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Environment
Agency Wales

Jeanette John – Programme Officer
Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council
Local Development Plan Examination
The Works Site,
Steel Works Road
Ebbw Vale
Blaenau Gwent
NP23 6YL

Ein cyf/Our ref:
Eich cyf/Your ref:

Dyddiad/Date: 21 June 2012

Annwyl /Madam / Dear Madam

Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council's Local Development Plan Examination, Session 13: Securing Sustainable Development

The following comments are provided by the Environment Agency in order to assist the Inspector with questions 7-9 of Session 13: Securing Sustainable Development, for Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council's Local Development Plan Examination on 4 July 2012.

7. Why has a new criterion (b) been added to Policy DM3? Does FC criterion (c) of this policy repeat Policy DM1?

We support the addition of criterion (b) for the reasons given in our Deposit Plan representation on policies DM3 and SP10 dated 16 June 2011. However, as stated in our Focused Changes representation, we recommend, for clarity, that additional text should be added to policy DM3 to explain that all development proposals will be expected to explore opportunities for making improvements to water quality, as part of the planning process and the developers will be required to incorporate measures to improve water quality within their designs, unless they can demonstrate that it is not practicable or reasonable to do so.

8. Is there any conflict between the siting of development and infrastructure identified in the Plan and the areas of flood risk identified as Zone C (refer TAN 15)?

A Strategic Flood Consequence Assessment (SD117a-e) has been undertaken. We have reviewed the Plan in the context of TAN15 and have no objections. The objection we had, concerning the Six Bells site ED1.2, has now been resolved.

9. Do Policies SP10 and DM3 provide clear guidance on how development should aspire to improve water quality?

As stated, in our Focused Changes representation on Policy SP10 we recommend for clarity that the text "both locally and regionally" is either amended or deleted, as it appears confusing. Aside from this point, we are satisfied that the policies are clear yet flexible enough to allow each proposed development to be considered on its merits and an assessment made at planning application stage for the most appropriate way to contribute to improving water quality.

I confirm that we will not be attending the hearing on 4 July 2012. We therefore trust that the above comments are helpful to clarify our position.



Yn gywir / Yours faithfully



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