1 in Ebbw Vale, 1 in Tredegar and 1 in Brynmawr. There is also a special educational needs school in Ebbw Vale.

Blaenau Gwent has one higher educational establishment within its boundary that is home to all a-level education in Blaenau Gwent and vocational courses for a broad range of industries – The Learning Zone, The Works, Ebbw Vale.

### Qualifications

Figure 23 shows that across the Gwent region there was variation in the percentage of working age population with no qualifications. In 2017, the percentage for Blaenau Gwent, at 12.2%, was more than double that of Monmouthshire. The value for Wales was 8.7%.

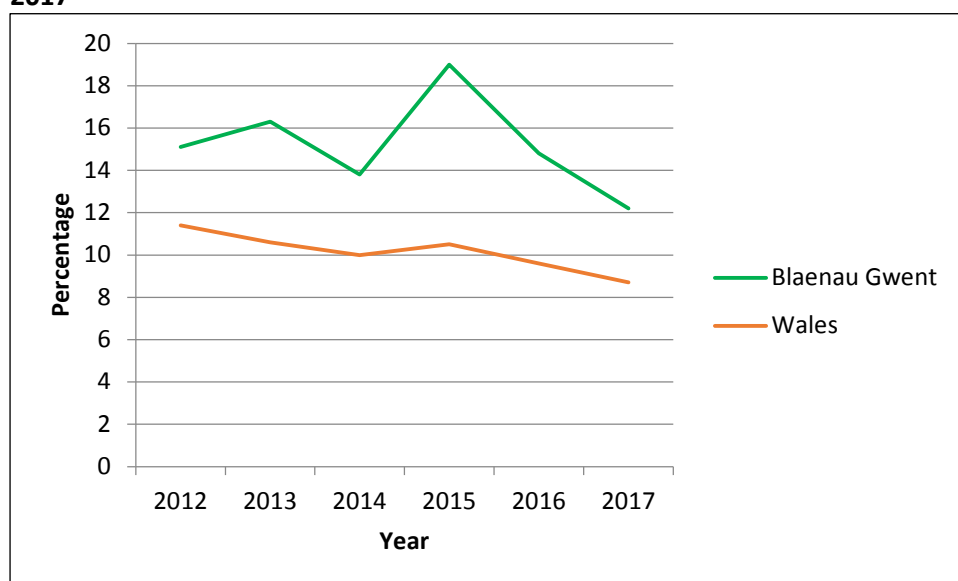
**Figure 23: Percentage of people with no qualifications**



Source: Nomis

Figure 24 shows the percentage of the working age people with no qualifications over the period 2012 to 2017. Between 2014 and 2015 Blaenau Gwent saw an increase of 6.2% points in the percentage of the working age population with no qualifications. However in 2017 the percentage decreased to 12.2%.

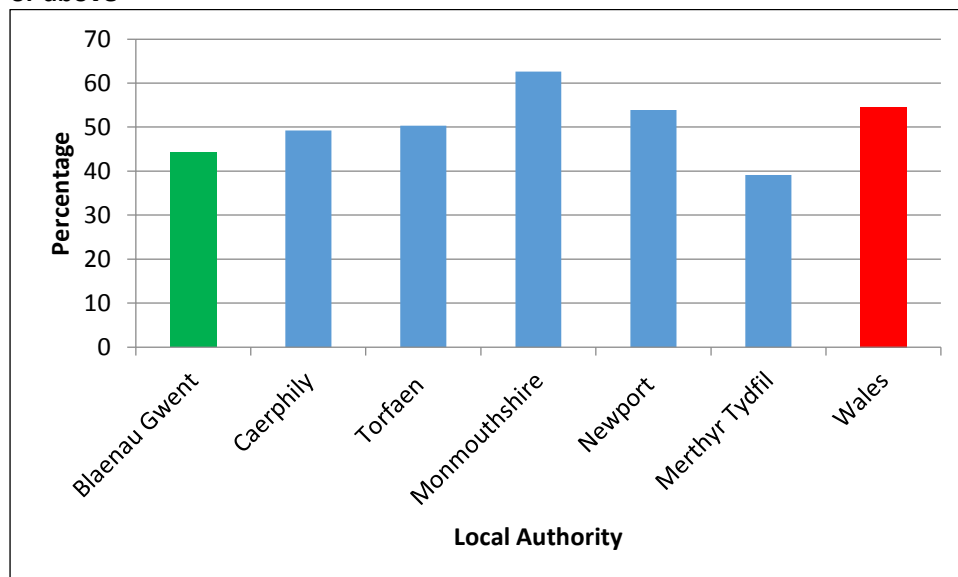
**Figure 24: Percentage of the working age people with no qualifications over the period 2012 to 2017**



Source: Nomis

Figure 25 shows that in 2017 the percentage of working age people in the Gwent region who are qualified to NQF level 3 or above ranged from 44.2% in Blaenau Gwent to 62.6% in Monmouthshire. This compares with 54.6% for Wales.

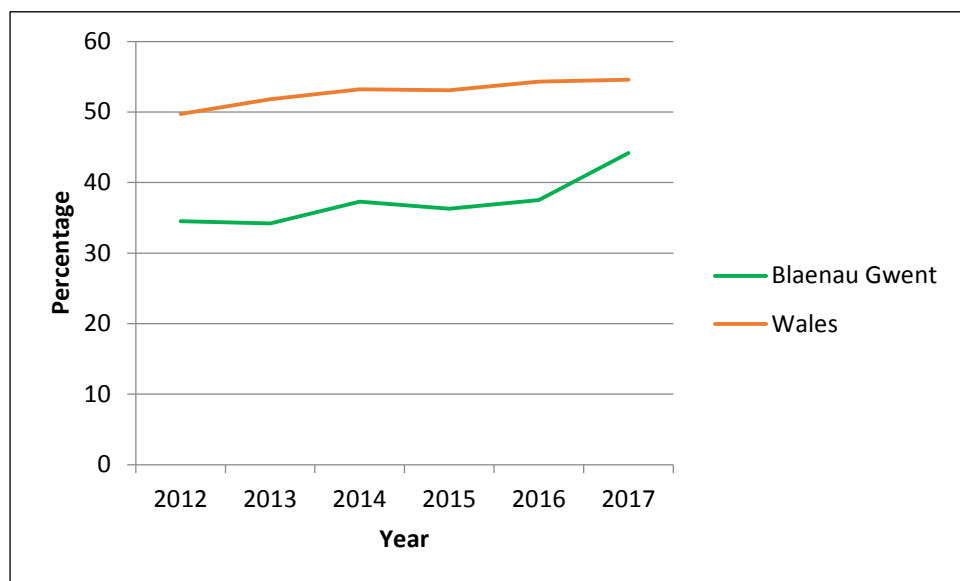
**Figure 25: Percentage of working age people in the Gwent region who are qualified to NQF level 3 or above**



Source: Nomis

Figure 26 below shows the percentage of working age people qualified to NQF level 3 or above over the period 2012 to 2017. Blaenau Gwent saw an increase of 9.7% over the period. For Wales the increase was 4.9%. Whilst the gap between Blaenau Gwent and Wales has narrowed, Blaenau Gwent remains behind Wales.

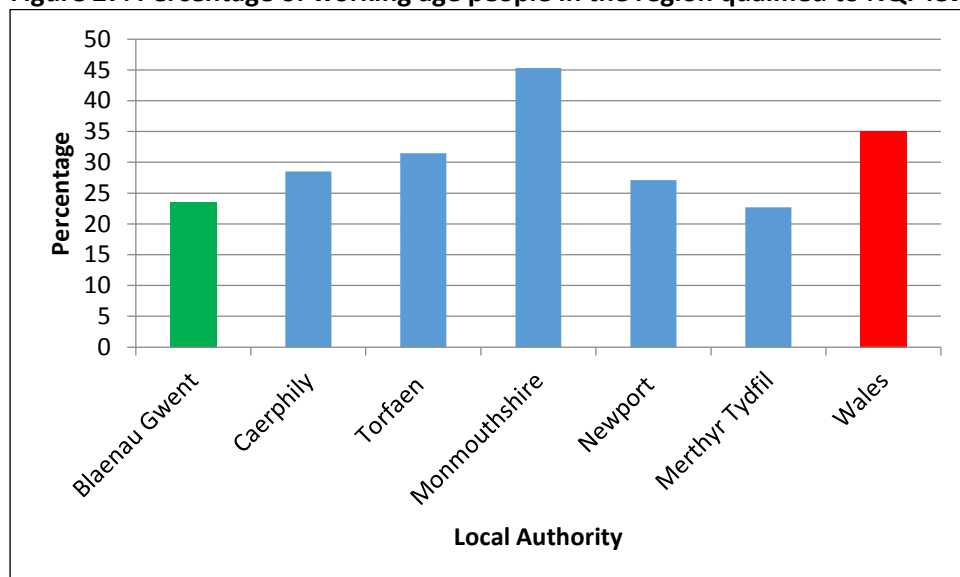
**Figure 26: Percentage of working age people qualified to NQF level 3 or above over the period 2012 to 2017**



Source: Nomis

Figure 27 shows that, in terms of higher level qualifications, in 2017 the percentage of working age people in the region qualified to NQF level 4 or above ranged from 23.6% in Blaenau Gwent to 45.3% in Monmouthshire. The figure for Wales was 35.1%.

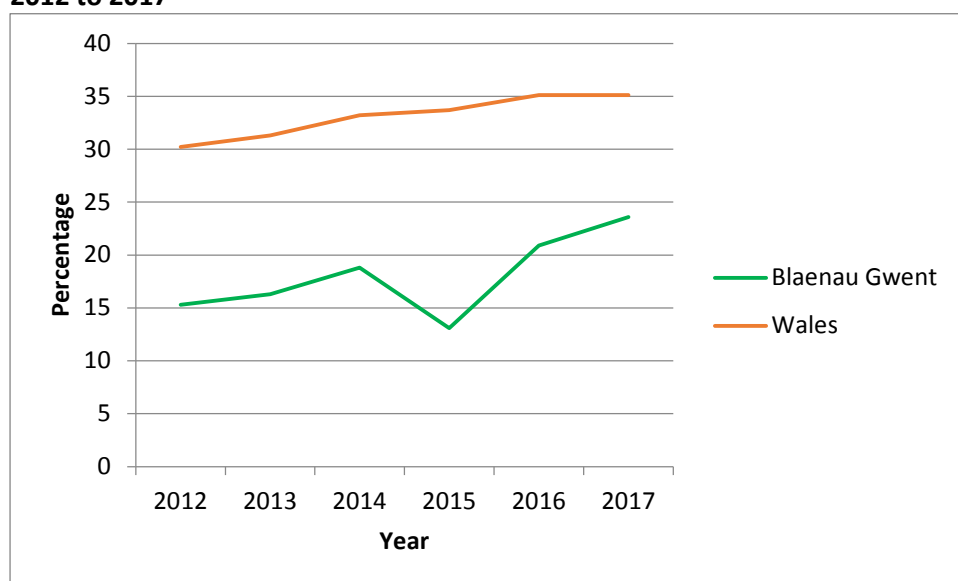
**Figure 27: Percentage of working age people in the region qualified to NQF level 4 or above**



Source: Nomis

Figure 28 shows the percentage of working age people qualified to NQF level 4 or above over the period 2012 to 2017. In Blaenau Gwent there was an increase of 8.3% over the period. This compared with an increase of 4.9% for Wales over the same period. Whilst the gap between Blaenau Gwent and Wales has narrowed, Blaenau Gwent remains behind Wales and therefore the percentage of working age people achieving higher qualifications remains an issue.

**Figure 28: Percentage of working age people qualified to NQF level 4 or above over the period 2012 to 2017**



Source: Nomis



## 2.0 A Resilient Wales

### Air

The UK's National Air Quality Strategy sets air quality objectives for seven key pollutants which local authorities are legally required to have regard to. These include: Benzene; 1, 3-Butadiene; Carbon Monoxide; Lead; Nitrogen Dioxide; Particulate Matter (PM10) (gravimetric); and Sulphur Dioxide. Part IV of the Environment Act 1995 requires local authorities to produce annual air quality reports as part of this National Strategy and these reports have been produced for Blaenau Gwent since 2004.

The reports look at local air monitoring data and sources of air pollution within the area to assess the likelihood of any of the National Air Quality Objectives being exceeded. Typical significant sources of air pollution include road traffic and industrial facilities. Within Blaenau Gwent a network of passive Nitrogen Dioxide monitoring diffusion tubes are utilised to provide an indicator of local air quality. Since the establishment of this network no exceedances of the air quality objective for Nitrogen Dioxide have been detected and the levels of Nitrogen Dioxide typically recorded are less than 50% of the national air quality standard, indicating that the air quality in Blaenau Gwent is good.

Assessments of the sources of atmospheric emissions within the area indicate that none of the standards set out for the other pollutants in the National Air Quality Strategy are currently likely to be exceeded.

### Biodiversity, Flora & Fauna

#### *Statutory Environmental Designations*

There is a wide range of habitats in Blaenau Gwent. The more significant habitats include:

#### **Specials Area of Conservation:**

- None within the Blaenau Gwent County Borough Local Planning Authority boundary
- There are two Special Areas of Conservation adjacent to the boundary which are: Usk Bat Site and Cwm Clydach Woodlands.

#### **Sites of Special Scientific Interest**

- Cwm Merddog Woodlands
- Brynmawr sections
- Mynydd Llangynidr

#### **Local Nature Reserves (LNRs)**

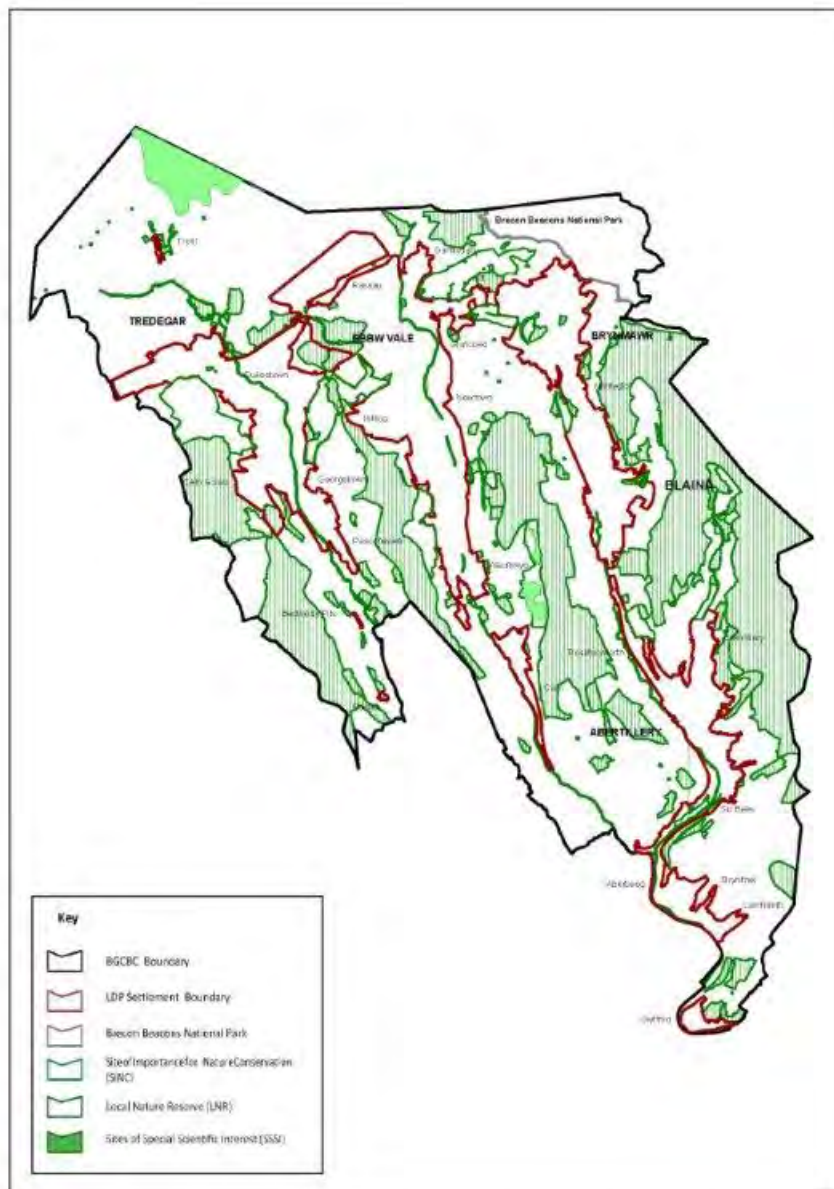
- The LDP identifies that there are 6 Local Nature Reserves. There have been a further 5 designated since 2012, bringing the total number of LNRs to 11.

#### **Site of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC)**

- The LDP identifies 137 SINC. In 2015, a further 11 were designated, bringing the total number of SINC to 148.

Figure 29 below shows the statutory environmental designations including Sites of Special Scientific Interest, Local Nature Reserves and Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation.

**Figure 29: Statutory Environmental Designations**



Source: Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council

### *Protected and Rare Species*

The Conservation (Natural Habitats, & c.) Regulations 1994 sets out the European protected species. A number of schedule 2 species are located within Blaenau Gwent including: horseshoe bats (lesser and greater horseshoe), other bats, great crested newts and otters.

The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 sets out the UK protected species. The UK protected species that are found within Blaenau Gwent include: bats, brown hare, dormouse, otter,

water vole, common frog, common toad, great crested newt, palmate newt, smooth newt, adder, common lizard, grass snake, slow worm, butterflies, marsh fritillary, pearl bordered fritillary, moths and double line lichens.

### *UK Biodiversity Action Plan and UK Post 2010 Biodiversity Framework Habitats*

A number of UK Biodiversity Action Plan habitats are also found in Blaenau Gwent including: wet woodland; Lowland Beech and Yew Woodland; Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland; Upland Oak Woods; Lowland Meadow; Lowland Calcareous Grassland; Lowland Dry Acid Grassland; Purple Moor-grass and Rush pastures; Upland Heath; Lowland Heath; Blanket Bog; Lowland Raised Bog; Upland Flushes, Fens and Swamp; Mesotrophic Lakes; Ponds; hedgerows; inland rock outcrop and scree; and open mosaics on previously developed land and rivers and streams.

### *Blaenau Gwent Local Biodiversity Action Plan*

The 2015 Blaenau Gwent Local Biodiversity Action Plan contains Habitat Action Plans for 26 priority habitats which have been identified within Blaenau Gwent. Six Species Action Plans have been prepared for individual species such as otter or groups of species such as bats. These species require more specific actions that cannot be undertaken under a Habitat Action Plan. Each Specific Action Plan gives specific descriptions of the species along with specific actions for conservation. SAPs have been prepared for:

- Bats
- Birds
- Otters
- Pollinating insects
- Reptiles and amphibians
- Invasive species

Generic Action Plans have been prepared for common themes are integral to all Habitats and Species Action Plans. These include:

- Local Biodiversity Action Plan process
- Education and raising awareness of biodiversity

### *Invasive Plants*

The issue of invasive plants is an on-going problem within Blaenau Gwent, there is a duty in terms of development not to spread and more invasive species. The two major concerns are with Japanese Knotweed and Giant Hogweed. The Council has had a very successful project to eradicate Japanese Knotweed along river corridors.

### *Biodiversity Loss*

The five drivers of biodiversity loss are: climate change, habitat loss and change, pollution, invasive non-native species and exploitation. The primary cause of species extinction globally is habitat loss.

**There is a data gap in relation to biodiversity loss in Blaenau Gwent.**

#### *Habitat Fragmentation*

Habitat fragmentation involves the breaking up of large areas of habitat into small, unconnected islands. These habitat fragments are often too small to support viable populations of many plant and animal species, leaving them vulnerable to extinction. As a result species that have taken tens or hundreds of thousands of years to evolve naturally can be lost very quickly and cannot be recreated.

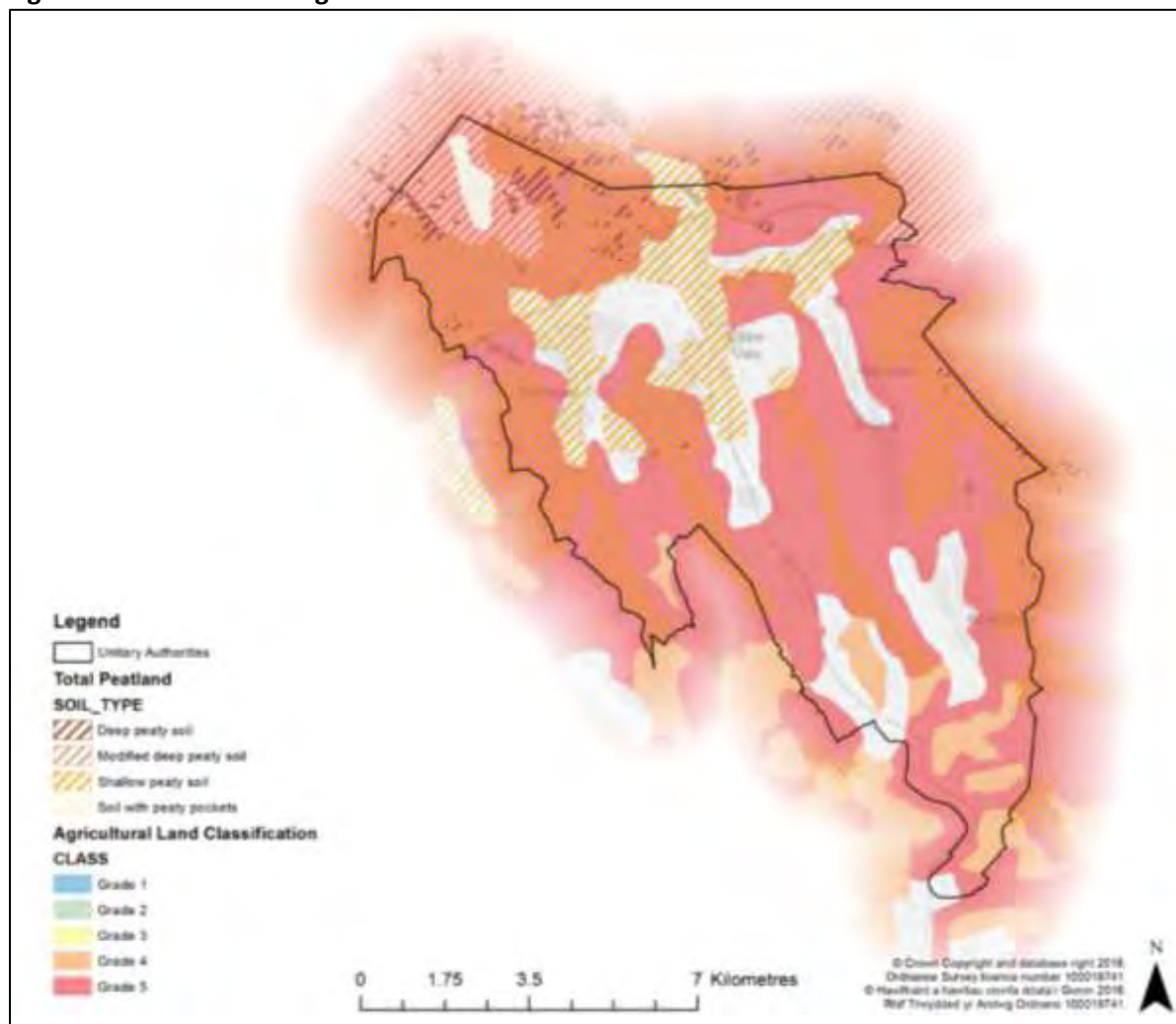
**There is a data gap in relation to habitat fragmentation in Blaenau Gwent.**

### **Soil**

#### *Peatland*

Figure 30 shows that almost all of the peat resource of Blaenau Gwent occurs in the uplands and north of the A465, with small pockets between the Rhymney & Sirhowy Valleys. Small areas of peatland are in the Mynydd Llangynidr SSSI. Development is likely to have resulted in loss of peat in the past, and a significant area of peat will be affected if the Circuit of Wales proposal goes ahead.

**Figure 30: Peatland and Agricultural Land in Blaenau Gwent**



Source: NRW, 2016

Wet peat soils are unlikely to have been recognised or valued in the area, leading to inappropriate management for at least some of the sites. The occurrence of peat within large unenclosed upland blocks hampers focussed management.

Restoring peat can bring benefits to people, the environment and contribute to climate change resilience, by storing and regulating the flow of water, improving water quality, and storing carbon.

Semi natural peatland vegetation in good condition delivers the widest range of ecosystem services. Restoring all areas of peatland in Wales with semi natural vegetation is a Welsh Government priority.

Deep peat soils (peat soils over 50cm deep) occur throughout Wales and are one of our critical natural assets. Peat supports the largest amount of soil carbon per unit area of any soils and when in good condition in mires (wetlands) play a very important role in climate change by locking up carbon from the atmosphere.

The characteristic habitats, plant and animal species associated with peatlands are a key feature of Wales's biodiversity and all public bodies have a duty to enhance and maintain them. Peatlands in good condition help sustain rivers and streams during dry periods; help retain or slow-down runoff and in doing so form part of our range of natural flood risk management assets. Peatlands contribute to the character and landscape quality of Wales, providing wild, but accessible places for people and nature.

### *Agricultural Land*

Figure 30 above identifies that the majority of agricultural land within Blaenau Gwent is grade 5 with areas to the southern end of the borough being grade 4. Grade 4 and 5 are described as poor quality agricultural land and very poor quality agricultural land. The borough does not have any grade 1, 2 or 3a land, which are the top three grades referred to as 'Best and Most Versatile' land and enjoy significant protection from development.

### *Contaminated Land*

In order to assist in discharging duties associated with contaminated land, Blaenau Gwent Council produced a contaminated land strategy in 2002 where it identified 1607 potentially contaminated sites, of which:

- 51 were considered to be high risk (previous or current use include gas works, landfill sites, petrol stations and military land);
- 880 were considered to be medium risk; and
- 676 were considered to be low risk.

It has not been possible to identify the actual number of sites that have been remediated since the date of the strategy. However, a number of sites with a history of contaminative usage which have been remediated include: The Works, Ebbw Vale; the former British Coal Workshops, Tredegar; and the Dunlop Semtex site at Brynmawr.

Through the LDP annual monitoring process and monitoring of planning applications it has been possible to monitor the number and area of contaminated land sites which have been remediated through development. The following figure sets out this information since 2012:

**Figure 31: No. and area of contaminated land sites to be remediated through development**

<b>Year</b>	<b>No. of contaminated land sites to be remediated through development</b>	<b>Area of contaminated land to be remediated through development (hectares)</b>
2012-2014	5	2.93
2014-2015	0	0
2015-2016	1	1.85
2016-2017	0	0
2017-2018	3	3.67
<b>Total</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>8.45</b>

Source: Blaenau Gwent Annual Monitoring Report 2017-18

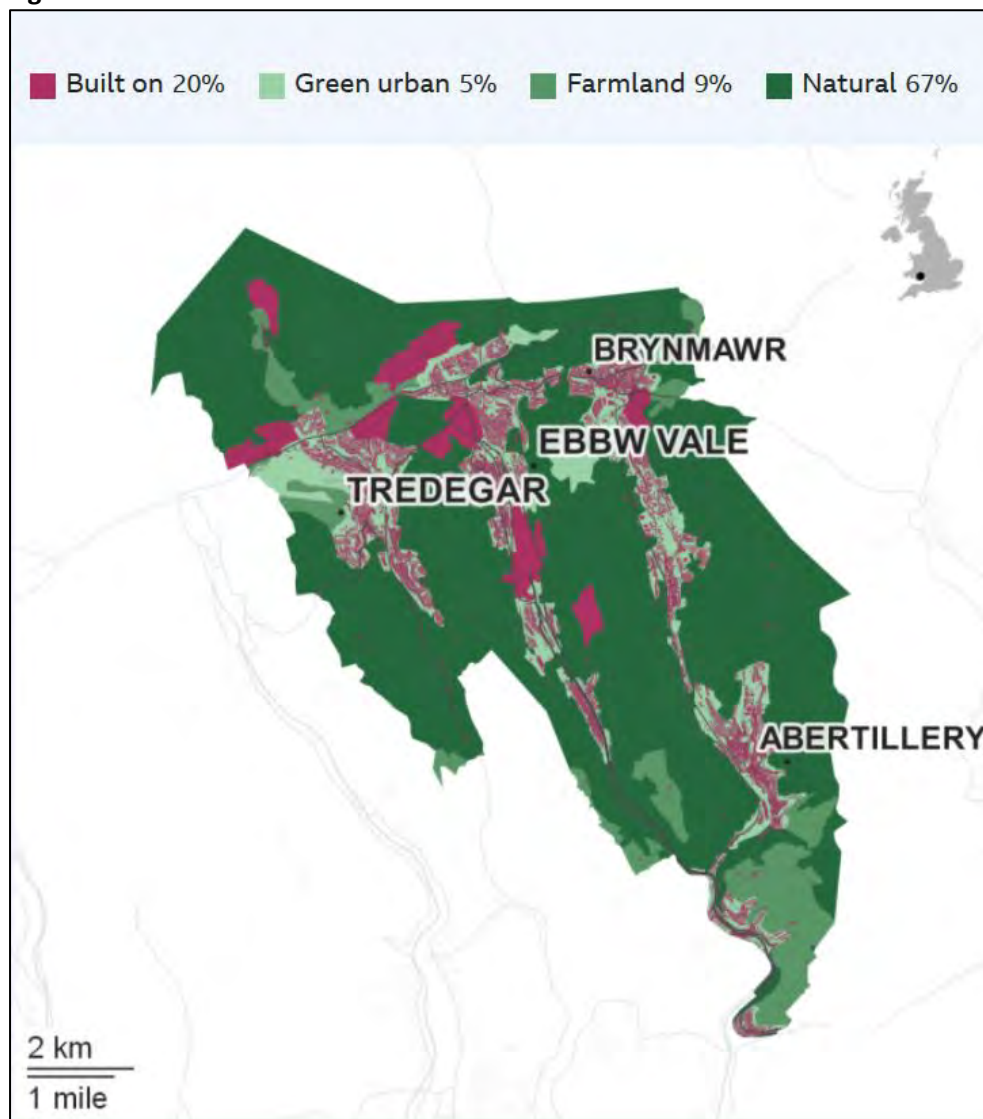
# Use of brownfield sites – previously developed land

**Figure 32: How much of the area is built on?**

	Blaenau Gwent	Wales	UK
Built on	20%	4.2%	6%
Green Urban	5%	1.4%	3%
Farmland	9%	59.3%	57%
Natural	67%	35.1%	35%

Source: Corine Land Cover Inventory

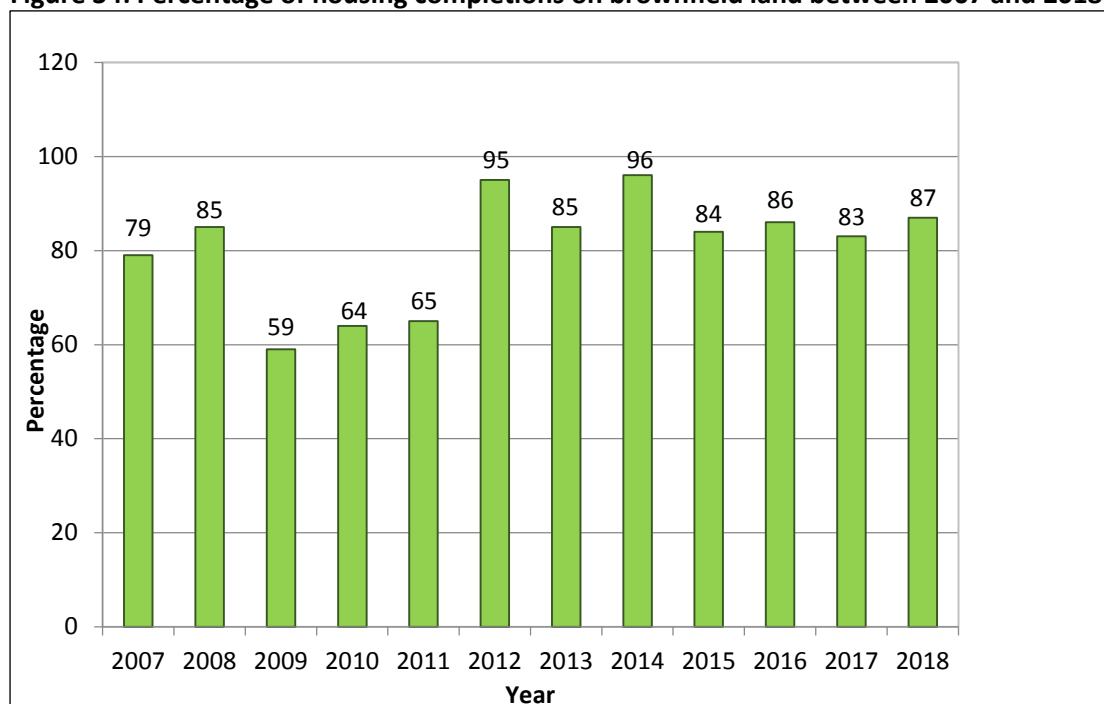
**Figure 33: How much of the area is built on?**



Source: Corine Land Cover Inventory (insert BBC link)



**Figure 34: Percentage of housing completions on brownfield land between 2007 and 2018**



Source: Blaenau Gwent Housing Land Availability Surveys

The figures for the percentages of housing completions on brownfield land have been determined using the Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council Housing Land Availability Surveys which are conducted on an annual basis. The average percentage of housing completions on brownfield land over the past 12 years is approximately 81%.

The LDP contains a target of 80% of new development to be on brownfield land which is monitored annually through the LDP Annual Monitoring Report.

**Figure 35: New Development on Brownfield land**

Year	Size (Ha) on brownfield	Size (Ha) of Total Development permitted	% on brownfield land
2006-2013	136.341	177.461	76.8%
2013-2014	5.42	241.42	2.2%
2014-2015	22.41	26.52	84%
2015-2016	14.38	19.32	74%
2016-2017	13.3	14.36	93%
2017-2018	15.69	18.33	86%

Source: Blaenau Gwent Annual Monitoring Report 2017-18

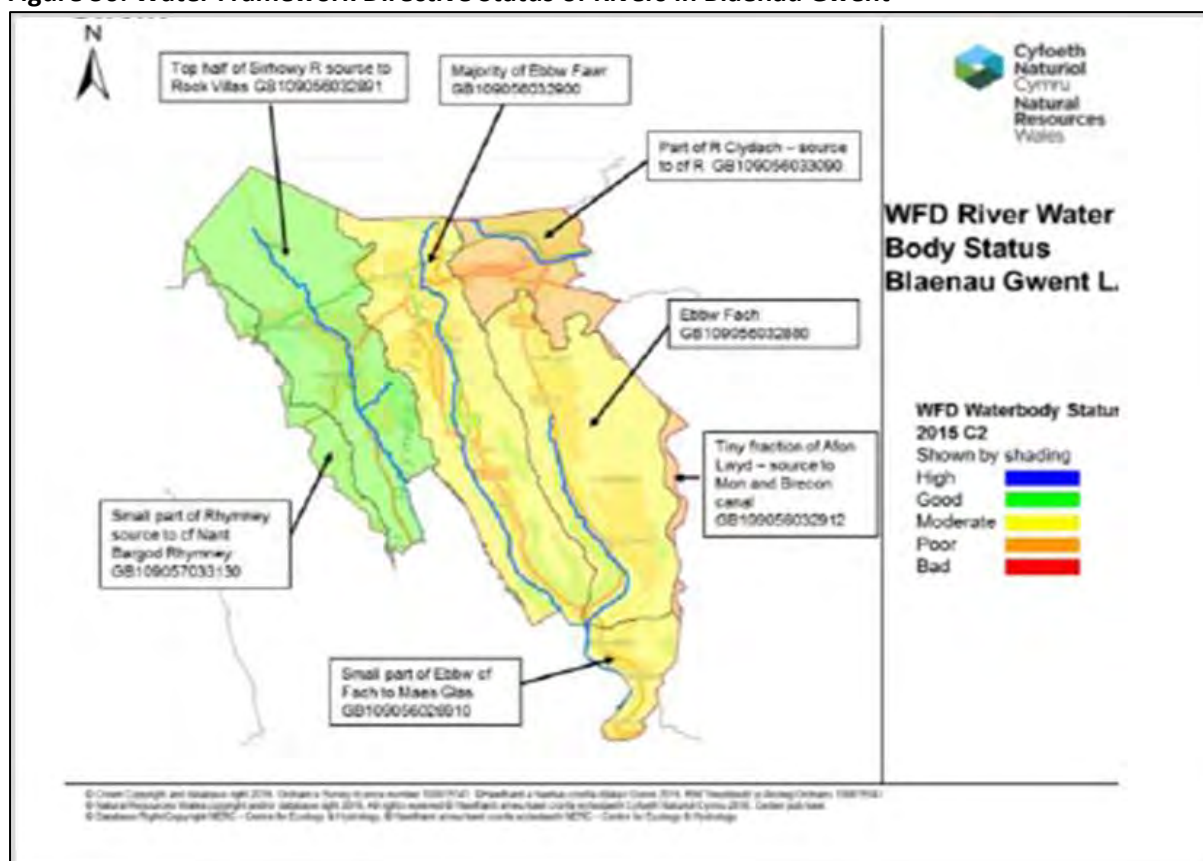
## Water Quality

Our water bodies are assigned a status of health which is represented in the Figure below. Waterbodies that are classified as 'Bad', 'Poor' or 'Moderate' are failing the EU Water Framework Directive standards and these waterbodies will need to improve to at least 'Good' ecological status by 2027.



In Blaenau Gwent there are waterbodies classed as good. However most are 'moderate' or 'poor'. None are 'bad'.

**Figure 36: Water Framework Directive Status of Rivers in Blaenau Gwent**



Source: Blaenau Gwent Well-being Assessment

Where rivers are failing for fish this is primarily down to three causes: physical modification to the waterbody; the quality of the aquatic water habitat; and water quality. Figure 37 shows the failing elements of watercourse in Blaenau Gwent.

**Figure 37: WFD Classification with failing elements of watercourses in Blaenau Gwent**

Watercourse as shown in Figure 36	WFD Classification	Failing Element
River Sirhowy	Good	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Not applicable</li> </ul>
River Ebbw Fawr	Moderate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Fish (salmon)</li> <li>Phosphate</li> </ul>
River Clydach	Poor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Fish (eel &amp; bullhead)</li> <li>Phosphate</li> </ul>
River Ebbw Fach	Moderate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Fish (salmon)</li> <li>Invertebrates</li> </ul>
River Afon Lwyd	Poor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Fish (salmon &amp; bullhead)</li> <li>Manganese</li> </ul>
River Ebbw	Moderate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mitigation Measures Assessment</li> <li>Tributyltin</li> </ul>



**Figure 39: WFD Classification with failing elements of waterbodies in Blaenau Gwent**

Waterbody as shown in Figure 38	WFD Classification	Failing Element
Shon Sheffreys Reservoir	Moderate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mitigation Measure Assessment</li> <li>• Phosphorus</li> <li>• Macrophytes</li> </ul>
Carno Reservoir	Moderate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mitigation Measure Assessment</li> <li>• Phosphorus</li> </ul>
Blaen y Cwm Reservoir	Moderate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mitigation Measure Assessment</li> <li>• Phosphorus</li> </ul>
Cain Mound Reservoir	Moderate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mitigation Measure Assessment</li> <li>• Expert Judgement – At risk from Acidification, Phosphorous &amp; Hydro morphology</li> </ul>
St James Reservoir	Moderate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mitigation Measure Assessment</li> <li>• Expert Judgement – At risk from Acidification, Phosphorous &amp; Hydro morphology</li> </ul>
Scotch Peter Reservoir	Moderate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mitigation Measure Assessment</li> </ul>

Source: Natural Resources Wales (NRW) 2016

The lakes listed are all reservoirs and are important for water supply in Blaenau Gwent. They are primarily failing because they are artificial/heavily modified waterbodies.

### *Water Supply*

Water is supplied to the Blaenau Gwent area by Dwr Cymru/Welsh Water (DCWW). They supply water via a large scale, multi-source, integrated network that is typical of many other water company areas. This Water Resources Zone (WRZ) is known as the South East Wales Conjunctive Use System (SEWCUS).

In total, there are over 40 resources that are used to supply the SEWCUS WRZ (Figure 98) which include a mixture of river abstractions from the larger rivers in the east of the WRZ and relatively small upland reservoir sources with small catchment areas.

## **Material Assets –Minerals and Waste**

### **Minerals**

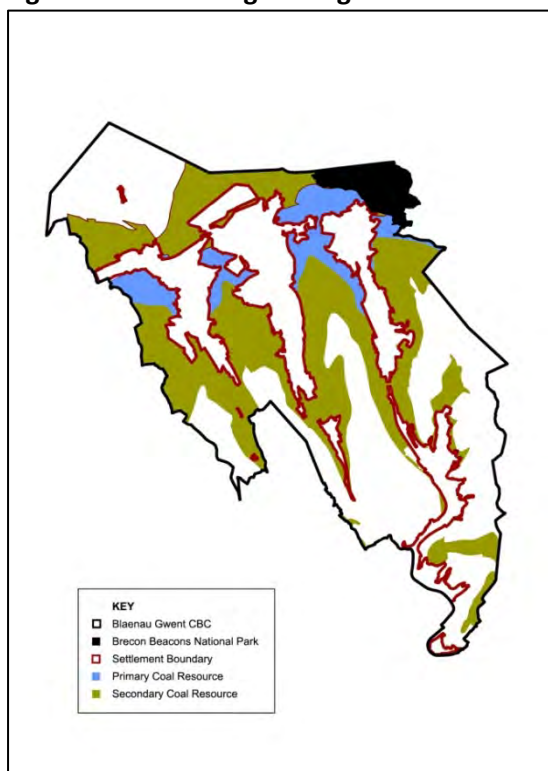
Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council lies on the north eastern edge of the South Wales coalfield. The Coal Measures underlie the majority of the County Borough as shown in the figure below. The area has a legacy of deep coal mining and open cast coal mining.

The coal bearing rocks are overlain in the south of the County Borough by Pennant Sandstone, predominantly the Hughes and Grovesend Beds. The properties of the Pennant Sandstone in Blaenau Gwent make it suitable for use as High Specification Aggregate (HSA)

as well as general aggregate and building stone. HSA is used where a high degree of skid resistance is required like motorways and airport runways. The availability of such materials is limited to relatively few locations in England and Wales and is therefore a nationally important resource.

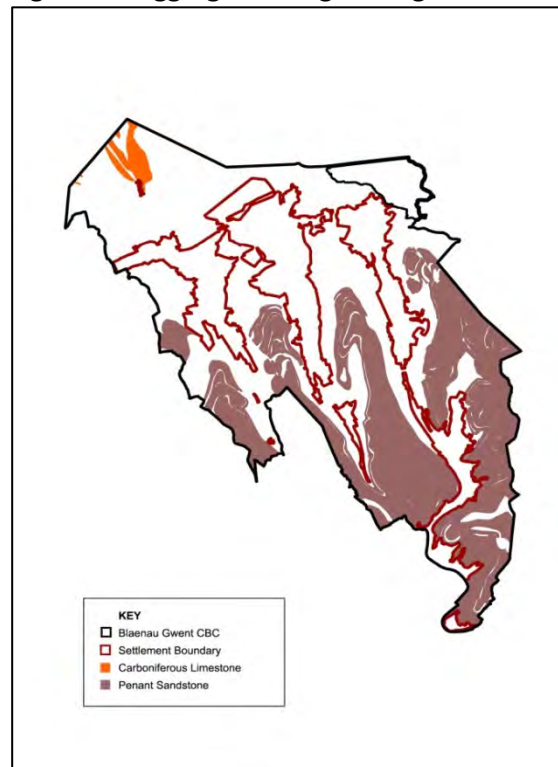
There is an outcrop of Carboniferous Limestone on the edge of the coalfield in the north of the County Borough. The Limestone is versatile being used not only in construction but also for cement production.

**Figure 40: Coal Safeguarding Areas**



Source: Blaenau Gwent Local Development Plan (2012)

**Figure 41: Aggregate Safeguarding Areas**



Source: Blaenau Gwent Local Development Plan (2012)

The existing Local Development Plan seeks to secure that there is an adequate supply of minerals through Policy SP12. To ensure this is achieved the land bank and the extent of required capacity is monitored. The following are results from the Annual Monitoring Report 2017-18:

**Figure 42: Number of years land bank of permitted aggregate reserves**

Year	No. of years land bank of permitted reserves
2013	11.8
2014	10
2016	7

Source: Blaenau Gwent Annual Monitoring Report 2017-18

The latest Regional Technical Statement (RTS) for South Wales identifies that Blaenau Gwent need 4.25 million tonnes from 2011 to 2036 and had 3 million tonnes consented at the base date. This equates to 71% of the total capacity required. As no further consents have been granted this remains the same.

## Waste

Over the past decade, Wales has transformed the way it deals with waste by increasing its recycling rate from 13% (2002/03) to 56.2% (2014/15).

Towards Zero Waste is the overarching strategy document for Wales and was published in 2010. TZW sets out at a high level strategy for how we are to manage waste in Wales to produce benefits not only for the environment, but also for our economy and social wellbeing. The strategy outlines the actions we must take if we are to realise the ambition of becoming a high recycling nation by 2025 and a zero waste nation by 2050.

TZW sets targets for municipal waste collected by area. The recycling targets became law from April 2012 under the Waste (Wales) Measure 2010. The first statutory target was to reuse, recycle or compost 52% of municipal waste collected by local authorities in 2012-13. The next target is 64% in 2019/20. Targets are outlined in Figure 43.

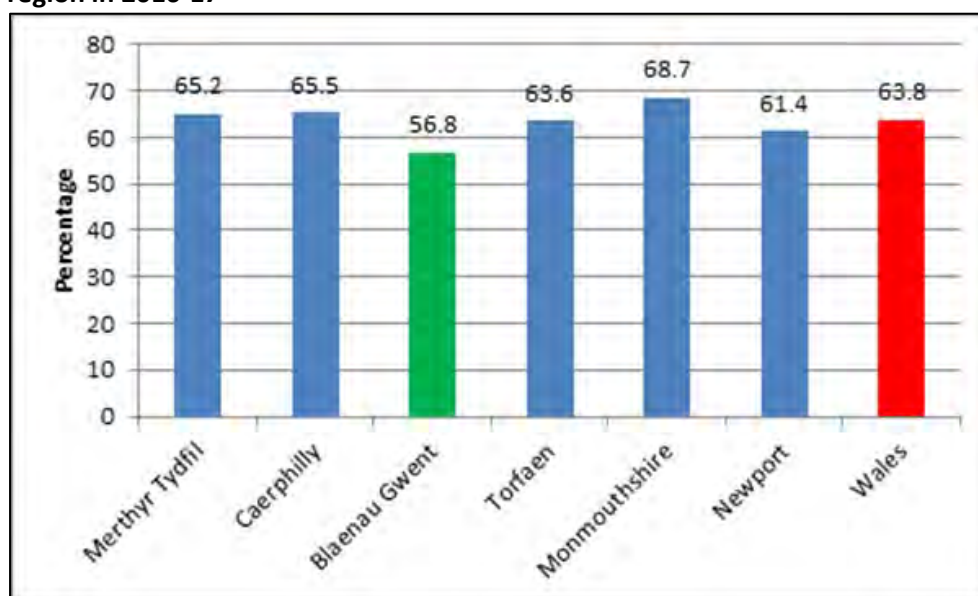
**Figure 43: Targets for municipal waste collected by area**

Target for:	2015/16	2019/20	2024/25	2050
Minimum levels of preparing for reuse and recycling/ composting (or anaerobic digestion)	58%	64%	70%	Zero Waste Nation
Minimum proportion of preparing for reuse/recycling/composting that must come from source separation (kerbside, bring and/or CA site) for municipal waste	80%	80%	80%	

Source: Blaenau Gwent Well-being Assessment

Figure 44 shows the percentage of municipal waste sent for reuse, recycling or composting across the Gwent region in 2016-17. This ranged from 56.8% of municipal waste in Blaenau Gwent to 68.7% of municipal waste in Monmouthshire. This compares to 63.8% for Wales.

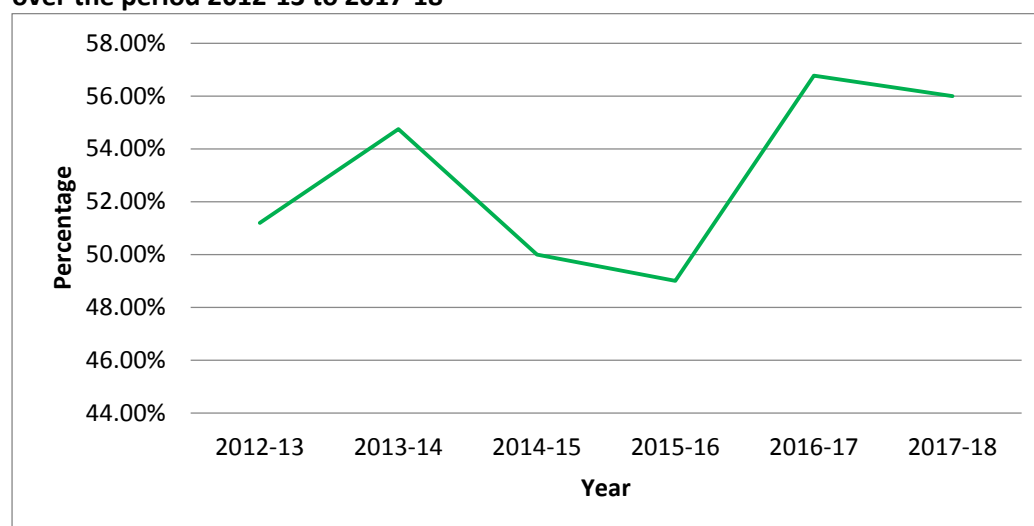
**Figure 44: Percentage of municipal waste sent for reuse, recycling or composting across the Gwent region in 2016-17**



Source: StatsWales

Figure 45 below shows the change in the percentage of municipal waste sent for reuse, recycling or composting over the period 2012-13 to 2017-18. In 2015-16, there was a marked decrease in the percentage this was due to the introduction of a new recycling service. Overall, the percentage has increased by 4.8% over the period in Blaenau Gwent.

**Figure 45: The change in the percentage of municipal waste sent for reuse, recycling or composting over the period 2012-13 to 2017-18**



Source: StatsWales

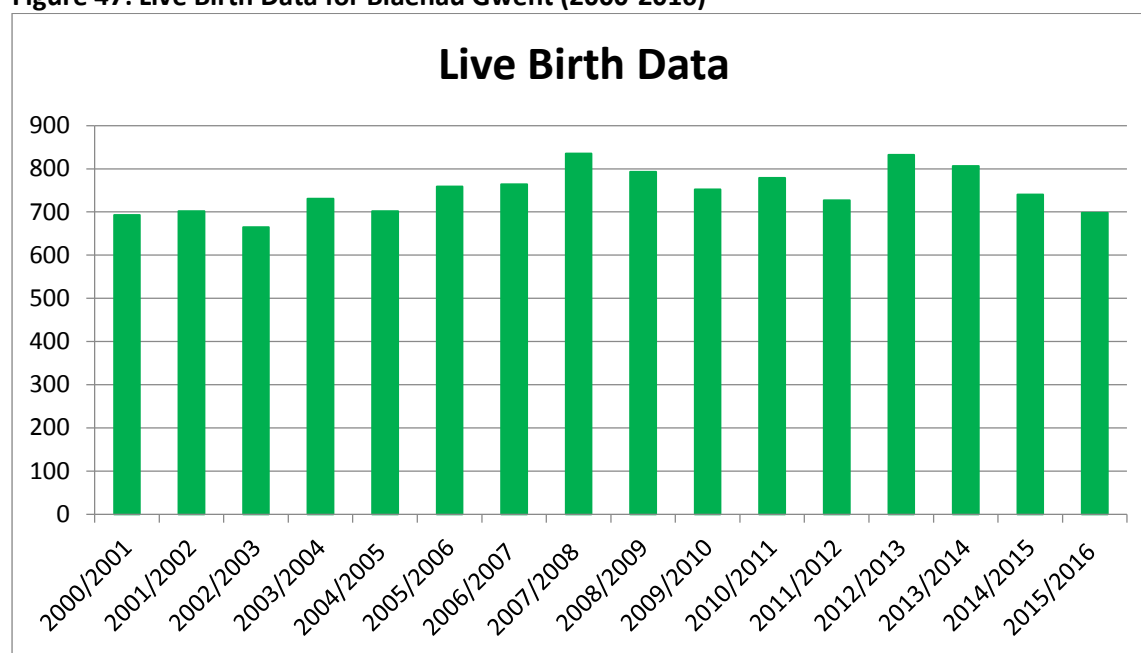
### 3.0 A Healthier Wales

#### Human Health

##### *Birth and death rates*

Figure 48 shows the General Fertility Rate (GFR) that is the total number of live births per 1,000 women of reproductive age (aged 15-59) in a population year was 59 for Blaenau Gwent in 2014 which was the same as the Welsh average. However birth data in Figure 47 shows that births fluctuated between 698 and 835 over the last 15 years. The data does not identify any overall trend.

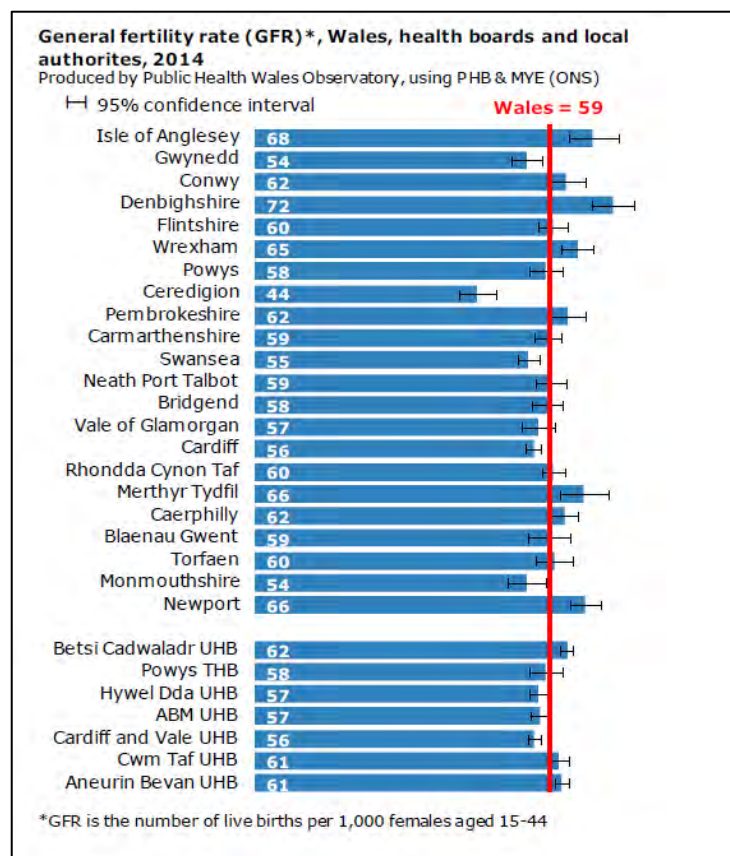
**Figure 47: Live Birth Data for Blaenau Gwent (2000-2016)**



Source: Stats Wales



**Figure 48: General Fertility Rate**



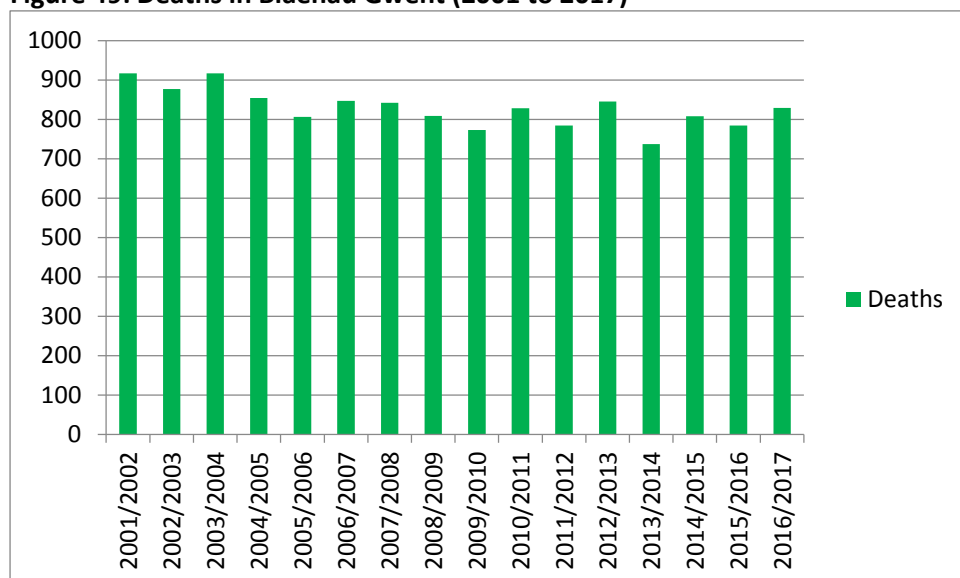
Source: Blaenau Gwent Well-being Assessment

Figure 48 shows that the General Fertility Rate in Blaenau Gwent is in line with the Welsh average.

Death Rates fluctuate but are on a general downward trend from just over 900 a year in 2001-2002 to between 700 and 800 since 2013 to 2014. However, in terms of the Standard Mortality rate Blaenau Gwent at a rate of 115 to 118 has higher than the expected number (the norm) of 100. The latest available figures show that it has stabilised at a rate of 116 between 2006 and 2019.

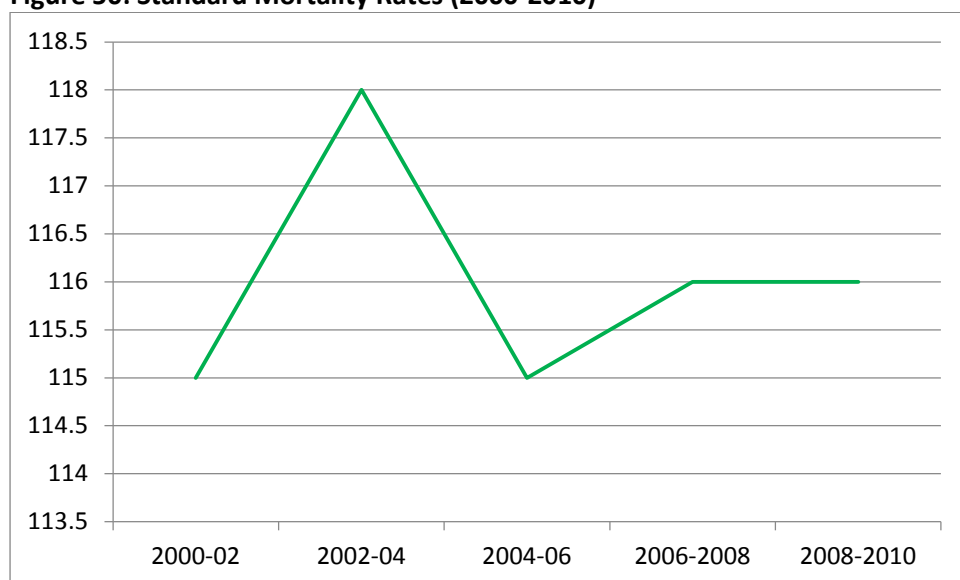


**Figure 49: Deaths in Blaenau Gwent (2001 to 2017)**



Source: Stats Wales

**Figure 50: Standard Mortality Rates (2000-2010)**

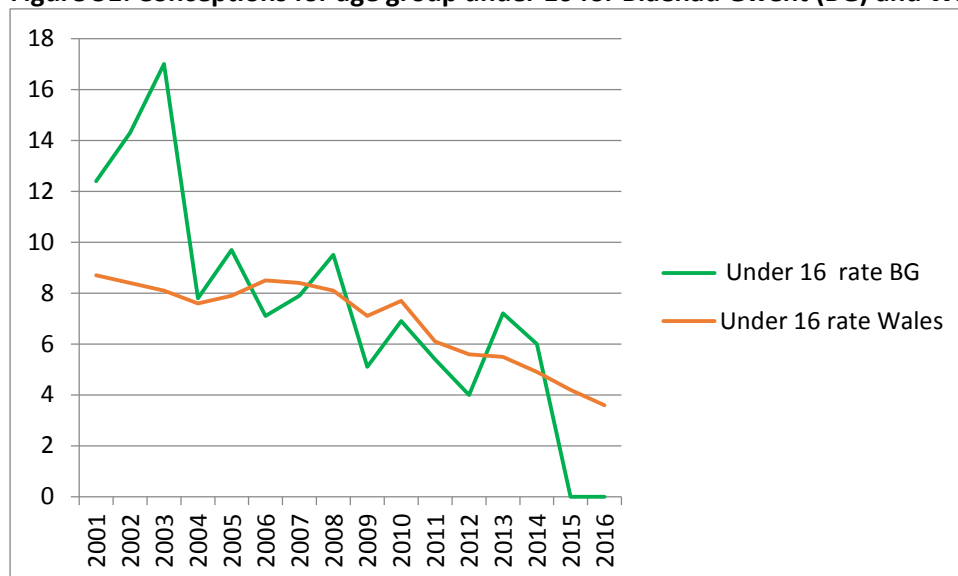


Source: Stats Wales

### *Teenage Conceptions*

Figure 51 highlights the teenage conception rate in those aged under 16 in Blaenau Gwent and Wales. The data indicates that although the Blaenau Gwent figures were much higher than the Welsh average in 2001-03 the figures have now decreased and are generally in line with the Welsh average. It should be noted that there were no figures available for Blaenau Gwent in 2015 and 2016. The overall trend is a decrease.

**Figure 51: Conceptions for age group under 16 for Blaenau Gwent (BG) and Wales (2001-2016)**

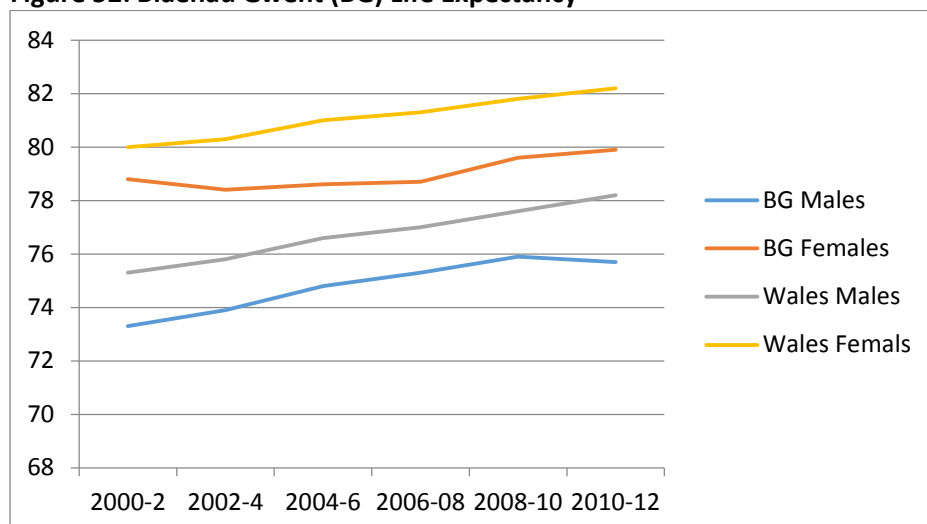


Source: Stats Wales

### *Life Expectancy*

Life expectancy in Blaenau Gwent in 2010-12 was 75.7 for males and 79.9 for females compared to the average for Wales of 78.2 and 80.1 respectively. The average life expectancy for both males and females in Blaenau Gwent is generally increasing. However life expectancy in Blaenau Gwent remains well below the Wales average and in terms of females the difference has increased over the period from 1.2 to 2.3 years. Life expectancy for males tracked the overall trend until the period 2010-12 when Blaenau Gwent failed to keep up with the overall trend of improvement. For Males the difference of 2 years in 2000-2002 has grown to 2.5 in 2010-2012.

**Figure 52: Blaenau Gwent (BG) Life Expectancy**



Source: Stats Wales

Figure 53 presents data relating to the WIMD 2014 for health. Patterns in health deprivation in Wales have remained largely unchanged since the 2011 WIMD. High deprivation levels

were recorded in South Wales valleys and large cities, coastal areas of North Wales and border towns. The local authority with the highest proportion of LSOAs in the most deprived 10% in Wales for health domain was Merthyr Tydfil, Blaenau Gwent came in at the 5<sup>th</sup> highest. Three local authorities (The Isle of Anglesey, Ceredigion and Monmouthshire) were recorded as having had no LSOAs in the most deprived 10%.

Blaenau Gwent had the highest proportion of LSOAs in the most deprived 50% in Wales (95.7%). The next highest was Merthyr Tydfil, with 86.1% of its LSOAs in the most deprived half of Wales. Isle of Anglesey, Ceredigion and Monmouthshire had no LSOAs in the most deprived 10%. Only 15.2% of the LSOAs in Ceredigion were in the most deprived 50% in Wales.

**Figure 53: WIMD 2014 Health domain deprived LSOAs, by local authority**

Local Authority	Number of LSOAs in local authority	% LSOAs in most deprived 10% ranks 1-191	% LSOAs in most deprived 20% ranks 1-382	% LSOAs in most deprived 30% ranks 1-573	% LSOAs in most deprived 50% ranks 1-955
Isle of Anglesey	44	0.0	4.5	15.9	29.5
Gwynedd	73	2.7	4.1	5.5	19.2
Conwy	71	1.4	7.0	15.5	31.0
Denbighshire	58	10.3	15.5	22.4	37.9
Flintshire	92	2.2	8.7	17.4	34.8
Wrexham	85	4.7	16.5	27.1	50.6
Powys	79	1.3	5.1	8.9	19.0
Ceredigion	46	0.0	0.0	4.3	15.2
Pembrokeshire	71	4.2	7.0	12.7	31.0
Carmarthenshire	112	4.5	11.6	29.5	55.4
Swansea	148	14.2	20.9	29.7	54.7
Neath Port Talbot	91	17.6	36.3	50.5	72.5
Bridgend	88	12.5	29.5	45.5	61.4
Rhondda Cynon Taf	154	21.4	43.5	56.5	77.3
Merthyr Tydfil	36	30.6	47.2	58.3	86.1
Caerphilly	110	20.0	32.7	45.5	74.5
<b>Blaenau Gwent</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>14.9</b>	<b>40.4</b>	<b>61.7</b>	<b>95.7</b>
Torfaen	60	6.7	21.7	33.3	61.7
Monmouthshire	56	0.0	0.0	1.8	17.9
Newport	95	8.4	22.1	33.7	52.6
Cardiff	214	14.5	22.0	29.9	44.4
<b>Wales</b>	<b>1909</b>	<b>10.0</b>	<b>20.0</b>	<b>30.0</b>	<b>50.0</b>

Source: WIMD

## Percentage of good/bad health

**Figure 54: Self-Assessment of General Health**

General Health	Blaenau Gwent (%)	Wales (%)
'Very Good Health'	41.9	46.6
'Good Health'	30.6	31.2
'Fair Health'	16.7	14.6
'Bad Health'	8.2	5.8
'Very bad health'	2.5	1.8

Source: Census 2011

In 2011 77.8% of people in Wales reported their general health as either 'Very good' or 'Good'. This is 3.6% lower than that of England (81.4%). The gap between local authorities reporting the highest (Cardiff: 81.4%) and lowest (Blaenau Gwent: 72.5%) percentages of 'Very good' and 'Good' general health was 8.9%. The concentration of low percentages of 'Good' general health recorded in 2011 corresponds with the former coal mining and heavy industrial centres of the Welsh valleys in 2011 suggesting that these former industries have had long term health implications. Cardiff, Gwynedd and Flintshire were identified as having the best levels of general health (ONS).

## Lifestyles

The National Survey for Wales 2017/18 records data on lifestyle and behavioural choices for adults. Indicators such as the prevalence of smoking and obesity in Blaenau Gwent are compared with those for Aneurin Bevan Health Board and Wales as a whole in Figure 55 below. Blaenau Gwent has a higher proportion of smokers and e-cigarette users (31%) than Wales (26%) and the Aneurin Bevan Health Board (27%). In terms of alcohol, Blaenau Gwent has a lower percentage (16%) of those who consume more than 14 units of alcohol on a weekly basis than Wales as a whole (19%) and the Aneurin Bevan Health Board (18%). In terms of obesity levels, Blaenau Gwent has a higher percentage (33%) when compared to Aneurin Bevan Health Board (26%) and Wales (22%) which could be linked to the low percentage of people eating 5 portions of fruit and vegetables (18%) and the higher percentage of people doing less than 30 minutes of activity (39%).

**Figure 55: Health Related Lifestyle of Adults 2017-18**

	Blaenau Gwent (%)	Aneurin Bevan Health Board (%)	Wales (%)
Smoker	22	19	19
E-cigarette user	9	8	7
Weekly Alcohol Consumption > 14 units	16	18	19
Ate 5 Portions of Fruit & Vegetables	18	21	24
Active < 30 minutes a week	39	33	33
Overweight or Obese	68	65	60

Obese	33	26	22
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Source: National Survey for Wales 2017-18

### *Health Infrastructure*

Blaenau Gwent is one of the five County Boroughs that fall within the Aneurin Bevan Health Board. Within the health board there are two general district hospitals: Nevill Hall located in Abergavenny and The Royal Gwent Hospital in Newport. There are two local general hospitals, these are: Ysbyty Aneurin Bevan which is located in Ebbw Vale and Ysbyty Ystrad Fawr, Ystrad Mynach. These are supported by a network of community and mental health hospitals and day care premises. There are 12 GP Practices and 10 dental practices in Blaenau Gwent.

### **Access to Services**

#### *Number and distribution of Lower Super Output Areas (LSOAs) in bottom 10% of most deprived in terms of access to services*

Latest figures for the LSOAs in Wales include average travel times for using public transport to access services. The Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation 2014 access to services domain results have demonstrated that there is a widespread deprivation across Wales and also particularly within rural areas in terms of access. Furthermore there are some deprived pockets near large urban areas.

Blaenau Gwent, Caerphilly, Cardiff and Torfaen have no LSOAs in the most deprived 10%. The local authorities with the highest proportion of LSOAs in the most deprived 10% were Powys (46.8%) and Ceredigion (43.5%).

### **Community Facilities & Recreation**

Leisure centres are distributed throughout the Borough, one in each of the valley areas, offering swimming, sports courts and pitches: Abertillery; Ebbw Vale; and Tredegar. These centres are all operated by Aneurin Leisure Trust.

The Council owns and manages a number of parks and open spaces:

<b>Sirhowy Valley:</b> Bedwellty Park Tredegar Recreation Ground  <b>Ebbw Fawr Valley:</b> Beaufort Welfare Eugene Cross Park, Pantyfforest Park Hilltop Stadium Cwm Welfare Hall	<b>Lower Ebbw Fach Valley:</b> Jim Owens Recreation Ground, Cwmtillery Woodland Park, Cwmtillery Park, Abertillery Abertillery Park Cwmnantygroes, Six Bells Park, Windsor Road, Six Bells Brynithel Recreation Ground, Swffryd Llanhilleth Park
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<b>Upper Ebbw Fach Valley:</b> Brynmawr Welfare Brynmawr Recreation Ground Banna Park, Nantyglo Central Park, Blaina Pilgrims Park, Blaina Duffryn Park, Blaina	
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#### *Deficiency / surplus of provision against the standards*

The appropriate amount of recreational open space is assessed against the standard of 2.4 hectares per 1,000 population, which is the standard endorsed by Fields in Trust. The existing LDP included an annual monitoring target of working towards the FIT standard of 2.4 hectares from a current standard of 1.11 ha in 2009. The following figure shows that the provision of recreational open space per 1,000 population (FIT standard) has decreased from 1.11 ha in 2009 to 0.99 ha.

**Figure 46: Hectares of Recreational Open Space per 1000 Population (FIT Standard)**

Year	FIT Standard (ha)
2012	1.11
2014	1.05
2015	1.02
2016	1.02
2017	0.99
2018	0.99

Source: Blaenau Gwent Annual Monitoring Report 2017-2018

#### *Access to natural greenspace*

The evidence base for the first LDP included an Exogenesis Study (2007) which identified that 65% of the population in Blaenau Gwent live within 400m of their nearest green space. The Plan aimed to increase this to 80% through creating new open space, enhancing access to existing natural green space, managing existing green space for biodiversity, and removing barriers that prevent current access to natural green space. A number of projects of this nature has been undertaken and completed which is set out in detail in the Blaenau Gwent Annual Monitoring Reports.

Work is underway to update this work and will form part of the evidence base of the replacement plan.

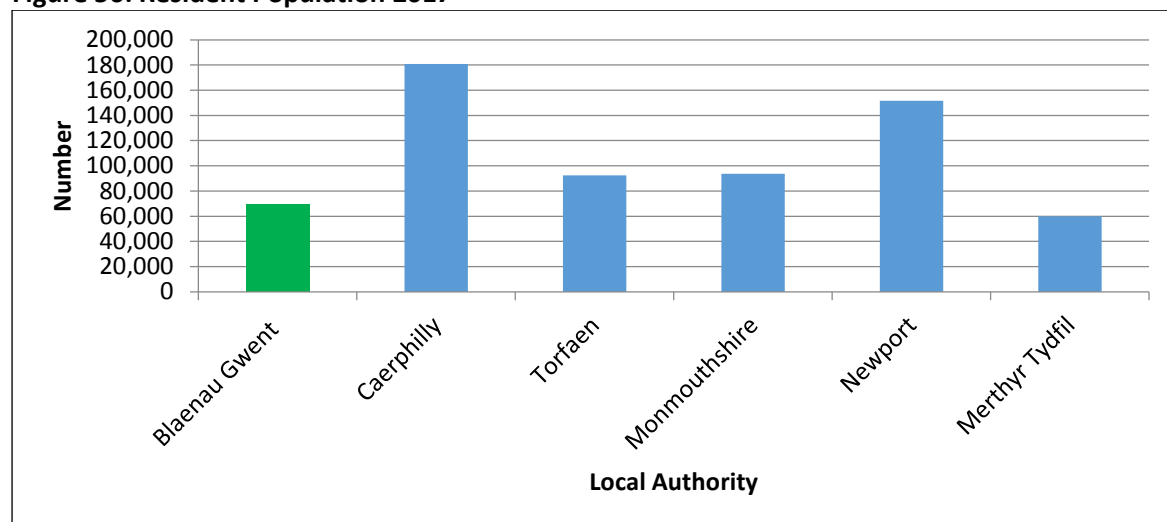
**There is a data gap in terms of efficiency and quality of these open spaces.**

## 4. A More Equal Wales

### Population

In 2017, the population of Blaenau Gwent was 69,600. Figure 56 shows the mid year estimate of the number of people usually resident across the Gwent local authorities in 2017. As can be seen Merthyr Tydfil is the smallest local authority followed by Blaenau Gwent.

**Figure 56: Resident Population 2017**



Source: Office for National Statistics

### Population Change

Historically, the overall population in Blaenau Gwent has fallen since it peaked in 1921. The 1921 Census showed a population over 125,000 people lived in the Blaenau Gwent Area, significantly above the current population. More recently the rate of decline has been more stable, falling by just 3.4% or 2,437 people in the 20 year period between the 1991 Census (72,251) and Census 2011 (69,814). The rate of decline in the ten year period between 2001 and 2011 was the lowest rate of decline in population over a ten year period since 1921.

**Figure 57: Population Change**

Year	Population	Population Loss %
1921	127,611	20
1931	106,030	17
1941	99,992	5.69
1951	94,342	5.65
1961	87,796	6.94
1971	81,712	6.93
1981	75,241	7.38
1991	72,918	3.09
2001	70,058	3.92
2011	69,814	0.35

Source: Census

**Figure 58: Resident Population by Ward in 2001 and 2011**

Ward			
	2001	2011	% Change
Abertillery	4,490	4,416	-1.65
Badminton	3,155	3,110	-1.43
Beaufort	3,876	3,866	-0.26
Blaina	4,830	4,808	-0.46
Brynawr	5,599	5,530	-1.23
Cwm	4,350	4,295	-1.26
Cwmtillery	4,749	4,703	-0.97
Ebbw Vale North	4,745	4,561	-3.88
Ebbw Vale South	4,199	4,274	+1.79
Georgetown	3,491	3,410	-2.32
Llanhilleth	4,776	4,797	+0.44
Nantyglo	4,293	4,635	+7.97
Rassau	3,297	3,234	-1.91
Sirhowy	5,520	5,630	+1.99
Six Bells	2,648	2,482	-6.27
Tredegar Central & West	6,046	6,063	+0.28
	72,065	69,814	

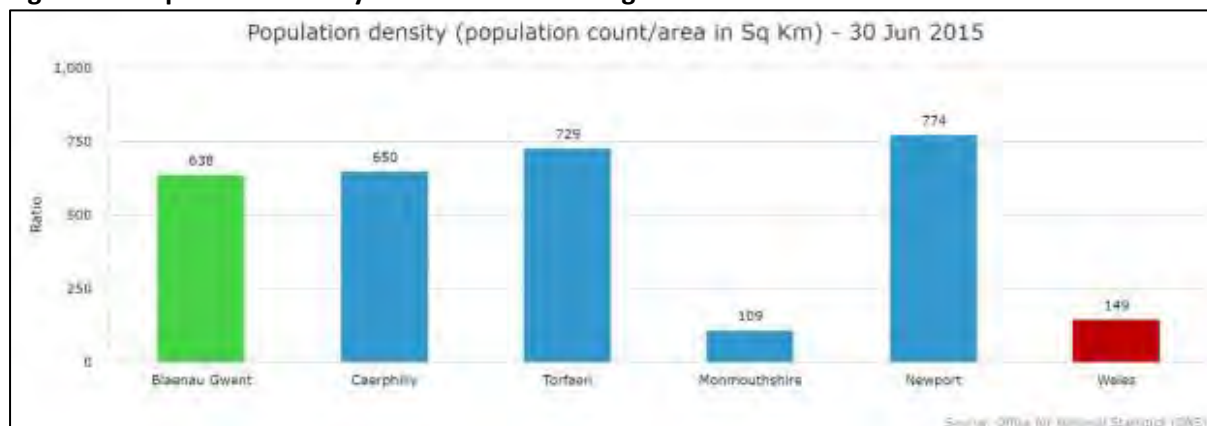
Source: Census

The above table shows the population change between 2001 and 2011. There has been a decrease in most of the wards (5 out of the 16). The highest growth was experienced in the Nantyglo ward (due to a large housing development) and the highest loss in the Six Bells ward.

### *Population Density*

Figure 59 below shows the population density across the Gwent region in 2015. The population density in Blaenau Gwent was 638 people per square kilometre, compared with 149 per square kilometre for Wales. Blaenau Gwent's population density is similar to neighbouring areas, all of which are significantly above the Welsh average.

**Figure 59: Population Density across the Gwent Region in 2015**

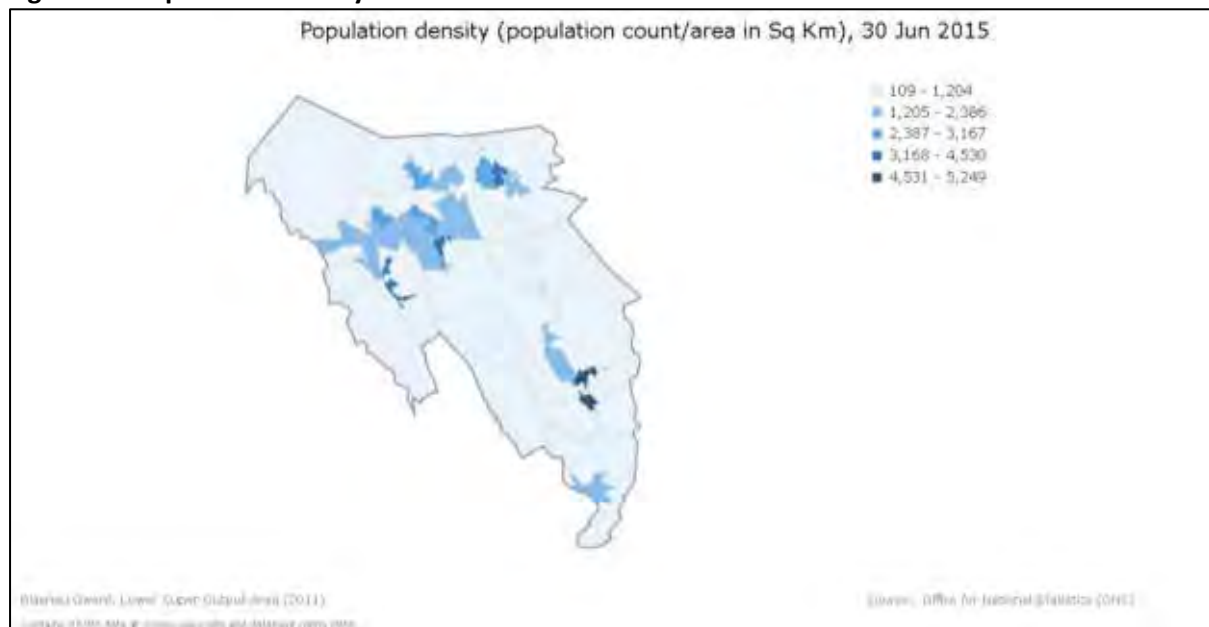


Source: Office for National Statistics



Figure 60 shows the population density of each of the 47 lower super output areas (LSOA) in Blaenau Gwent. The darker areas of the map represent those areas with a higher population density. Further analysis shows some area's population density levels to be similar to those in city areas.

**Figure 60: Population Density of the LSOAs**



Source: Office for National Statistics

### *Population by Gender*

As is the case across Wales and the UK, the 2015 mid-year estimates show that there are slightly more females (51%) than males (49%) in Blaenau Gwent. There is also little difference from the Welsh average when considering gender split across each of the key age bands, varying by no more than 2%.

### *Population by Age*

Blaenau Gwent, like the majority of places in the UK, has an overall population which is ageing. Generally, this is because less people are being born than before, and those people that are alive are living longer. The information below shows key trends in population by three distinct age groups (0-15, 16-64, and 65 and over):

- 17.5% of the population of Blaenau Gwent were aged 0-15 years in 2015, a slightly lower proportion than the 17.9% seen for Wales.
- The proportion of the people aged 0-15 is decreasing (2011, 17.9%).
- 63.1% of the population were aged 16-64 years in Blaenau Gwent in 2015, which was the highest proportion of all the local authority areas in the Gwent region and above the Wales rate which was 61.9%
- The proportion of people aged 16-64 is decreasing (2011, 64.2%)
- 19.5% of the population were aged 65 years or over in the (Blaenau Gwent) Gwent region on 30 June 2015. This compares with 20.2% for Wales.

- The proportion of people aged 65 and over is increasing although is below the Welsh average (2011, 17.9%).

**Figure 61: Components of Population Change (2001-2016)**

	2001 - 2002	2002 - 2005	2003 - 2004	2004 - 2005	2005 - 2006	2006 - 2007	2007 - 2008	2008 - 2009	2009 - 2010	2010 - 2011	2011 - 2012	2012 - 2013	2013 - 2014	2014 - 2015	2015 - 2016
Natural Change	-262	-203	-198	-110	-21	-123	26	-8	34	-47	-18	-8	60	-48	-57
Net internal Migration	-359	-109	132	-17	252	-5	-67	-162	-206	-120	19	-103	-214	-96	66
Net external migration	-5	-14	-21	-35	66	76	46	26	-45	18	-15	46	45	59	70

Source: Components of population change, by local authority and component Stats Wales

### *Natural Change*

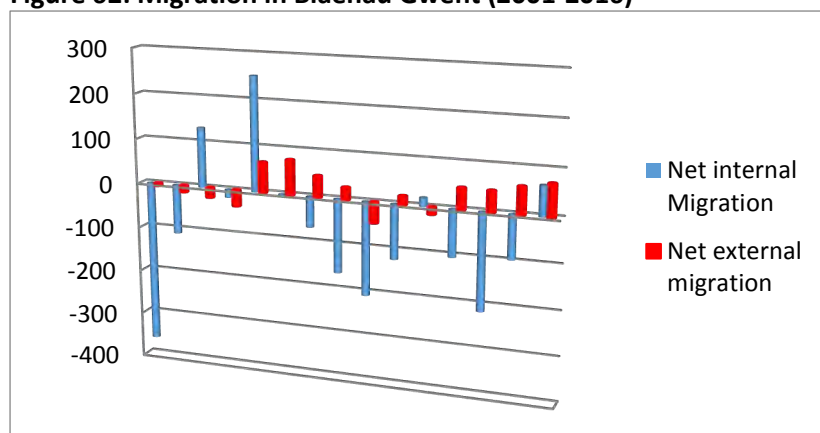
Natural change is the difference between births and deaths. In the period 2001-2007 deaths far exceeded births and as a result there were net losses in the hundreds. Since 2007 there has been a marked improvement with figures being positive for three years and with losses not exceeding 57 in others. This has been due to a general increase in births and a decline in deaths.

### *Migration*

Net internal migration has fluctuated from a high loss of 359 in 2001-2002 to a gain of 252 in 2006-2007 then a loss – peaking in 2009-2010 followed by a general recovery. Internal migration figures have generally been between one and two thousand.

Net external migration has played a lesser role with losses increasing from -5 in 2001 to -35 in 2005. This has been followed by a period of gains with the exception of 2011-2012. The figures are generally in the tens and hundreds rather than thousands.

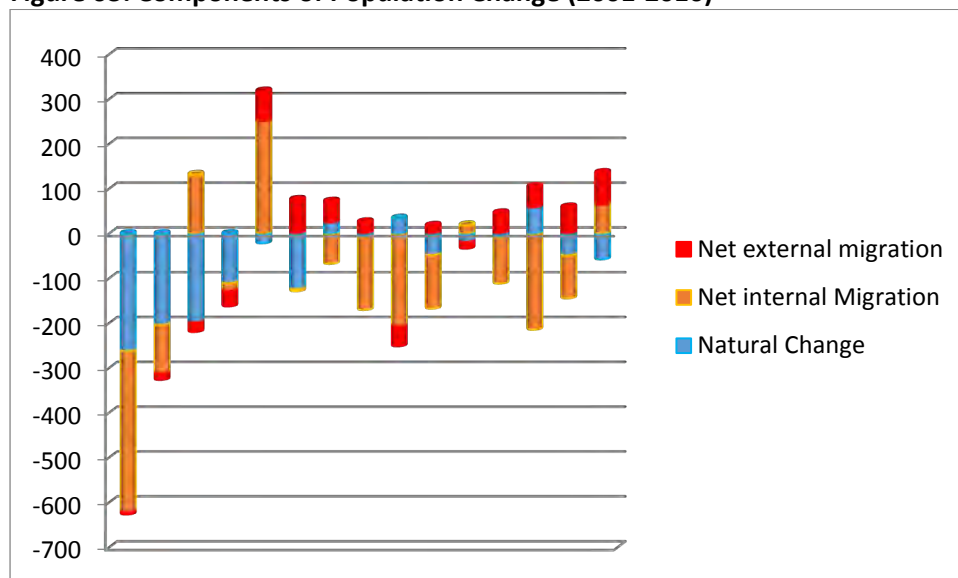
**Figure 62: Migration in Blaenau Gwent (2001-2016)**



Source: Stats Wales

Figure 63 below identifies that from 2001 to 2007 natural change played a significant part in population loss. However, the biggest contributor to change is net internal migration with losses of 100-300 on a number of occasions. The overall trend has changed from large net losses (over 600 a year) to increases of 100 a year. The population of Blaenau Gwent appears to be stabilising.

**Figure 63: Components of Population Change (2001-2016)**



Source: StatsWales

### *Disability*

Statistics from the Annual Population Survey (June 2016) shows that Blaenau Gwent continues to have significantly above average levels of disability with a total of 31.6% of working age people being defined as disabled (economically active core or work limiting disabled) compared to 22.8% for Wales.

These comparatively high levels of disability in Blaenau Gwent leads to a high proportion of people claiming disability related benefits, with 12.0% of working aged people in Blaenau Gwent claiming EAS or Incapacity Benefit, compared to 8.4% across Wales (May 2016).

### *Religion and Belief*

The 2011 Census showed that half of the people in Blaenau Gwent stated their religion to be a Christian (50%), below the welsh average of 59%. This has shown a notable decrease since the 2001 Census, with respective levels of 64% and 71%. Just over 1% of people in Blaenau Gwent stated that they were of another religion such as Buddhist, Hindu, Muslim, Jewish and Sikh. Just over 41% of the Blaenau Gwent population stated they have no religion, above the welsh average of 37%. This is a notable increase compared to 2001, with respective levels of 25% and 19%. A further 8% of people in Blaenau Gwent did not state their religion.

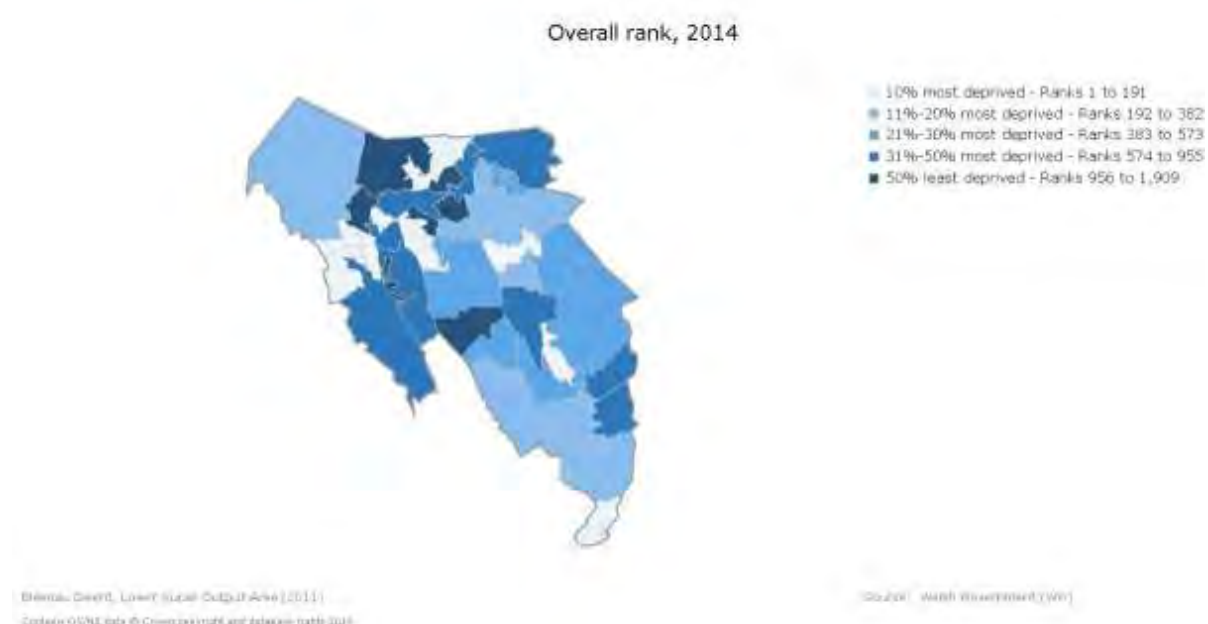
## 5.0 A Wales of Cohesive Communities

### Multiple Deprivation

Figure 64 below shows the rank of the 2014 Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation (WIMD) which captures the extent of deprivation relating to a number of factors and focuses on the proportion of residents in each lower super output area (LSOA) and their level of deprivation.

The overall index provides a single figure that represents the combination of the eight domains of deprivation within the WIMD. The eight domains are: income; employment; health; education; skills and training; geographical access to services; housing; physical environment; and community safety. The darker areas of the map represent those areas with a higher percentage of the population in deprivation.

**Figure 64: Blaenau Gwent Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation 2014**



Source: Welsh Government

Blaenau Gwent is the area in Wales with the highest percentage of LSOAs in the most deprived 10% (23.4%). When considering the individual domains for the area, Blaenau Gwent had the highest percentage of LSOAs in the most deprived 10% in Wales, for income (19.1%), education (27.7%), and community safety (23.4%).

### Housing

There are 32,367 dwellings in Blaenau Gwent. 4.8% (Census 2011) are vacant, which is above the Welsh average of 4%, but this has decreased since 2001, where it stood at 6% (Census 2001).

**Figure 65: Household Tenure 2011**

Household Tenure	Blaenau Gwent	Wales
<b>Owner occupied households</b>	<b>62.1%</b>	<b>67.7%</b>
Own outright	32.9%	35.4%
Owns with mortgage or loan	29.1%	32.0%
Shared ownership	0.1%	0.3%
<b>Rented Households</b>	<b>36.8%</b>	<b>30.6%</b>
Social Rented	24.0%	16.5%
Private Rented	12.8%	14.1%

Source: Census 2011

At the time of the 2011 census, 62.1% of households in Blaenau Gwent were living in owner occupied accommodation which is largely unchanged since 2001 and is less than Wales. The percentage of rented households in Blaenau Gwent is higher than that of Wales,. The marked difference is the higher percentage of social rented households in Blaenau Gwent than Wales, 24.0% and 16.5% respectively. Blaenau Gwent transferred its stock of council accommodation to Tai Calon in 2010. The number of people renting from a private landlord has risen significantly from 6.1% in 2001 to 12.8% in 2011.

A large percentage of dwellings are terraced properties (average 52%) though there is considerable variation across the area – for example, 74% in Abertillery compared with 21.5% in Rassau.

**Figure 66: Household Type**

Household Type	Blaenau Gwent	Wales
Detached house / bungalow	11.0%	27.7%
Semi-detached house / bungalow	26.7%	31.0%
Terraced house (including end terrace)	52.2%	27.8%
Purpose built flats/tenement	8.0%	9.6%
Converted/shared house	0.9%	2.4%
Flat in commercial building	1.2%	1.0%
Caravans/mobile home etc	0.1%	0.4%

Source: Census 2011

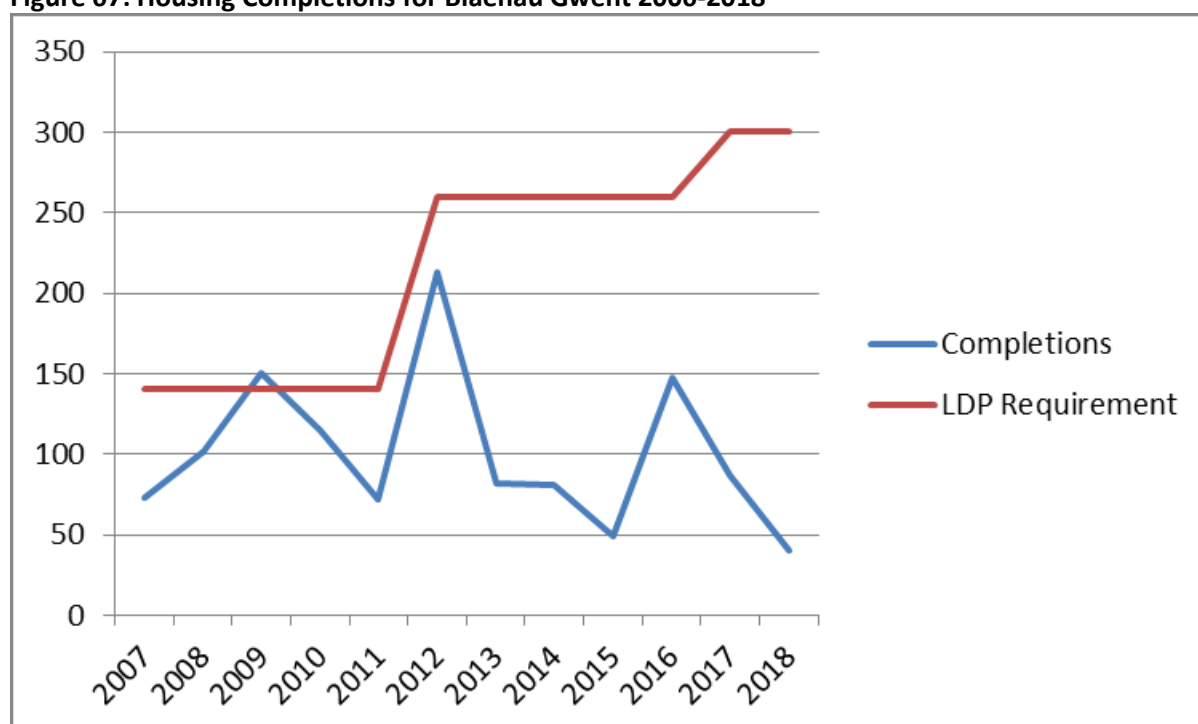
The average household size has remained at 2.3 as shown in the 2001 and 2011 Census. This is also true of the average number of rooms per household which was 5.14 (2001) and 5.2 (2011). The average household size is similar to that of the Welsh average. However, the average number of rooms is slightly less than the Welsh average.

In 2017, 83.3% of housing in Blaenau Gwent is within council tax bands A and B, which is an increase of 0.96% since 2000. 0.206% 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.

## Housing Completions

House building completions in Blaenau Gwent have been erratic since 2006 due in part to a greater reliance on completions from the social sector where schemes tend to be completed at one point. 2018 saw the lowest completion figure so far. Overall completions have been much lower than expected due to a distinct shortage of national builders operating in Blaenau Gwent. At present there is only one national builder operating in Blaenau Gwent and that is Davies Homes, at Bedwellty Gardens in Tredegar. The contribution from small sites to completions increased to 18 in 2018 but this is still the third lowest figure recorded. Overall completions were below the 140 per annum expected by the LDP for the period between 2006-2011, fell well below the 260 expected between 2011 and 2016; and are well below the 300 expected between 2017-2021 (see Figure 67 below).

**Figure 67: Housing Completions for Blaenau Gwent 2006-2018**

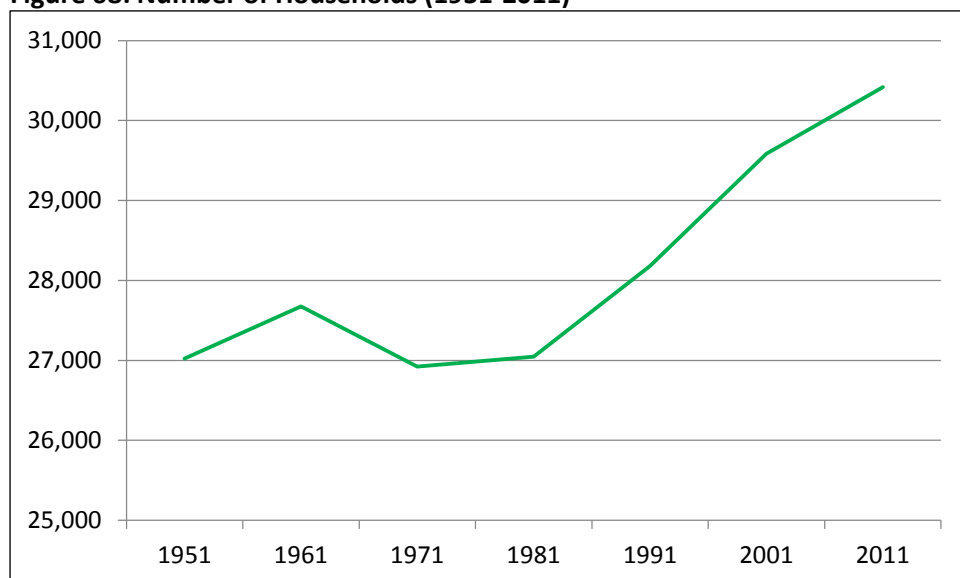


Source: Blaenau Gwent Annual Monitoring Report (2017-18)

## Number of Households

Since 1981 the number of households has increased from 27,000 to over 30,000 though population levels have fallen from over 75,000 to under 70,000 (see Figure 57). This can be explained by a decrease in the average household size.

**Figure 68: Number of Households (1951-2011)**



Source: "A Vision of Britain through time"

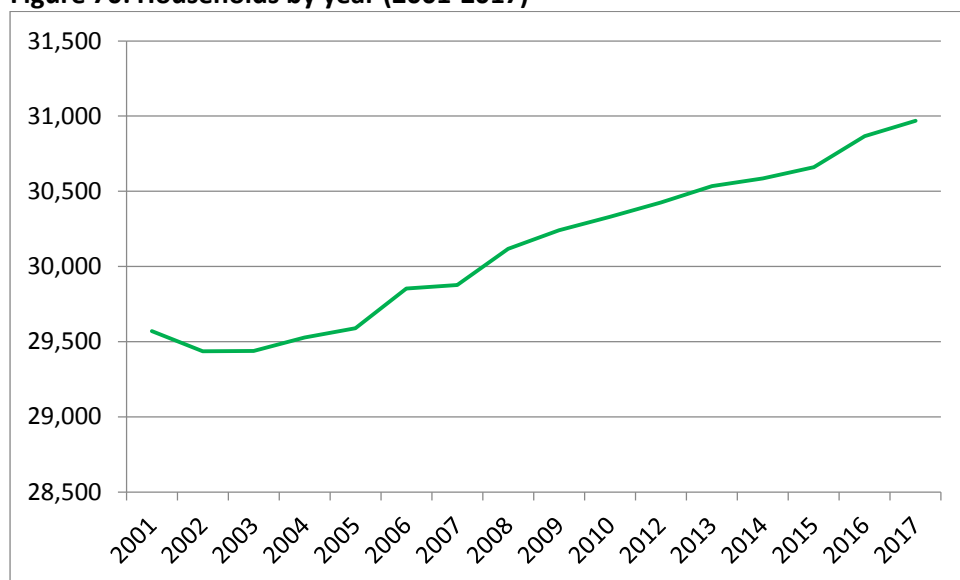
More recently the number of households has increased steadily since 2007 with increases of over 200 per annum in 2008 and 2016.

**Figure 69: Households by year**

	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	10	12	13	14	15	16	17
Change	-133	3	88	62	264	24	240	123	91	95	109	50	75	207	102	

Source: StatsWales

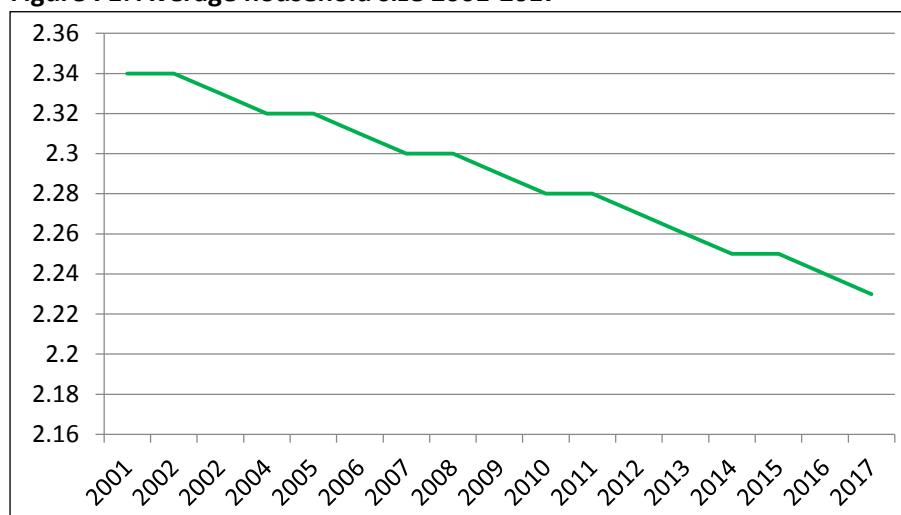
**Figure 70: Households by year (2001-2017)**



Source Stats Wales

Figure 71 below shows how the household size has decreased between 2001 and 2017. This downward trend is expected to level though current Welsh Government projections predicts that this downward trend will continue to fall at this rate and will reach 2.138 by 2033.

**Figure 71: Average household size 2001-2017**

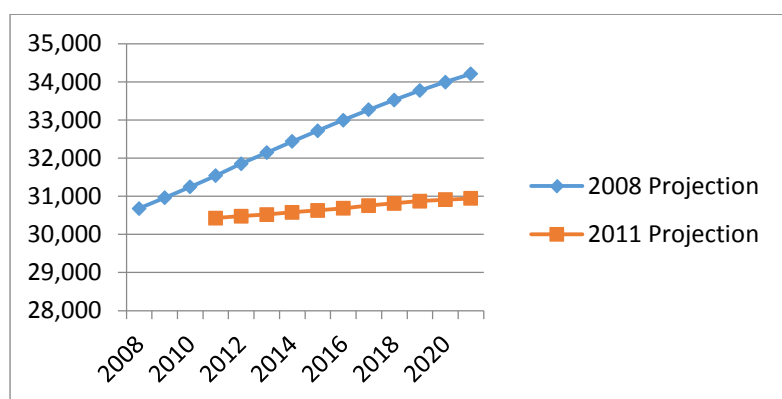


Source: StatsWales

The Welsh Government's 2008 based projections anticipate an additional 84,000 households being formed across South East Wales by 2021, this represents a 14% growth over the household level at 2011. In Blaenau Gwent the projections indicate an additional 2,668 households over the same period, a growth of 8%.

Welsh Governments 2014 based projections suggest a totally different story with the 2008 projected figure not being met. Instead they identify that there will only be a 1% level of growth achieved between 2011 and 2021 and that by 2031, there will be only a 0.5% growth in households. The reality lies somewhere between these two projections.

**Figure 72: Welsh Government Household Projections**



Source: StatsWales

### *Housing Land Availability*

**Figure 73: Housing Land Availability**

2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18
8.9	7.9	7.6	7.6	3.3	2.57	2.01	1.35	1.28

Source: Blaenau Gwent Housing Land Availability Study



There is a requirement under TAN 1, Joint Housing Land Availability Studies, that Local Authorities maintain a 5 year land supply. The Figure above shows that since the adoption of the Plan Blaenau Gwent has failed to have a 5-year supply of land.

### *Condition of Housing Stock*

The 2011 Census did not collect data in relation to the quality of housing stock (fit for habitation). In terms of the Welsh Housing Quality Standard, Figure 74 below sets out the number of Registered Social Landlord (RSL) properties that are WHQS compliant.

**Figure 74: Condition of Registered Social Landlord Properties**

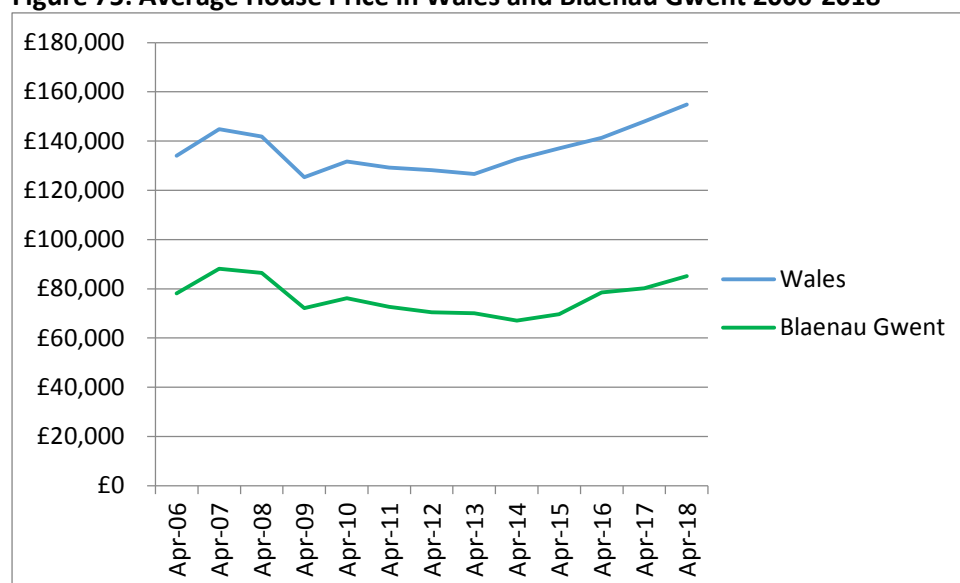
Registered Social Landlord	Number of Properties	% WHQS Compliant
United Welsh	980	99.7%
Melin	364	100%
Linc Cymru	585	100%
Tai Calon	6,099	100%

Source: Blaenau Gwent Annual Monitoring Report 2017-18

### *Affordability*

According to the Land Registry, in April 2018 the average house price in Wales was £154,835 whereas the average house price in Blaenau Gwent was £85,128. As can be seen from Figure 75, house prices in Blaenau Gwent are well below the Wales average. Blaenau Gwent house prices have failed to rise in line with Wales and so the gap between Blaenau Gwent and Wales increased to its widest yet (£69,707). This disparity in house price is partly a reflection of the lack of new homes being built as new houses normally command higher prices.

**Figure 75: Average House Price in Wales and Blaenau Gwent 2006-2018**



Source: Blaenau Gwent Annual Monitoring Report 2017-18

Figure 76 illustrates the average price of different types of property in the surrounding regions. The average property prices relate to June 2017, whilst the percentage sales figures relate to the period January 2017 to December 2017. Monmouthshire has the second highest average house price and in 2017, the largest proportion of property sales were accounted for by detached houses.

**Figure 76: Average property prices**

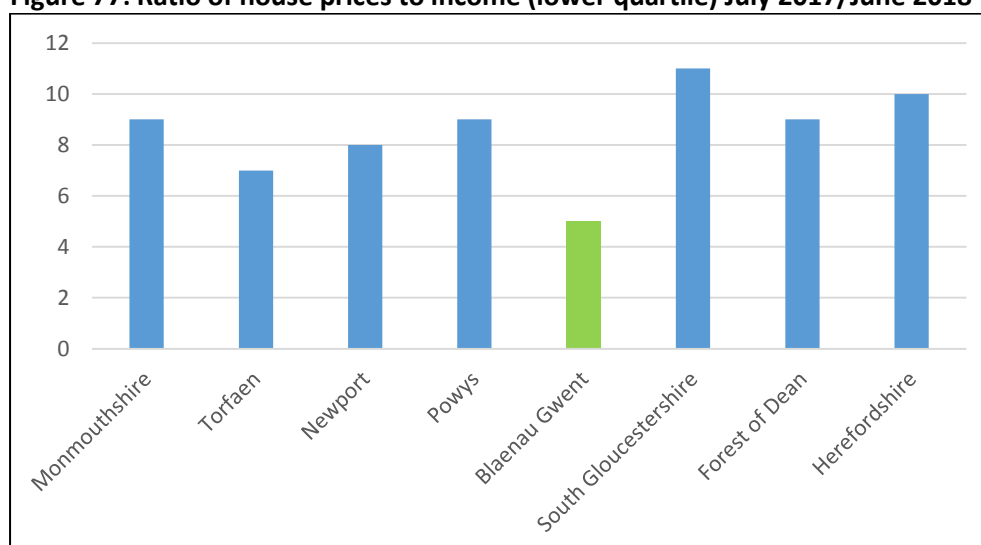
	Detached	Semi-detached	Terraced	Flat/Maisonette	Overall
Monmouthshire Av £	358,216	201,180	190,425	149,378	273,523
% Sales	47.9	24.4	20.4	7.3	
Torfaen Av £	242,158	143,417	107,514	76,239	155,146
% Sales	28.5	25.9	42	3.6	
Newport Av £	291,609	169,661	131,717	101,357	179,125
% Sales	24	28	33.9	14.1	
Powys Av £	259,871	161,618	133,722	125,596	206,076
% Sales	53.1	23	21.6	2.4	
Blaenau Gwent Av £	190,482	115,333	74,561	58,913	99,273
% Sales	14.1	19.2	64.7	2.1	

Source: Hometrack

### *Affordability*

Figure 77 below shows the affordability of housing in Blaenau Gwent compared to surrounding authorities in both Wales and England. That is the property price as a multiple of the annual income of the resident population. Blaenau Gwent is the most affordable of the areas.

**Figure 77: Ratio of house prices to income (lower quartile) July 2017/June 2018**



Source: Hometrack

## Energy efficiency

Blaenau Gwent ranks second in Wales for households that have central heating (99.2% up from 97% in 2001).

In 2014, 535 megawatt hours of domestic gas and electricity were consumed in Blaenau Gwent. This figure has decreased by 17 since 2013. Blaenau Gwent households have consistently used less energy than the Wales average since records began in 2010, though it is important to think about whether this is linked to fuel poverty.

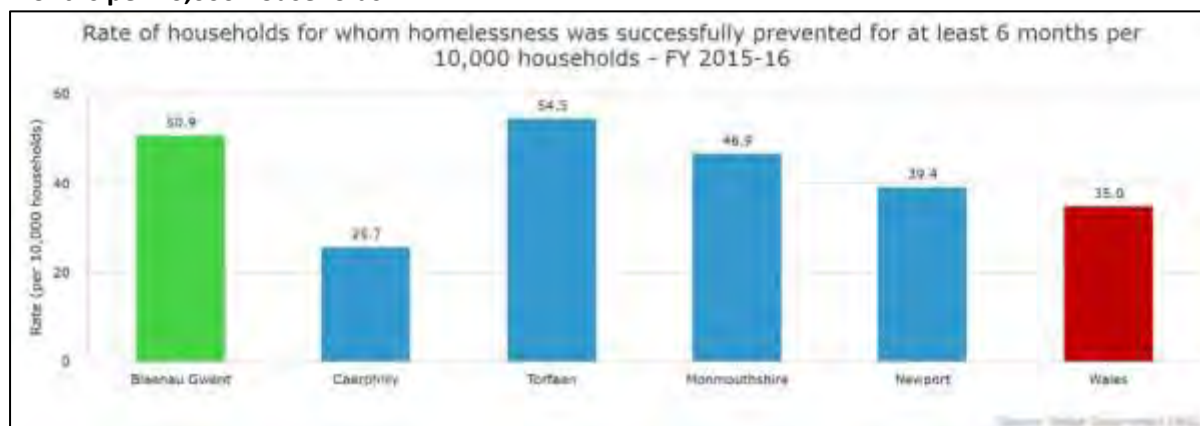
## Gypsy and traveller accommodation

There are currently 20 Local Authority authorised gypsy and traveller pitches with a further 4 on a private gypsy and traveller site. Local Authorities have a duty to undertake gypsy and traveller accommodation assessments under the Housing (Wales) Act 2014. The latest assessment for Blaenau Gwent (2015) identified the need for a further 12 pitches up to 2021.

## Homelessness

Blaenau Gwent has above the Wales average for the number of homeless people decided to be eligible and in priority rate (4.77 compared to 3.89). It is also the highest in Wales for the number of households assessed as threatened with homelessness within 56 days (86.7 per 10,000 households, compared with the Wales average of 53.7). However, in 2015/16, the rate of households for whom homelessness was successfully prevented (for at least 6 months per 10,000 households) was 51%. This is high compared to other local authorities in the region, where the lowest was 26%. The Wales average for the same period is 35%.

**Figure 78: Rate of households for whom homelessness was successfully prevented for at least 6 months per 10,000 households**



Source: Welsh Government

## Crime

The Blaenau Gwent Well-being Assessment covers crime in Blaenau Gwent (2016) and identifies that total crime in Blaenau Gwent has increased by 6% over the calendar year

period of 2016. The 4,895 offences account for 12.5% of all crime in Gwent and translate to a crime rate of 70.96 crimes per 1000 population which remains above Gwent's average (68.33).

Blaenau-Gwent saw a significant reduction in antisocial behaviour (ASB) incidents during 2016 i.e. - 15% or 546 fewer incidents. The 3,181 incidents account for 14% of all ASB incidents in Gwent and translate to a rate of 45.58 per 1000 population which remains above Gwent's average (38.65).

The figure below shows a breakdown of crime by the areas within Blaenau Gwent.

**Figure 79: Crime Levels by Area**

Area	Jan-15 to Dec-15	Jan-16 to Dec-16	Daily Avg (Prev)	Daily Avg (Latest)	Rate per 1,000	Year End Diff	% Chg from Last Year	Pop Est	Proportion
B/Gwent	4613	4895	12.6	13.4	70.140	282	6.1%	69,789	
Abertillery	952	1037	2.6	2.8	63.596	85	8.9%	16,306	21.2%
Brynmawr	1004	1174	2.8	3.2	79.009	107	16.9%	14,859	24.0%
Ebbw Vale	1553	1677	4.3	4.6	71.746	124	8.0%	23,374	34.3%
Tredegar	1104	1007	3.0	2.8	66.033	-97	-8.8%	15,250	20.6%

Source: Blaenau Gwent Well-being Assessment

With the exception of Tredegar who experienced a 9% reduction, all other areas saw increases, in particular Brynmawr saw a 17% increase. In terms of Crimes per 1000 population, Brynmawr (79) and Ebbw Vale (72) are now the highest areas and impact upon Blaenau Gwent's overall rate of 71. At ward level, the areas that had most impact upon Brynmawr's significant increase were Blaina (+28%) and Nantyglo (+19%). In both areas, there were significant increases in Criminal Damage & Arson, Violence and Acquisitive crime offences.

The table below shows total crime in Blaenau Gwent split by crime type. Priority crimes in terms of volume remain as criminal damage and arson and arson and violent offences.

**Figure 80: Crime by Offence Group**

Area	Jan 15 – Dec 15	Jan 16 – Dec 16	Rate per 1,000	Year End Difference	% Change from last year	Pop Est	Proportion
Criminal damage and arson	1058	1097	15.719	39	3.7%	69,789	22.4%
Violence without injury	628	845	12.108	217	34.6%	69,789	17.3%
Violence with injury	524	550	7.881	26	5.0%	69,789	11.2%
All other theft	525	517	7.408	-8	-1.5%	69,789	10.6%
Vehicle crime	454	464	6.649	10	2.2%	69,789	9.5%
Burglary – non dwelling	316	342	4.900	26	8.2%	69,789	7.0%
Shoplifting	287	270	3.869	-17	-5.9%	69,789	5.5%

Public order offences	206	230	3.296	24	<b>11.7%</b>	69,789	4.7%
Burglary – dwelling	193	196	6.444	3	<b>1.6%</b>	30,416	4.0%
Drug offences	168	100	1.433	-68	<b>-40.5%</b>	69,789	2.0%
Misc crimes against society	95	100	1.433	5	<b>5.3%</b>	69,789	2.0%
Other sexual offences	68	81	1.161	13	<b>19.1%</b>	69,789	1.7%
Rape	35	24	0.344	-11	<b>-31.4%</b>	69,789	0.5%
Possession of weapons	12	24	0.344	12	<b>100.0%</b>	69,789	0.5%
Bicycle theft	17	20	0.287	3	<b>17.6%</b>	69,789	0.4%
Theft from the person	17	14	0.201	-3	<b>-17.6%</b>	69,789	0.3%
Robbery	10	11	0.158	1	<b>10.0%</b>	69,789	0.2%
Homicide	0	0	0.000	0	<b>0.0%</b>	69,789	0.0%

Source: Blaenau Gwent Well-being Assessment

Crimes that have seen a notable increase over the year are violence without injury (+217 crimes, +35%) and other sexual offences (+13 crimes, +19%). Other notable increases, albeit small numbers were in possession of weapons having doubled (from 12 to 24), and bicycle theft (from 17 to 20).

## Accessibility

### Road

**Figure 81: Road Length by Road Class 2017/18 (KM)**

Location	Motorway	Trunk	County	B & C road	Minor surfaced
Blaenau Gwent	0	9.6	45.2	66.6	389.7
Monmouthshire	21.5	101.8	58.7	610.1	839
Newport	25.2	8.8	51.3	189.1	414.8
Torfaen	0	14	26.3	101.6	314
Powys	0	430.6	238.2	2,706.1	2,126.8
Wales	133	1,576.3	2,762.9	12,854.3	17,085

Source: StatsWales

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. Online improvements between the peripheral distributor road and the A465; and the dualling of the A465 Heads of the Valleys Road Tredegar to Brynmawr have been complete. Construction is currently underway for section 2 of the Heads of the Valleys dualling improvements to A465 Gilwern to Brynmawr.

## Volume of Traffic

**Figure 82: Volume of Traffic (Million Vehicle Kilometres)**

	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	+/- %
Blaenau Gwent	392	397	395	396	400	425	435	411	+4.8
Newport	1,747	1,787	1,762	1,767	1,861	1,904	1,941	1,949	+11.6
Torfaen	604	603	593	581	609	618	634	615	+1.8
Powys	1,462	1,453	1,432	1,459	1,506	1,540	1,596	1,609	+10
S E Wales	12,595	12,663	12,642	12,663	13,145	13,388	13,667	13,451	+6.8
Wales	26,977	26,931	26,762	26,999	27,894	28,396	29,170	29,084	+7.7

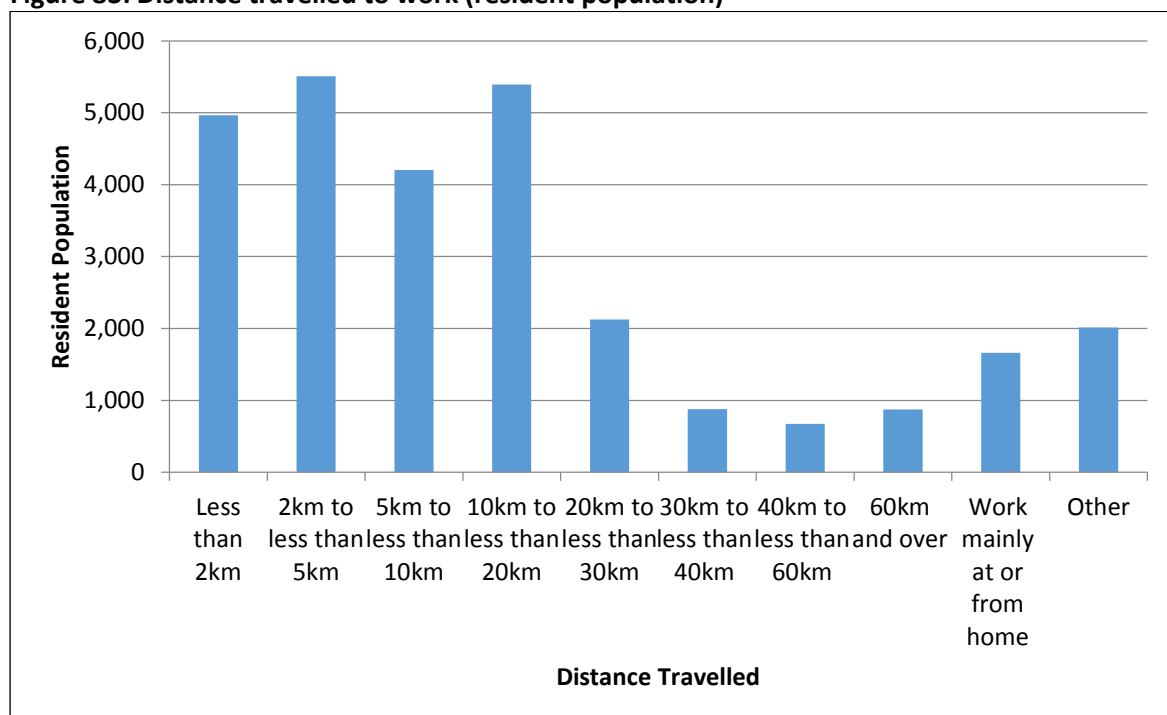
Source: Department of Transport (Welsh Transport Statistics 2011)

The net volume of traffic since 2010 has increased throughout Wales, where the largest increase in the period was seen in Newport. In 2017, the South East Wales area accounted for 46% of the volume of traffic in Wales. There has been an increase in traffic volume of 4.8% since 2010 in Blaenau Gwent which could reflect the road improvements to the area.

## Travel to Work

In terms of travel distances to work, the majority of the population travel less than 10 km commuting distance. This is typical of Wales as a whole.

**Figure 83: Distance travelled to work (resident population)**

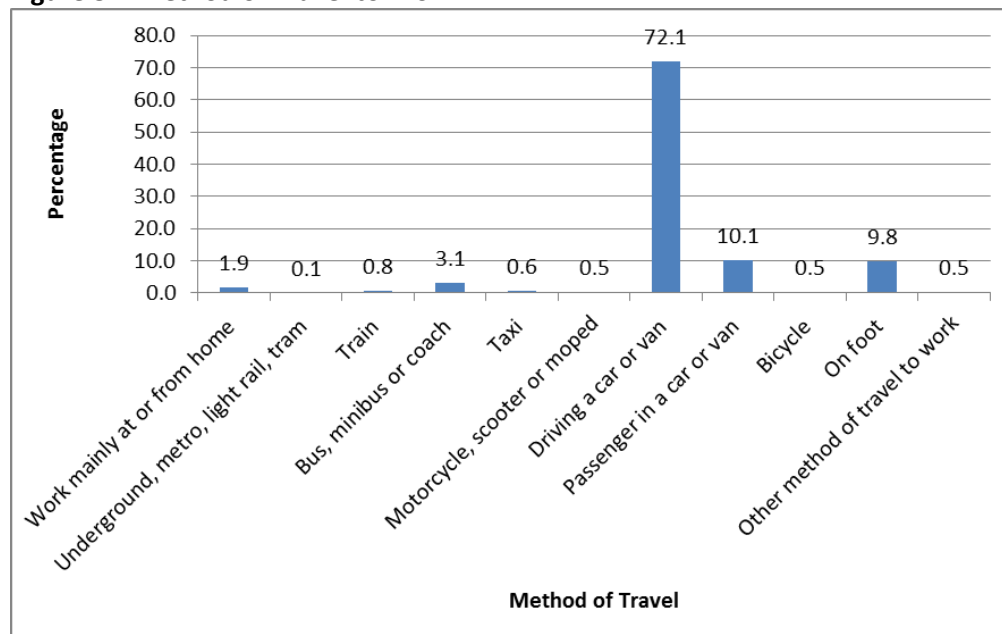


Source: Census 2011

## Mode of Travel

72.1% of the County Borough's population (Census 2011) relies on the private car for their work journey, with only 9.8% of the population walking and 0.5% cycling to work.

**Figure 84: Method of Travel to Work**



Source: Census 2011

In terms of car ownership there has been an increase in the total number of vehicles owned by households in Blaenau Gwent since 2001. In particular there are now more households owning 2 cars or vans than in 2001, an increase of 4.6%. The number of households without a car remains higher than Wales but has fallen from 35.1% in 2001 to 28.9% in 2011.

## Bus

The following list identifies the main bus services that currently operate within Blaenau Gwent:

Service	Route and Timings	Operator
X4	Cardiff-Merthyr-Tredegar-Ebbw Vale-Brynmaur-Abergavenny-Herford (2 hourly to Hereford every 30mins at busy times and hourly throughout the rest of the day to Abergavenny)	Stagecoach
X15	Brynmaur-Abertillery-Newport (every 30 mins at busy times and hourly service for the rest of the day)	Stagecoach
E2	Ebbw Vale-Hilltop (circular every 30mins)	Stagecoach
E3	Brynmaur-Abertillery-Ebbw Vale-Garnlydan (hourly service)	Stagecoach
E4	Ebbw Vale-Garnlydan (every 30 mins)	Stagecoach
E11	Tredegar Peacehaven-Ebbw Vale (hourly service)	Harris Coaches
E12	Tredegar-Dukestown (hourly)	Harris Coaches
E14	Tredegar-Gwent Way (hourly service)	Harris

		Coaches
4	Tredegar – Cefn Golau-Rhymney – Pontlottyn and Ystrad Ysbyty Fawr (hourly service)	Harris & Stagecoach
20	Tredegar – Waundeg-Rhymney Station (30 mins at busy times otherwise hourly service)	Harris Coaches
52	Abertillery-Newbridge-Blackwood (every hourly service)	Stagecoach
56	Tredegar-Blackwood-Newport (30 mins at busy times otherwise hourly)	Stagecoach
3/S	Abergavenny-Gilwern-Brynmawr (4 services a day)	Stagecoach
1	Abertillery-Cwmtillery-Brynithel-Hillcrest-Abertillery (hourly service)	Henleys Bus Service
3	Abertillery-Arael View (every 30 mins)	Henleys Bus Service
X1	Brynmawr-Abertillery-Pontypool-Cwmbran (hourly)	Phil Anslow
31	Brynmawr to Forgeside (hourly)	Phil Anslow

During weekdays and on Saturdays, the current frequency of bus services between hubs varies between 2 and 4 per hour which is considered a limited service. Sunday service also remains limited. A further issue identified in the Well-being plan engagement related to the lack of bus routes to the main employment areas in Blaenau Gwent.

### *Rail*

The Ebbw Vale Parkway railway opened in February 2008 and provides an hourly service to Cardiff from Ebbw Vale. Intermediate stations are Ebbw Vale Parkway, Llanhilleth, Newbridge, Crosskeys, Risca, Pontymister, Rogerstone and Pye Corner. A dedicated feeder bus service links the Abertillery town centre from Llanhilleth. Actual passenger numbers greatly exceed forecasts. In 2002, passenger journeys were forecast at 22,000 per month. Whereas by 2008, 44,000 journeys had been made on the service each month; also exceeding the monthly target of 33,000 set for 2012. Plans are underway to increase the service to two trains per hour.

In May 2015, the Ebbw Vale town station extension opened in May 2015 and provided an extension from the existing terminus at Ebbw Vale Parkway to the new station at the Ebbw Vale town. Ebbw Vale town railway station serves the town centre of Ebbw Vale.

These stations offer good interchange opportunities with local bus services. The X4 and E3 bus routes connect the railway stations in Ebbw Vale with the settlements of Tredegar, Brynmawr, Nantyglo and Blaina and Abertillery.

### *Airport*

The nearest airports to Blaenau Gwent are Cardiff International, Bristol and Birmingham. Locals are largely reliant on private transport or taxi services to access the airports. However



access to the Cardiff airport can be achieved via public transport through the rail link from Ebbw Vale to Cardiff Central and the Cardiff airbus.

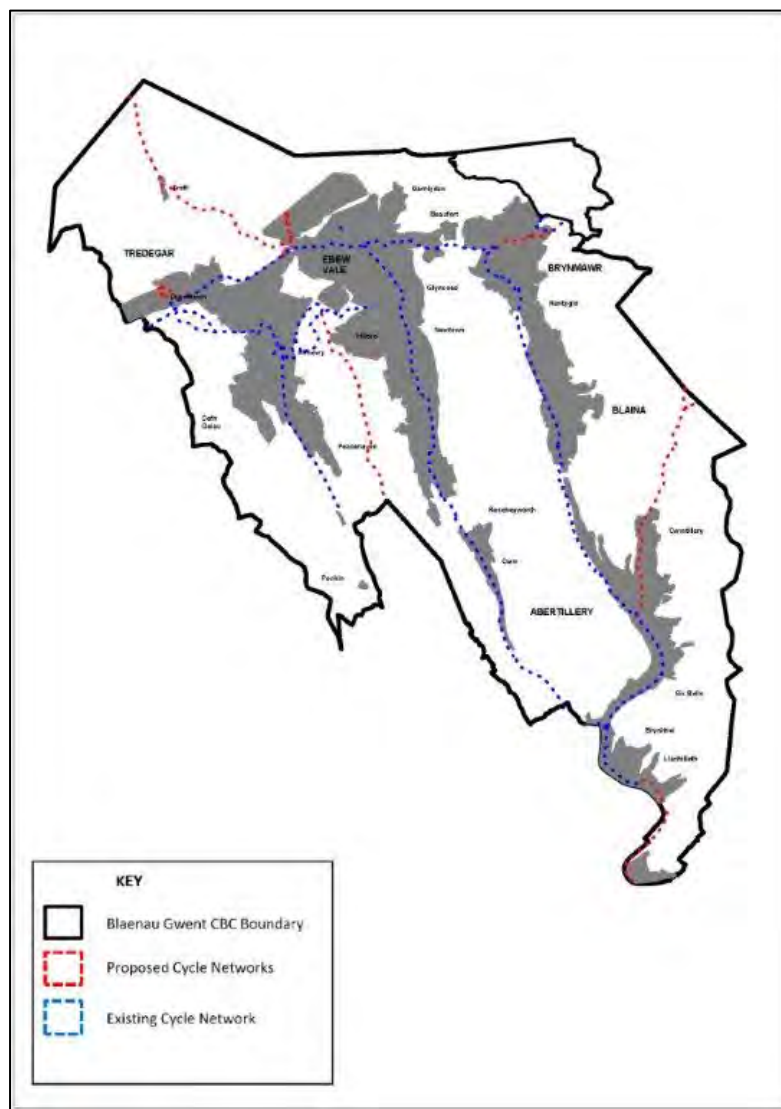
### *Public Rights of Way*

The total length of public rights of way network in Blaenau Gwent is 301,392 metres. In 2017-18, 80.9% of this network is available to the general public to use, which equates to 243,805 metres. Some of the areas of the public rights of way have been temporarily closed due to the heads of the valleys road construction works.

### *Cycle Routes*

Figure 85 below shows the existing cycle networks within Blaenau Gwent and those that are proposed. The Blaenau Gwent Annual Monitoring Report (2017-18) identifies that the percentage of the population within 1km of the cycle network is 96%.

**Figure 85: Existing and Proposed Cycle Networks**



Source: Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council

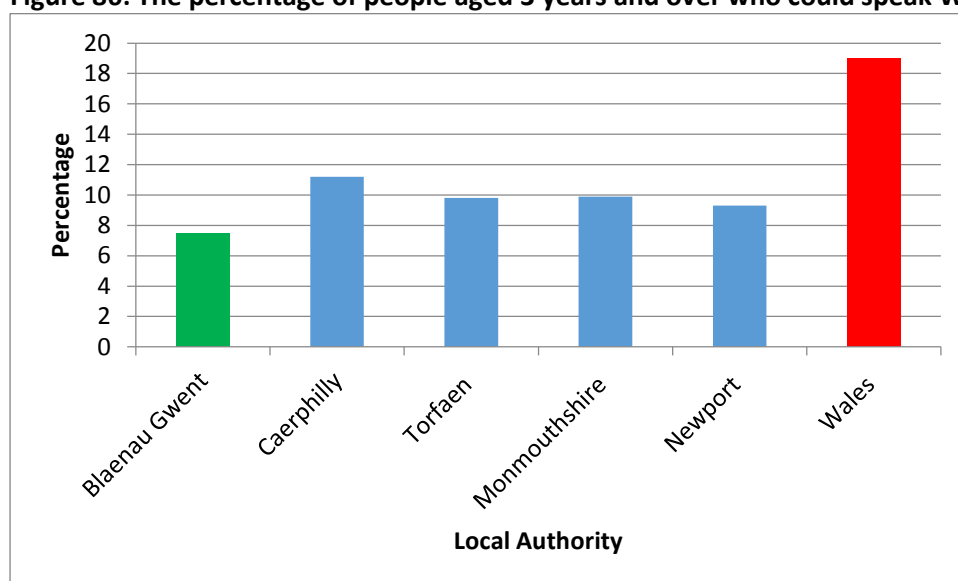
## 6.0 A Wales of Vibrant Culture & Thriving Welsh Language

### Cultural Heritage

#### Welsh Language

Figure 86 below shows the percentage of people aged 3 years and over who could speak Welsh. In 2011, the percentage of people aged 3 years and over who could speak Welsh in the Gwent region was 9.9%, compared to 19.0% for Wales. Blaenau Gwent had the lowest percentage of its population aged 3 years and over who could speak Welsh at 7.8% across the Gwent region. This means that only 5,000 people in the area can speak Welsh.

**Figure 86: The percentage of people aged 3 years and over who could speak Welsh**



Source: Census 2011

As well as having low levels of Welsh speakers, information suggests that those that do consider themselves to be able to speak Welsh still do not use the language on a regular basis. The Annual Population Survey shows that in Blaenau Gwent only 2% of people aged 16 years or over speak Welsh daily, compared to 10% for Wales overall.

In Blaenau Gwent there was a small percentage increase of people aged 3 years and over who could speak Welsh between the 2001 Census and the 2011 Census 1.7%. This pattern was witnessed across Wales overall. However, the people who can speak Welsh have risen significantly since 1991 when just 2.2% of the population or around 1,500 of people were Welsh speaking.

The rise in the number of people who speak Welsh between 1991 and 2011 can be directly correlated to the change in national education policy in Wales where teaching of Welsh language to key stage 4 was made compulsory in all English medium schooling in Wales from 1999. As a consequence it is not surprising that children and young people account for the highest number of Welsh speakers in Blaenau Gwent, a pattern which is mirrored across Wales.

The Census 2011 shows that although there are higher levels of Welsh language ability in those aged 0-15 (31% are able to speak Welsh), only 5% of people aged 16-64 are able to speak Welsh and 1% of people aged 65 and over are able to speak Welsh.

Consideration of Welsh Language Speakers by neighbourhood areas show that Blaenau Gwent does not have any distinctive pockets of Welsh language speakers, with levels being generally consistent across the area.

When considering by small geographical areas (MSOAs), the highest number of Welsh language speakers was Nantyglo and Blaina (8.6%) and the area with the lowest number of Welsh language speakers was central Ebbw Vale (7%).

There is one Welsh medium primary school in Blaenau Gwent, namely: Ysgol Bro Helyg, Blaina. There are no Welsh secondary schools. The closest Welsh secondary school is Ysgol Gyfun Gwynllyw which is located in the adjoining authority of Torfaen.

### **Ethnic Diversity**

The 2011 Census statistics showed Blaenau Gwent's Black and Ethnic Minority population to be just under 1,900. This equates to 2.6% of the total population and well below the Welsh average of 6.7%. In 2001, the percentage of people in Blaenau Gwent from minority ethnic groups was 1.8%, approximately 1,300 people which shows a notable increase from 2001 to 2011. Even so, Blaenau Gwent still has one of the lowest levels of people from minority ethnic groups in England and Wales.

### **Historic Environment**

Many of Blaenau Gwent's important buildings, archaeological remains and open spaces are protected in order to preserve their special character.

#### *Conservation Areas*

Blaenau Gwent has one conservation area located in Tredegar. The boundary of the conservation area in Bedwellty House and Park has been extended to include the southern end of Tredegar town centre including The Circle and Castle Street.

#### *Historic Parks and Gardens*

Cadw, in association with the International Council on Monuments and Sites and the former Countryside Council for Wales, has prepared a Register of Landscapes, Parks and Gardens of Special Historic Interest in Wales. The register has been prepared in two parts. The first part covering historic parks and gardens lists Bedwellty Park, Tredegar. The designation is given to parks and gardens for their historic interest, contents and features, condition, and historical associations. They are graded on a similar grading system to listed buildings and Bedwellty Park is evaluated as Grade II.

## Historic Landscape

In Wales, the most important and best surviving historic landscapes have been identified on the Register of Landscapes, Parks and Gardens of Special Historic Interest in Wales. The register identifies two types of historic landscape:

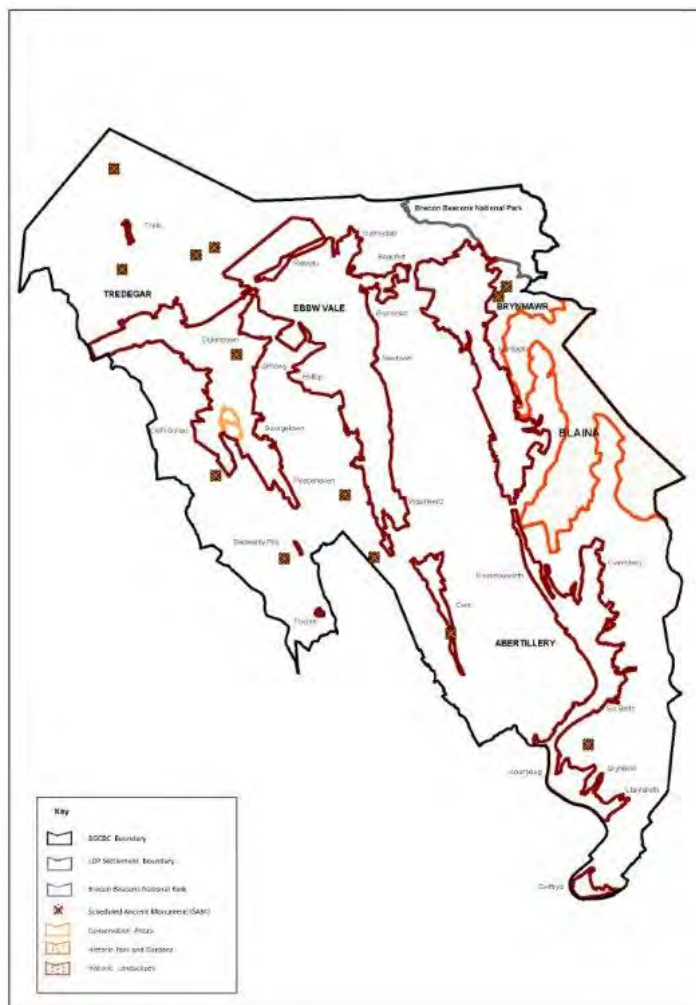
- Outstanding historic landscape areas; and
- Special historic landscape areas.

Part 2.1 of the Register of landscapes of outstanding historic interest in Wales lists Blaenavon and Coity Mountain, part of which falls within the Blaenau Gwent planning administrative area.

## Scheduled Ancient Monuments

There are 13 archaeology sites statutorily protected as Scheduled Ancient Monuments under the Scheduled Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979 within the Blaenau Gwent administrative area.

**Figure 87: Location and Designation of Sites, Areas and Buildings of Historic or Conservation Importance**



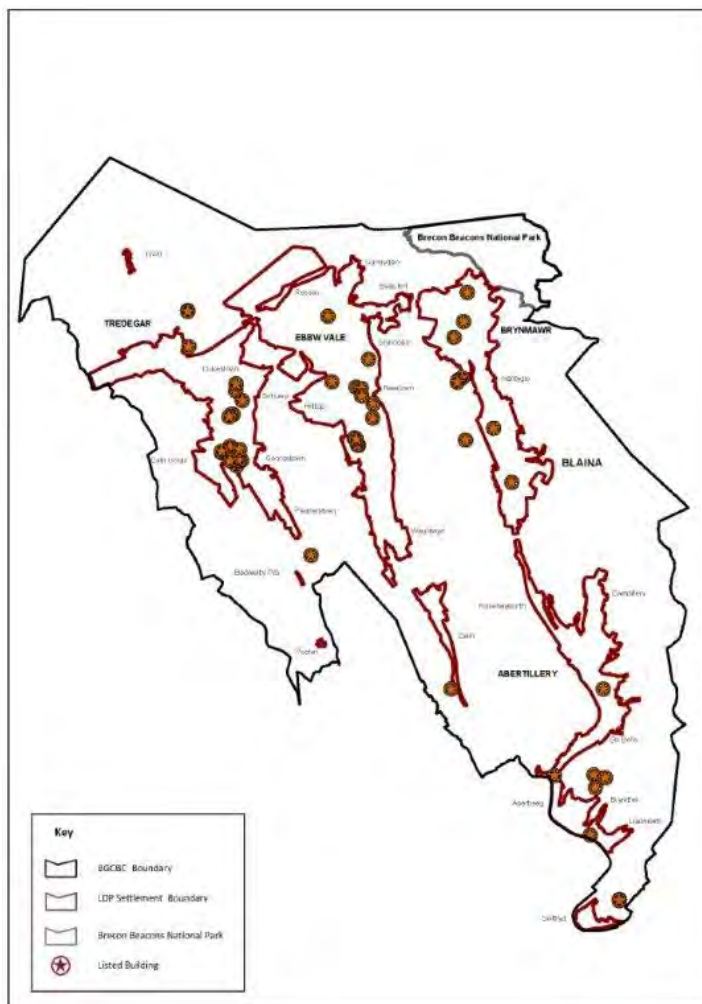
Source: Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council

## Listed Buildings

Under the provisions of the Planning (Listed Building and Conservation Areas) Act 1990, the Secretary of State for Wales is required to produce a list of buildings of special architectural or historic interest for the guidance of local planning authorities. This responsibility is undertaken by Cadw. Buildings and structures are classified in grades (I, II\* and II) to indicate their relative importance. All listed buildings and structures are awarded the same level of protection regardless of their grading.

There are 53 Listed Buildings in Blaenau Gwent all of which are Grade II or Grade II\*. In terms of the listed buildings at risk, the number has decreased from 10 to 9, as the Ebbw Vale Education Centre is no longer at risk.

**Figure 88: Location of Listed Buildings within Blaenau Gwent**



Source: Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council

## Non- designated Historic Assets

There are 1,048 non designated historic assets in Blaenau Gwent. (source: Glamorgan Gwent HER).

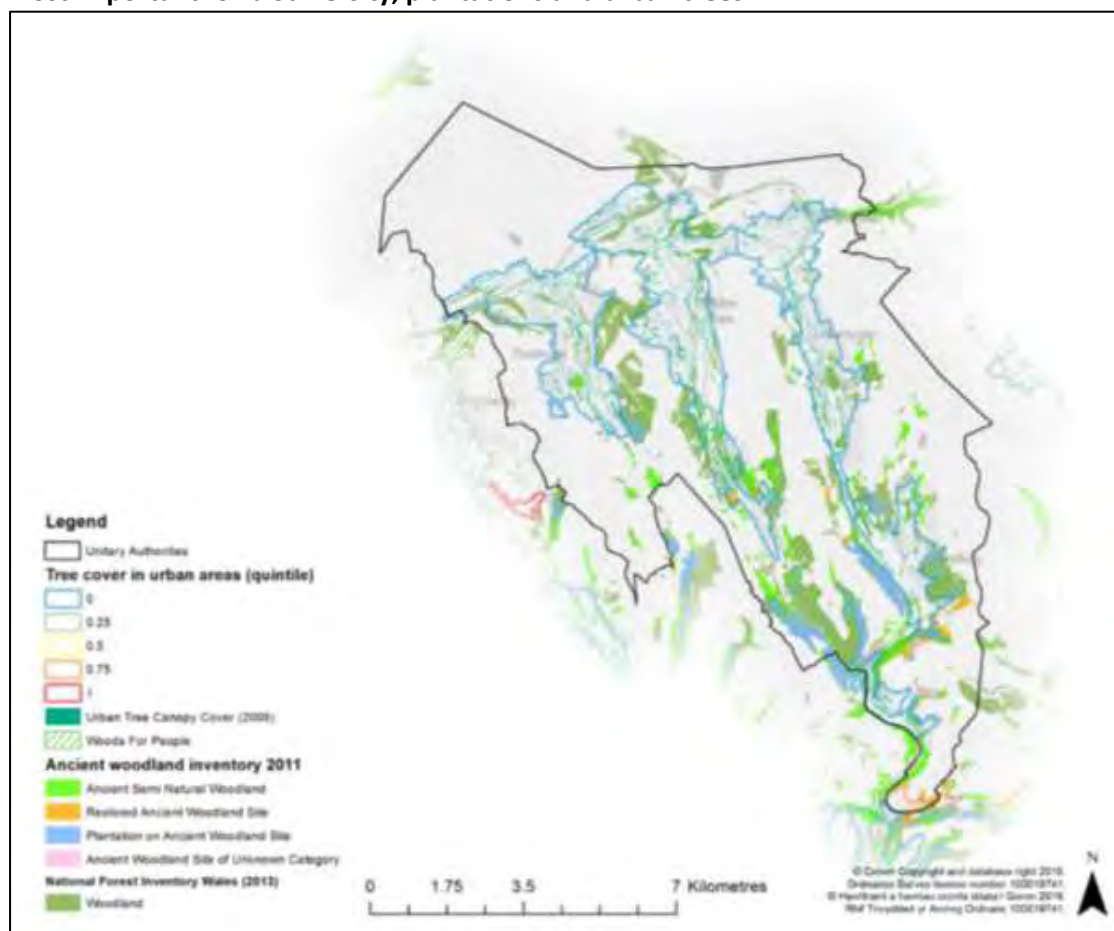
## Landscape

### Woodland

Wales is one of the least wooded countries in Europe – 14% coverage compared to EU average of 37% (Woodland Trust 2011). However, Blaenau Gwent is one of the most wooded counties in Wales, accounting for 22.5% of land use. This is shown in the figure below and includes small areas of broadleaf woodland and upland conifer woodland which are both close to communities.

In the Area, 590 hectares of the Welsh Government's Woodland Estate (WGWE) is managed by Natural Resources Wales. This is approximately 5% of the land area. These are publically owned forests.

**Figure 89: Extent of woodland cover in Blaenau Gwent including ancient woodlands, which are the most important for biodiversity, plantations and urban trees**



Source: Blaenau Gwent Well-being Assessment

### Special Landscape Areas

The first LDP identified 8 Special Landscape Areas (SLAs). The purpose of the SLA designation was to identify those landscapes which are of particularly high intrinsic value and which

require special protection for their own sake as part of the County's landscape resource. The areas identified are:

- St Illtyd Plateau and Ebbw Eastern Sides
- Eastern Ridge and Mynydd James
- Cwm Tyleri and Cwm Celyn
- Mynydd Carn y Cefn and Cefn yr Arail
- Mynydd Bedwellty, Rhymney Hill and Sirhowy Sides
- Cefn Manmoel
- Trefil and Garnlydan Surrounds
- Beaufort Common

These SLAs within Blaenau Gwent cover a total area of approximately 7,614 hectares, accounting for approximately 70% of the total local planning area within Blaenau Gwent area.

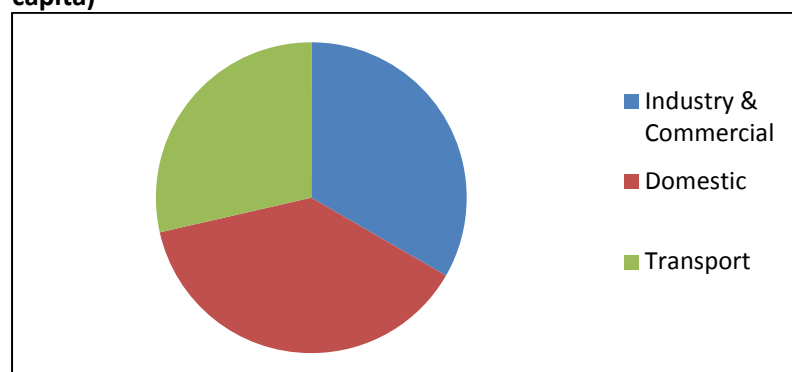
## 7.0 A Globally Responsible Wales

### Climatic Factors

#### Greenhouse Gas Emissions

##### *Emissions of CO<sub>2</sub> in Blaenau Gwent*

**Figure 90: Carbon Dioxide Emissions per Capita, by sector in Blaenau Gwent, 2011 (tonnes per capita)**



Source: 2005-2015 UK Local and Regional CO<sub>2</sub> Emissions Dataset (Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC))

The figure above shows that most carbon emissions in Blaenau Gwent were produced by domestic properties (38%) with transport accounting for approximately 28% and industry and commercial for approximately 33%.

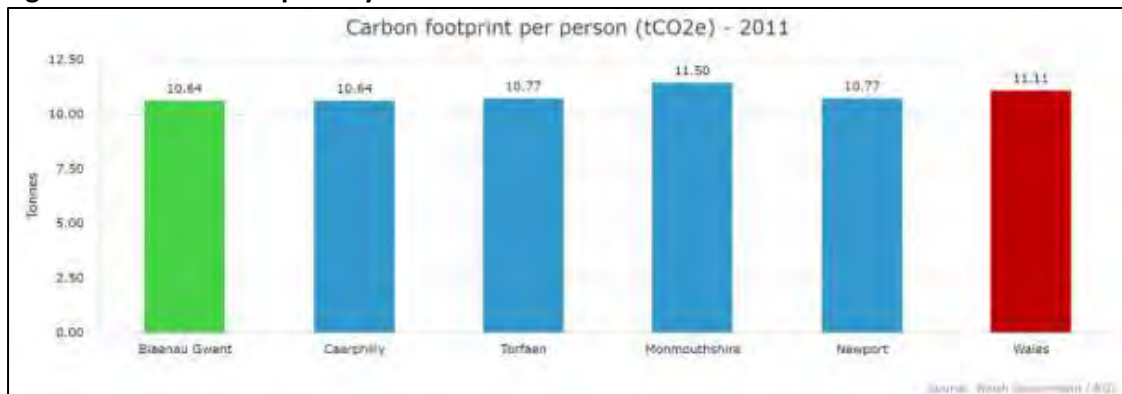
##### *Carbon and Ecological Footprint*

Local authorities with the lowest carbon footprint tend to be those with the lowest overall environmental burden per capita i.e. the valleys and more densely populated areas in South Wales (Source: 2015 Ecological and Carbon Footprints of Wales – Update to 2010, Stockholm Environment Institute and GHD).

Figure 91 shows the carbon footprint per person across the Gwent region for 2011, measured in tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent per person. This ranged from 10.64 tonnes per person in Caerphilly and Blaenau Gwent to 11.50 tonnes per person in Monmouthshire. This compared with 11.10 tonnes per person for Wales



**Figure 91: Carbon Footprint by Area**

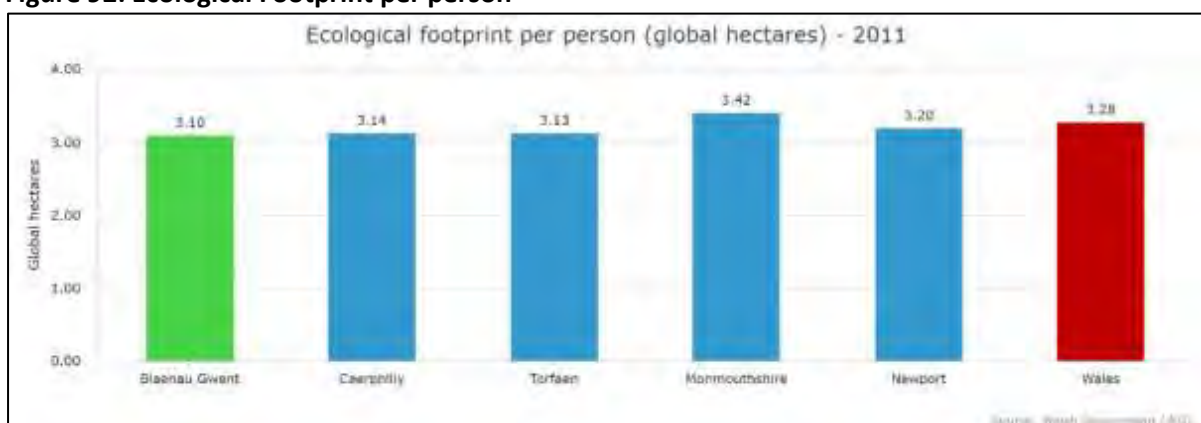


Source: Welsh Government

The ecological footprint is an indicator of the total environmental burden that society places on the planet. It represents the area of land needed to provide raw materials, energy and food, as well as absorb pollution and waste created. It is measured in global hectares. The ecological footprint for a particular population is defined as “the total area of productive land and water ecosystems required to produce the resources that the population consumes and assimilate the wastes that production produces, wherever on Earth that land and water may be located”. The consumption of food, housing, transport, consumer items, private services and public services together accounts for 85% of the ecological footprint.

Figure 92 shows the ecological footprint per person across the Gwent region for 2011. This ranged from 3.10 global hectares per person in Blaenau Gwent to 3.42 global hectares per person in Monmouthshire. This compares with 3.30 global hectares per person for Wales.

**Figure 92: Ecological Footprint per person**



Source: Welsh Government

The data shows that Blaenau Gwent is starting from a good position as it has the lowest carbon and ecological footprint of the area's that have had comparable data shown and is also below the whole of Wales average. It could also be interpreted that Blaenau Gwent is one of the most deprived and given that the fact that the data shows that there may be a higher number of people in fuel and monetary poverty that cannot afford a standard of living that the other areas, and Wales in general, can. It also shows that Monmouthshire being considered quite an affluent area has the highest carbon an ecological footprint which

reinforces the notion that Blaenau Gwent's low score in both areas could be linked to poverty.

### *Renewable and Low Carbon Energy Production*

Figure 93 below shows that 15.208 MW of renewable energy developments have been installed in the form of wind turbines and photovoltaic solar panels.

**Figure 93: Capacity of renewable energy developments installed**

Name of scheme	Technology	Capacity (Mw)	Capacity (GWh)	Status	Source
Photovoltaic (Household)	Solar	1.7	1.47	Grant Supported	Ofgem
Photovoltaic (Commercial)	Solar	0.157	0.135	Grant supported	Ofgem
Photovoltaic (Industrial)	Solar	0.15	0.129	Grant Supported	Ofgem
Hafod y Dafol Farm, Cwm	Solar	10.0	8.75	Operational	BGCBC
Unit 15 Rassau Industrial Estate	Wind Onshore	0.75	1.77	Operational	BGCBC
The Grouse Farm	Wind Onshore	0.001	0.00236	Operational	BGCBC
Unit 29 Tafarnaubach Industrial Estate	Wind Onshore	0.5	1.18	Operational	BGCBC
Penrhiwgwaith Farm, Hollybush	Wind Onshore	0.5	1.18	Operational	BGCBC
Blaentillery Farm, Cwmtillery	Wind Onshore	0.45	1.064	Operational	BGCBC
Coed y Gilfach, Six Bells	Wind Onshore	0.5	1.18	Operational	BGCBC
Eurocaps Ltd Crown Business Park	Wind Onshore	0.5	1.18	Operational	BGCBC
<b>Total</b>		<b>15.208</b>	<b>18.040</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>

Source: Council planning records and Ofgem (August 2018)

Since 2013, 2.79 MW of low carbon energy developments have been installed at the Works Energy Centre in the form of combined heat and power and biomass boiler.

**Figure 94: Capacity of low carbon energy developments installed per annum**

Scheme	Location	Capacity
<b>2013-2014</b>		
Combined heat and power	The Works Energy Centre	0.39 MW
<b>2014-2015</b>		
Biomass Boiler	The Works Energy Centre	2.4 MW

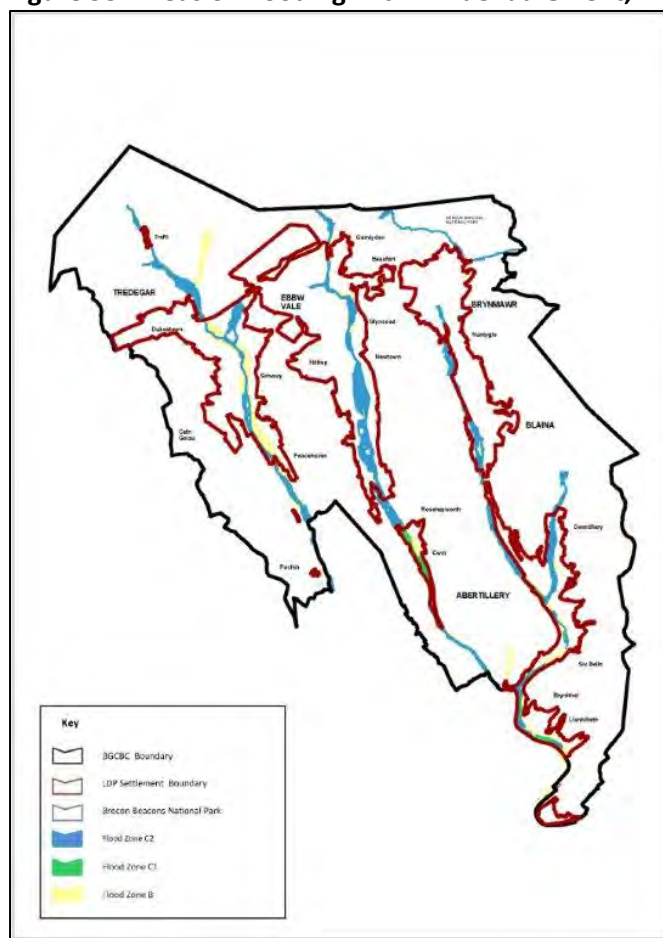
<b>2015-2016</b>	
No low carbon energy developments installed	
<b>2016-2017</b>	
No low carbon energy developments installed	
<b>2017-2018</b>	
No low carbon energy developments installed	
<b>Total (2013-2017) 2.79 MW</b>	

Source: Blaenau Gwent Annual Monitoring Report 2017-18

## Flood Risk

Technical Advice Note (TAN) 15 published by the Welsh Government categorises areas of the floodplain within Wales. Figure 95 below identifies the areas of floodplain within Blaenau Gwent. Zone B relates to areas that have flooded in the past, evidenced by sedimentary deposits. The flood zone B areas are predominantly in Cwm, Ebbw Vale and Tredegar where there historic river courses and waterways. Zone C1 identifies areas of the floodplain that are developed and served by significant infrastructure including flood defences. These are located in Cwm, Aberbeeg and Llanhilleth. Zone C2 identifies areas of the floodplain without significant flood defence infrastructure. TAN 15 states that only less vulnerable development should be considered within these areas. These areas tend to follow the existing rivers and watercourses in each of the valleys.

**Figure 95: Areas of Flooding within Blaenau Gwent, with and without flood defences**



Source: NRW Development Advice Maps

### *Surface Water Flooding*

A need to identify areas at risk from surface water flooding was introduced in response to the Flood Risk Regulations (2009). The first stage was to prepare a Preliminary Flood Risk Assessment in order to establish the level of flood risk within each Lead Local Flood Risk Authority (LLFA). The process looked specifically at flooding from surface water, ground water and ordinary water courses and the interface with flooding from main rivers.

In order to have consistency of approach DEFRA and WG identified a number of key risk indicators and their thresholds to establish significant risk and to determine the existence of indicative Flood Risk Areas.

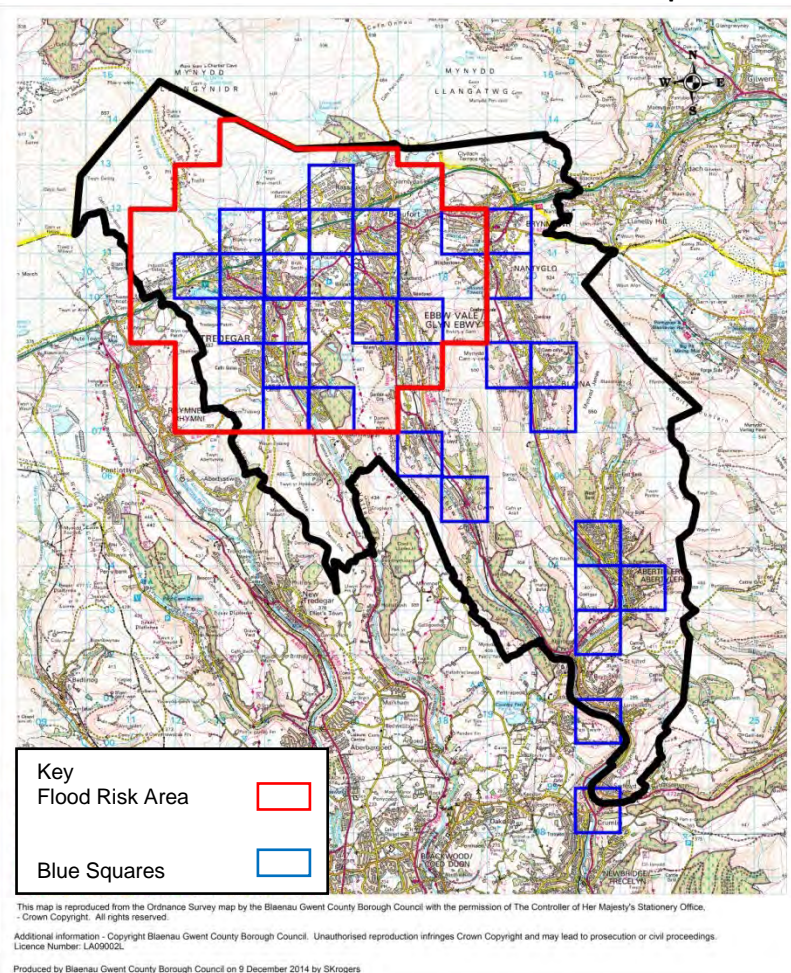
The methodology was based on using the flood maps produced by NRW to identify 1 km squares where flood risk exceeds a defined threshold. These squares are known as areas above Flood Risk Threshold (Blue Squares). The key flood risk indicators and their thresholds for a 1 km square were set as follows:-

1. A minimum of 200 people
2. A minimum of 20 businesses
3. 2 or more critical services

NRW identified 29 blue squares within BGCBC.

A cluster of blue squares is an indication that an area of concentrated flood risk has been identified. Where there are four or more touching blue squares within a 3km x 3km square the whole 3km x 3km square was considered as an area which could form part of an indicative Flood Risk Area.

**Figure 96: BGCBC – Ebbw Vale Flood Risk Area and Blue Squares**



The key flood risk indicator for establishing an indicative Flood Risk Area was set as – numbers of people at risk of being affected by flooding exceeding 5,000.

Based on the methodology defined above, NRW defined an indicative Flood Risk Area within BGCBC of 40.38 Km<sup>2</sup> based on the 17 blue squares in the Ebbw Vale / Tredegar area.

The review carried out by BGCBC on past and future flooding did not justify any amendments to the Indicative Flood Risk Area identified by NRW.

The key Flood Risk Indicators for BGCBC were calculated by NRW as follows:

**Figure 97: Risk Counts for Blaenau Gwent Flood Risk Area (based on new Flood Hazard Maps)**

COUNTS FOR FLOOD RISK AREA				
	Total in defined area	Risk Counts		
		HIGH	MEDIUM	LOW
Risk to people				
Number of people in area:	40,089	682	696	2,825
Number of Services:	57	4	1	6



<b>Risk to economic activity</b>				
Number of non-residential properties:	2,785	119	84	351
Number of Airports (n)	0	0	0	0
Length of Primary/Trunk Roads (km)	68	3	1	3
Length of railway (km):	1	0	0	0
Area of Agricultural Land – Grades 1, 2 and 3 within the area (ha)	0	0	0	0
<b>Risk to Natural and Historic Environment</b>				
Number of EU Bathing Waters within 50m:	0	0	0	0
Number of Environmental Permitting Regulations (EPR) Installations within 50m:	5	4	0	0
Area of Special Areas of Conservation (SAC) within area (ha):	0	0	0	0
Area of Special Protection Areas within area (SPA) (ha)	0	0	0	0
Area of Ramsar Sites within area (ha):	0	0	0	0
Areas of World Heritage Sites within area (ha):	0	0	0	0
Area of Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) within area (ha):	4,069	0	0	0
Areas of designated Parks and Gardens within area (ha):	10	0	0	2
Area of Scheduled Ancient Monuments within area (ha):	3	0	0	0
Number of Listed Buildings within area :	36	2	2	5
Number of Licensed Abstractions (LA) within area:	13	0	0	2

Source: Blaenau Gwent Flood Risk Management Plan

There are 40,089 people and 57 services in Blaenau Gwent Flood Risk Area. Of these, 682 people and 4 services are considered to be at high risk with a 1 in 30 (3%) or greater chance of flooding in any given year. A further 696 are in medium risk with a 1 in 100 (1%) chance of flooding in any given year. A further 2,825 people are considered to be at low risk with a 1 in 1000 (0.1%) chance of flooding in any given year.

Out of the 2,785 non-residential properties in the Flood Risk Area, 119 have a high risk with a 1 in 30 (3%) chance of flooding in any given year. A further 84 have a 1 in 100 (1%) chance of flooding in any given year, with 351 considered to have a low risk with a 1 in 1000 (0.1%) chance of flooding occurring each year. Seven kms of the primary/trunk road network are also at risk of flooding.

There are 5 environmental permitting installations within the Flood Risk Area 4 of which are considered to be at high risk with a 1 in 30 (3%) chance of occurring each year. Two of the 36 Listed Buildings in the Blaenau Gwent Flood Risk Area are at a 1 in 30 (3%) or greater chance of flooding each year; with a further 2 of these considered to be at medium risk 1 in 100 and a further 5 a low risk 1 in 1000 of flooding.

As a result of having an area of significant flooding Blaenau Gwent was required to prepare a Flood Risk Management Plan. The Flood Risk Management Plan sets out measures and objectives to manage flood risk from 2015 to 2021 and beyond. In light of Climate Change without intervention flood risk is likely to increase in the longer term.

Map of the Llanelli and surrounding area showing various water supply infrastructure. The map includes labels for numerous locations such as Brecon, Tal-y-bont, Llanelli, and others. A legend at the bottom identifies four types of infrastructure:

- Impounding Reservoir (dark blue dot)
- River Abstraction (red dot)
- Water Treatment Works (cyan dot)
- Spring (magenta dot)

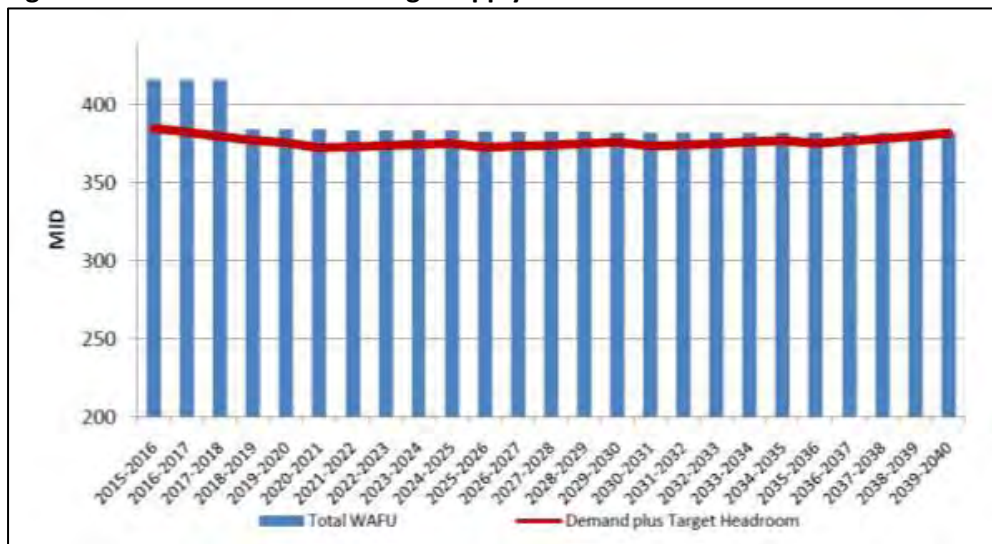
Blaenau Gwent's water supply is primarily from the three small reservoirs - Shon Sheffery and Upper & Lower Carno. As the SEWCUS WRZ is an integrated network, supplies from abstractions from the Rivers Wye and Usk can be transferred to relieve the demand on the smaller upland impounding reservoirs in Blaenau Gwent whose storage declines relatively quickly in dry weather. This preserves the storage in the smaller sources and allows them to supply their immediate demand areas through an extended drought.

To safeguard supply, water companies in England & Wales have a statutory duty (as set out in Section 37A-37D of the Water Industry Act 1991) to produce a water resources management plan (WRMP) every five years. The plan must set out how a water company intends to maintain the balance between supply and demand for water over a 25 year period, while protecting the environment.

A WRMP is complemented by a water company drought plan, which sets out the short-term operational steps they will take as a drought progresses to enhance available supplies, manage customer demand and minimise environmental impacts.

The WRMP's annual average planning scenario remains in surplus throughout the current planning period until 2039 as shown in Figure 99 below.

**Figure 99: SEWCUS Annual Average Supply Demand Balance Position 2015-2040**



*N.B. There is a reduction in Total Water Available for Use (WAFU) in 2018 due to changes to abstraction licences brought about by the Habitats Directive.*

**Source:** Dwr Cymru Welsh Water, 2014

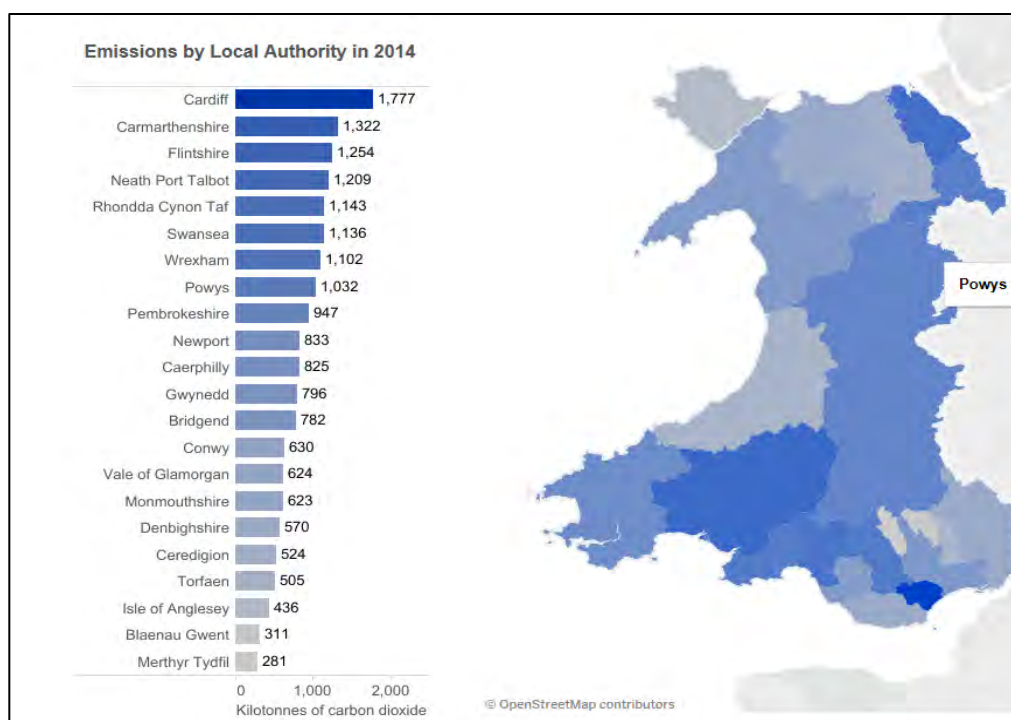
### *Climatic Factors*

Both natural and human factors affect global climate. Natural causes can include interactions between the ocean and the atmosphere, changes in the Earth orbit and volcanic eruptions. Humans influence global climate by releasing greenhouse gases (for example carbon dioxide and methane) into the atmosphere. These gases absorb energy that is radiated from the Earth's surface, warming the atmosphere and increasing temperatures globally. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) concluded in 2007 that most of the observed increase in global average temperatures since the mid-20<sup>th</sup> century is very likely to be due to the observed increase in man made greenhouse gas concentrations. Average annual temperatures have increased by 1.71°C in the UK since 1659. Summers have become hotter and drier whilst winters are milder and wetter. Climate change can be reduced by mitigation; by reducing the net emissions of greenhouse gases, notably CO<sub>2</sub>. However, some impacts can be tackled through adaptation.



## Emissions of CO<sub>2</sub>

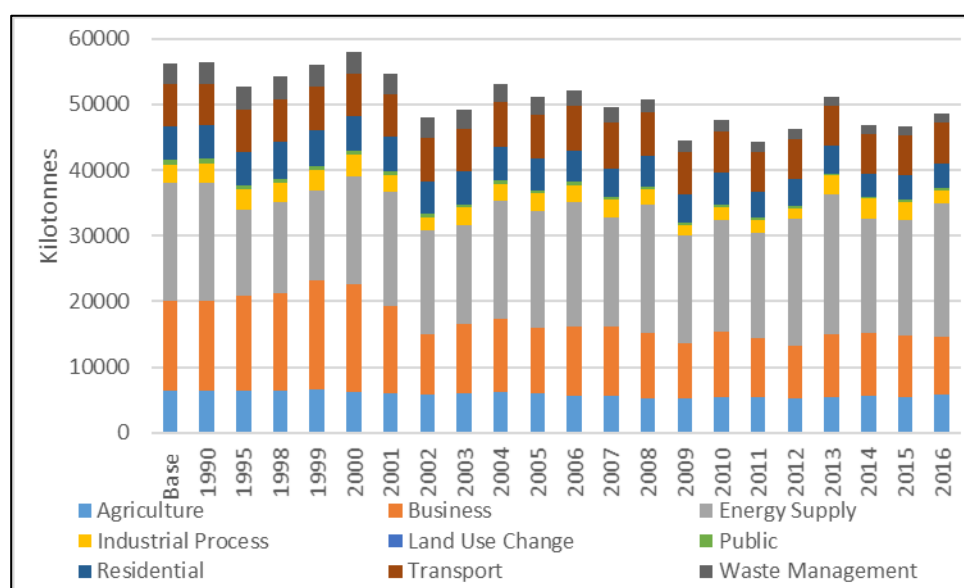
**Figure 100: Total Welsh CO<sub>2</sub> emissions 2014**



Source: Welsh Government Statistics and Research

The Figure above shows how carbon dioxide emissions vary across Wales, as expected, the most emissions in 2014 were recorded in Cardiff, and in more built up areas in general. Blaenau Gwent has the second lowest emissions in Wales.

**Figure 101: Emissions of CO<sub>2</sub> in Wales**



Source: Stats Wales

Figure 101 indicates that emissions of CO<sub>2</sub> vary on a year by year basis although the sources are generally consistent. Total GHG emissions from Wales have reduced between by 12% between 1990 to 2013, whilst carbon dioxide emissions have fallen by 14% between the base year and 2016. These emission reductions are a result of a decline in manufacturing emissions (e.g. in iron and steel, bulk chemical production) in the Business and Industrial Process sectors, efficiencies in energy generation and business sector heating, the use of natural gas to replace some coal and other fuels as well as abatement in some chemical industries. Residential sector emissions and Transport emissions have not reduced markedly since the Base Year due to increasing population and increasing demand for heating and transportation despite improvements in energy efficiency of vehicles and housing. No local or regional comparator data is however available and is therefore considered to be a data gap.

### *Energy*

There is no data relating specifically to emissions from energy within Blaenau Gwent. However Figure 102 below outlines the main Greenhouse Gas emissions in 2016 for Wales. Emissions in 2016 are 47,787 ktCO<sub>2</sub>e with 43% of emissions in 2016 from Energy Supply, 19% from Business, 13% from Transport, 12% from Agriculture, and 8% for Residential Sources.

**Figure 102: Emissions Summary for Wales, 2016 (kt CO<sub>2</sub>e)**

Sector Name	Emission	Percentage of total GWP Weighted Emissions
Agriculture	5,728.64	12.0
Business	8,896.24	18.6
Energy Supply	20,288.47	42.5
Industrial Process	2,009.74	4.2
Land Use Change	-773.08	-1.6
Public	337.60	0.7
Residential	3,730.04	7.8
Transport	6,312.05	13.2
Waste Management	1,257.93	2.6
Total	47,787.63	100.0

Source: AEA Greenhouse Gas Inventories for England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland: 1990-2016



## Planning Policy Team

Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council  
Municipal Offices, Civic Centre  
Ebbw Vale, NP23 6XB

**Tel:** 01495 354740

**Email:** [planningpolicy@blaenau-gwent.gov.uk](mailto:planningpolicy@blaenau-gwent.gov.uk)

**Website:** [www.blaenau-gwent.gov.uk](http://www.blaenau-gwent.gov.uk)

