SD26

Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol
Blaenau Gwent
County Borough Council

Local Development Plan

INITIAL SUSTAINABILITY APPRAISAL REPORT

NOVEMBER 2008

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Non Technical Summary

Introduction

This document is the Initial Sustainability Appraisal Report for the Sustainability Appraisal (SA), incorporating Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA), of the Blaenau Gwent Local Development Plan (LDP). Under the regulations implementing the provisions of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004, a SA is required for all LDPs in Wales. The purpose of SA is to promote sustainable development through better integration of sustainability considerations in the preparation and adoption of plans. The Regulations stipulate that SAs of LDPs should also meet the requirements of the SEA Directive.

The Initial SA Report is a key output of the appraisal process presenting information on the effects of the planning document for public consultation. It incorporates and subsumes the Environmental Report that is required under the SEA Directive. Table 2.1 demonstrates how the requirements of the SEA Directive have been met.

Methodology

The methodology adopted involved the completion of the SA stages A, B and C and associated tasks as outlined in Figure 1.2 and briefly comprises the following steps:

Stage A: Setting the Context and Objectives, Establishing the Baseline and Deciding on Scope

- A1: Other Relevant Plans and Programmes
- A2: Baseline Data
- A3: Sustainability Issues
- A4: Sustainability Appraisal Framework
- A5: Consulting on the Scope of the Sustainability Appraisal

Stage B: Developing and Refining Options

- B1: Testing the LDP Objectives against the Sustainability Appraisal Framework
- B2: Developing the LDP Options
- B3: Predicting the Effects of the Preferred Strategy
- B4: Evaluating the Effects of the Preferred Strategy
- B5: Considering Ways of Mitigating Adverse Effects and Maximising Beneficial Effects
- B6: Proposing Measures to Monitor the Significant Effects of Implementing the LDP

Stage C: Preparing the Sustainability Appraisal Report

The SA Framework

The SA Framework is a key component in completing the SA by synthesising the baseline information and sustainability issues into a systematic and easily understood tool that allows the prediction and assessment of effects arising from the implementation of the LDP. This was consulted on as part of the SA Scoping Report consultation. The results of this were integrated into the report, and are outlined in Appendix A.

The final SA Framework is set out in Table 3.4. This includes the final set of SA objectives which are:

1. To promote economic growth and strengthen and diversify the local economy
2. To increase levels of local employment and ensure distribution of opportunities

3. To support the development of a strong tourism economy in Blaenau Gwent, complementary to the regional offer
4. To enhance the viability and vitality of town centres
5. To meet identified housing needs
6. To improve the quality of Blaenau Gwent's housing stock
7. To secure the delivery and maintenance of quality affordable housing
8. To improve educational attainment and increase skills levels
9. To improve accessibility to education, leisure, employment, health, homes and community services for all sectors of the community
10. To promote community health, social care and well-being
11. To reduce crime, social disorder and fear of crime
12. To protect and enhance the Welsh culture
13. To encourage modal shift from private transport to sustainable transport
14. To protect and enhance biodiversity across Blaenau Gwent
15. To conserve and enhance the heritage assets of Blaenau Gwent and their settings
16. 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 to biodiversity
17. To conserve soil resources and their quality
18. To reduce emissions of greenhouse gases, in particular carbon dioxide
19. To reduce waste generation and maximise reuse and recycling
20. To maintain current air quality
21. To maintain current low levels of vulnerability of all development to flooding
22. To promote the use of sustainably sourced products and resources
23. To increase energy efficiency and generation and use of renewable energy across the County Borough
24. To conserve and enhance surface and ground water quality
25. To protect the quality and character of the landscape and enhance where necessary

SA Baseline Data and Trends

In order to determine the significance of predicted effects, the baseline data and trends analysis in Table 3.5 was used alongside the SA Framework during the appraisal stage. In addition, an Assessment Rationale was developed which ensures objectivity and consistency in making judgements during the appraisal stage (Table 3.6).

Testing the LDP Objectives

Initially, the LDP objectives were tested for compatibility with the SA objectives (see Figure 4.1). This helped to consider to what degree they are in accordance with sustainability principles, with a view to developing and refining the LDP objectives through an iterative process. The LDP objectives were broadly compatible with the SA objectives, although many of the objectives could be compatible subject to the nature of their delivery.

Recommendations were made to improve the objectives in terms of sustainability, and the final set of objectives to guide the LDP Preferred Strategy is as follows:

1. Develop Ebbw Vale as the main service and retail hub for the County Borough.
2. Create a network of vibrant district/local centres (secondary hubs), well linked to the main hub of Ebbw Vale, that provide a range of local services and facilities for their local communities.
3. Support and deliver the regeneration of the former Ebbw Vale Steelworks ensuring that the benefits are spread across the borough.
4. Increase economic activity through facilitating diversification of the economic base and support for the manufacturing sector by encouraging specialisation.
5. Provide a range of employment sites and premises to meet the needs of businesses of all sizes in manufacturing, the technological and service sectors.
6. Stem out-migration and attract people to the area to create a more balanced population.
7. Provide a range of types and tenures of new homes to meet local housing needs and attract people to the area.
8. Improve accessibility to services through the promotion of sustainable modes of transport, particularly, public transport, walking and cycling.
9. Improve education levels and skills through supporting infrastructure development of the Learning Campus, new schools and integrated education services, including life-long learning.
10. Create an accessible network of green open spaces and high quality leisure infrastructure to promote participation in sport and active recreation to improve health and well-being.
11. Capitalise on the unique landscape and natural heritage, foster sustainable tourism and promote community pride.
12. Protect, enhance and manage the diversity of the biodiversity resource of Blaenau Gwent through the identification of ecological corridors.
13. Raise the standard of design to improve the quality of the physical and natural environment; and protect and enhance Blaenau Gwent's historic and cultural environment.
14. To minimise further climate change contributions and mitigate its predicted effects on the County Borough.

Strategic Options and Identification of the Preferred Option

The process of the development of strategic options by the Council's Planning Policy Team is outlined in section 5. Broadly, the options were:

- Option 1: Regeneration (continuation of the Unitary Development Plan Strategy)
- Option 2: Growth and Regeneration
- Option 3: Balanced and Interconnected Communities

Table 5.1 provides a summary of the comparison of options under the three sustainability dimensions: social, environmental and economic. Details of the assessments are provided in Appendix E.

The appraisal of the strategic options found Option 2 to be the most sustainable. The option is envisaged to potentially create a diverse economic base, improving employment opportunities as well as access to a range of services and facilities.

Assessment of Preferred Strategic Policies

Following confirmation of the strategy direction a draft set of Strategic Policies were developed by the Council in order to deliver the objectives of the LDP.

Table 6.1 presents the 17 Strategic Policies which have been assessed. The purpose of the assessment was to derive the sustainability implications in terms of implementing the policies and to identify areas for improvement which will mitigate predicted negative significant effects.

Overall, the Preferred Strategy appeared to generate more benefits from an economic perspective, with the least benefits being generated for the environment. It was suggested that the strategy sought to create a greater focus on environmental improvements alongside economic and social regeneration initiatives. Most notably, three of the sustainability objectives conflicted with the strategic policies. These were: to reduce the emission of greenhouse gases, in particular carbon dioxide; to reduce waste generation and maximise reuse and recycling; and to maintain current air quality.

Recommendations and Mitigation measures were suggested in order to enable the plan to potentially achieve more sustainable development. These are outlined in sections 6 and 7.

Following discussions between the SA team and Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council, the findings of the SA have now been incorporated into the LDP Preferred Strategy for consultation. Various changes have been made to the strategy document, including modifications to the layout to provide policy justification where necessary. Changes to the policies have been made to include:

- Modifications to the wording of policies: SP3, SP8, SP9, SP10, SP11, SP12 and SP19
- Three new policies relating to:
  - Sustainable Development (SP4)
  - Leisure and Recreation (SP13)
  - Health and Education (SP14)
- Separation of the built and natural environment policies into two separate policies (SP16 and SP17).

A monitoring strategy based on the predicted effects of the LDP preferred strategy is proposed in section 8.

The final revised set of Preferred Policies is as follows:

Table 0.1 – Final Preferred Strategic Policies

No.	Final Strategic Policy
Locational Strategy	
SP1	**Heads of the Valleys Area – Growth and Regeneration** The Heads of the Valleys area will be the focus for the County Borough's spatial development. Ebbw Vale will accommodate the majority of new homes, jobs and services and will be promoted as the main hub for Blaenau Gwent. Tredegar, Brynmawr and Blaina will be the focus for new development serving the growing needs of their respective communities. New development will be located within these centres or in locations highly accessible to them.
SP2	**South of the Borough - Regeneration** The South of the Borough will see a focus on regeneration with appropriate forms of growth to serve local needs. Abertillery will be the focus of new development serving the needs of its respective communities.

SP3	**Creating a network of sustainable linked communities to spread regeneration benefits** The development and use of land throughout the County Borough will be determined by the need to ensure that all communities will have good access to Ebbw Vale. This will be achieved by creating a network of hubs which have safe, frequent and reliable public transport links with Ebbw Vale.
Sustainable Development	
SP4	All new development should: • Make efficient use of land; • Offer sustainable transport choices that reduce the need to travel by car ; • Deliver development of an appropriate type, form, scale, mix and density in relation to its location; • Reduce the use of natural resources through energy efficiency, waste reduction, reduced water use, renewable energy production and the use of sustainable products and resources in construction; • Protect and enhance the quality of the natural and built environment; and • Reduce its impact on and adapt to the effects of climate change.
Retailing and Town Centres	
SP5	**Retail Hierarchy** Major retail, administrative and cultural developments will take place in the principal retail centre of Ebbw Vale. The district/local centres of Tredegar, Brynmawr, Blaina and Abertillery will be protected and enhanced to improve vitality and viability and ensure they meet the needs of their districts. They will also develop new complementary roles based around historical, recreational and tourism potential. Local shopping centres will be protected and enhanced to provide facilities for local communities.
Employment	
SP6	**Employment and Diversification of the Economy** The employment and economic development needs of Blaenau Gwent will be met by the identification of 50 to 80 ha of land for employment and business purposes during the plan period. The employment roles of major industrial areas will be identified to assist in the diversification of employment and support the specialisation of manufacturing. Mixed-use sites will be identified close to town centres to enhance town centre based employment in the service sector.
SP7	**Development of the Tourism and Leisure sectors** Foster sustainable tourism and leisure sectors which re-engage local communities with the natural and historic environment and boost the local economy.
Housing	
SP8	**Housing Provision** Provision will be made for the development of between 2,250 and 3,000 dwellings during the plan period; broken into the following Housing Market Areas Sirhowy Valley 800 Ebbw Fawr 1,500 Ebbw Fach Upper 400

	Ebbw Fach Lower 300 Housing sites will include a mix of dwelling types and sizes and tenure to meet the needs of Blaenau Gwent's current and future population. The Delivery of the houses will be back loaded recognising the step change required to reach the higher figures. 2006-2011 500 -750 2011-2016 750 -1,000 2016-2021 1,000 -1,250
SP9	**Affordable Housing** On sites of 10 or more dwellings at least 25% of the total number of dwellings should be affordable.
SP10	**Gypsy Accommodation** 6 pitches for unmet gypsy and traveller housing will be provided between 2006-2021 at Cwmcrachen.
Transport	
SP11	**Transport Infrastructure Improvements** The Council will safeguard land for the following improvements to transport infrastructure: • phase 2 of the rail link from Parkway to Ebbw Vale Town (including land for a new station); • extension to the Parkway Park and Ride facility; • extension of rail link to Abertillery; • a network of walking and cycling routes; • dualling of the Heads of the Valleys Road (A465); • peripheral distributor road through the former Steelworks site; • online improvements between the PDR and the A465; • online improvements to the A4048 south of Tredegar; • online improvements to theA4046 south of Cwm through to Aberbeeg; and • online improvements to the A467 south of Abertillery.
SP12	**Transport Requirements for new Development** Development proposals will be assessed in relation to: • Reduce the need to travel; • Promotion of public transport, walking and cycling; • Protection of the safety of the highway network; • Accessibility to all users; • Pedestrian safety; and • Car parking standards set out in the Council's Car Parking Strategy.
Community Infrastructure	
SP13	**Leisure and Recreation** Sites will be safeguarded for a new leisure centre at Ebbw Vale, and to ensure that identified shortfalls in open space provision are met.

SP14	**Health and Education** To improve health provision and skills sites will be safeguarded for a new hospital, Primary Care Resource Centres, the Learning Campus, relocation of the training centre and new schools.
SP15	**Planning Obligations** The Council will negotiate planning obligations where appropriate to secure improvements in infrastructure, facilities and services appropriate to the scale, type and location of the proposed development. These obligations may include the provision or improvement of the following: • Affordable Housing; • Traffic, Transport and Highway Initiatives particularly the provision of sustainable transport infrastructure; • Education Facilities; • Community Development and Recreational Facilities; • Public Open Space; • Biodiversity and Geodiversity; • Skills and Labour Market; • Community Safety; and • Public Art
Environmental Protection and Enhancement	
SP16	**Environmental Protection** The County Borough's distinctive character, natural environment and designated landscape will be protected, preserved and enhanced. Of particular importance are: • Those attributes and features which make a significant contribution to the character, quality and amenity of the landscape; • Ecology, wildlife, habitats and the linkages between them; • Geological and heritage interests; and • The quality of natural resources, including water, air and soil.
SP17	**Built Environment** The distinctive built environment of the County Borough will be protected and enhanced. Development proposals should: • Respect local character and distinctiveness of the area; and • Enhance sites protected for their historic or archaeological value.
SP18	**Minerals** The Council will contribute to the regional demand for a continuous supply of minerals by: • Safeguarding known reserves of coal, sand and gravel, limestone and high quality hard rock taking into account relevant environmental, planning and transportation considerations; and • Maintaining a 10-year land-bank of permitted aggregate reserves in line with national guidance.
SP19	**Waste** The Council will implement a sustainable, integrated approach to waste

	management which minimises the production of waste and its impact on the environment, and maximises the use of unavoidable waste as a resource. To assist this aim 1.4 to 4ha of allocated and protected B2 industrial sites and existing waste management sites will be identified for strategic waste management facilities through the use of regional search criteria.

Consultation on the Initial Sustainability Appraisal Report

The aim of the consultation on the Initial SA Report is to involve and engage with statutory consultees and other key stakeholders on the results of the appraisal. This ISAR will be placed on public consultation as part of wider pre deposit consultation on the LDP Preferred Strategy.

Following consultation on this document, then as part of the development of the Deposit LDP, the comments received will be taken into account in preparing the Sustainability Appraisal Report which is expected to be published alongside the Deposit LDP. This SAR will include the assessment of preferred development sites for the delivery of the Preferred Strategy.

To help assist the process of on this report, respondents are invited to consider the following questions:

- Do you have any comments on the assessment of the LDP Objectives against the Sustainability Objectives?
- Do you have any comments on the appraisal of the LDP Strategic Options and how the Preferred Strategy was arrived at?
- Do you have any comments on the appraisal of the preferred policies and the final set of preferred policies arrived at?
- Do you consider the identified mitigation measures for the LDP Preferred Strategy are acceptable?
- Do you consider the proposed monitoring framework adequate?

The ISAR will be issued for consultation alongside the LDP Preferred Strategy on **7th November 2008** for a period of **six weeks**. Therefore, please send any comments on the above questions or any other issues by **19th December 2008** to the following address:

Lynda Healy

Development Plans Manager

Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council

Business Resource Centre

Tafarnaubach Industrial Estate

Tredegar

NP22 3AA

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

(An electronic version of this document is available on the planning policy pages of the Council website www.blaenau-gwent.gov.uk)

Abbreviations/Glossary

Table 0.2 – Abbreviations and Glossary

Abbreviation/Term	Definition
AA	Appropriate Assessment
Adoption	The final confirmation of the LDP
Affordable housing	Housing provided to those whose needs are not met by the open market. Affordable housing should meet the needs of eligible households, including availability at low enough cost for them to afford, determined with regard to local incomes and local house prices; and include provision for the home to remain affordable for future eligible households, or if a home ceases to be affordable or stair casing to full ownership takes place, any subsidy should generally be recycled to provide replacement affordable housing. *TAN 2 – Planning and Affordable Housing* (2006)
Allocation	Land which will be proposed for development, which will be identified on a Proposals Map in the deposit and the adopted version of the LDP
AMR	Annual Monitoring Report This will assess the extent to which policies in the LDP are being successfully implemented
AQMA	Air Quality Management Area
BAP	Biodiversity Action Plan
Baseline Data	Baseline data is basic information gathered before a programme begins. It is used later to provide a comparison for assessing programme impact.
Brownfield Site/Land	Previously developed (or brownfield) land is that which is or was occupied by a permanent structure (excluding agricultural or forestry buildings) and associated fixed surface infrastructure. The curtilage of the development is included, as are defence buildings, and land used for mineral extraction and waste disposal where provision for restoration has not been made through development control procedures. *Planning Policy Wales* (2002)
BGCBC	Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council
CADW	Historic Environment Service of the Welsh Assembly Government
CCW	Countryside Council for Wales
CIS	Community Involvement Scheme Sets out the project plan and policies of the Local Planning Authority for involving local communities, including businesses, in the preparation of LDPs. The CIS is submitted to the Welsh Assembly Government for agreement as part of the Delivery Agreement.
Consultation	A formal process in which comments are invited on a particular topic or set of topics, or a draft document.
Delivery Agreement	A document comprising the Local Planning Authority's timetable for the preparation of the LDP together with its CIS, submitted to the Assembly Government for agreement.

Deposit Plan	A formal stage during which organisations and individuals can make representations on the detailed policies and proposals.
Employment Land/ Site	Land that typically forms part of an industrial estate or business park, which is occupied by one or more of the following: offices, manufacturing, research and development, storage and distribution.
Environmental Consultation Bodies	An authority, which has environmental responsibilities and is concerned by the effects of implementing plans and programmes and, must be consulted at specified stages of the SEA. The Consultation Bodies designated in the SEA Regulations in Wales are Cadw (Welsh Historic Monuments), Countryside Council for Wales and Environment Agency Wales.
Greenfield Sites	These are sites which have never been previously developed or used for an urban use, or are on land that has been brought into active or beneficial use for agriculture or forestry i.e. fully restored derelict land
Housing Need	Assessed by examining the suitability of present housing and the ability of households to afford market priced housing
Implementation	Implementation is the carrying out, execution, or practice of a plan, a method, or any design for doing something. As such, implementation is the action that must follow any preliminary thinking in order for something to actually happen.
Indicator	An indicator is something that helps you understand where you are, which way you are going and how far you are from where you want to be. A good indicator alerts you to a problem before it gets too bad and helps you recognise what needs to be done to fix the problem
Infrastructure	Water supply and sewerage facilities, roads and transportation, local community, shopping and other facilities required as framework for development
LDP	Local Development Plan The required statutory development plan for each Local Planning Authority area in Wales under Part 6 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004. The Local Planning Authorities (LPAs) have to set out their objectives in relation to development and use of land in their area and set out the general policies for the implementation of those objectives within their LDPs. As well as having regard to national planning policy, the LPA have to take into account regional planning policy and the Authority's Community Strategy and the social, economic and environmental factors relating to the local area and global environment, by undertaking a Sustainability Appraisal of the LDP.
LNR	Local Nature Reserve Declared by Local Authorities to protect sites of local importance for nature conservation, education and amenity. The Local Authority must either own or have a legal interest in the land before a LNR can be declared. Although LNRs have no direct statutory protection, management rules or bye-laws can be used to control damaging activities.
NNR	National Nature Reserve A site of special scientific interest or national importance for nature conservation, which is managed by or on behalf of Countryside Council for Wales, in the interests of wildlife, research and public participation 9where appropriate).
Mitigation	Measures that avoid, reduce, remediate or compensate for the negative impacts of a strategic action.
Monitoring	Monitoring means gathering evidence to show what progress has been made towards strategic priorities and targets and the implementation of policies.

ODPM	Office of the Deputy Prime Minister
Objectives	Objectives state what is to be achieved and cover the range of desired outcomes to achieve a goal.
Objective 1 Funding	A regional policy of the European Union (EU) that aims to improve the economic well being of regions in the EU. The Structural Funds assign regional aid according to three Objectives. Objective 1 Funding helps regions whose development is lagging behind, where the Gross Domestic Product per head is less than 75% of the EU average. Attention is focused on providing basic infrastructures, developing human resources, investing in research and innovation, and promoting the information society.
PPP	Plans, Programmes and Policies
RIGS	Regionally Important Geological Site
SA	Sustainability Appraisal A form of assessment used in the UK, particularly for regional and local planning, since the 1990s. It considers social and economic effects as well as environmental ones, and appraises them in relation to the aims of sustainable development. Sustainability Appraisal, which fully incorporates the requirements of the SEA Directive, is required for Local Development Documents/ Regional Spatial Strategies in England and Local Development Plans in Wales under the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004. It is a systematic and iterative process undertaken during the preparation (and review) of a plan which identifies and reports on the extent to which implementation of the plan will achieve the environmental, social and economic objectives by which sustainable development can be defined and identifies opportunities for improving plan performance in relation to these.
SAC	Special Area of Conservation
SAR	Sustainability Appraisal Report A document required to be produced as part of the Sustainability Appraisal process to describe and appraise the likely significant effects on sustainability of implementing the LDP, which also meets the requirements for the Environmental Report under the SEA Regulations. S62 (6) of the 2004 Act requires each Local Planning Authority to prepare a report of the findings of the Sustainability Appraisal of the LDP.
Scoping	The process of deciding the scope and level of detail of an SEA, including the environmental effects and alternatives which need to be considered, the assessment methods to be used, and the structure and contents of the Environmental Report under the SEA Directive.
SEA	Strategic Environmental Assessment Generic term used internationally to describe environmental assessment as applied to policies, plans and programmes. The SEA Regulations require a formal “environmental assessment of certain plans and programmes, including those in the field of planning and land use”.
Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Directive	The SEA directive is officially called the Directive on the Assessment of Certain Plans and Programmes on the Environment (and is known as Directive 2001/42/EC). The main objective of the SEA directive is to ‘provide for a high level of environmental protection and to contribute to the integration of environmental protection and to contribute to the integration of environmental considerations into the

	preparation and adoption of plans and programmes…'(*Article 1 of the SEA Directive*)
SINC	Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation Areas of land and wetland of local importance for the conservation of semi-natural habitats including mosaics of heathland, unimproved grassland, scrubland and plantation and/or habitats which support rare local wildlife species. They are not of sufficient extent or quality to qualify for national recognition as a SSSI.
SMP	Shoreline Management Plan
SPG	Supplementary Planning Guidance Supplementary information in respect of the policies in an LDP.SPG does not form part of the development plan and is not subject to independent examination but must be consistent with the plan and with national policy.
SSSI	Site of Special Scientific Interest A conservation designation denoting a protected area in the United Kingdom. SSSIs are the basic 'building block' of nature conservation designations, including National Nature Reserves, Ramsar Sites, Special Protection Areas, and Special Areas of Conservation.
Soundness	Concept against which an LDP is examined under section 64(5)(b) of the 2004 Act.
Stakeholders	Interests directly affected by the LDP (and/or SEA) –involvement generally through representative bodies.
Strategy	A strategy is a long term plan or method designed to achieve a particular goal or objective.
SUDS	Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems
Sustainable Development	Sustainable Development is defined as "Development which meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs" in the Brundtland Report to the World Commission on Environment and Development held in 1987.The UK government has set out four aims for sustainable development in its strategy *A Better Quality of Life, a Strategy for Sustainable Development in the UK*. The four aims, to be achieved simultaneously, are:.-social progress which recognizes the needs of everyone; effective protection of the environment; prudent use of natural resources; and the maintenance of high and stable levels of economic growth and employment.
TPO	Tree Protection Orders
UDP	Unitary Development Plan The required statutory development plan for each Local Planning Authority area in Wales under the Town and County Planning Act 1990
WAG	Welsh Assembly Government

1. Introduction

Background

1.1 This document is the Initial Sustainability Appraisal Report for the Sustainability Appraisal (SA), incorporating Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA), of the Blaenau Gwent Local Development Plan (LDP). Under the provisions of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004, Sustainability Appraisal (SA) is mandatory for all Local Development Plans (LDPs). An environmental assessment is also required under European Directive 2001/42/EC 'on the assessment of certain plans and programmes on the environment' (the 'SEA Directive'). The SA and SEA processes are combined to inform the preparation of the LDP.

1.2 The Blaenau Gwent Unitary Development Plan (UDP) was adopted on 6th July 2006. The Council has now started the preparation of the Local Development Plan (LDP), which will replace the UDP upon adoption. The LDP will set out the Council's objectives and priorities for the development and use of land within the County Borough for the period 2006-2021.

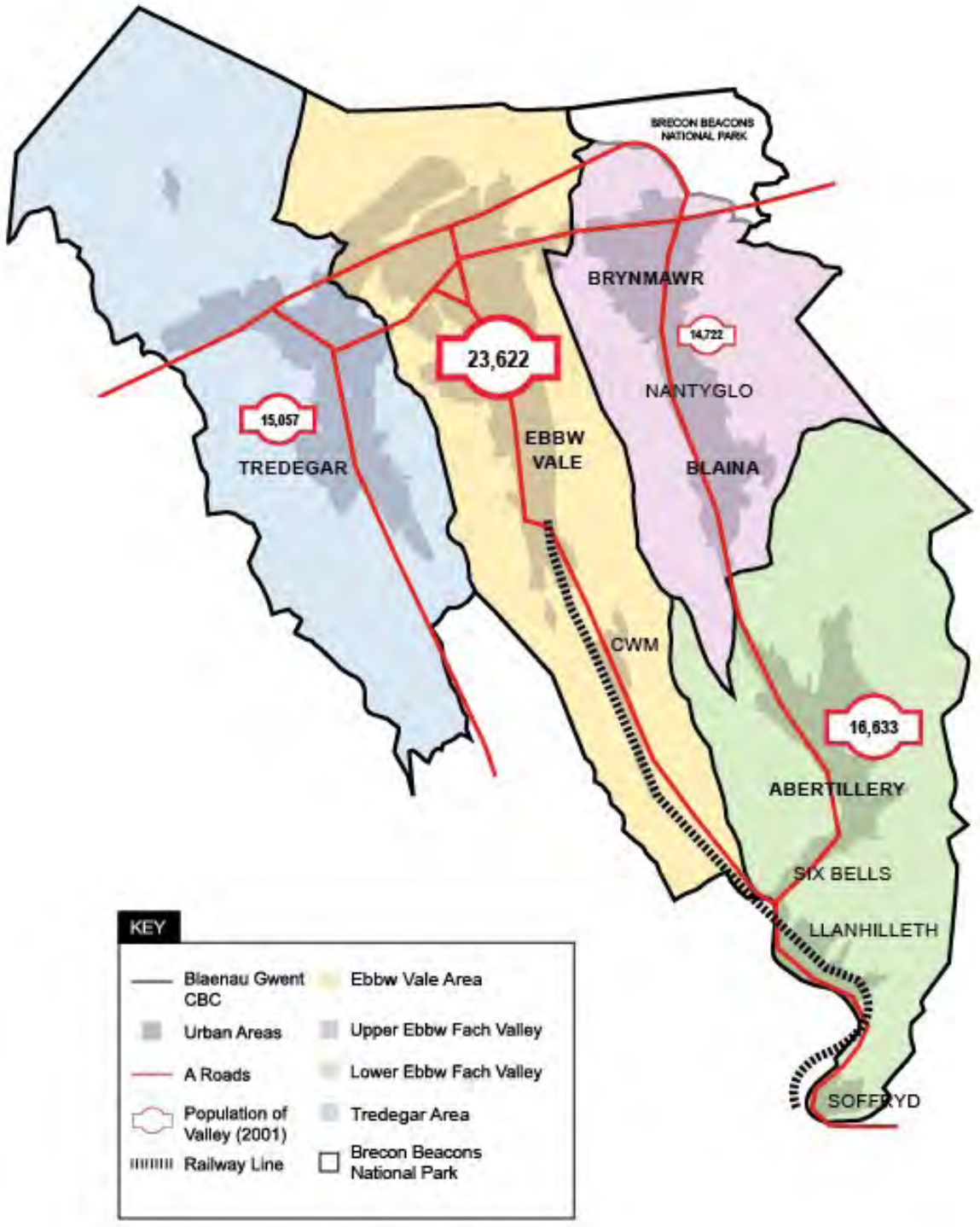
1.3 The purpose of this Initial Sustainability Appraisal Report is to outline how the statutory requirements for SA/SEA have informed the development of the Preferred Strategy. It records all the sustainability appraisal work undertaken predicting and evaluating the effects of strategic options and preferred policies.

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

Study Area

1.5 Blaenau Gwent is situated in the north east of Industrial South Wales and includes some land that falls within the boundary of the Brecon Beacons National Park (Figure 1.1), for which the Brecon Beacons National Park Authority is responsible for development control activities as the planning authority. At the latest census the authority had a population of approximately 71,000, with the key centres of population being focused on the main settlements of Tredegar, Ebbw Vale, Brynmawr, Nantyglo, Blaina and Abertillery. The local authority area comprises one of the ten local authorities that together form the South East Wales Region as it is described in the ongoing Wales Spatial Plan Review. This latter document is currently being developed and the planning framework for Blaenau Gwent will be required to have regard to the broad policies and principles set out at the regional and national level.

Figure 1.1 - Study Area in Context



Sustainable Development

1.6 There are many definitions of sustainable development however the most common and widely accepted is that adopted by the World Commission on Environment and Development in 1987:

"Development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs"

1.7 Sustainable development seeks to integrate environmental, social and economic considerations.

1.8 The UK Strategy 'Securing the Future: The UK Government Sustainable Development Strategy' (DEFRA, 2005) sets out five key principles for sustainable development:

- Living within environmental limits
- Ensuring a strong, healthy and just society
- Achieving a sustainable economy
- Promoting good governance
- Using sound science responsibly

1.9 There is now an international commitment to achieving sustainable development. One of the means by which it can be achieved is through the land use planning process and particularly through the production of the Local Development Plans (LDPs).

Strategic Environmental Assessment and Sustainability Appraisal

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

1.11 The overarching objective of the SEA Directive is:

"To provide for a high level of protection of the environment and to contribute to the integration of environmental considerations into the preparation and adoption of plans… with a view to promoting sustainable development, by ensuring that, in accordance with this Directive, an environmental assessment is carried out of certain plans… which are likely to have significant effects on the environment." (Article 1)

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

1.13 The SEA Directive and associated UK Regulations state that the SEA must consider the following topic areas:

- Biodiversity
- Population
- Human Health
- Flora and Fauna
- Soil

- Water
- Air
- Climatic factors
- Material assets
- Cultural heritage, including archaeological and architectural heritage
- Landscape
- and the interrelationship between these factors

1.14 Under the regulations implementing the provisions of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004, a SA is required for all LDPs in Wales. The purpose of SA is to promote sustainable development through better integration of sustainability considerations in the preparation and adoption of plans. The Regulations[1] stipulate that SAs of LDPs should meet the requirements of the SEA Directive.

The SA Process

1.15 The requirements to carry out SA and SEA are thus distinct, but the Welsh Assembly Government (WAG) guidance for LDPs concurs with ODPM (now CLG) SA guidance[2] in stating that it is possible to satisfy both through a single appraisal process (commonly designated as SA/SEA[3]) and provides methodologies and guidance for doing so. This methodology goes further than the SEA methodology (which is primarily focused on environmental effects) requiring the examination of all the sustainability-related effects, whether they are social, economic or environmental. However, those undertaking the SA should ensure that in doing so they meet the requirements of the SEA Directive. This report will therefore integrate both the SA and SEA requirements, and subsequent reference to SA in this document will be taken to mean SA incorporating SEA.

1.16 The purpose of SA is to promote sustainable development through better integration of sustainability considerations in the preparation of plans.

1.17 SA ensures that social, environmental and economic concerns are addressed and fully integrated into the production of a planning document and that integration of these issues is achieved as far as possible.

1.18 SA is an iterative process that takes place alongside the preparation of a planning document. This is to ensure that the principles of sustainable development are integrated into the plan-making process, thus ensuring that the resulting policies and proposals produce sustainable development when implemented. Through consultation and the involvement of stakeholders and specialist experts in the process the resulting appraisal should be both robust and fully integrated.

1.19 By undertaking a SA it is possible to look at a range of plans/policies contained within various documents and examine how they contribute towards sustainable development by looking at their social, environmental and economic effects. By identifying potential issues at an early stage it is then possible to amend the policies/plans to ensure that they are as sustainable as possible.

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

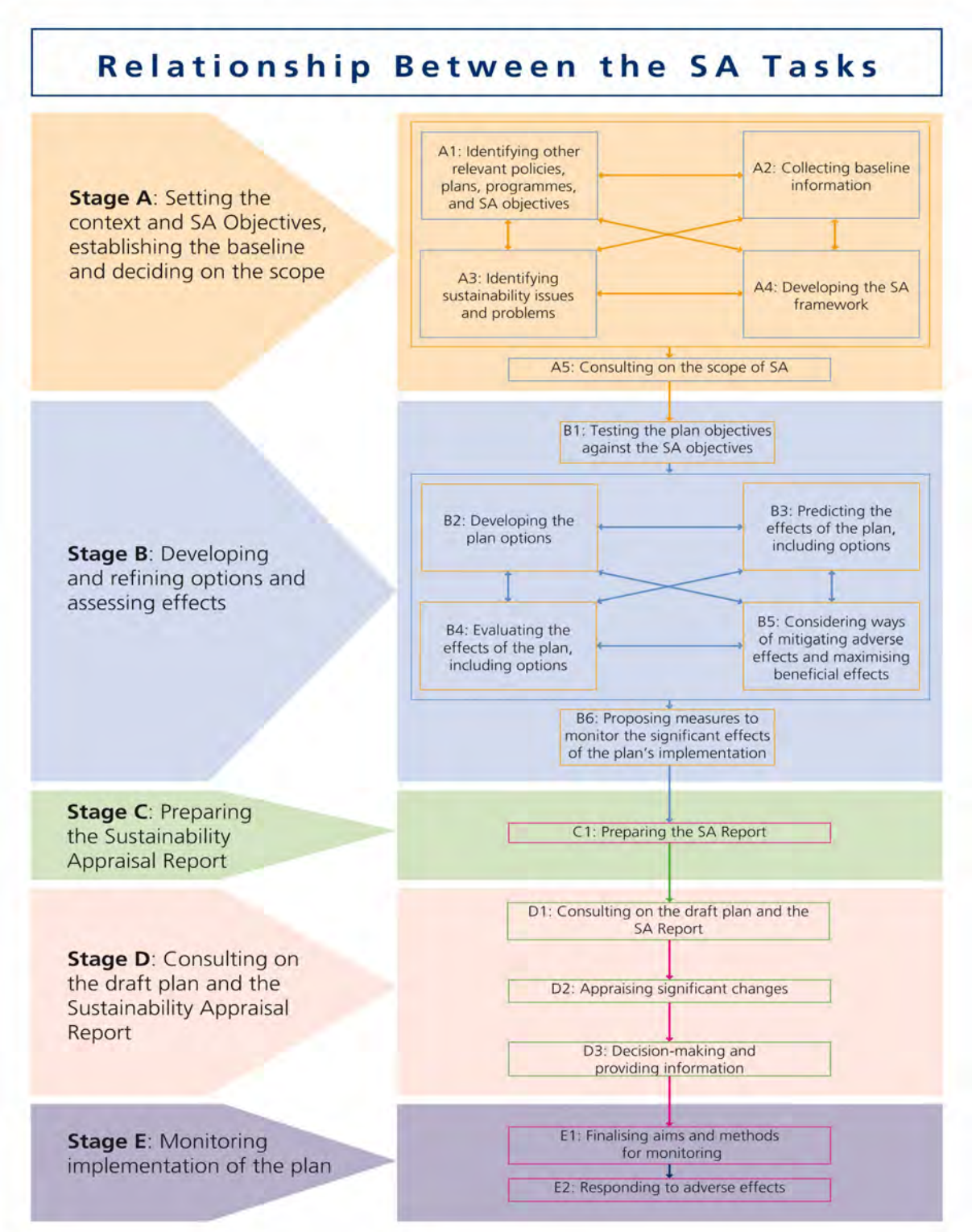
[1] Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes (Wales) Regulations 2004 (S.I. 2004/1656 (W/170)) ("the Wales Regulations").
[2] Sustainability Appraisal of Regional Spatial Strategies and Local Development Documents, Guidance for Regional Bodies and Local Planning Authorities, ODPM, November 2005.
[3] The term SA is used to denote the combined SA/SEA process in this Scoping Report.

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

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

LDP Implementation	Monitor the sustainability effects of the LDP	Prepare an annual monitoring report

Figure 1.3 - Relationship between the SA Tasks



1.21 The current guidance also sets out a requirement for the preparation of the following reports:

- Scoping Report (summarising Stage A work) which should be used for consultation on the scope of the SA;
- Initial Sustainability Appraisal Report (documenting Stages A , B and C) work which should be used in the public consultation on the pre-deposit LDP;
- Sustainability Appraisal Report (documenting Stages A, B and to C work) which should accompany the Deposit LDP.

1.22 To date, Stage A and B of the SA/SEA process has been undertaken and this is fully documented under the Methodology section 2. This is the Initial Sustainability Appraisal Report, constituting the first part of Stage C.

Purpose of the Initial Sustainability Appraisal Report

1.23 The Initial SA Report is a key output of the appraisal process presenting information on the effects of the planning document for public consultation. It incorporates and subsumes the Environmental Report that is required under the European Directive.

1.24 The overarching purpose of the SA Report is to document the outcome of the appraisal process, and demonstrate the influence it has had on the development of the LDP policies. It maps the development of options and the supporting policies by reference to their significant effects or their mitigation of any adverse effects.

1.25 This Initial SA Report reports on the work undertaken during the initial stages of the SA process and takes the process further by reporting on option selection and the significant social, environmental and economic effects of the preferred policies, proposed mitigation measures and proposals for monitoring significant sustainability effects.

SA and Consultation

1.26 The aim of the consultation on the SA Report is to involve and engage with statutory consultees and other key stakeholders on the results of the appraisal.

1.27 The requirements for consultation during a Sustainability Appraisal are as follows:

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

1.28 The following report (covering SA Stage A) has been consulted upon as part of this sustainability appraisal process:

- Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report, November 2007

1.29 The statutory and non-statutory bodies and organisations that have responded to consultation to date are presented in Appendix A.

1.30 For the consultation on the draft LDP Preferred Strategy and Initial Sustainability Appraisal Report, the following social, environmental and economic consultees are being consulted: Countryside Council for Wales (CCW), Environment Agency (Wales) and Cadw (Historic

Environment Service of the Welsh Assembly Government) and other stakeholders with an interest in the development of Blaenau Gwent.

1.31 The period of consultation on the LDP Preferred Strategy and Initial Sustainability Appraisal Report, is for 6 weeks, from the 7th November 2008.

Habitats Regulations Assessment

1.32 Alongside the SA/SEA process it is also necessary, to assess whether the Blaenau Gwent LDP is likely to have a significant effect upon European Sites comprising Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) and Special Protection Areas (SPAs) under the Habitats Regulations.

1.33 The Draft WAG guidance[4] states that:

'Sustainability Appraisal (SA) and Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) of plans are also iterative processes in the production of a development plan…The HRA should be programmed to fit in with existing plan-making procedures, including the SEA, wherever possible…However, HRA should not be incorporated into the SA or SEA. It should be run in parallel with these processes and records, and even if integrated with SA or SEA Environment reports, kept clearly distinguishable.'

1.34 The WAG LDP Manual[5] intends that *'appropriate assessment will be integrated with development plan Sustainability Appraisal, incorporating SEA.'*

1.35 A screening exercise to establish the need for Appropriate Assessment has been undertaken by the County Borough. The HRA considered 8 European sites within a 15km search area around the plan/proposal boundaries. The Screening Report identified the potential for the Strategy to have a negative impact on 2 European sites identified within close proximity to Blaenau Gwent namely, Cwm Clydach Woodlands, Usk Bat Site. Therefore, an Appropriate Assessment (as required by Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive and regulation 85B of the draft Regulations) will be undertaken which will examine the impacts of the LDP against the conservation objectives of the European Sites.

1.36 The Appropriate Assessment must determine whether the LDP would adversely affect the integrity of the site in terms of its nature conservation objectives, and where possible quantify, the potential impacts identified and determine the most effective mechanism for avoiding or mitigating those effects. This work will be undertaken by the County Borough in consultation with the Statutory Body, CCW and other key stakeholders to inform the Deposit LDP.

The SA/SEA will need to take the results of this exercise into consideration when they are available.

[4] David Tyldesley and Associates and the Welsh Assembly Government, October 2006, *Draft Annex to TAN5 Nature Conservation and Planning: The Assessment of Development Plans Under the Provisions of the Habitats Directive*.
[5] Welsh Assembly Government 2006, *Local Development Plan Manual*

2. Sustainability Appraisal Methodology

Meeting the Requirements of the SEA Directive

2.1 As mentioned in Section 1 there is a fundamental difference between the SA and SEA methodologies. SEA is primarily focused on environmental effects and the methodology addresses a number of topic areas namely Biodiversity, Population, Human Health, Flora and Flora, Soil, Water, Air, Climatic Factors, Material Assets, Cultural Heritage and Landscape and the interrelationship between these topics. SA, however, widens the scope of the appraisal to include social and economic topics as well as environmental as it is intended to assess the impact of a plan from an environmental, social and economic perspective.

2.2 This Sustainability Appraisal has been undertaken so as to meet the requirements of the SEA Directive for environmental assessment of plans. Table 2.1 sets out the way the specific SEA requirements have been met in this report.

Table 2.1 - Schedule of SEA Requirements

Requirements of the Directive	Where Covered in Report
Preparation of an environmental report in which the likely significant effects on the environment of implementing the plan or programme, and reasonable alternatives taking into account the objectives and geographical scope of the plan or programme, are identified, described and evaluated. The information to be given is:	
a) An outline of the contents, main objectives of the plan or programme and relationship with other relevant plans and programmes	Section 3
b) The relevant aspects of the current state of the environment and the likely evolution without implementation of the plan or programme	Section 3
c) The environmental characteristics of areas likely to be significantly affected	Section 3
d) Any existing environmental problems which are relevant to the plan or programme including, in particular, those relating to any areas of a particular environmental importance, such as areas designated pursuant to Directive 79/409/EEC and 92/43/EEC	Section 3
e) The environmental protection objectives established at international, community or national level which are relevant to the programme and the way those objectives and any environmental considerations have been taken into account during its preparation	Section 3
f) The likely significant effects on the environment, including: short, medium and long term; permanent and temporary; positive and negative; secondary, cumulative and synergistic effects on issues such as: biodiversity, population, human health, fauna, flora, soil, water, air, climatic factors, material assets, cultural heritage including architectural and archaeological heritage, landscape and the interrelationship between the above factors.	Sections 4,5,6
g) The measures envisaged to prevent, reduce and, as fully as possible, offset any significant adverse effects on the environment of implementing the plan or programme.	Section 7

h) An outline of the reasons for selecting the alternatives dealt with and a description of how the assessment was undertaken including any difficulties (such as technical deficiencies or lack of know-how) encountered in compiling the required information	Sections 4,5,6
i) A description of measures envisaged concerning monitoring (in accordance with regulation 17)	Section 8
j) A non-technical summary of the information provided under the above headings	Before section 1

Appraisal Process and Methodology

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

2.4 The methodology adopted involved the completion of the SA stages A, B and C and associated tasks as outlined in Figure 1.2.

Stage A: Setting the Context and Objectives, Establishing the Baseline and Deciding on Scope

A1: Other Relevant Plans and Programmes

2.5 A wide range of plans programmes and policies (PPPs) relevant to the Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council area have been identified. These documents have been categorised by the geographical scale to which they relate and listed in Table 3.1.

2.6 The constraints or challenges the plans pose for the LDP were considered and summarised by setting out how the plan might take account of them. Broad SA objectives generated from the review have been grouped under the three main topic headings namely, Environmental, Social and Economic, encompassing the three dimensions of sustainable development. Each objective has been assigned to the dimension of sustainable development to which it is most strongly associated.

A2: Baseline Data

2.7 To predict accurately how potential plan policies will affect the environment, it is first important to understand the current state of the environment and then examine the likely evolution of the environment without the implementation of the plan.

2.8 Baseline information provides the basis for predicting and monitoring environmental effects and helps to identify environmental problems and alternative ways of dealing with them. Baseline data tables have been prepared where data have been split by the four overarching objectives of sustainable development. These tables record:

- General indicators of relevance to the plan;
- Quantified latest data;
- Comparators (regional or national level data against which Blaenau Gwent status can be compared);
- Targets for the indicators where they exist;
- Trends for the indicators; and

- Problems and constraints which arise.

2.9 Data was collated from a wide range of existing sources. For each indicator, quantified baseline data was collected which was readily accessible and in a format applicable to the issues to be assessed by the SEA/SA and at a relevant geographical level. The main sources used were official websites on the internet, Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council reports and data, and the Census 2001.

2.10 No new data collection was undertaken. Where significant gaps exist, these are identified and recommendations for filling the gaps will be included in the proposals for monitoring the implementation of the plan. Data availability is a key problem. It varies between indicators and at different tiers of government; for example, statistics at national level do not always have a comparator, or are not necessarily relevant at the local level.

2.11 Not all detail is readily presentable or sufficiently detailed in table format.

A3: Sustainability Issues

2.12 Key sustainability issues within Blaenau Gwent were identified through existing issues already known to the Authority, and problems identified through the collection of baseline data. These were set out in a table under the three sustainable development dimensions (economic, social and environmental) and covered the most relevant topics.

A4: Sustainability Appraisal Framework

2.13 A set of draft objectives and indicators, against which the policies and proposals in the LDP can be assessed, was drawn up under the three sustainable development dimensions: social, economic and environmental.

2.14 They were identified by reviewing relevant policy documents at the European, national, regional, county and district level, those put forward in the SEA Guidance, the review of the baseline data and key sustainability issues. The draft objectives have been refined through subsequent consultation on the original Scoping Report.

2.15 For each objective, one or more indicators have been set that provide for the status of the objective to be tested against targets, now or in the future, and that are appropriate to the County Borough. They have been adapted from those in the SEA Guidance and consultation on the Scoping Report.

2.16 Table 3.4 has been prepared setting out the SA Framework and identifying how relevant SEA Directive topic(s) have been covered.

A5: Consulting on the Scope of the Sustainability Appraisal

2.17 Tasks A1 to A4 were undertaken between June and October 2007 to help ensure that the SA covered the key sustainability issues which are relevant to Blaenau Gwent County Borough. The Scoping report documenting the results of the above tasks was the subject of a five week consultation in November 2007. In accordance with Government guidance the local planning authority consulted three statutory environmental consultation bodies:

- Countryside Council for Wales (CCW),
- Environment Agency (Wales) and
- Cadw (Historic Environment Service of the Welsh Assembly Government)

2.18 A number of other key organisations were also specifically targeted. The responses to this consultation and subsequent actions are summarised in Appendix A of this report.

Stage B: Developing and Refining Options

B1: Testing the LDP Objectives against the Sustainability Appraisal Framework

2.19 The LDP objectives were tested for compatibility with the SA objectives. This helped to consider to what degree they are in accordance with sustainability principles, with a view to developing and refining the LDP objectives through an iterative process. When testing compatibility the following scale was used:

Table 2.2 - Compatibility of Objectives key

✓	Potentially Compatible
X	Not Compatible
	Not relevant
?	Dependent on the nature of delivery

2.20 Further details of the assessment can be found in section 4.

B2: Developing the LDP Options

2.21 In order to predict the sustainability implications of the options for the LDP, each option was assessed against a framework of SA objectives. For further details see section 4 of this report. A judgement was made against the SA Objectives to predict the likely sustainability implications which might arise should the option be implemented. In order to arrive at a conclusion about how the LDP would affect the achievement of the SA Objectives, each assessment combines qualitative and quantitative techniques, taking account of:

- What the SA objective is trying to achieve;
- The status of the relevant baseline, and how it has changed over time; and
- Current knowledge of the various relationships between the content of the LDP and sustainability objectives.

2.22 At this early stage of assessment a broad approach to appraisal was taken to provide an initial indication of the relative sustainability of each of the options. Prediction involved using a scale from '+++' (strong positive effect) to '---' (strong negative effects) (Table 2.3), with the associated commentary indicating any further details to note.

Table 2.3 - Options Assessment Key

Assessment Scale	Assessment Category
+++	Strongly positive
++	Moderately positive
+	Slightly positive
0	Neutral or no obvious effect
-	Slightly negative

--	Moderately negative
---	Strongly negative
?	Effect uncertain

2.23 Objectivity and consistency in making judgements is assisted by reference to the assessment rationale (Table 3.6). This provides a focus for the appraiser in terms of understanding what the SA objective is trying to achieve and what impact the proposed action may have. Matrices were used to record likely sustainability effects of each option against each objective in the SA framework.

2.24 Full details of the assessments can be found in Appendix E and summaries of the assessments can be found in section 5.

2.25 The appraisal findings together with responses to the Options consultation were taken into account in the development and choice of the Preferred Strategy.

B3: Predicting the Effects of the Preferred Strategy

2.26 The methodology that has been adopted for this assessment is generally broad-brush and qualitative which is generally accepted as good practice by the SA guidance.

2.27 The assessment of the Preferred Strategy has been broken down into 'evaluation' of effects and 'mitigation' of effects.

2.28 The prediction of effects was undertaken for each proposal being implemented through the LDP against the SA Framework.

B4: Evaluating the Effects of the Preferred Strategy

2.29 The next stage of the assessment involved the evaluation of the significant effects. The evaluation involved forming a judgement on whether or not the predicted effects will be environmentally significant. The technique that has primarily been used to assess the significance of effects in this assessment is a qualitative assessment based on expert judgement. Other techniques included consultation with stakeholders involved in the SA process, geographical information systems and reference to key legislation, primarily the Strategic Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 and Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations 1999.

2.30 As with the prediction of the effects, the criteria of assessing the significance of a specific effect used in this assessment, as outlined in Annex II of the SEA Directive, has been based on the following parameters to determine the significance:

- Scale;
- Permanence;
- Nature and sensitivity; and
- Cumulative effects.

2.31 In the current practice of sustainability appraisals, the broad-brush qualitative prediction and evaluation of effects is based on a qualitative seven point scale in easily understood terms. In general, this assessment has adopted the scale set in Table 2.4 to assess the significance of effects of the LDP proposals.

Table 2.4 - Criteria for Assessing Significance of Effects

Assessment Scale	Assessment Category	Significance of Effect
+++	Strongly positive	Significant
++	Moderately positive	
+	Slightly positive	Not Significant
0	Neutral or no obvious effect	
-	Slightly negative	
--	Moderately negative	Significant
---	Strongly negative	
?	Effect uncertain	

2.32 Moderately and strongly positive and negative effects have been considered of significance whereas neutral and slightly positive and negative effects have been considered non-significant.

Secondary and Cumulative Effects Assessments

2.33 Annex I of the SEA Directive requires that the assessment of effects include secondary, cumulative and synergistic effects.

2.34 Secondary or indirect effects are effects that are not a direct result of the plan, but occur away from the original effect or as a result of the complex pathway e.g. a development that changes a water table and thus affects the ecology of a nearby wetland. These effects are not cumulative and have been identified and assessed primarily through the examination of the relationship between various objectives during the assessment of environmental effects.

2.35 Cumulative effects arise where several proposals individually may or may not have a significant effect, but in-combination have a significant effect due to spatial crowding or temporal overlap between plans, proposals and actions and repeated removal or addition of resources due to proposals and actions. Cumulative effects can be:

- Additive- the simple sum of all the effects;
- Neutralising- where effects counteract each other to reduce the overall effect; and
- Synergistic– is the effect of two or more effects acting together which is greater than the simple sum of the effects when acting alone. For instance, a wildlife habitat can become progressively fragmented with limited effects on a particular species until the last fragmentation makes the areas too small to support the species at all.

2.36 Many environmental problems result from cumulative effects. These effects are very hard to deal with on a project by project basis through Environmental Impact Assessment. It is at the SA level that they are most effectively identified and addressed.

2.37 Cumulative effects assessment is a systematic procedure for identifying and evaluating the significance of effects from multiple activities. The analysis of the causes, pathways and consequences of these effects is an essential part of the process.

2.38 Cumulative (including additive, neutralising and synergistic) effects have been considered throughout the entire SA process, as described below:

- As part of the review of relevant strategies, plans and programmes and the derivation of draft SA objectives, key receptors have been identified which may be subject to cumulative effects;
- In the process of collecting baseline information cumulative effects have been considered by identifying key receptors (e.g. specific wildlife habitats) and information on how these have changed with time, and how they are likely to change without the implementation of the LDP. Targets have been identified (where possible), that identify how close to capacity the key receptor is, which is a key determining factor in assessing the likelihood of cumulative and synergistic effects occurring, and their degree of significance;
- Through the analysis of environmental issues and problems, receptors have been identified that are particularly sensitive, in decline or near to their threshold (where such information is available);
- The development of SA objectives, indicators and targets has been influenced by cumulative effects identified through the process above and SA objectives that consider cumulative effects have been identified; and
- The likely cumulative effects of the strategic alternatives have been identified which highlighted potential cumulative effects that should be considered later in the SA process.

B5: Considering Ways of Mitigating Adverse Effects and Maximising Beneficial Effects

2.39 Mitigation measures have been identified during the evaluation process to reduce the scale/importance of significant negative effects.

B6: Proposing Measures to Monitor the Significant Effects of Implementing the LDP

2.40 SA monitoring involves measuring indicators which will enable the establishment of a causal link between the implementation of the plan and the likely significant effect (positive or negative) being monitored. It thus helps to ensure that any adverse effects which arise during implementation, whether or not they were foreseen, can be identified and that action can be taken by BGCBC to deal with them.

Stage C: Preparing the Sustainability Appraisal Report

2.41 This Initial Sustainability Appraisal Report is the outcome of Stage C in the SA Process and will be used to inform the LDP Pre-Deposit consultation.

3. Stage A: Developing the SA Framework

3.1 The development of a Sustainability Appraisal framework is a key component in completing the SA by synthesising objectives relevant to the SA, the baseline information and sustainability issues into a systematic and easily understood tool that allows the prediction and assessment of effects arising from the LDP.

A1: Review of Relevant Plans and Programmes

3.2 The first task of a SA is the identification of other relevant plans, programmes and sustainability objectives. An LDP may be influenced in many ways by other plans and programmes and by external sustainability objectives, such as those laid down in policies and legislation. The SEA Directive states that the Environmental Report should provide information on:

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

3.3 Relevant international, national, regional and local plans and programmes that might influence the plan were identified. Broad SA objectives generated from the review have been grouped under the three main topic headings namely, Environmental, Social and Economic, encompassing the three dimensions of sustainable development. Each objective has been assigned to the dimension of sustainable development to which it is most strongly associated. The table also sets out the source documents (specified plans and programmes) from which the broad SA objectives have been derived, together with their relationship to SEA topic areas, which must be considered to fulfil the requirements of the SEA directive. The results of this exercise are given in Appendix B.

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

Table 3.1 - Broad Sustainability Themes

	Source			
Sustainability Theme	**International**	**National/Regional**	**Local**	**SEA Topics**
ECONOMIC				
Ensure high and stable levels of local employment	The European Employment Strategy	A Winning Wales, The National Economic Strategy of WAG, Five Counties Regeneration Framework; Turning Heads: A Strategy for the Heads of the Valleys 2020; Heads We Win – A Strategic Framework for the Heads of the Valleys; South East Wales Development Strategy – Enter the Dragon	Blaenau Gwent Development Plan for the Strategy for Older People In Wales, Blaenau Gwent Community Plan 'proud past, bright future' 2005-2009, Ebbw Vale Urban Function Analysis, Blaenau Gwent Economic Development Strategy 2004, Blaenau Gwent Heritage Strategy	Population
Promote economic growth and business competitiveness	The European Employment Strategy	A Winning Wales, The National Economic Strategy of WAG, South East Wales Economic Development strategy, Wales Spatial Plan; South East Wales Development Strategy, PPW, Turning Heads: A Strategy for the Heads of the Valleys 2020; Heads We Win – A Strategic Framework for the Heads of the Valleys; Five Counties Regeneration Framework	Blaenau Gwent Unitary Development Plan; Blaenau Gwent Economic Development Strategy 2004, Blaenau Gwent Regeneration Strategy	Population, Material Assets
Ensure a supply of local employment sites and premises which meet the needs of a diverse changing economy		South East Wales Economic Development Strategy, South East Wales Development Strategy – Enter the Dragon, Five counties Regeneration Framework	Blaenau Gwent Unitary Development Plan; Blaenau Gwent Economic Development Strategy 2004, Blaenau Gwent Regeneration Strategy	Population, Material Assets
To promote/develop a knowledge based economy		TAN 19 Telecommunications 2002,A Winning Wales, South East Wales Economic Development strategy; Five counties Regeneration Framework; Wales a Better Country	Blaenau Gwent Unitary Development Plan, Blaenau Gwent CBC Corporate Improvement Plan 06/07	Population, Material Assets
Establish a strong tourist economy, sensitively capitalising on environmental, heritage, and		PPW, TAN13 – Tourism, Sports Tourism in Wales: A framework for Action, Cultural Tourism Strategy for Wales; Wales Spatial Plan; A Revised Tourism Strategy for South East Wales; Review of the Historic Environment in Wales;	Blaenau Gwent Community Plan 'proud past, bright future' 2005-2009, Ebbw Vale Urban Function Analysis, Brynmawr Urban Function Analysis, Tredegar Urban Function Analysis, Abertillery Urban Function Analysis, Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council Tourism Strategy, Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council UDP, Blaenau Gwent	Population Cultural Heritage, Landscape

leisure assets			Heritage Strategy; Blaenau Gwent Cultural Strategy Update;	
Improve the vitality and viability of towns and neighbourhood centres		PPW, TAN4 – Retailing and Town Centres; Wales Spatial Plan, Strategic Planning Guidance for South East Wales	Blaenau Gwent Environmental Health and Trading Standards Division Contaminated Land Strategy, Blaenau Gwent Community Plan 'proud past, bright future' 2005-2009, Ebbw Vale Urban Function Analysis, Brynmawr Urban Function Analysis, Tredegar Urban Function Analysis, Blaenau Gwent Community Safety Strategy 2005 - 2008, Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council Tourism Strategy, Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council UDP, Blaenau Gwent CBC Corporate Improvement Plan 06/07, Environmental Appraisal of the Blaenau Gwent UDP	Population Material Assets
Promote the regeneration of disadvantaged wards and support the revitalisation of such areas	EU Objective 1,2 and 3 Programmes	PPW, Wales Spatial Plan, UK Sustainable Development Strategy, Wales - A Better Country. Communities First Programme; Turning Heads: A Strategy for the Heads of the Valleys 2020; Heads We Win – A Strategic Framework for the Heads of the Valleys	Blaenau Gwent UDP, Blaenau Gwent CBC Corporate Improvement Plan 06/07; Blaenau Gwent Community Plan 'proud past, bright future' 2005-2009, Blaenau Gwent Regeneration Strategy	Population, Human Health, Material Assets
Improve the Quality of Life in Rural Areas and Diversification of the Rural Economy		Draft Rural Development Framework 2007-2013		Population, Human Health, Material Assets

ENVIRONMENTAL				
Protect and enhance biodiversity, natural habitats and wild fauna and flora, including international, national and locally designated sites, protected species and species and habitat types identified as priorities for biological conservation	Convention on Biological Diversity, The EU Biodiversity Strategy, Convention on Biological Diversity, The EU Directive on the Conservation of Wild Birds, The EU Sixth Environmental Action Plan	PPW, draft revisedTAN5 – Nature Conservation and Planning, UK Biodiversity Action Plan, Woodlands for Wales; Wales Spatial Plan; Environment Strategy for Wales	Blaenau Gwent Environmental Health and Trading Standards Division Contaminated Land Strategy, Blaenau Gwent Community Plan 'proud past, bright future' 2005-2009,Blaenau Gwent Local Biodiversity Action Plan; Blaenau Gwent Unitary Development Plan, Environmental Appraisal of the Blaenau Gwent UDP	Biodiversity, Flora, Fauna, Landscape
Maximise Opportunities to Carry out Habitat Restoration at a Landscape Scale	Convention on Biological Diversity	PPW; TAN 5; the UK Biodiversity Action Plan; the Wakes Environment Strategy and Action Plan; the CROW Act; the NERC Act; The Wales Spatial Plan: The Wales Spatial Plan Area Work "Southeast Wales; a Networked City Region"	The Blaenau Gwent LBAP	Biodiversity
Minimise the effects of noise pollution	The EU Noise Directive, The EU Sixth Environmental Action Plan	PPW, TAN11 – Noise, Environment Strategy for Wales, Transport Framework for Wales	Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council UDP, Environmental Appraisal of the Blaenau Gwent UDP	Human Health, Population, Fauna
Reduce air pollution and ensure improvements in air quality	The EU Air Quality Framework Directive, The EU Sixth Environmental Action Plan	PPW, Environment Strategy for Wales, Air Quality Strategy for the UK, Transport Framework for Wales, TAN 18: Transport; Outline of the Regional Transport Plan (SEWTA), Meeting the Energy Challenge – A White Paper on Energy 2007; Sustrans Valleys Cycle Network Programme	Blaenau Gwent Environmental Health and Trading Standards Division Contaminated Land Strategy, Blaenau Gwent Community Plan 'proud past, bright future' 2005-2009, Blaenau Gwent Energy Policy Statement, Blaenau Gwent Waste Strategy 2004, Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council UDP, Environmental Appraisal of the Blaenau Gwent UDP	Human Health, Population, Flora, Fauna

Reduce the risk of flooding by assessing developments against the precautionary principle, and promote protection of floodplains from inappropriate development	The EU Water Framework Directive	PPW, TAN15 - Development and Flood Risk, Water Resources for the Future: Strategy for England and Wales.	Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council UDP, Blaenau Gwent Community Plan 'proud past, bright future' 2005-2009	Water, Human Health, Population, Biodiversity, Soil, Landscape
Carry out measures which mitigate for climate change, such as sustainable floodplain management and upland management	The EU Sixth Environment Action Plan; The UN Framework on Climate Change	PPW; TAN 5; TAN 15; the UK Biodiversity Action Plan; the Wales Environment Strategy and Action Plan; the CROW Act; the NERC Act; The Wales Spatial Plan: The Wales Spatial Plan Area Work "Southeast Wales; a Networked City Region"	The Blaenau Gwent Community Strategy; The Blaenau Gwent Energy Policy Statement	Water, landscape
Protect and enhance the valued historic environment and its setting	The EU Directive on Environmental Impact Assessment	PPW, Cultural Tourism Strategy for Wales; Wales Spatial Plan; Review of the Historic Environment in Wales	Brynmawr Urban Function Analysis, Tredegar Urban Function Analysis, Abertillery Urban Function Analysis, Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council Tourism Strategy, Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council UDP; Blaenau Gwent Community Plan 'proud past, bright future' 2005-2009, Environmental Appraisal of the Blaenau Gwent UDP; The Blaenau Gwent Draft Rights of Way Improvement Plan 2007	Cultural Heritage, Landscape
Encourage sustainable use, enjoyment and management of the countryside	The EU Rural Development Policy, The Common Agriculture Policy (Reform 2003)	Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000, The Blaenau Gwent Draft Rights of Way Improvement Plan 2007, The Sustainable Development Action Plan 2004- 2007, Action Plan for the Countryside Experience, Well Being in Wales, Walking and Cycling Strategy for Wales, A Working Countryside for Wales, TAN6 – Agriculture and Rural Development; Sustrans Valleys Cycle Network Programme	Blaenau Gwent Local Biodiversity Action Plan; Blaenau Gwent Community Strategy 'proud past, bright future' 2005-2009; Blaenau Gwent Tourism Strategy, Environmental Appraisal of the Blaenau Gwent UDP	Population Landscape
Protect the quality and character of the landscape, including the countryside, the river valleys, upland areas and other green spaces, and enhance where necessary	The EU Directive on Environmental Impact Assessment	TAN 5 – Nature Conservation and Planning; Woodlands for Wales; UK Biodiversity Action Plan, Action Plan for the Countryside Experience, Environmental Strategy for Wales; European Landscape Convention; Review of the Historic Environment in Wales	Blaenau Gwent Environmental Health and Trading Standards Division Contaminated Land Strategy, Blaenau Gwent Community Plan 'proud past, bright future' 2005-2009, Abertillery Urban Function Analysis, Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council Tourism Strategy, Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council UDP, Blaenau Gwent Local	Cultural Heritage, Landscape Biodiversity Flora, Fauna

			Biodiversity Action Plan , Environmental Appraisal of the Blaenau Gwent UDP	
Reduce pollution of water courses, groundwater and improve poor water quality	The EU Nitrates Directive, The EU Water Framework Directive	Water resources for the future: Strategy for England and Wales, UK Sustainable Development Strategy; The Ebbw and Lwyd CAMS; and Rhymney CAMS	Blaenau Gwent Environmental Health and Trading Standards Division Contaminated Land Strategy, Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council UDP, Environmental Appraisal of the Blaenau Gwent UDP	Water, Human Health, Soil
Encourage the redevelopment of appropriate previously developed land before considering development of greenfield sites, where this will not result in damage or loss to biodiversity		TAN1 – Joint Housing Land Availability Study, PPW; Wales Spatial Plan	Blaenau Gwent Environmental Health and Trading Standards Division Contaminated Land Strategy, Blaenau Gwent Economic Development Strategy 2004, Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council UDP, Blaenau Gwent Local Biodiversity Action Plan, Environmental Appraisal of the Blaenau Gwent UDP	Population, Human Health
Encourage the use of more sustainable forms of transport, reducing the need to travel by car	UN Framework Convention on Climate Change; Kyoto Protocol on Climate Change; EU Air Quality Framework Directive	The Transport Framework for Wales, PPW, TAN18 - Transport, Walking and Cycling Strategy for Wales; Wales Spatial Plan; Outline of the Regional Transport Plan (SEWTA); The Blaenau Gwent Draft Rights of Way Improvement Plan; Sustrans Valleys Cycle Network Programme	Blaenau Gwent Community Plan 'proud past, bright future' 2005-2009, Abertillery Urban Function Analysis, Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council UDP, Blaenau Gwent CBC Corporate Improvement Plan 06/07, Environmental Appraisal of the Blaenau Gwent UDP	Population, Human Health
Reduce traffic congestion to protect the environment and human health		The Transport Framework for Wales, PPW, TAN18, Walking and Cycling Strategy for Wales; Outline of the Regional Transport Plan (SEWTA)	Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council UDP, Blaenau Gwent Community Plan 'proud past, bright future' 2005-2009, Blaenau Gwent UDP Environmental Appraisal of the Blaenau Gwent UDP	Air, Climatic Factors, Human Health
Address the causes of climate change and promote the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions	The EU Sixth Environmental Action Plan, United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, European Climate Change Programme,	UK Sustainable Development Strategy, Environment Strategy for Wales, Air Quality Strategy for the UK; Wales Spatial Plan, Transport Framework for Wales, Outline of the Regional Transport Plan (SEWTA), TAN8 – Renewable Energy	Blaenau Gwent Energy Policy Statement, Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council UDP, Blaenau Gwent Community Strategy 'proud past, bright future' 2005-2009, Blaenau Gwent Healthier Future Strategy, Environmental Appraisal of the Blaenau Gwent UDP	Air, Climatic Factors

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

			the Blaenau Gwent UDP	
SOCIAL				
Improve the health, social care and well-being of the population and reduce inequalities in health and improving accessibility to health services	EU Air Quality Framework Directive, EU Noise Directive, EU 6th Environmental Action Plan	Wales Spatial Plan, Government's Transport Sustainable Development Objectives, TAN 13 - Tourism, TAN 18 – Transport, Outline of the Regional Transport Plan (SEWTA), Well Being in Wales, Climbing Higher – WAG Strategy for Sport and Physical Activity, TAN16 – Sport and Recreation; The Blaenau Gwent Draft Rights of Way Improvement Plan 2007; Designed for Life; Fulfilled Lives Supportive Communities'; Living Independently in the 21st century	Blaenau Gwent Development Plan for the Strategy for Older People In Wales, Blaenau Gwent Environmental Health and Trading Standards Division Contaminated Land Strategy, Blaenau Gwent Community Plan 'proud past, bright future' 2005-2009, Health and Social Needs in Blaenau Gwent, Blaenau Gwent CBC, Jan 2002, Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council UDP, Blaenau Gwent CBC Corporate Improvement Plan 06/07, Blaenau Gwent Healthier Future Strategy, Environmental Appraisal of the Blaenau Gwent UDP; Needs Assessment for Blaenau Gwent 2007	Population, Human Health
Improve accessibility and transport links to key services through improved travel choices		Wales Spatial Plan, Wales - A Better Country, TAN18 - Transport; The Transport Framework for Wales, Walking and Cycling Strategy for Wales, Outline of the Regional Transport Plan (SEWTA); The Blaenau Gwent Draft Rights of Way Improvement Plan 2007;	Blaenau Gwent Community Plan 'proud past, bright future' 2005-2009, Ebbw Vale Urban Function Analysis, Brynmawr Urban Function Analysis, Tredegar Urban Function Analysis, Abertillery Urban Function Analysis, Blaenau Gwent Waste Strategy 2004, Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council UDP, Blaenau Gwent CBC Corporate Improvement Plan 06/07, Blaenau Gwent Healthier Future Strategy, Blaenau Gwent Community Safety Strategy 2005-2008, Environmental Appraisal of the Blaenau Gwent UDP	Population, Human Health
Raise educational attainment levels and develop opportunities for everyone to equip themselves with the necessary skills to find and remain in work		South East Wales Economic Development Strategy; WAVE; Wales - A Better Country	Blaenau Gwent Development Plan for the Strategy for Older People In Wales, Blaenau Gwent Community Plan 'proud past, bright future' 2005-2009, Ebbw Vale Urban Function Analysis, Brynmawr Urban Function Analysis, Tredegar Urban Function Analysis, Blaenau Gwent Economic Development Strategy 2004, Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council Tourism Strategy, Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council UDP, Blaenau Gwent CBC Corporate Improvement	Population

			Plan 06/07, Blaenau Gwent Adopted School Organisational Plan; Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council Single Education Plan, Blaenau Gwent Heritage Strategy	
Improve the quality, variety and affordability of housing to ensure that everyone has the opportunity to live in a decent affordable home		TAN2 – Planning and Affordable Housing; Wales Spatial Plan; National Housing Strategy – Better Homes for People in Wales; PPW; Environment Strategy for Wales	Blaenau Gwent Community Plan 'proud past, bright future' 2005-2009, Ebbw Vale Urban Function Analysis, Brynmawr Urban Function Analysis, Tredegar Urban Function Analysis, Abertillery Urban Function Analysis, Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council UDP, Blaenau Gwent CBC Corporate Improvement Plan 06/07; Blaenau Gwent Housing Market Assessment; Blaenau Gwent Housing Strategy, Environmental Appraisal of the Blaenau Gwent UDP	Population, Human Health
Reduce levels of crime and fear of crime and promote safer neighbourhoods		TAN 12 - Design; Wales – A Better Country, Achieving our Potential 2006-2013 – Strategic Action Plan; Wales Programme for Employment – Dec 2005	Blaenau Gwent Community Plan 'proud past, bright future' 2005-2009, Blaenau Gwent Community Safety Strategy 2005 - 2008, Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council UDP, Blaenau Gwent Healthier Future Strategy, Environmental Appraisal of the Blaenau Gwent UDP	Population, Human Health
Reduce poverty and social exclusion and improve equality of opportunities amongst all social groups		TAN2 – Planning and Affordable Housing, TAN13 – Transport, Wales – A Better Country,; Achieving our Potential 2006-2013 – Strategic Action Plan, Wales Programme for Employment – Dec 2005; ; Living Independently in the 21st century	Blaenau Gwent Development Plan for the Strategy for Older People In Wales , Blaenau Gwent Community Plan 'proud past, bright future' 2005-2009, Ebbw Vale Urban Function Analysis, Brynmawr Urban Function Analysis, Tredegar Urban Function Analysis, Blaenau Gwent Economic Development Strategy 2004 Blaenau Gwent Community Safety Strategy 2005 - 2008, Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council Tourism Strategy, Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council UDP, Blaenau Gwent CBC Corporate Improvement Plan 06/07, Blaenau Gwent Heritage Strategy	Population, Human Health
Protect and provide local social, recreational and leisure opportunities: to increase participation in sport and physical activity to maximise their contribution to health and well-being		TAN16 – Sport and Recreation; Sports Tourism in Wales: A framework for action; Climbing Higher – WAG Strategy for Sport and Physical Activity; Well Being in Wales; Walking and Cycling Strategy; Blaenau Gwent Local Rights of Way Improvement Plan; Review of the Historic Environment in Wales	Blaenau Gwent Community Plan 'proud past, bright future' 2005-2009, Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council Tourism Strategy, Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council UDP, Blaenau Gwent Healthier Future Strategy, Blaenau Gwent Heritage Strategy; Sport and Active Living Strategy	Population, Human Health

A2: Baseline Information data analysis

3.5 The next task in the SA covers the collection of baseline information. The review of other plans and programmes undertaken previously has also provided a considerable amount of baseline information and this information has been complemented by collection of data on key indicators relating to the SEA topic areas, as well as additional social and economic indicators for the Area.

3.6 The SEA Directive says that the Environmental Report should provide information on:

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

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

3.7 The baseline data provides an overview of the environmental, social and economic characteristics of the LDP area and how these compare to the region, the rest of the Principality and the UK are presented in Appendices C and D. The most efficient way to collect relevant baseline data is through the use of indicators. This ensures that the data collection carried out is both focused and effective. The identification of relevant indicators has taken place alongside the assessment of other relevant plans policies and programmes (Task A1), the identification of sustainability issues (Task A3) and developing the sustainability appraisal framework (Task A4).

3.8 Data have been collated and analysed for the following indicators:

Economic Data

- Incomes and Economic Activity
- Entrepreneurial Dynamism
- Retail
- Car Ownership

Social Characteristics

- Housing
- Population
- Health and Wellbeing
- Crime and Fear of Crime
- Education, Skills and Qualifications
- Recreation

Environmental Characteristics

- Special Areas of Conservation
- Sites of Special Scientific Interest
- National Nature Reserves
- Local Nature Reserves
- National Parks
- Protected Species

- Listed Buildings
- Conservation Areas
- Registered Historic Parks and Gardens
- Scheduled Ancient Monuments
- Air Quality
- Greenhouse Gas Emissions
- Chemical and Biological Water Quality
- Flood Risk
- Ground and Surface Water Availability
- Waste
- Energy
- Landscape
- Soil
- Geodiversity
- Public Rights of Way
- Travel to Work

3.9 The information provided aims to demonstrate the key issues and problems to be tackled by the LDP, in addition to wider sustainability issues that may arise as a result of implementing the LDP. These are summarised in Table 3.3.

3.10 Due to the fact that SA is an iterative process subsequent stages in its preparation and assessment might identify other issues and priorities that require data collection and monitoring. This makes the SA process flexible, adaptable and responsive to changes in the baseline conditions and enables trends to be analysed over time

3.11 Information describing the baseline provides the basis for the prediction and monitoring of the effects of the implementation of the LDP and its constituent documents. It can be used as a way of identifying problems as they occur so that relevant policy changes can be made to address such matters.

Cumulative Effects

3.12 Cumulative effects can occur from the following situations:

- Combined effects of a plan with effects of another plan, affecting the same receptor, for example, proposals from land use and transport plans could affect a nature reserve;
- Interaction of policies within a plan in the same receptor: for example, a policy to encourage development which promote jobs and a housing policy to provide more housing to meet the borough's target could result in a cumulative loss of open space;
- Interaction of effects from proposals within a plan affecting the same receptor: for example, proposals to build roads, commercial premises and housing in a particular area within a short period of time could result in cumulative noise, dust and visual effects on the residents nearby.

3.13 A preliminary analysis has identified an initial set of likely cumulative effects, their receptors and likely causes, as shown in Table 3.2. This initial assessment of likely cumulative effects will be further examined in section 6.

Table 3.2 - Potential Cumulative Effects and their causes

Cumulative Effect	Affected Receptor	Causes
1. Habitat loss and fragmentation	- SSSI, SPA, SAC - BAP - Areas of local conservation significance - Reptiles, amphibians, invertebrates, breeding birds, bats, and potentially badgers - Sites of non-designated significance for nature conservation including wildlife corridors	Use of land for new infrastructure, dwellings and employment uses.
2. Climate change	- Worldwide	Increase in CO_2 emissions through increased motorised transport usage and increased emissions from residential and commercial developments
3. Increase in ambient noise levels	- People living adjacent to major roads - Species	Increase in traffic flows, increased congestion, new transport infrastructure
4. Increase in air pollution	- People living and working in identified and possibly extended Air Quality Management Areas - Wildlife habitats and species described in 1 above.	Increase in traffic flows, increased congestion, new transport infrastructure
5. Fragmentation/ loss of public open space	- Residents - Existing public open space - Wildlife habitats and habitats and species described in 1 above.	Use of land for new infrastructure, dwellings and employment uses.
6. Degradation of water quality	- Residents - Wildlife habitats and species described in 1 above.	Use of land for new infrastructure and increased runoff from impermeable surfaces contaminating waterways.
7. Loss of local townscape character	- Listed Buildings - Areas of Special Character	Unsympathetic design of new development negatively affecting the setting of listed buildings. Disturbance to character of areas through increased traffic flows.
8. Increase in flood risk	- Residents - Wildlife habitats and species described in 1 above.	Use of land for new infrastructure, dwellings and employment uses and associated increase in impermeable

	- Coastal habitats.	increase in impermeable surfaces.
9. Improvement in overall levels of health	- Residents	Increase in walking and cycling from infrastructure improvements. Improvements in levels of air quality.
10. Increase in accessibility to essential services	- Residents	Improved provision of public transport, walking and cycling, and car linkages to essential services. Direct provision of new community facilities.
11. Reducing road traffic and congestion	- Residents - Wildlife habitats and species described in 1 above.	Various measures and proposals aimed at reducing road traffic and congestion and encouraging alternatives to the car.
12. Attracting inwards investment and increasing economic diversity	- Residents	Various proposals aimed at improving the image of the area to residents and businesses, which may attract additional private sector investment in the area.

A3: Key Sustainability Issues

3.14 The next task in the SA, carried out at the scoping stage, is the identification of sustainability issues. The identification of sustainability issues of particular significance in Blaenau Gwent County Borough provides an opportunity to define key issues for the LDP, to enable improvement of the plan objectives and options. The analysis of sustainability issues at scoping stage influenced the baseline and the SA framework, in particular in identifying and selecting indicators and targets. This section describes the current situation and highlights the key issues faced within Blaenau Gwent. It does not attempt to cover all the issues but identifies those that are considered to be a priority in terms of the sustainability of the plan area.

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

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

3.16 The key sustainability issues for Blaenau Gwent County Borough have been derived by analysing the baseline data and contextual information from other plans and assessing what the likely significant issues will be over the longer term i.e. 10 years +. The key sustainability issues relevant to the LDP were identified in the following ways:

- Review of plans, policies and programmes
- Review of baseline data
- Initial discussions with key stakeholders

- Advice and participation with other departments within the Council
- Consultation responses to the Scoping Report

3.17 The analysis of sustainability issues has been iterative and is ongoing. As the SA develops with further stakeholder involvement the analysis of key issues is likely to evolve.

3.18 The key sustainability issues are set out below in Table 3.3.

Table 3.3 - Key Sustainability Issues/Opportunities

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

The proportion of the population of working age claiming job seekers allowance (JSA) is considerably above the regional and national averages – 4.1% in Blaenau Gwent compared to 2.4% nationally. In addition to this, the latest available statistics indicate that the 2005 rate (4.1%) has increased in recent years – it was 4.3% in December 2006 and 4.9% in April 2007. This means that the working and earning population of the County Borough is being forced to support an increasing amount of unemployed adults. The statistics also indicate that in many of the County Borough's wards, over one third of all households receive Council Tax Benefit – the highest is Nantyglo, where 39.1% of all households receive this benefit. In addition, in many of the Blaenau Gwent wards almost one quarter of all households are in receipt of housing benefit of some type. This is also reflected in statistics relating to housing by tenure – in general terms owner occupation levels are low (62.2%, which is 10% lower than the regional average) and around one quarter of the population rely upon local authority owned housing or rent from registered social landlords. There is a proven link between employment and better health, not only for financial and physical benefits, but also from more subtle mental benefits conferred by being economically active. Recent research has found the health effects of worklessness to be comparable in severity to those from heavy smoking. Lack of appropriate qualifications is now generally agreed to be a bigger factor in worklessness than poor health throughout the 'heads of the valleys' region, but nevertheless many people who are economically inactive (and quite a lot who are in or seeking work) do have significant health problems. 70% of the county borough is classified is rural, discussions with stakeholders have highlighted the need for diversification of the rural economy in order to improve sustainable rural development.			
Limited employment opportunities and low household income Manufacturing accounts for 31.6% of all employment in Blaenau Gwent, which is almost twice the Wales average. Professional occupations in	There is a need for the LDP to seek to encourage increased economic activity rates. This will require the provision of versatile and varied employment premises across the plan area. Particular emphasis will need to be placed on supporting both small and medium sized	Population Human Health	Objective 2

the County Borough account for 5.8% of all employment, whereas in the South East they account for 11.87%. An examination of employment by sector reveals that the local economy is predominantly based around manufacturing and service sectors. These sectors are traditionally lower skilled and lower paid than professional employment. The dominance of these sectors has therefore also influenced income and productivity levels – the gross value added (GVA) per head in Blaenau Gwent places the area in the bottom 5 authorities in its statistical area (NUTS 3); and the average incomes are significantly lower than the average for South East Wales and the Principality as a whole. From 2002 to 2005, average weekly household income in Blaenau Gwent has been less than that of the rest of the South East region and for the whole of Wales. Of particular note are the wards of Llanhilleth, Nantyglo, Cwmtillery and Tredegar where there are a very significant proportion of households with incomes of less than £5,000 per annum. All the wards in the County Borough show high proportions of households on earnings of less than £12.25k per annum. These low income figures are a reflection of the predominance of low skilled, low wage employment opportunities and the general low level of economic participation. Blaenau Gwent has a significantly lower amount of VAT registrations in all of the size band categories than the average for the South East authorities and Wales as a whole. In particular, it has very few larger registrations (employing over 10 staff). A comparison at the regional level reveals that Blaenau Gwent has consistently experienced the second least number of new registrations over the past 5 years after Merthyr Tydfil and in most recent years, registrations in Blaenau Gwent have been over 150 less than any other authority in the region (with the exception of Merthyr Tydfil). This appears to suggest that there is a lack of entrepreneurial culture in the County Borough.	be placed on supporting both small and medium sized start up enterprises to foster a sense of entrepreneurial spirit, as well as providing high quality accommodation to support higher skilled professions and services. There is also a need to encourage people of working age to settle in the area, thus it will be increasingly important to ensure that job opportunities are matched by access to housing that is suitable and affordable.		
Tourism potential The landscape and heritage of Blaenau Gwent constitute a small mosaic of the many features of Wales with an intrinsic tourism value. However, due to the size and diversity of the County Borough, there is no dominant brand that defines the area as a tourist destination. Of particular note is the fact that only 3% of the land utilisation is for	As part of the wider effort to seek to diversify the local economy, the LDP should seek to support developments aimed at encouraging an increase in the recreational function of suitably accessible parts of open countryside. This will include specific consideration of the way in which tourism development is addressed and promoted through the LDP. When increases in	Population Landscape Cultural Heritage Biodiversity	Objective 3 Objective 10

recreational purposes, which is a very small proportion compared to the 45% of the County Borough's area that is open countryside. Furthermore, many of the attractions are mainly for local people and there would be a need to review the current offer in order to create sites, attractions and/or products that appeal to an increased number and broader cross-section of visitors. In addition to the quality, range and type of attractions in the area, the development of the tourism economy would require considerable investment in upgrading all accommodation and food sectors. **Angling** There is a shortage of angling facilities in the County Borough. Developing angling facilities can have a positive impact on encouraging tourism and contributing to community health and wellbeing. The promotion of angling can bring in tourists from outside the area, which will provide extra customers for hotels, shops, restaurants and other local businesses. It should be recognised that the participation in angling has been shown to reduce local crime (especially amongst youths) and truancy. The levels of education amongst the new, young anglers have been found to improve, as the anglers are keen to learn about their environment and what they can do to conserve local public amenities. Furthermore, these facilities are less likely to be vandalised and damaged, as the local anglers take pride and ownership of these facilities, and wish to maintain them in good order. Fishing has also been shown to improve people's health, as it encourages gentle exercise, getting out into the fresh air, and reduces stress levels.	promoted through the LDP. When increases in recreational function are considered, the impact upon the countryside, particularly visual, must be taken into account. This also applies to land designated for its ecological value. There are huge opportunities in how the LDP may assist in delivering the aim to 'establish a strong tourist economy, sensitively capitalising on environmental, heritage and leisure assets', through developing eco tourism through the management of open spaces and heritage sites and improvement of facilities that will bring considerable investment into the area. The LDP should seek to develop and promote angling in Blaenau Gwent.	Human Health Water Material Assets Biodiversity	
High Vacancy Rates in Town centres According to the Adopted UDP July 2006, high town centre vacancy rates exist throughout Blaenau Gwent and there is a risk that town centres could decline in the face of competition from nearby retail centres outside the County Borough.	The LDP should enhance the vitality and viability of town centres, through regeneration policies, and improve the retail offer within the County Borough.	Population	Objective 4
Social			
Changing demographics and housing needs Since its heyday in 1921 when the population was 127,611, Blaenau Gwent has experienced continued population decline. Between 1982 and 2002 it experienced a 7.2% drop. The population in 1991 was	Demographics are a key influencing factor for a wide range of different development types – housing, education provision, open space and recreational opportunities, healthcare and community service. The	Population Human Health	Objective 5

73,250 and the population in 2003 was 68,900, which is over 100 less than two years previous. The projections for 2011 anticipate a reversal of this decline, but only estimate the population to be 500 more than the 1991 levels. However, the South East region and Wales as a whole have experienced population increases over the same period, and are projected to continue to increase substantially to 2011. These figures suggest Blaenau Gwent is a less desirable place to live and people are being drawn to places perceived to offer more opportunities. Allied to this, population decrease or stagnation can also act as a deterrent to prospective business investors, who tend to prefer to locate in areas that are perceived to be growing. An examination of the County Borough's 2001 demographics indicates that the 16 – 19 year old age bracket comprises the smallest proportion of the population, below regional averages. Conversely, the 45 – 64 and 65+ age groups comprise a larger population than the South East average, suggesting that there is an ageing population. In addition, the percentage of 0 – 4 year olds is also lower than the South East average by almost 1% and thus there is likely to be a developing trend of death rates outstripping birth rates over the coming years. Furthermore, strategy documentation relating to the County Borough suggests that there is a relatively high level of youth out-migration. This affects a variety of areas – a reduced population of childbearing age is unlikely to support an increase in population through increased birth rates; the loss of the younger population will affect social structure; and it is likely to be the more skilled persons that leave the area in search of better paid and more varied work opportunities, which has negative implications for the development of certain aspects of the local economy. **Gypsy Accommodation** The Blaenau Gwent Gypsy-Traveller Study has identified the need for further land for new gypsy travellers at Cwmcrachen.	LDP will need to take changing local demographics into consideration and offer an opportunity to seek the delivery of a more balanced and self-sufficient community. Housing choice will need to reflect the needs of and seek to attract people of households of different ages, sizes and life stages, including the provision of sheltered accommodation; community provision (healthcare/ community centres/nursing homes/social services support etc.) will need to accommodate the requirements of all ages; and open space provision will need to include both formal provision for play space, as well as more informal provision better suited to older age groups.		
Poor housing quality and mismatch of housing size/tenure with needs and demand 55% of the current housing stock in Blaenau Gwent comprises terraces constructed before 1919. Overall in Blaenau Gwent 8% of the housing stock is considered unfit for habitation, and a further 12% is classified as being in need of substantial repair. In addition to this, 5.7% of houses are recorded as being vacant – in some parts of the country this would	The quality and range of housing in Blaenau Gwent will be a critical element of the development of the County Borough – there is a need to ensure that poorer quality stock is improved and that new stock is designed to suit a range of needs and budgets. There is also a need to upgrade housing stock,	Population	Objective 6

be due to second home purchases; however, in Blaenau Gwent this is a combination of uninhabitable properties and inevitable vacancies associated with the activity of the property market. The 2001 census indicated that there were still a number of houses without central heating and/or the sole use of bath/shower and toilet. From the census classifications, 'without central heating but with the sole use of a bath/shower and toilet' is the predominant statistic with a count of 712 houses for the County Borough as a whole – this is a reflection that there may be issues of poverty and deprivation in certain locations. Discussions with the council also indicate a demand for 4-bed detached dwellings, of which there is a shortage in the authority. This may mean that those who can afford this type of property will move elsewhere, which may have implications for the social mix in the community.	including the provision of high quality larger homes more suited to attracting professionally qualified people to the area to take up residence and jobs. The improvement of existing stock will also benefit from improvement in accordance with holistic plans for regeneration to ensure that changes are an improvement to the area. Allied to this, the provision of housing may need to respond to the planned improvements to the rail infrastructure, particularly in terms of accommodating a potential increase in demand linked to rail commuting.		
Housing affordability problems Although prices have increased over the period 2000 – 2006, the average house price for Blaenau Gwent in 2006 was nearly £50,000 less than that of the Welsh average (82,486 compared to £136,419). This can be interpreted as an indication that Blaenau Gwent is perceived as a less desirable location in which to live than other neighbouring settlements, which could be a consequence of a number of factors including accessibility, perceived employment opportunities, quality of housing stock, environmental quality and lack of suitable accommodation. However, the opening of the new railway station in Ebbw Vale may catalyse a trend of workers from Cardiff, who will be attracted by the relatively low house prices in Blaenau Gwent, moving to the area. This will result in increased demand from buyers outside the area pushing the prices up. This may have implications for the affordability of housing for local people.	In order to enable those wishing to buy as opposed to rent to access market housing, there will be a need to ensure that the choice of units is affordable and appealing in the context of local market conditions.	Population	Objective 7
Low educational attainment The percentage of people with at least NVQ level 2 qualifications is below the regional average by over 2% (41.1% compared to 43.25%). Furthermore, both the County Borough and regional averages are considerably below the Welsh average, which is 60.3%. Of the County Borough's total population, only 9.5% hold qualifications to NQV level 4	There is a high proportion of the population with few or no qualifications; provision should be made for encouraging an increase in the percentage of people continuing into higher education – this must start at the primary level and follow through schooling at all levels.	Population	Objective 8

or above, compared to the South East regional average, which is 17.38% and the national average, which is 22.5%. Considerably less than half of the County Borough's population (43%) are achieving 5 or more GCSEs grade A*-C – the national statistic is 51%. Llanhilleth and Sirhowy have particular issues with low attainment. In 2003 30.4% of the population had no qualifications. In the same year, that figure was 17.8% for Wales. Tredegar and Ebbw Vale North have particularly high percentages of non attendance in primary and secondary schools, likely to lead to low educational attainment. Only 6.3% of the total population of the County Borough was enrolled in higher education in 2003, which is a relatively low proportion.			
Transport access constraints to the area By air, the nearest airports are Cardiff International, Bristol and Birmingham. There are a number of low cost options to access these airports, from the City Centres themselves, but there are limited public transport links from Blaenau Gwent to these cities, which make it difficult to promote the area as a short-break destination. Rail links are available, although these tend to follow the valley topography, focusing on longitudinal routes towards Cardiff. The new Ebbw Valley railway provides a connection to Cardiff. The northern area of the County Borough, however, still lacks an easily accessible rail service. This should be improved by the proposed extension to the proposed rail halt in Ebbw Vale. Two nearby stations fall just outside the County Borough boundary and comprise the Valleys line station at Rhymney, with access to the West coast mainline being more distant at Abergavenny. The principal road system provides A-road access to the motorway network (the M4, M5 and M50) combined with the A470 and A465. Dualling work is being done to improve the access; however, there is a danger that this may increase the traffic flow passing through the area rather than bringing more visitors to it.	The LDP should support provision of more public transport connections from the main centres such as Cardiff. Improvements to public transport provision in and around Blaenau Gwent will be important in enabling weekend trips with return on Sunday, and access to employment for people living in the County Borough outside of the urban areas. The LTP should be taken into regard throughout the LDP. It is important to also ensure that by attracting people to Blaenau Gwent the environment and infrastructure is able to cope with increased car usage. The LDP should encourage, as a priority, improvements to the Rights of Way network, which will have benefits for tourism, health, heritage assets, air quality, and access to facilities for the population.	Population, human health, air, cultural heritage, climatic factors, material assets	Objective 9

The local bus service provides a reasonable level of service during weekday working hours and a range of services on Saturday; however, evening and Sunday service coverage is poor, as are some lateral connections between valleys resulting in heavy reliance on taxi services. This is a key issue, particularly given that the levels of car ownership (35.1% of households do not have access to a car or van, compared to 28.5% regionally and 26% nationally) and household income are relatively low in the County Borough, with particular areas of social and economic disadvantage. There is also a perceived lack of safe parking facilities for HGVs in the area and safe access for HGVs to industrial estates is also an issue in some cases. The Public Rights of Way network currently suffers from fragmentation and poor maintenance, restricting its use by walkers, horse riders and cyclists as an alternative mode of transport. 30% of this network consists of bridleways or carriageways mainly used as bridleways, where there is right of way on foot, riding or leading a horse, and cycling. Not all of these routes may be in a useable condition. Also, the distribution of the network is not even across the County Borough, and there are several factors arising from a lack of maintenance that have lead to restricted usability of this facility. Three factors identified that need improving are: more circular routes- signed and advertised as such; the need to link paths together- defragmentation; and more long distance routes. In terms of travel distances to work, in Blaenau Gwent the majority of the population travels less than 5km commuting distance. 31% of the County Borough's population relies on the private car for their work journey, with only 6.6% of the population walking or cycling to work. In terms of car ownership, 45.1% of the resident population owns one car only, with 35.1% of Blaenau Gwent's residents neither owning nor having access to a car or van. In comparison to regional and national statistics, in general terms car ownership levels are considerably below average in Blaenau Gwent and a considerably greater proportion of the population is without access to a car. Discussions with BGCBC have highlighted the need to create a settlement hierarchy within the County Borough, acknowledging Ebbw Vale as a main centre, with Tredegar, Abertillery, Blaina and Brynmawr as secondary centres to be linked by public transport to Ebbw Vale			

Health Life expectancies for both males and females across the County Borough are below national averages. The proportion of people with limiting long term illness is above the South East and national averages: 28.26% compared to 23.4% in the South East and 23.3% in Wales. In addition, people who self-assessed their general health as 'good' (2001 Census) represented a lower proportion of the population than the South East and national averages: 59.38% in Blaenau Gwent compared to 64.48% in the South East and 60.06% in Wales. The 2004/05 Welsh Health Survey indicates that 12% of adults in Blaenau Gwent report being treated for a mental illness, which is well above the Welsh average of 9%. Mental health and illness have been linked to deprivation, with both MCS scores and rates of anxiety and depression decreasing and increasing respectively with increases in deprivation. Environmental factors such as poorly equipped town centres and limited transport links in some areas can also contribute to poor mental health.	The LDP can indirectly assist through the provision of better access to healthcare and recreation opportunities and through economic development opportunities. The LDP should ensure that environmental factors that may contribute to poor mental health are minimised.	Population Health	Objective 10
Welsh language and culture Despite the rich industrial heritage of the locality, there are very few members of the population that actively make use of the Welsh language – over 90% of the population are either unable to speak Welsh or have no Welsh speaking communications. However, there is a distinctive 'valleys' culture apparent in the Blaenau Gwent area – this has developed from a strong sense of community and social networks that are not linked to the Welsh language.	In seeking to develop the distinctive identify of the County Borough, it will be important to determine what role the Welsh Language and Culture should have. The LDP can influence this through factors such as the provision of sites for Welsh medium schools and interpretation of heritage and social assets. In addition, the design of housing and community facilities and services should seek to actively support and further strengthen existing social networks, preserving the distinctive character of the Valleys communities.	Population Cultural Heritage	Objective 11
Crime and social deprivation In general terms, crime rates in Blaenau Gwent are broadly comparable and, if anything, slightly lower than the prevailing rate per 1000 for the whole of the South East region. Notwithstanding this, however, the overall rate is relatively high. Violence against the person seems to be significantly higher than the other crime rates. Potentially, this could be linked in part to poor urban design and a lack of planning for safe communities resulting in a number of areas in the County Borough where criminal activity is more likely to	There will be a need for the Local Development Plan to minimise opportunities for criminal activity. This will primarily relate to design measures such as the mixing of house types and sizes, the location of public and private open space and the network of routeways, particularly for non-motorised users. In addition, careful consideration will need to be given to the siting of any commercial activities and security of vulnerable land-uses.	Population Human Health Material Assets	Objective 12

go undetected because, for example, visibility is hindered or there are no surveillance techniques in design. Consultation with the SA Stakeholder group has highlighted the link between alcohol consumption and violence against the person.	The siting of public houses and late night takeaway facilities should be considered in relation to their potential affect on the generation of anti social behaviour.		
In terms of social deprivation, there are a variety of health related statistics that are commonly used as indications of social deprivation and/or disadvantage. In Blaenau Gwent, the analysis of the baseline has revealed the following: The rate of teenage conceptions is considerably above the regional average – 60.4 per 1000 compared to 45.7 per 1000; The proportion of pregnancies resulting in low birth weight babies is above regional and national averages. In particular Sirhowy, Ebbw Vale, South Abertillery and Nantyglo have high rates, particularly Sirhowy, which is 13.3%; The proportion of the population stating their health as 'good' is only 59.38%. The regional average is 64.48% and the national average is 65.06%; 28.26% of the working age population suffer from limiting long term illness, which is above the regional (23.4%) and national (23.3%) averages; The proportion of the population that smokes is above the national average – 34% compared to 31%; Life expectancy at birth is considerably below the national average – 73.80 for males and 78.4 for females in Blaenau Gwent compared to 75.8 for males and 80.3 for females across Wales; The death rate was higher than the South East regional average by over 2% in 2001. Deaths from circulatory disease were 40.9 per 1,000 and deaths from cancer were 26.1 per 1,000; and The proportion of adults (aged 16+) who are obese is 59%, which is 5% higher than the South East average.	Providing a range of leisure facilities for residents to participate in may reduce crime rates by providing other activities for people to participate in and provide opportunities for social integration. Accompanied with encouraging and facilitating higher education achievement and raising aspirations, particularly amongst the younger members of the community, this may also help to reduce teenage pregnancies It will also be necessary to ensure that housing standards are improved throughout the borough, either through grants or providing more job opportunities to increase household income. To a certain extent, some of the health statistics may be linked to the fact that Blaenau Gwent tends towards a more elderly population. However, the LDP may also offer an opportunity to help contribute to improved health through providing space and facilities for increased recreational and sporting pursuits; adopting an approach to design than seeks to safeguard air and water quality; and encouraging increased levels of walking and cycling. There are issues with car accessibility in the area; by seeking provision for increased access to heath care, the health conditions of the people in the county borough may also improve.		
There is a significant number of Christian residents (44,973) in the borough and only very small minorities of other religions, Muslim being the 2nd highest religion with 152. There are also a large number of people who stated having no religion or did not state any religion; the sheer difference in numbers of religious groups could mean that problems relating to social exclusion and integration may occur in the	Land use, and planning of housing, town centres, transport routes etc can play an important role in promoting social cohesion and interaction, and ultimately better community mental health.		

borough.			
Environment			
High car usage and CO2 emissions There are significantly less people using public transport in Blaenau Gwent than the average statistics for the rest of the South East region and Wales as a whole – 5.4% of all commuting trips compared to 7.8% nationally. Use of car for commuting trips by the County Borough's residents is slightly higher than the national average – 79.7% compared to 77.8%. However, a greater proportion of Blaenau Gwent's residents commute to work on foot than nationally (12.5% compared to 10.4%). The share of road transport related CO_2 emissions in Blaenau Gwent is lower than the Wales average – 16% and 23% respectively. This may be a reflection of the socio-economic statistics, which indicate low car ownership rates in the County Borough. Fewer car trips for leisure, social, shopping and healthcare purposes may also be a factor. The County Borough contains a high percentage of houses that are not energy efficient, and therefore use a high level of gas.	The LDP should seek improved public transport and walking and cycling provision with new development to provide alternative transport modes in light of the potential future increase in car users in the area. The LDP should actively discourage car use; for example, by limiting car parking space in shopping centres that are well served by public transport, also by promoting park and ride sites where appropriate. The LDP should seek to improve the energy efficiency of housing to reduce costs, use of natural resources and greenhouse gas emissions.	Air Climatic Factors Population Human Health Material Assets Landscape Biodiversity	Objectives 13 and 18
Potential Effects on European Sites Under the Habitats Regulations, the County Borough has undertaken a Screening Exercise. The following Special Areas of Conservation (SAC) are within a search area of 15km around Plan/Proposal Area: • Cwm Clydach Woodlands (adjacent) • Usk Bat Site (2.8km from county borough) • River Usk (3.94km from county borough) • Aberbargoed Grassland (4.37km from county borough) • Sugar Loaf Woodlands (7.88 km from county borough) • Brecon Beacons (10.13km from county borough) • Llangorse Lake/ Llyn Syfaddan (10.13km from county borough) • Coed Y Cerrig (11.61km from county borough) • Cwm Cadlan (12.87km from county borough) Based on the information gathered for the screening process and	The LDP will need to take the results of this exercise, when they are available, into consideration to ensure that the LDP implements appropriate mitigation and protection measures.	Biodiversity	Objective 14

considering the Habitats Regulations requirements for a precautionary approach, it is determined that further Appropriate Assessment work is required for: • Cwm Clydach Woodlands • Usk Bat Site			
Under appreciation and protection of natural resources and biodiversity Blaenau Gwent has a limited number of sites designated on the basis of their ecological importance. Despite this, the Local Biodiversity Action Plan identifies a very broad range of species and habitats considered worthy of protection from damage, coupled with detailed listings of the range of pressures that face these habitats (e.g. overgrazing; lack of traditional countryside management practices; presence of invasive species; under valuing of moorland habitats; chemicals; domestic pets, etc.). Consequently, the current lack of designations could be considered as a failure to fully recognise the presence of valuable resources in the area, which have an important potential role in the wider economic regeneration and tourism agendas. This is a particular issue given that the County Borough boundary encompasses part of the Brecon Beacons National Park. The total number of SINCs (Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation) is unknown. The first tranche of designations will include 60 SINCs. Subsequent tranches are planned. 10 new LNRs (Local Nature Reserves) are planned. These are aimed at increasing the awareness of and regulatory powers to protect the area's valuable natural assets. The County Borough includes the Cwm Merddog and Coed Ty'n y Gelli SSSIs near Cwm, which are both fine examples of ancient semi-natural woodlands. The use of 'off-road' vehicles is causing damage to valuable ecological resources. Wales has a relatively high rainfall compared to the rest of the UK, with an average of 1400mm per year compared to 700mm in the south east	The LDP will need to reflect both the principles and the results of the process of ecological site assessment – latest research suggests that at least 20 SINCs and at least 5 new LNRs should be designated without further delay. A further 40 SINCs and 5 more LNRs should ideally be implemented in the near future. This will reduce the risk of their removal by development. The protection and management of designated sites is imperative in terms of protecting the biodiversity resource of Blaenau Gwent. This resource is vulnerable to new developments and land management practices which could result in habitat loss and fragmentation. Up to date information on the condition of all sites is not currently available. It is important that these areas are carefully mapped, monitored and protected from development Biodiversity cannot just be protected through the protection of statutory and non-statutory designated wildlife sites alone. The LDP process should deliver the protection, enhancement and expansion of the Local Biodiversity Action Plan important habitats and species in the wider countryside alongside protection of designated sites. Creation of habitat within new developments where it has previously been lost should be promoted. This could include landscaped areas to benefit wildlife and the use of SUDS incorporating habitat creation (e.g. green/brown roofs, wetlands) Development and biodiversity do not have to be mutually exclusive in all cases. Dependent on the	Biodiversity Flora and Fauna Soil Landscape Water	Objective 14

of England. Companies in Wales are predicting increases in household demand for water over coming years, not just because of rising numbers of households but also because of greater individual consumption. Only 5% of households in Blaenau Gwent have a metered water supply. Infrastructure provision for both sewerage and water supply needs to be considered.	existing ecological conditions of an area, the level of possible development intensity should also be considered on a site by site basis. Correct determination of development intensity (and ultimately design) will enable the retention and potentially increased robust ecosystem and provide for high quality developments for the local community. In addition to the need to protect existing landscape of good quality, there is an opportunity to create a valued landscape area for Blaenau Gwent which will help enhance its attraction as a place to live, work and visit. There are also opportunities to strengthen links between Blaenau Gwent and the Brecon Beacons National Park. Protection should also be afforded to the ancient woodlands within the area, supported by increased woodland cover if appropriate.		
Under appreciation and protection of heritage resources The South East Wales region has approximately 56 registered historic parks and Gardens. Out of the 10 regional authorities, Blaenau Gwent only has one registration – Bedwellty House and Park – which is a very low proportion. It was also suggested in the consultation on the Scoping Report that this historic park and garden was in need of improvement. The Heritage Strategy recognises that the range and significance of archaeological monuments and sites within the County Borough is not well known and nor is it sufficiently recognised and appreciated. In addition to the above, despite the fact that the area has a considerable heritage resource (e.g. the Garden City, Sy Illtyd's Church, Castle Street and the Circle) and, as set out in the Heritage Strategy, the majority of the County Borough's buildings are over 100 years old, there is only one designated conservation area within the County Borough and 58 listed buildings, none of which are Grade 1. This means that heritage assets may face considerable development pressure, potentially to the detriment of their quality and potential integration into the establishment of tourism and visitor products and attractions. The above points are reinforced by the fact that nearly 20% of all of the	It will be important for the heritage assets of the County Borough to be thoroughly reviewed, restored and protected from detrimental development as appropriate. Enhancement of assets that are known to be at risk should also be supported through the LDP. The Heritage Strategy sets out aspirations to improve the educational value of existing heritage interpretation facilities/museums, together with a desire to develop the Nantyglo roundhouse complex as a high quality heritage centre and educational resources for both locals and visitors. The Plan will need to consider how these aims and objectives may best be achieved through planning policy.	Cultural Heritage Landscape Material Assets Soil Flora and Fauna	Objective 15

listed buildings in the area are at risk. Degradation of the historic character of certain parts of the County Borough may also reduce the desire live and work in the area.			
Limited supply of developable land The area is predominantly open countryside (45%), with only 23% of the total land area falling within the defined urban area and a further 9% designated as urban fringe. However, not all of the open countryside is developable, due to the limiting topography of the area. This is likely to present constraints to development on the basis of landscape and biodiversity value, which will either increase demand for the limited supply of brownfield land in the County Borough; or alternatively act as a deterrent to developers who may seek to identify less constrained sites in neighbouring authority areas.	In order to integrate sustainability issues associated with all three dimensions (social, economic and environmental), it will be of critical importance that the identification of development sites in the LDP is effective in enabling the commercial reuse of brownfield land, including contaminated sites; and that the loss of valuable greenfield land to development is avoided wherever possible. Such land allocations will need to be informed by a robust understanding of the financial pressures of commercial development in order to ensure that all allocations have a realistic prospect of development in the LDP period.	Soil Biodiversity Fauna Flora Landscape	Objective 16
Contaminated sites Given the industrial legacy of the County Borough, there is a considerable number of contaminated sites (1607 sites in 2003), which may present future development issues as the cost of remediation will need to be factored into site development costs and, in some cases, may prove to be prohibitive. Historic trends lend support to this issue - there are only two major contaminated sites in Blaenau Gwent that have been remediated in preparation for development.	The LDP will need to ensure that remediation of contaminated land takes place before its development to should seek to protect human health, biodiversity, and all controlled water, which includes groundwater, as well as watercourses.	Soil Landscape Human Health Material Assets Water	Objective 17
Geodiversity Blaenau Gwent includes the Brynmawr Sections (geological site) SSSI. The landscape/geomorphology of the Blaenau Gwent area is controlled by Upper Palaeozoic, Upper Carboniferous rocks of the Productive Coal Formation (Lower-Middle Coal Measures) and overlying South Wales Pennant and Grovesend formations (Pennant Measures/Upper Coal Measures). Coal mining was an important industry, and evidence of previous mining activity remains in the landscape in the form of spoil heaps, tips, mine shafts and areas of made ground. On valley slopes with ancient landslips, renewed instability has resulted from extraction of coal and ironstone.	The LDP should include a policy to ensure protection of soils and geodiversity.		

The geological landscape is relatively robust; in upland plateau areas where the Condition is generally Good. The Trend, where subject mainly to natural weathering and degradation – as across wide areas of the upland plateau - is considered relatively Constant. In coal mining areas, extraction has largely ceased, and reclaimed or made ground in the valleys has been developed. The condition in such areas is more generally Fair, but the trend remains Constant. Management priorities are long-term, as is appropriate to a Level 3 study.			
Waste management Household waste arisings per household since 1998 have been increasing more rapidly in Blaenau Gwent than the South East local authority average. In 1998 Blaenau Gwent recorded 1,321 tonnes per household compared to 1,113 for the South East; by 2005 Blaenau Gwent's household arisings were 1,507 tonnes compared to a regional average of 1,284. In addition to household rates, waste arisings per person have also increased more rapidly in Blaenau Gwent than the regional average: in 1998 Blaenau Gwent residents produced an average of 511 tonnes of waste per person compared to 455 tonnes for the South East region as a whole; by 2005, the Blaenau Gwent average was 648 compared to 519 tonnes across the region. Higher than average and increasing household waste coupled with low participation in recycling schemes in the County Borough have important implications for housing renewal initiatives and the wider regeneration agenda. Waste Management and Recycling- participants at group thought that the recycling rate was high not low- 22.5% (comparators?) Target- 40% by 2010	The LDP will need to promote a holistic approach to waste management. This includes the development of new waste management facilities, which should include waste treatment and recycling, as well as the management of waste water. The plan should ensure that where capacity does not exist, development should be considered as premature until the necessary improvement works have been undertaken. 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.	Material Assets	Objective 19

A4: Developing the Sustainability Appraisal Framework

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

3.20 The SA framework of objectives, indicators and targets is shown in Table 3.4. The 25 SA objectives have been worded so that they reflect one single desired direction of change for the theme concerned and do not overlap with other objectives. They include both externally imposed social, environmental and economic objectives and others devised specifically in relation to the context of the LDP being prepared and they are distinct from the LDP objectives. SA objectives 1-19 have been derived taking specifically account of local circumstances and concerns feeding from the analysis of sustainability issues (see Table 3.3 for relationship of sustainability issues to SA objectives). SA objectives 20-25 are objectives mainly influenced by national environmental policy. Although there might not be a local issue associated with these objectives at present they must be pursued from a sustainability perspective in the Blaenau Gwent LDP.

3.21 A set of indicators has been derived to capture the change likely to arise from the LDP implementation and will play a role in the assessment itself. Where appropriate, locally relevant indicators have been proposed based on the review of local plans and programmes, the evolving baseline, and from developing the analysis of the key sustainability issues.

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

A5: Results from Consultation on the SA Scoping Report

3.23 The results from the consultation on the Scoping Report are integrated into this report where appropriate, as outlined in the Appendix A.

Table 3.4 - SA Framework

Key to Data Availability for Indicators

Bold = Known data for Blaenau Gwent

Italic = Known data for South East Wales Region

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

No	Draft SA Objective	Potential Indicators	Target	SEA Topics
		Economic		
1	To promote economic growth and strengthen and diversify the local economy	**Employment by sector**	Reduce reliance on manufacturing sector	Population
		No. of business VAT registrations	Increase	
		% change in total number of business VAT registrations	Increase in registrations	
		% of serviced employment sites	Increase	
		% of new employment floorspace generated	Increase	
		Zone A rental values in town centres	Increase	
		GVA per capita	Increase	
		The creation and development of micro-enterprises	Increase	
		Tourism activities, including increased public access to historic and archaeological sites	Increase	
2	To increase levels of local employment and ensure distribution of opportunities	**% of working age population that are economically inactive**	Decrease	Population Human Health
		Proportion of population of working age claiming benefits	Decrease	
		% of the population of working age that are long term unemployed	Decrease	

		% increase in average earnings	Increase	
		Average household income	Increase	
		Proportion of population enrolled in adult education	Increase	
3	To support the development of a strong tourism economy in Blaenau Gwent, complementary to the regional offer	Total number of visitors to attractions in Blaenau Gwent	Increase	Population Material Assets Landscape
		Expenditure by sector	Increase	
		Revenue by category of visitor	Increase	
		Tourist Days	Increase	
		The number of Rod Licences sold annually in Blaenau Gwent	Increase	
4	To enhance the viability and vitality of town centres	% change in vacancies in town centres	Reduce vacancies	Population
		National retailer representation	Increase national retailer representation	

No	Draft SA Objective	Potential Indicators	Target	SEA Topics
Social				
5	To meet identified housing needs	**Number of completed dwellings by type and tenure**	No target identified	Population
		Breakdown of housing stock by size and tenure	Achieve more equitable balance between types	
6	To improve the quality of Blaenau Gwent's housing stock	Number of houses meeting Welsh Housing Quality Standard (WHQS)	100%	Human Health Material Assets
		Proportion of housing designated as unfit for habitation	0%	
		Proportion of housing designated as in need of significant repair	0%	
		Proportion of housing without central heating	0%	

		Proportion of housing without sole use of toilet/shower	0%	
7	To secure the delivery and maintenance of quality affordable housing	*% Affordable Housing*	20%	Population Human Health Material Assets
		Average property price by size and tenure	No target identified	
		% of eligible residential planning permissions where affordable housing has been negotiated	100%	
		Average house price to income ratio	No target identified	
8	To improve educational attainment and increase skills levels	**Percentage of the adult population with no qualifications**	Decrease	Population
		Proportion of adults with level 2 qualifications (5 GCSE A* - C or NVQ equivalent)	Increase	
		Proportion of adults with level 4 qualifications (degree and above)	Increase	
		Proportion of the population enrolled in adult education	Increase	
9	To improve accessibility to education, leisure, employment, health, homes and community services for all sectors of the community	Accessibility /availability of community facilities	Distances from residents properties to community facilities as listed in assessment rationale to comply with the Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation.	Population Human Health
		Length, connectivity and accessibility to public rights of way for walking, cycling and horse riding	Increase	
		No. of closures of local services and facilities	Reduce	
		Amount of new residential development within 30 minutes public transport time of: a GP and hospital	Increase	
		Proportion of local service centres served by a bus service with at least 30 min daytime frequency	100%	
		Proportion of homes in urban areas within 400m walking distance of a bus stop	100%	

		Proportion of rural settlements serviced by the DETR definition of an 'adequate' bus service (an hourly service within 10 mins walk of homes)	100%	
		Proportion of schools with green travel plans	100%	
		Proportion of employers with green travel plans	100%	
10	To promote community health, social care and well-being	**Life expectancy**	To maintain/increase life expectancy Source: www.statistics.gov.uk	Population Human Health Air Climatic Factors
		Death rate per 100,000 by Chronic Heart Disease	To reduce heart disease, stroke and related illnesses amongst people under 75 by at least 40 % by 2010 Source: UK Sustainable Development Quality of Life Indicators	
		Death rate per 100,000 by cancer	To reduce cancer amongst people under 75 by at least 20% by 2010 Source: UK Sustainable Development Quality of Life Indicators	
		Death rate per 100,000 by suicide	To reduce suicide and undetermined injury by at least 20% by 2010 Source: UK Sustainable Development Quality of Life Indicators	

		Death rate per 100,000 by road traffic accidents	To reduce road traffic accidents by at least 20% by 2010 Source: UK Sustainable Development Quality of Life Indicators	
		Community Satisfaction / perceptions surveys – Housing Estate Surveys	To decrease % of people who describe their health as poor	
		Indices of deprivation	To decrease % of population living in most deprived areas	
		Proportion of households not living within 400m of their nearest natural greenspace.	0% Source: CCW Accessible Greenspace Standards	
		Proportion of households within 800m walking distance of key health services	100%	
		Building design that contributes to a 'healthier' environment		
		Percentage of population within 1km of National Cycle Network (NCN)		
		Vulnerable people maintaining independence in their own homes		
		30 minutes of moderate exercise five times per week		
		Increase Number of under 11 children participating in sport.	Above national average of 58% for junior participation in sport	
11	To reduce crime, social disorder and fear of crime	**Average crime rate per 1000 population**	No target identified	Population Human Health
		Number of anti-social behaviour notices served	0	
		Violent crimes against the person per 1000 population	Reduce	
		Fear of crime in Blaenau Gwent during the day and night	Reduce	

		Percentage of new housing that meets the 'secured by design' certification criteria	Increase	
12	To protect and enhance the Welsh culture	**Proportion of Welsh speakers**	Increase	Population
		Welsh medium schools as a proportion of all schools	Increase	
		Bi-lingual published material	Increase	

No	Draft SA Objective	Potential Indicators	Target	SEA Topics
		Environmental		
13	To encourage modal shift from private transport to sustainable transport	**Annual average traffic flow per 1,000km of principal roads**	Target not appropriate	Population Air Climatic Factors Human Health
		Proportion of households without access to a car/van	Stabilise	
		Levels of public transport usage	Increase	
		No. and value of S106 agreements secured for improvements in public transport, walking and cycling	Increase	
		No. of safe routes to school schemes	Increase – target should be 100%	
		No. of green travel plans	Increase – target should be 100% of employers	
		Modal split - % of population travelling to work by sustainable modes	Increase	
		Number of travel smart programmes		
		Length of additional cycle and walking network as a % of total length	Increase	
14	To protect and enhance biodiversity across Blaenau Gwent	**Loss and condition of international, European, national, regional and locally designated sites of biodiversity interest**	To achieve favourable condition for all international, national and local designated sites by 2026	Biodiversity Flora and Fauna Landscape

		Number of protected habitats and species identified, managed and protected	Increase	Landscape
		Number of actions within the LBAP that have been completed	100% completion	
		% of LBAP species that are stable or increasing	Increase	
		% of greenspace important for wildlife corridors identified and safeguarded from or enhanced as part of development	Increase	
		% of planning permissions incorporating a condition which is to establish a buffer zone (relating to development adjacent to a watercourse)	Increase	
		Sites important for biodiversity enhanced, or recovered	Increase	
		Unavoidable loss of biodiversity compensated for	Increase	
15	To conserve and enhance the heritage assets of Blaenau Gwent and their settings	**Number and area of conservation areas**	Increase	Cultural Heritage Landscape Material Assets
		Number of listed buildings or Scheduled Ancient Monuments on the 'at risk' register	Zero	
		Number of conservation area appraisals and conservation area management plans undertaken/ implemented	Increase	
		Condition of registered parks and gardens of historic interest	Improve	
16	To make the best use of previously developed land and existing buildings to	% new development on previously developed land	60% of all new dwellings p.a.	Landscape Biodiversity Flora and

	and existing buildings to minimise pressure for greenfield development, where this will not result in damage or loss to biodiversity	% of residential sites developed at densities of over 30 dph	100%	Flora and Fauna
		Area of contaminated land remediated for development	Increase	
		Proportion of residential premises that are vacant, unfit for habitation or in need of substantial repairs	Decrease	
17	To conserve soil resources and their quality	**No. and area of contaminated land sites**	Decrease through remediation	Soil Material Assets, Human Health, Landscape
		Area of agricultural land by grade	Maintain quality and productivity	
		Area of redevelopment of brownfield sites	Increase	
		Area of greenfield land lost to development	Target should be nil	
		Number of development projects implementing soil creation and conservation techniques	Target should be 100%	
18	To reduce emissions of greenhouse gases, in particular carbon dioxide	Greenhouse gas emissions (CO_2 equivalent) by sector and per capita (tonnes per year)	To reduce CO2 emissions by 20% by 2010 from a 1990 baseline figure (national target) *Source: UK Air Quality Strategy, 2000*	Climatic factors

			A 3% year on year reduction in average overall carbon emissions across all sectors *Source: WAG/WLGA "Welsh Declaration on Climate Change and Energy Efficiency* Reduce carbon dioxide emissions by 3% each year until 2011 Source: One Wales	Climatic factors
19	To reduce waste generation and maximise reuse and recycling	**Total municipal waste arisings**	Decrease	Population Water Soil Material Assets
		Number of fly-tipping incidents per year	Zero	
		% of municipal waste recycled and composted	To recycle or compost at least 40 % of municipal waste by 2009/2010 and 58% of municipal waste by 2015/16 (TBC in new Welsh Strategy, Oct 2007) Source: Wise About Waste 2000 (Welsh Strategy)	
		% of commercial waste recycled	Increase	
		% of municipal waste used to recover heat or energy	Increase	
		No. of waste management facilities in the County Borough	Increase	
20	To maintain current air quality	Estimated background air pollution data	To be below national targets for pollutants	Air, Climatic Factors Human Health
		No. of exceedences of the 100ug/m3 8 hour mean objective	No more than 10 exceedences of the 100ug/m3 8 hour mean	

21	To maintain current low levels of vulnerability of all development to flooding	**% of planning permissions (minor development) approved contrary to Environment Agency sustained objectives on flood risk' and 2) '% of planning permissions (major development) approved contrary to Environment Agency sustained objections on flood risk.**	Zero	Population Biodiversity Flora and Fauna Human Health Water
		% relevant permissions with SUDS schemes; incorporating reedbeds where appropriate	Increase	
		Number of properties at risk from flooding	Decrease	
		New development generating surface water flows greater than 10 litres/second/hectare being discharged to any watercourse	Decrease	
22	To promote the use of sustainably sourced products and resources	% of new build and retrofit meeting EcoHomes Very Good standard or above	100%	Air Climatic Factors Human Health Population Material Assets Water
		% of commercial buildings meeting BREEAM Very Good standard or above	100%	
		Greywater recycling systems and water savings devices installed in new developments	100%	
		Water consumption per household	Decrease	
23	To increase energy efficiency and generation and use of renewable energy across the County Borough	**No. of buildings incorporating renewable energy production (solar panels, wind turbines, photovoltaic's, ground-source heat)**	New build dwellings to be carbon neutral by 2016 *Source: Gordon Brown (UK Govt.)*	Climatic factors, Landscape
		Energy consumption per capita	Decrease	
		Electricity generated from renewable sources	10% renewable energy target by 2010 4TWh of electricity from renewable sources by 2010 (WAG)	
		No. of planning permissions for renewable energy schemes	Increase	
24	To conserve and enhance	**Biological river quality**	Improve	Water

	surface and ground water quality	**Chemical river quality**	Improve	
		% of total classified river length complying with water quality	Improve	
		% of total classified river length complying with RQO / RE (River Quality Objective/ River Ecosystem) target	Improve	
		% of planning applications granted in sewered areas where there is no capacity and no planned upgrades	Zero	
		Groundwater quality	Not worse or an improvement	
25	To protect the quality and character of the landscape and enhance where necessary	Proportion of valued landscape lost to development	Decrease	Landscape
		Amount or proportion of landscape subject to enhancement associated with development	Increase	
		Proportion of landscape characterised and managed	Increase	

SA Baseline Data and Trends

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

3.25 Table 3.5 presents a preliminary analysis of the fundamental characteristics of the baseline (current conditions, current and future trends, and sensitivity to change) against the draft SA objectives using a simple three-point normative scale against a series of variables as follows:

- current conditions - good/moderate/poor;
- current trends – improving/stable/declining;
- future trends (without plan implementation) - improving/stable/declining;
- sensitivity to change – high/medium/low.

3.26 Sensitivity to change in the context of SA represents the extent to which, for instance, ecological thresholds may be close to being breached or carrying capacity exceeded, such that relatively small changes might be likely to induce disproportionately large effects, which in some instances might have wide-ranging and/or unexpected consequences. An example might be the decline of a particular wildlife population below the level at which it is viable in a particular habitat. CPRW has difficulty in understanding what is meant by ‘sensitivity to change’ and does not find ‘thresholds’ in this context an easy concept to grasp. This may be because examples are given from a single topic area.

Existing Baseline Conditions and Current Trends

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

3.28 The quality of the baseline data gives an indication of the certainty with which the other four parameters are known, and this is presented in Table 3.5 using a similar colour-coded three-point scale (high/medium/low).

Predicted Future Trends

3.29 The SEA Directive requires the consideration of the likely evolution of the state of the environment without the implementation of the LDP. During the lifetime of the LDP it is predicted that there will be a number of external influences and variables which could affect Blaenau Gwent.

3.30 From Table 3.5 it is clear that without the implementation of the LDP, the future trends show decline with regards to a number of SA objectives, primarily relating to landscape quality, waste and heritage assets.

3.31 Although the predicted evolution of the baseline without the implementation of the LDP is projected to result in a number of stable conditions is respect of the SA objectives, there are seven objectives that are predicted to be improving. These are objectives 4, 8, 11, 14, 17, 18 and 24. These objectives are all subject to external influences in addition to the influence of the LDP.

The Works

3.32 The redevelopment of the former steelworks site provides the opportunity to establish Ebbw Vale as a benchmark for sustainable development. It will produce long term benefits for Ebbw Vale and the broader community of Blaenau Gwent, creating an exciting place to live, learn, work and play.

3.33 A Masterplan has been prepared as part of the planning and approvals process for the site. The Masterplan proposes a mix of uses including the Learning Campus, Local General Hospital, Leisure Centre and sports pitches, a Theatre, high quality offices and around 500 homes.

3.34 Site earthworks have commenced including clean up of old industrial uses. Redevelopment of the site will be phased over a number of years.

3.35 This is likely to have implications for the land use development of the area, and may provide multiplier effects for the rest of the plan area.

Data Limitations

3.36 There are notable data gaps relating to the SA objectives concerned with:

- the tourism economy
- Welsh culture
- renewable energy generation and use
- the use of sustainable resources
- carbon dioxide emissions
- landscape quality

3.37 However, objectives relating to these areas can be found in the related plans and programmes, and thus are considered to be relevant for inclusion in the Sustainability Appraisal Framework.

Table 3.5 - SA Baseline Data and Trends Summary

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

		Local Baseline		Trends		Existing data quality	Comments/Explanation
Draft SA Objective		Condition	Sensitivity to Change	Current	Future (without the LDP)		
	and increase skills levels						these are likely to continue into the future without the implementation of the LDP and continuation with current UDP policies.
9	To improve accessibility to education, leisure, employment, health, homes and community services for all sectors of the community	Moderate	Medium	Stable	Stable	Medium	Levels of accessibility are likely to remain consistent without implementation of the LDP and continuation with current UDP policies.
10	To promote community health, social care and well-being	Poor	Medium	Stable	Stable	Medium	The majority of health statistics illustrate that poor health is an ongoing issue in the County Borough. High levels of poor health are likely to be a feature of the area for at least the next generation; and are unlikely to improve without serious changes in lifestyles and opportunities for healthier lifestyles, particularly for children and young people.
11	To reduce crime, social disorder and fear of crime	Moderate	Low	Improving	Improving	Medium	In general terms, crime rates are broadly comparable and, if anything, slightly lower than rates for the South East region.
12	To protect and enhance the Welsh culture	Moderate	Low	Stable	Stable	Low	Over 90% of the population are unable to speak Welsh or have no Welsh speaking communications.
Environmental							
13	To encourage modal shift from private transport to sustainable transport	Moderate	Medium	Stable	Stable	Medium	The extension of rail services to Ebbw Vale is likely to improve the patronage of sustainable modes of transport, which may counterbalance the effects of an increase in car ownership.
14	To protect and enhance biodiversity across Blaenau Gwent	Moderate	High	Stable	Improving	Medium	At the present time many important habitats are not protected and face a range of pressures. There are plans for 82 new ecological designations, comprising 72 new Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation and 10 Local Nature Reserves.
15	To conserve and enhance the heritage assets of Blaenau Gwent and their	Poor	High	Declining	Declining	High	Heritage assets may face considerable development pressure in the future due to the lack of heritage designations; despite the fact the area

		Local Baseline		Trends		Existing data quality	Comments/Explanation
Draft SA Objective		Condition	Sensitivity to Change	Current	Future (without the LDP)		
	settings						has a considerable heritage resource.
16	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 to biodiversity.	Moderate	Medium	Stable	Stable	Medium	Settlements in Blaenau Gwent have very high density figures and low amounts of urban land are designated as Greenfield.
17	To conserve soil resources and their quality	Poor	Medium	Stable	Improving	Medium	Blaenau Gwent has a large number of contaminated sites that will require remediation prior to development. Remediation of sites will be required without the implementation of the LDP.
18	To reduce emissions of greenhouse gases, in particular carbon dioxide	Moderate	High	Stable	Improving	Medium	Government led initiatives are likely to lead to improvements in greenhouse gas emissions in the future without the implementation of the LDP.
19	To reduce waste generation and maximise reuse and recycling	Poor	Medium	Declining	Declining	High	Household waste raisings are increasing faster than the south east average and this trend is likely to continue.
20	To maintain current air quality	Good	Low	Stable	Stable	High	There are no Air Quality Management Area's currently designated in the County Borough.
21	To maintain current low levels of vulnerability of all development to flooding	Good	High	Stable	Stable	High	The principal areas of flood risk are located along the river corridors which follow the north-south topography of the valleys through Blaenau Gwent.
22	To promote the use of sustainably sourced products and resources	?	?	?	?	Low	State and trends currently unknown.
23	To increase energy efficiency and generation and use of renewable energy across the County Borough	?	?	?	?	Low	State and trends currently unknown.
24	To conserve and enhance surface and ground water quality	Moderate	Medium	Improving	Improving	Medium	Water quality improvements are likely to continue without implementation of the LDP.
25	To protect the quality and character of the landscape and enhance where	Moderate	Medium	Stable	Decline	Low	Developable landscape within the area is limited and these areas may therefore suffer from disproportionate pressure. The character of the

		Local Baseline		*Trends*		*Existing data quality*	*Comments/Explanation*
Draft SA Objective		*Condition*	*Sensitivity to Change*	*Current*	*Future (without the LDP)*		
	necessary						landscape in terms of its historic and natural heritage is unlikely to be protected or enhanced without the LDP.

Key: Current Conditions: Good/Moderate/Poor
Current Trends: Improving/Stable/Declining
Future Trends (without the plan): Improving/Stable/Declining
Sensitivity to Change: High/Medium/Low
Data Quality: High/Medium/Low

Assessment Assumptions and Rationale

3.38 As already discussed in Section 2 on methodology, the assessment undertaken relies heavily on professional judgement, which necessarily has an element of subjectivity. It also relies on certain assumptions about changes to people's behaviour as a result of the policies being assessed, the way development will be implemented and the way it will be influenced by other DPDs to be prepared subsequently. The following assumption has been made in the appraisal of the LDP policies:

- It is assumed that short term is 0-5 years; medium term is 6-15 years and long term is 16+ years.

3.39 In addition to the assumptions above the assessment was undertaken taking into account the following considerations outlined in Table 3.6.

3.40 The assessment did not appraise the effects of policies in isolation and did address the interaction between policies in the Core Strategy, where relevant, in terms of secondary, cumulative and/or synergistic effects.

Table 3.6 - Assessment Rationale

No.	Objective	Rationale
Economic		
1	To promote economic growth and strengthen and diversify the local economy	The LDP may contribute to economic growth in a variety of different ways- availability of different employment types; enhanced access to employment sites for all modes; enhancement of infrastructure to support the development of new areas; secondary, multiplier or 'seeding' effects of particular types of development' measures to attract and retain a more diverse workforce; and enhancement of the landscape, townscape and/or other aspects of local 'image' to support investment. Assessment of LDP policies will consider the characteristics of the employment provided including aspects such as employment sector, increases in business numbers and changes in growth in different sectors, including tourism.
2	To increase levels of local employment and ensure distribution of opportunities	In order to contribute to local employment levels, the LDP should seek to provide land and buildings for employment use, in locations that are accessible by sustainable modes. Assessment of LDP policies will consider the creation of new employment opportunities including aspects such as wage levels, economic activity, benefit claimants, incomes, adult education, and the contribution this will make to the long term sustainability of employment opportunities in the area.
3	To enable the development of a strong tourism economy in Blaenau Gwent, complementary to the regional offer	In order to contribute to the achievement of this objective the LDP should include policies that seek to encourage other sustainability objectives within this framework. Improvements in accessibility to, as well as within the plan area, will also increase its appeal as a visitor attraction. Decreasing air pollution through a shift to more sustainable modes of transport, improving the recreational and leisure offer (including angling); enhancing the landscape and historic assets; and enhancing green spaces and biodiversity will also enhance environmental, heritage and leisure assets and their settings. Additionally, policies should seek to improve visitor specific facilities such as accommodation.
4	To enhance the viability and vitality of town centres	In order to contribute to this objective, the LDP should include policies to support the regeneration of the town cetnres, through the allocation of sites for retail use as part of a mix that includes residential, leisure and employment uses, to encourage an increase in footfall throughout the day and evening.
Social		
5	To meet identified housing needs	The LDP should seek to provide policies that ensure a supply of housing that is appropriate to local needs, especially in relation to population growth and changing local demographics. The affordability, high quality and mix of housing to create more sustainable communities should be prioritised. Policies should consider whether residential development is in accessible locations and supported by adequate infrastructure capacity, including transport, waste and water considerations. Additionally, the LDP should provide a policy to cater for the needs of gypsies and travellers within the plan area.
6	To improve the quality of Blaenau Gwent's housing stock	The LDP should seek to upgrade the quality of existing and new housing stock, in order to aid regeneration policies and attract and retain a more diverse population mix.
7	To secure the delivery and maintenance of quality affordable housing	The LDP should ensure that those wishing to buy, as opposed to rent, to access market housing are able to through a choice of affordable and high quality housing.

No.	Objective	Rationale
8	To improve educational attainment and increase skills levels	In order increase skills levels, LDP policies should contribute towards improvement in existing educational facilities or the creation of additional educational facilities, specifically tertiary and higher education centres. Non-academic education should also be encouraged as a complement to LDP policies. Secondary considerations within policies to augment passive education such as interpretation of the natural and historic environment and community involvement in development initiatives will also be included in assessments.
9	To improve accessibility to education, leisure, employment, health, homes and community services for all sectors of the community	LDP policies could include new or enhanced provision of facilities as well as improved access either directly through increased provision in areas of deficiency, or indirectly through improved transport links. The following services may be included as priorities: • nursery/first school; • primary/middle school; • secondary school; • health centre; • local shop; • pub; • post office; • community centre; • local centre; • place of worship; • outdoor open access public area; • children's play area; • pharmacy; • libraries; • residential homes for elderly people; • cemeteries;

No.	Objective	Rationale
		• open space; • sports facilities; • supported accommodation; • theatres and cinemas.
10	To promote community health, social care and well-being	In order to improve the health, social care and wellbeing of the population through its policies, the LDP could seek to improve access to health facilities. Indirectly, health levels could be improved through secondary effects of policies to reduce air pollution; ensuring homes are of a decent standard and by decreasing noise pollution as well as traffic congestion. Improving walking and cycling facilities, including through PROWs, for both purposeful and recreational trips will both improve physical activity levels as well as decrease air pollution and traffic. Improving access to and provision of greenspace and improving both informal and formal physical activity levels, as well as create a general sense of wellbeing. This also links to the quality of housing in objective 6.
11	To reduce crime, social disorder and fear of crime	The LDP should include policies that engender a sense of safety and reduce crime and fear of crime through indirect measures such as incorporating design features in new development (such as additional lighting, CCTV, active street frontages, development reaching 'secured by design' standards). Policies could seek to discourage incidences of anti-social behaviour and opportunistic crime, often attributed to 'boredom' or a 'lack of things to do', through increasing the range and availability of community facilities, especially open and green space and leisure facilities.
12	To protect and enhance the Welsh culture	The LDP should seek to enable a policy direction that protects and enhances welsh cultural identity. Policies may include encouragement of an increase in welsh speakers, community groups, cultural events and activities, and welsh medium education.
Environmental		
13	To encourage modal shift from private transport to sustainable transport	This objective should seek to prioritise the reduction in the need to travel, as the most sustainable solution. Subsequently, the residual travel requirements should be prioritised through the 'transport hierarchy' as identified in the Manual for Streets. Policies should prioritise the encouragement of walking and cycling as the first option to reduce current reliance on the private car, to decrease overall reliance on motorised transport. Policies should subsequently seek to encourage a modal shift to bus and train transport, by improving frequency, reliability and convenience of services, especially with regard to journeys to work and school. This will have positive effects on greenhouse gas emissions, as well as human health and local air quality.
14	To protect and enhance biodiversity across Blaenau Gwent	The LDP policies should seek to have a positive effect on designated and non-designated habitats and species. This may be achieved through increasing connectivity and/or reducing disturbance. The policies should also seek to result in the conservation, enhancement or creation of habitats, including those in both land and marine environments. This is especially important in relation to the connectivity of habitats in order to enable migration of species and enhance biodiversity. Migration is especially important in relation to the predicted effects of climate change.
15	To conserve and enhance	The LDP should seek to have a positive effect on the county borough's heritage assets including listed buildings, historic parks and gardens, and archaeologically important sites. The LDP should encourage recognition of such sites and subsequent

No.	Objective	Rationale
	the heritage assets of Blaenau Gwent and their settings	conservation and enhancement. Negative physical change or increased disturbance should be avoided. Policies should seek to encourage sympathetic integration of development with local character. Alongside designated features, non-designated features of local historical and architectural interest and value should also be considered, since these can make an important contribution to creating a sense of place, local identity and distinctiveness in both rural and urban areas. Beyond site specific areas, consideration should be given to landscapes and townscapes, as well as the potential for unrecorded archaeological interest. Policies that reduce traffic levels will provide secondary benefits, as will other non-intrusive traffic management and exclusion measures. Policies to reduce the effects and contribution to climate change could help to reduce the impact on heritage sites from weather events. The impact of encroachment on greenfield sites, air pollutants, noise and vibration as well as consideration of the cumulative impact of incremental changes to the physical environment, particularly in the setting of sensitive sites/ buildings, will also be reflected in the assessment.
16	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 to biodiversity.	To enable the achievement of this sustainability objective, the LDP policies should seek to make the best use of land and buildings. This may be achieved through the encouragement of higher density development and the use of previously developed land as a priority. The siting of development in areas served by sustainable transport modes is also considered an efficient use of land. Through using previously developed land, consideration should be given to land with a low biodiversity value in the first instance. In relation to areas of land that are contaminated, policies should seek to reduce land contamination and safeguard soil quality and quantity.
17	To conserve soil resources and their quality	Policies should seek to encourage the local sourcing of materials, in order to protect geodiversity and mineral resources, alongside soil resources. The use of reclaimed materials should also be prioritised. This will be in combination with the rationale for objective 16.
18	To reduce emissions of greenhouse gases, in particular carbon dioxide	The LDP should seek to achieve this objective through reducing emissions that arise from buildings, land use change, transport, agriculture, consumer goods, amongst others. Policies could encourage more sustainable layouts within development, as well as adherence to guidance such as the Code for Sustainable Homes and BREEAM. A major consideration will be the extent to which policies encourage an improvement in sustainable transport for access to decrease traffic congestion and volume.
19	To reduce waste generation and maximise reuse and recycling	In order for the LDP to achieve more sustainable waste management, it could include policies that directly reduce the generation of waste and increase the recycling of waste against standard levels expected for development, e.g. by providing recycling and composting facilities within and near to homes as well as public buildings and areas. Policies should also specifically refer to the need to reduce, re-use and recycle construction waste. The LDP should also include the allocation of sufficient land to enable as much self sufficiency in waste management and processing as possible.
20	To maintain current air quality	This sustainability objective should be sought to be achieved through the LDP policies, primarily through the reduction in the volume of motorised traffic through a modal shift to more sustainable modes and improved traffic flow and reduced congestion as population and development increases in the plan area. Significant construction activities may reduce air quality during the period of works and the policies should promote mitigation of these effects.

No.	Objective	Rationale
		There should be a positive correlation between air quality, health improvements and the use of more sustainable modes of transport.
21	To maintain current low levels of vulnerability of all development to flooding	Minimising the risk from flooding to people and property, as well minimising the frequency of flooding events should be a key policy consideration in the LDP as growth in population and development occurs. This is especially important with the increasing effects of climate change. Assessments will include the consideration of effects on flood risk from all sources either directly or indirectly through proximity/ location within areas of flood risk (for example through locating development in flood plains), or indirectly through exacerbation of effects downstream or increasing the proportion of impermeable surfaces. Policies should result in a decrease in flood risk, which may include policies to encourage Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems. An increased risk from flooding to people and property may be reduced through policies to prevent increased density of development in flood risk areas. Other possible risk reduction measures that could be included within policy may include the following: • a change in land use to reduce the vulnerability of the proposed development; • a reduction in the building platform area; • the raising of internal floor levels and flood proofing (within existing buildings) to reduce potential flood damage; • the rearrangement of buildings within the site to remove obstructions to overland flow paths; and • the placement of buildings to higher areas within the site to limit the risk of flood damage and/or enable the provision of escape routes
22	To promote the use of sustainably sourced products and resources	The LDP should seek that all development ensures that materials used are sourced sustainably, that is they are locally sourced and contain low embodied energy. This will contribute to objectives 2,10,13,17,18,20 and 23.
23	To increase energy efficiency and generation and use of renewable energy across the County Borough	The LDP should include policies that will directly reduce energy demand by encouraging energy efficiency. Policies may include the encouragement of improving the energy efficiency of dwellings through measures such as improved insulation; efficient heating and hot water systems; eco labelled white goods installed; and the use of low energy lighting. Assessment of the achievement of this sustainability objective will also consider indirect effects such as development located to reduce transport distances and design factors such as building orientation (linked to passive solar gain) and building form. The extent to which policies promote the use of low embodied energy materials from sustainable sources and material from local sources and suppliers in the construction of new developments will be assessed. Policies may also encourage the use of the Code for Sustainable Homes or BREEAM assessment methods to ensure high standards of development in energy efficiency. In order to promote renewable energy production and use through the LDP, policies could specify the need for all developments to assess the potential for microgeneration within their sites, implementing wherever possible as a condition of permission. Policies could also specify that a certain percentage of energy used on the site must come from renewable sources, generated either on site, or elsewhere where on site generation is not feasible.
24	To conserve and enhance surface and ground water	LDP policies should seek to have a positive effect on maintaining and enhancing the quality of surface and ground waters. This will include policies to control the following, amongst others: surface water run-off from impermeable surfaces; proximity of

No.	Objective	Rationale
	quality	development and agriculture to watercourses; and intensity of development. Sewage discharges into watercourses should be prevented. The opening up of culverts into watercourses and increasing the length of watercourse restored/impacted on should be considered. In order to reduce water consumption through the LDP, its policies should seek to deliver measures to encourage a responsible approach to water use, re-use and conservation. Conservation methods may include grey water recycling, incorporation of dual water supplies, low water use appliances and water metering, to reduce pressure on potable water resources.
25	To protect the quality and character of the landscape and enhance where necessary	Policies should seek to limit the effect of development on the landscape, including open land lost to built development, as well as the efficient use and appearance of development. Secondary beneficial effects will be associated with policies that will reduce traffic levels in the Council area, as well as other non-intrusive management and exclusion measures. The cumulative impact of encroachment on greenfield sites, air pollutants, noise and vibration as well as consideration of incremental changes to the physical environment will be considered in relation to their effect on the landscape as well as it's users from a physical as well as visual amenity perspective.

4. Stage B: Development of the Issues, Vision and Options

B1: Testing the LDP Objectives against the Sustainability Appraisal Objectives

4.1 The LDP vision is:

'Through collaborative working, by 2021, Blaenau Gwent will become a network of sustainable, vibrant valley communities, where people have the skills, knowledge and opportunities to achieve a better quality of life and residents will live in safe, healthy and thriving communities, with access to a range of good quality affordable homes and thriving town centres. Its unique environment, cultural and historic identity will be protected and enhanced to create a place where people want to live, work and visit.'

4.2 In order to achieve this vision, a series of objectives have been identified. The generation of these objectives was informed by workshops held with stakeholders and elected members.

4.3 The LDP objectives which were tested against the SA Objectives are:

1. Develop Ebbw Vale as the main service and retail hub for the County Borough
2. Create a network of vibrant district centres (secondary hubs), well linked to the main hub of Ebbw Vale, that provide a range of local services and facilities for their local communities.
3. Support and deliver the regeneration of the former Ebbw Vale Steelworks ensuring that the benefits are spread across the borough.
4. Increase economic activity through facilitating diversification of the economic base and support for the manufacturing sector by encouraging specialisation.
5. Provide a range of employment sites and premises to meet the needs of businesses of all sizes in manufacturing, the technological and service sectors.
6. Stem out-migration and attract people to the area to create a more balanced population.
7. Provide a range of types and tenures of new homes to meet local housing needs and attract people to the area.
8. Improve accessibility to services through the promotion of sustainable modes of transport, particularly, public transport, walking and cycling.
9. Improve education levels and skills through supporting infrastructure development of the Learning Campus, new schools and integrated education services, including life-long learning.
10. Create an accessible network of open spaces and high quality leisure infrastructure to promote participation in sport and active recreation to improve health and well-being.
11. Capitalise on the unique landscape and natural heritage, foster sustainable tourism and promote community pride.
12. Protect, enhance and manage the diversity and ecological network of Blaenau Gwent.
13. Raise the standard of design to improve the quality of the physical environment; and protect and enhance Blaenau Gwent's historic and cultural environment.
14. To mitigate against and adapt to climate change.

4.4 The LDP objectives were tested for compatibility with the SA objectives (see Figure 4.1). This helped to consider to what degree they are in accordance with sustainability principles, with a view to developing and refining the LDP objectives through an iterative process.

4.5 The LDP objectives were broadly compatible with the SA objectives, although many of the objectives could be compatible subject to the nature of their delivery. For example, objective 5 could be compatible with a number of the SA objectives. This would be dependent, however, on the location of the employment sites in relation to centres of population, how easily accessible the sites are and by what modes, as well as the land type on the sites themselves in terms of the potential impacts on landscape and soil quality. Similarly, objective 10 could be further improved to specify not only the need for open spaces, but to ensure that these areas include green spaces. This will help to ensure that a number of the environmental objectives are contributed to, including maintaining air quality and improving biodiversity. This objective could be linked to objective 12, through a single objective to provide a green infrastructure network, which would not only provide amenity and biodiversity value, but also contribute to sustainable urban drainage, which will help to achieve objective 14 through minimising the potential threat from flooding.

4.6 Objectives 1-7 and 9 are likely to be largely incompatible with objectives 18-21, as they seek to generate an increase in built development. These developments are likely to lead to an increase in traffic, which will lead to an increase in carbon dioxide amongst other gases, which will conflict with objectives 18 and 20. Additionally, further population will lead to an increase in the generation of waste. Further built development will also likely increase the risk of flooding, from an increase in hard surfacing throughout the plan area. In order to minimise these conflicts, objectives should seek to ensure that any new built development minimises its impact on the natural environment. This will include measures such as ensuring sites are easily accessible by their target populations, reducing the need to travel. The impacts of new buildings can be minimised through using guidance such as BREEAM or the Code for Sustainable Homes.

4.7 It is suggested that objective 14 be reworded as the word mitigate is not correctly used. It is suggested that the objective read ‘to minimise further climate change contributions and mitigate its predicted effects on the county borough.’

4.8 Following discussions with the Council, the final LDP objectives are outlined below:

1. Develop Ebbw Vale as the main service and retail hub for the County Borough.
2. Create a network of vibrant district/local centres (secondary hubs), well linked to the main hub of Ebbw Vale, that provide a range of local services and facilities for their local communities.
3. Support and deliver the regeneration of the former Ebbw Vale Steelworks ensuring that the benefits are spread across the borough.
4. Increase economic activity through facilitating diversification of the economic base and support for the manufacturing sector by encouraging specialisation.
5. Provide a range of employment sites and premises to meet the needs of businesses of all sizes in manufacturing, the technological and service sectors.
6. Stem out-migration and attract people to the area to create a more balanced population.
7. Provide a range of types and tenures of new homes to meet local housing needs and attract people to the area.
8. Improve accessibility to services through the promotion of sustainable modes of transport, particularly, public transport, walking and cycling.
9. Improve education levels and skills through supporting infrastructure development of the Learning Campus, new schools and integrated education services, including life-long learning.
10. Create an accessible network of green open spaces and high quality leisure infrastructure to promote participation in sport and active recreation to improve health and well-being.

11. Capitalise on the unique landscape and natural heritage, foster sustainable tourism and promote community pride.
12. Protect, enhance and manage the diversity of the biodiversity resource of Blaenau Gwent through the identification of ecological corridors
13. Raise the standard of design to improve the quality of the physical and natural environment; and protect and enhance Blaenau Gwent's historic and cultural environment.
14. To minimise further climate change contributions and mitigate its predicted effects on the County Borough.

Consultation Question 1:
Do you have any comments on the assessment of the LDP Objectives against the Sustainability Objectives?

Figure 4.1 - Compatibility between the LDP objectives and the SA Objectives

		SA Objectives																								
Objectives		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
1	Develop Ebbw Vale as the main service and retail hub for the County	✓	✓	?	✓	?			?	✓	✓	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	X	X	X	X	?	?	?	?
2	Create a network of vibrant district centres (secondary hubs), well linked to the main hub of Ebbw Vale, that provide a range of local services and	✓	✓	?	✓	?			?	✓	✓	?	?	✓	?	?	?	?	X	X	✓	X	?	?	?	?
3	Support and deliver the regeneration of the former Ebbw Vale Steelworks ensuring that the benefits are spread across the borough.	✓	✓	?	✓	?			?	✓	?	?	✓	?	X	✓	✓	?	X	X	X	X	?	✓	✓	✓
4	Increase economic activity through facilitating diversification of the economic base and support for the manufacturing sector by encouraging	✓	✓	?	✓	?			✓	✓	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	X	X	X	X	?	?	?	?
5	Provide a range of employment sites and premises to meet the needs of businesses of all sizes in manufacturing, the technological and service	✓	✓	?	?	?			?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	X	X	X	X	?	?	?	?
6	Stem out-migration and attract people to the area to create a more	?	?		✓	?	?	?		?	?	?	?	?	X	?	?	?	X	X	X	X	?	?	?	?
7	Provide a range of types and tenures of new homes to meet local housing needs and attract people to the area.	✓			✓	✓	X	✓		X	✓	✓	X	?	X	X	?	X	X	X	X	X	?	?	?	?
8	Improve accessibility to services through the promotion of sustainable modes of transport, particularly, public transport, walking and cycling.	✓	✓	✓	✓				✓	✓	✓	?	?	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓		✓	✓	?	✓	✓	✓
9	Improve education levels and skills through supporting infrastructure development of the Learning Campus, new schools and integrated	✓	?	?	✓				✓	✓		?	?	?	?	?	?	?	X	X	X	X	?	?	?	?
10	Create an accessible network of open spaces and high quality leisure infrastructure to promote participation in sport and active recreation to	✓	?	✓	✓				?	✓	✓	✓	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	X	?	?	?	?	?	✓
11	Capitalise on the unique landscape and natural heritage, foster sustainable tourism and promote community pride.	✓	?	✓	✓				?	✓	✓	✓	✓	?	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
12	Protect, enhance and manage the diversity and ecological network of	X		✓	?				?	?	✓	?	?	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓			✓	✓
13	Raise the standard of design to improve the quality of the physical environment; and protect and enhance Blaenau Gwent's historic and	?		✓	✓		✓		?	?	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓
14	To mitigate against and adapt to climate change.	?	?	?	?		✓				✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

✓ Broadly compatible X Potential conflict Not relevant ? Dependent on nature of delivery

SA Objectives

1 To promote economic growth and strengthen and diversify the local
2 To increase levels of local employment and ensure distribution of
3 To support the development of a strong tourism economy in Blaenau Gwent, complementary to the regional offer
4 To enhance the viability and vitality of town centres
5 To meet identified housing needs
6 To improve the quality of Blaenau Gwent's housing stock
7 To secure the delivery and maintenance of quality affordable housing
8 To improve educational attainment and increase skills levels
9 To improve accessibility to education, leisure, employment, health, homes and community services for all sectors of the community
10 To promote community health, social care and well-being
11 To reduce crime, social disorder and fear of crime
12 To protect and enhance the Welsh culture
13 To encourage modal shift from private transport to sustainable transport
14 To protect and enhance biodiversity across Blaenau Gwent
15 To conserve and enhance the heritage assets of Blaenau Gwent and their settings
16 To make the best use of previously developed land and existing buildings to minimise pressure for greenfield development,
17 To conserve soil resources and their quality
18 To reduce emissions of greenhouse gases, in particular carbon dioxide
19 To reduce waste generation and maximise reuse and recycling
20 To maintain current air quality
21 To maintain current low levels of vulnerability of all development to flooding
22 To promote the use of sustainably sourced products and resources
23 To increase energy efficiency and generation and use of renewable energy across the County Borough
24 To conserve and enhance surface and ground water quality
25 To protect the quality and character of the landscape and enhance where necessary

5. B2: Strategic Options

Introduction

5.1 As outlined in section 3 of this report, stage B2 of the SA/SEA process involved the generation of plan options. This exercise was undertaken in part to fulfil the requirements of the SEA Directive which requires that the Environmental Report should consider:

'reasonable alternatives taking into account the objectives and the geographical scope of the plan or programme' and give 'an outline of the reasons for selecting the alternatives dealt with' (Article 5.1 and Annex Ih).

5.2 This was informed by informal consultation undertaken by the local planning authority as follows:

Local Development Plan Issues Paper

5.3 In July 2007 Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council consulted on an Issues Paper, as 'the first step in preparing the 'Preferred Strategy' for the Local Development Plan.' It was intended as 'a discussion document intended to promote debate focused on the issues of strategic significance'. The document was placed on the Council's website and sent to Members, key officers, statutory consultees and interested parties. In total, 176 individuals/organisations were consulted. Although the formal consultation period took place over a 4-week period between 6th July and 8th August 2007, late responses were accepted.

5.4 Where appropriate, these responses were then taken into consideration in the preparation of options which were discussed at Vision and Options workshops in November 2007.

Issues and Visions Workshop

5.5 The 'stakeholder 'Issues and Vision' workshop, was held to build consensus on where BGCBC were (issues) and where they wanted to be (vision). The workshop was held on Friday 27th July 2007, at the VITCC, in Tredegar and involved 27 attendees representing the LDP Steering Group Sub-group members and LDP Forum members.

5.6 The first workshop task involved attendees discussing different topic areas, to agree and then priorities issues. The two most significant issues for each of the topic areas are as follows:

Housing

- Create a more balanced population stemming out migration
- Provide a range of housing opportunities to meet aspirations including the need for affordable housing.

Town Centres

- To find a role/ function for town centres
- Encourage multiple retailers and a mix of uses within the town centres specialist shops, coffee shops and offices – creating a niche market.

Recreation, Leisure and Tourism

- To foster sustainable tourism and leisure in order to boost the local economy
- To foster sustainable tourism, re-engaging local communities with the national and built historic environment

Transport

- To improve access to services facilities and employment, particularly by public transport, walking and cycling

5.7 Joint second were

- To provide a transport system that encourages healthy and active lifestyles, is safer and supports local communities
- To improve the transport system to assist in the regeneration of the area

Employment

- The implications of the decline in the manufacturing sector and the shift in favour of the service sector and technological industries
- Changing dependence on particular industries and diversifying the economy

Environment

- To protect and enhance local landscape in the face of competing development uses
- Maximise the natural environment for health and well being

5.8 This was followed by a further task where attendees were required to prioritise the most significant issues for Blaenau Gwent. The two most significant issues were:

- The implications of the decline in the manufacturing sector and the shift in favour of the service sector and technological industries; and
- The need to find a role/ function for town centres.

5.9 With the following two housing issues were close behind:

- The need to create a more balanced population stemming out migration; and
- The need to provide a range of housing opportunities to meet aspirations including the need for affordable housing.

5.10 The ‘Vision’ workshop involved building consensus on where Blaenau Gwent wanted to be by 2021.

5.11 The workshop was useful for discussing and prioritising the issues and assisted in setting a vision for the Local Development Plan. These findings were taken into account when the Council prepared draft Strategy Options for discussion at workshops in November 2007.

Development of Options

5.12 Building on the opinions and views expressed at the Issues and Vision workshop, the findings of the consultation exercise on the Issues Paper, the evidence base and National and Local Policy, a set of 3 options were identified by the Planning Policy Team. These were entitled:

Option 1: Regeneration (continuation of the Unitary Development Plan Strategy)

5.13 The first option maintains the current strategy contained in the Blaenau Gwent Adopted Unitary Development Plan. This was a regeneration strategy that attempted to retain a substantial valley community in Blaenau Gwent to support an adequate range of community services and facilities.

Option 2: Growth and Regeneration

5.14 This option is based around attempting to address the issues identified at the earlier workshop and is informed by National Guidance, particularly the Wales Spatial Plan and the Blaenau Gwent Regeneration Strategy.

Option 3: Balanced and Interconnected Communities

5.15 This strategy attempts to address the issues identified and is based on ideology set out in the regional guidance document Turning Heads.

5.16 Further detail of the above options is provided in the Preferred Strategy document of the LDP.

Working Towards a Preferred Option

5.17 It is not the role of the SA to determine which of the options should be chosen as the basis for the preferred options. This is the role of those who have to decide which option is appropriate. The SA should, however, help identify the most sustainable option overall, or different options that promote the different dimensions of sustainability (social, environment, and economic).

5.18 Table 5.1 provides a summary of the comparison of options under the three sustainability dimensions: social, environmental (including protection of the environment and prudent use of natural resources) and economic. Details of the assessments are provided in Appendix E.

5.19 A simplified approach has been taken in order to give an indication of the most sustainable options. This approach assumes that all SA objectives are equally important and thus option(s) with the most positive effect overall are noted as being most sustainable and option(s) whilst those with less positive effects are noted as being less sustainable. As emphasised in the methodology outlined in Section 2, this assessment has been undertaken using expert and professional judgement.

Table 5.1 - Identification of Most Sustainable Options

Scale of Effect (SE): **0 no effect; +++ strongly positive; ++ moderately positive; + slightly positive; --- strongly negative; -- moderately negative; - slightly negative; ? effect unknown**	**Option 1**	**Option 2**	**Option 3**
SA Objective	**SE**	**SE**	**SE**
1. To promote economic growth and strengthen and diversify the local economy	--	++	+
2. To increase levels of local employment and ensure distribution of opportunities	--	+	+
3. To enable the development of a strong tourism economy in Blaenau Gwent, complementary to the regional offer	--	++	++
4. To enhance the viability and vitality of town centres	--	+	+
5. To meet identified housing needs	**--**	+	--
6. To improve the quality of Blaenau Gwent's housing stock	?	?	?
7. To secure the delivery and maintenance of quality affordable housing	**--**	++	--
8. To improve educational attainment and increase skills levels	-	++	+
9. To improve accessibility to education, leisure, employment, health, homes and community services for all sectors of the community	**--**	+	-/+
10. To promote community health, social care and well-being	--	+	-/+
11. To reduce crime, social disorder and fear of crime	--	++	+
12. Protect and enhance the Welsh culture	-	++	+
13. To encourage modal shift from private transport to sustainable transport	?	-/+	+

14. To protect and enhance biodiversity across Blaenau Gwent	-/+	--	-
15. To conserve and enhance the heritage assets of Blaenau Gwent and their settings	-/+	-/+	-/+
16. 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 to biodiversity.	-/+	-	-
17. To conserve soil resources and their quality	-/+	-/+	-/+
18. To reduce emissions of greenhouse gases, in particular carbon dioxide	-	--	-
19. To reduce waste generation and maximise reuse and recycling	-/+	--	-
20. To maintain current air quality	?	--	-
21. To maintain current low levels of vulnerability of all development to flooding	--	--	-
22. To promote the use of sustainably sourced products and resources	?	?	?
23. To increase energy efficiency and generation and use of renewable energy across the County Borough	-	+	+
24. To conserve and enhance surface and ground water quality	--	--	-
25. Protect the quality and character of the landscape and enhance where necessary	-	--	-

Identification of the Preferred Option

5.20 The appraisal of the strategic options found that Option 2 was predicted to be the most sustainable. The option is envisaged to potentially create a diverse economic base, improving employment opportunities as well as access to a range of services and facilities.

5.21 In terms of environmental effects, however, the options performed similarly and were predicted to have unsustainable effects. In order for option 2 to improve its sustainability credentials it is put that the spatial strategy should be developed to include the following:

- A green infrastructure network throughout the entire plan area to benefit: biodiversity, health, air quality, greenhouse gas emissions, amenity, SUDs and energy efficiency.
- Reduce the need to travel through locating residential, employment and service functions within accessible distances for all areas of the county borough.
- Prioritise the use of brownfield land over the use of greenfield wherever possible.

Consultation Question 2: • Do you have any comments on the appraisal of the LDP Strategic Options and how the Preferred Strategy was arrived at?

6. B3&4: Assessment of Significant Effects of the Preferred Strategic Policies

Introduction

6.1 The SEA Directive states that in the Environmental Report, 'the likely significant effects on the environment of implementing the plan or programme….and reasonable alternatives….are [to be] identified, described and evaluated' (Article 5.1). The Environmental Report should include information that may 'reasonably be required taking into account current knowledge and methods of assessment, the contents and level of detail in the plan or programme [and] its stage in the decision-making process' (Article 5.2).

6.2 In addition, the SEA Directive requires the Environmental Report to outline measures to prevent, reduce and, as fully as possible, offset any significant adverse effects on the environment of implementing the plan or programme (Annex I (g)).

6.3 Existing SA guidance recognises that the most familiar form of SA prediction and evaluation is generally broad-brush and qualitative. It is recognised that quantitative predictions are not always practicable and qualitative predictions can be equally valid and appropriate. Examples of the prediction and evaluation techniques for assessing significance of effects are expert judgement, dialogue with stakeholders and public participation, geographical information systems, reference to legislation and regulations and environmental capacity.

6.4 This section outlines the LDP Preferred Policies that have been assessed and the methodology that has been used for the assessment of significant effects as part of Stage B of the SA process, and provides a qualitative assessment of each policy.

Preferred Policies Assessed

6.5 Following confirmation of the strategy direction a draft set of Strategic policies were developed in order to deliver the objectives of the LDP.

6.6 Table 6.1 presents the 17 Strategic Policies which have been assessed. The purpose of the assessment was to derive the sustainability implications in terms of implementing the policies and to identify areas for improvement which will mitigate predicted negative significant effects.

Table 6.1 - Preferred Strategic Policies

No.	Strategic Policy
Locational Strategy	
SP1	**Heads of the Valleys Area – Growth and Regeneration** The Heads of the Valleys area will be the focus for the County Borough's spatial development. Ebbw Vale will accommodate the majority of new homes, jobs and services and will be promoted as the main hub for Blaenau Gwent. Tredegar, Brynmawr and Blaina will be the focus for new development serving the growing needs of their respective communities. New development will be located within these centres or in locations highly accessible to them.
SP2	**South of the Borough - Regeneration** The South of the Borough will see a focus on regeneration with appropriate forms of growth to serve local needs. Abertillery will be the focus of new development serving the needs of its respective communities.

No.	Strategic Policy
Sustainable Development	
SP3	**Creating a network of sustainable linked communities to spread regeneration benefits** The development and use of land throughout the County Borough will be determined by the need to ensure that all communities will have good access to Ebbw Vale. This will be achieved by ensuring that there is a network of hubs which have good public transport links with Ebbw Vale.
Retailing and Town Centres	
SP4	**Retail Hierarchy** Major retail, administrative and cultural developments will take place in the principal retail centre of Ebbw Vale. The District/Local centres of Tredegar, Brynmawr, Blaina and Abertillery will be protected and enhanced to improve vitality and viability and ensure they meet the needs of their districts. They will also develop new complementary roles based around historical, recreational and tourism potential. Local shopping centres will be protected and enhanced to provide facilities for local communities.
Employment	
SP5	**Employment and Diversification of the Economy** The employment and economic development needs of Blaenau Gwent will be met by the identification of 50 to 80 ha of land for employment and business purposes during the plan period. The employment roles of major industrial areas will be identified to assist in the diversification of employment and support the specialisation of manufacturing. Mixed-use sites will be identified close to town centres to enhance town centre based employment in the service sector.
SP6	**Development of the Tourism and Leisure sectors** Foster sustainable tourism and leisure sectors which re-engage local communities with the natural and historic environment and boost the local economy.
Housing	
SP7	**Housing Provision** Provision will be made for the development of 3,000 dwellings during the plan period; broken into the following Housing Market Areas Sirhowy Valley 800 Ebbw Fawr 1,300 Ebbw Fach Upper 600 Ebbw Fach Lower 300 The Delivery of the houses will be back loaded recognising the step change required to reach the higher figures. 2006-2011 750 2011-2016 1,000 2016-2021 1,250
SP8	**Affordable Housing** Between 600 and 800 affordable new homes will be provided between 2006 and

No.	Strategic Policy
	2021.
SP9	**Gypsy Accommodation** 6 pitches for unmet gypsy and traveller housing will be provided between 2006 and 2021.
Transport	
SP10	**Transport Infrastructure Improvements** The Council will safeguard land for the following improvements to transport infrastructure: • phase 2 of the rail link from Parkway to Ebbw Vale Town (including land for a new station); • extension to the Parkway Park and Ride facility; • extension of rail link to Abertillery; • a network of walking and cycling routes; • dualling of the Heads of the Valleys Road (A465); • peripheral distributor road (PDR) through the former Steelworks site; • online improvements between the PDR and the A465; • online improvements to the A4048 south of Tredegar; • online improvements to theA4046 south of Cwm through to Aberbeeg; and • online improvements to the A467 south of Abertillery.
SP11	**Transport Requirements for new Development** Development proposals will be assessed in relation to: • Car parking standards set out in the Council's Car Parking Strategy; • Promotion of public transport, walking and cycling; • Protection of the safety of the highway network; • Accessibility to all users; and • Pedestrian safety
Community Infrastructure	
SP12	**Planning Obligations** The Council will negotiate planning obligations where appropriate to secure improvements in infrastructure, facilities and services appropriate to the scale, type and location of the proposed development. These obligations may include the provision or improvement of the following: • Affordable Housing; • Traffic, Transport and Highway Initiatives; • Education Facilities;

No.	Strategic Policy
	• Community Development and Recreational Facilities; • Public Open Space; • Biodiversity and Geodiversity; • Skills and Labour Market; • Community Safety; and • Public Art.
Environmental Protection and Enhancement	
SP13	**Built and Natural Environment** The distinctive natural environment of the County Borough will be protected and enhanced. Appropriate development proposals should promote: • High quality design that reinforces local character, enhances landscape settings, and respects the cultural and historic qualities of individual buildings, landscapes or Conservation Areas; • Opportunities for the creation, conservation or restoration of designated sites of national and local nature conservation interests.
SP14	**Minerals** The Council will contribute to the regional demand for a continuous supply of minerals by: • Safeguarding known reserves of coal, sand and gravel, limestone, high quality hard rock taking into account relevant environmental, planning and transportation considerations; and • Maintaining a 10-year land-bank of permitted aggregate reserves in line with national guidance.
SP15	**Waste** The Council will implement a sustainable, integrated approach to waste management, which minimises the production of waste and its impact on the environment, and maximises the use of unavoidable waste as a resource. To assist this aim the following land-use commitments are made: • All allocated and protected class B2 industrial sites and existing waste management sites are designated as potentially suitable locations for new waste management facilities, which provides substantial choice in meeting the estimated land requirement of between 1.4 and 4 ha.

Table 6.2 - Summary of Assessment Findings

SA Objective		Preferred Policy														
		SP1	SP2	SP3	SP4	SP5	SP6	SP7	SP8	SP9	SP10	SP11	SP12	SP13	SP14	SP15
1	To promote economic growth and strengthen and diversify the local economy	+++	++	++	+++	+++	++	0	++	+	++	++	++	+	+	0
2	To increase levels of local employment and ensure distribution of opportunities	+++	++	++	+++	+++	++	0	+	0	0	+	++	+	+	0
3	To enable the development of a strong tourism economy in Blaenau Gwent, complementary to the regional offer	++	0	+	++	0	+++	0	0	+	++	+	++	+	0	0
4	To enhance the viability and vitality of town centres	++	++	++	++	++	+++	++	+	+	++	++	++	+	0	0
5	To meet identified housing needs	0	+	0	0	0	0	++	-	++	0	0	0	0	0	0
6	To improve the quality of Blaenau Gwent's housing stock	0	+	0	0	0	0	+/-	+	0	0	0	0	++	0	0
7	To secure the delivery and maintenance of quality affordable housing	0	0	0	0	0	0	+/-	++	0	0	0	++	++	0	0
8	To improve educational attainment and increase skills levels	0	0	0	0	++	+	0	0	0	0	0	++	+	0	0
9	To improve accessibility to education, leisure, employment, health, homes and community services for all sectors of the community	++	+	+++	++	++	+	+	++	+	++	+++	++	+	0	+
10	To promote community health, social care and well-being	++	+	++	++	+	++	0	+/-	++	+	++	++	0	-	-
11	To reduce crime, social disorder and fear of crime	++	+	+	+	+	+	0	-	++	0	0	+	0	0	0
12	To protect and enhance the Welsh culture	+	+	+	+	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	+	0	+	0
13	To encourage modal shift from private transport to sustainable transport	+++	0	+++	+	+	0	+/-	+/-	+	+/-	+++	+/-	0	+/-	0
14	To protect and enhance biodiversity across Blaenau Gwent	+	+	0	+	+/-	+	+/-	+/-	0	+/-	0	+	+	-	+/-
15	To conserve and enhance the heritage assets of Blaenau Gwent and their settings	+/-	0	0	+/-	+/-	++	+/-	+/-	0	+/-	0	++	0	-	+
16	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 to biodiversity.	+++	+	++	++	++	+/-	+/-	+/-	0	+/-	0	+	-	0	+/-
17	To conserve soil resources and their quality	++	+	+/-	0	++	+/-	+/-	+/-	0	+/-	+	+	++	-	+
18	To reduce emissions of greenhouse gases, in particular carbon dioxide	-	--	+	-	--	-	--	-	0	-	++	+/-	0	0	+
19	To reduce waste generation and maximise reuse and recycling	-	-	0	--	--	-	--	--	+	-	0	0	0	0	++
20	To maintain current air quality	--	-	+	--	--	+/-	-	-	0	+/-	++	+/-	0	0	+/-

SA Objective		Preferred Policy														
		SP1	SP2	SP3	SP4	SP5	SP6	SP7	SP8	SP9	SP10	SP11	SP12	SP13	SP14	SP15
21	To maintain current low levels of vulnerability of all development to flooding	-	-	+/-	-	-	+/-	-	-	+	+/-	+	0	-	0	-
22	To promote the use of sustainably sourced products and resources	0	0	+/-	0	+/-	++	+/-	+/-	0	0	0	0	+	0	++
23	To increase energy efficiency and generation and use of renewable energy across the County Borough	0	0	0	0	+/-	+	+/-	+/-	0	0	++	+/-	0	0	0
24	To conserve and enhance surface and ground water quality	-	-	+/-	-	-	+/-	-	-	++	+/-	+	0	-	-	-
25	To protect the quality and character of the landscape and enhance where necessary	+	+	+/-	+	-	+	+/-	+/-	++	+/-	+	++	++	--	-

Summary of Assessment Findings

6.7 Table 6.2 and Appendix F demonstrate the findings of the preferred strategic options assessment. Overall, the Preferred Strategy appears to generate more benefits from an economic perspective, with the least benefits being generated for the environment. It is suggested that the strategy seeks to create a greater focus on environmental improvements alongside economic and social regeneration initiatives. Most notably, three of the sustainability objectives conflicted with the strategic policies. These were: to reduce the emission of greenhouse gases, in particular carbon dioxide; to reduce waste generation and maximise reuse and recycling; and to maintain current air quality.

Recommendations for the Strategy Overall

6.8 The following recommendations, along with those in Table 6.3, are suggested in order to enable the plan to potentially achieve more sustainable development:

- It is recommended that the policies refer to the Welsh Assembly Government objectives relating to sustainable design, flood risk and climate change, to ensure that their principles are interwoven. This is likely to have an effect on the focus of the strategy, enabling a more sustainable approach.
- We consider important that the conditions required for new development are set in policy and suggest that a new policy on sustainable developed is added to read:

  All new development should:

  1. Make efficient use of land in delivering land requirements
  2. Minimise the need to travel, whilst increasing opportunities to walk, cycle or use public transport;
  3. Ensure accessibility to employment and essential community facilities[6] by all sections of the community ;
  4. Maximise efficient use of local infrastructure and services;
  5. Minimise impact on the environment e.g. through energy efficiency, waste reduction, reduced water use, renewable energy production, use of sustainable construction products and resources;
  6. Provide healthy, safe and attractive environments for the local community;
  7. Protecting and enhancing the quality of the natural and built environment; and
  8. Mitigate further climate change and adapt to the consequences of climate change, such as increased flooding
- The document could usefully be restructured to begin with policies that will cover all development, followed by locationally specific policies. The specific policies should be accompanied by their justifications, rather that the supporting text being in a separate chapter. This may read: policy, reasoning, justification, for each policy.
- It is noted that the objectives in the strategy support the development of 'education levels and skills through supporting infrastructure development of the Learning Campus, new schools and integrated education services, including life-long learning' as well as to 'create an accessible network of open spaces and high quality leisure infrastructure to promote participation in sport and active recreation to improve health and well-being.' It is

[6] what is meant by essential community facilities should be specified in the glossary along with acceptable thresholds

recommended that a policy within the document to improve education and skills or community facilities is included.

- It is recommended that the document includes a glossary to determine the definitions of key terms used such as ‘local character’.
- Policies SP1, SP2, SP4 and SP7 include a locationally specific focus. It should be highlighted in the strategy that these sites have been selected on the basis of sustainability criteria.

Policy Specific Recommendations

Table 6.3 - Policy Specific Recommendations

Original LDP Strategic Policy	Recommendation
SP1 - Heads of the Valleys Area – Growth and Regeneration	There will be a need to ensure that urban development is undertaken in accordance with the Heritage Strategy.
SP2 - South of the Borough - Regeneration	The policy should make specific reference to the improvement of transportation as part of the regeneration activities linked to Abertillery.
	The policy should seek to be more specific about the types of regeneration activity that are supported to enable delivery of successful schemes.
SP3 - Creating a network of sustainable linked communities to spread regeneration benefits	The policy should specify the types of public transport infrastructure required, especially where this may involve new construction works. Transport by rail should be considered.
	We suggest that the word 'good' in terms of public transport be replaced with 'safe, frequent and reliable' as the word 'good' in this context may be open to interpretation.
SP4 - Retail Hierarchy	No specific recommendations
SP5 - Employment and Diversification of the Economy	Key locations should be identified for employment to ensure appropriate distribution.
	The policy should include the need for the use of sustainable products and resources.
	The policy should seek to enable the improvement of skills levels
SP6 - Development of the Tourism and Leisure sectors	The policy should include more detail as to where and what sort of tourism the strategy is focusing on.
	What is meant by ‘sustainable’ tourism and leisure should be more explicit.
SP7 - Housing Provision	There is a need to provide greater clarity regarding the range and variety of units to be delivered, including a range of types and tenures of housing.
	The location of housing to be provided should be specified, prioritising brownfield sites and the potential for transport links and access to facilities.
SP8 - Affordable Housing	The policy should ensure that a mix of housing, to include a proportion of affordable housing, is provided in the town centres as a wider mix of uses, to improve the vitality and viability of these areas.

	The policy should be rephrased in order that 100% affordable housing sites are not specified, to enable interspersed affordable housing within market housing to create mixed communities.
	Suggest that the improvements to council housing stock are included within the policy wording. The strategy should seek to ensure that refurbishments are undertaken using low carbon technologies. The policy should be widened to include requirements to improve existing non-council stock, especially rental properties and for those on low incomes.
	The policy should seek to specify locations in order to ensure that affordable housing is located close to community facilities.
SP9 - Gypsy Accommodation	No specific recommendations
SP10 - Transport Infrastructure Improvements	The policy should outline specific schemes and proposals that are already in progression.
	The policy should be reworded/ ordered to make a distinction between encouraging the use of public transport over private transport, as a means of improving accessibility, following a concerted effort to reduce the need to travel as the first priority.
	It is recommended that the policy be strengthened to require more than one of the criteria as suggested.
SP11 - Transport Requirements for new Development	'reduce the need to travel' should be added and the points covered should be the following: • reduce the need to travel • promotion of walking and cycling • promotion of public transport • pedestrian safety • car parking standards set out in the Council's Car Parking Strategy
SP12 - Planning Obligations	The policy wording could be strengthened by putting a stronger emphasis on the provision of sustainable transport infrastructure and services.
	Reference should be made specifically to the SPG on Planning Obligations

SP13 - Built and Natural Environment	We recommend that this policy is split into two. One dealing with the natural environment and the other with the built environment. This may read as follows: **SP ?? Protection and enhancement of the natural environment** All development proposals must conserve and enhance the natural environment of the Borough, including biodiversity, landscape character and sites of ecological and geological value, in order to maintain and improve environmental quality. Development proposals should provide opportunities for habitat creation and enhancement throughout the life of a development. **SP ?? Environmental impact of new development** New development proposals will be required to incorporate sustainability principles, minimising their impact on the environment by: • avoiding development in the floodplain and close to river corridors; • minimising reducing water consumption through measures such as water saving devices; • incorporating the use of Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SUDS); • ensuring that pollutants are minimised (including emissions to air, water, soil, light and noise); • utilising good quality sustainable design in accordance with national guidance; and • being designed sensitively to a high quality and not cause harm to sites or locations protected for their historic or archaeological value
	The policy should specify what it considers to be 'appropriate' development proposals, including new development as well as changes to existing buildings, especially housing. This will come under the recommendation for a new policy on sustainable development (see above).
	The policy should include the need to incorporate methods to design out crime, for example using Secured by Design principles.
	The policy should also seek to protect sites of nature conservation interest that aren't protected by legislation.
	The re-use of existing buildings to enhance local character should be specified as a priority.
	The use of locally sourced materials in new and existing development should be specified.
	The policy should include the need for high quality design to incorporate measure to minimise its effects on the natural environment, including SUDs.
	The policy should include a requirement for development to adhere to sustainable design principles, such as the Code for Sustainable Homes or BREEAM, in order to maximise energy efficiency in the built environment.
SP14- Minerals	The LDP should stipulate for the provision of a more detailed transport policy, supporting sustainable transport such as rail.

	The LDP should stipulate for the provision of more detailed policies to protect sites of ecological value and to explore opportunities for biodiversity enhancement during restoration and aftercare.
	The LDP should stipulate for the provision of a more detailed policy, protecting heritage assets and their settings.
	The policy should ensure that soil resources are preserved wherever possible.
	The LDP should stipulate for the provision of a more detailed policy to control impacts on water quality.
	The LDP should stipulate for the provision of a more detailed policy to control landscape effects.
SP15- Waste	It is suggested that the policy be reworded to consist of two separate policies that will include: 1. Land allocations; 2. That all development should implement facilities and measures to ensure sustainable waste management
	The policy should ensure that waste management facilities, such as those for recycling, are accessible to members of the public, to enable the increased recycling of waste.
	The policy should specify the types and locations of waste management facilities to be provided. The policy should also specify that all new development should implement measures to ensure that the waste management hierarchy is implemented.
	The policy should ensure that facilities that may generate harmful emissions are located at an appropriate distance from residential properties and their potential effects are carefully assessed and mitigated, whilst being located within accessible distances to enable their increased use.
	The policy should ensure that potential effects of facilities that may generate harmful emissions are carefully assessed and mitigated.
	The policy should ensure that potential effects of facilities on ground water quality are carefully assessed and mitigated and that there is a provision for monitoring of soil and groundwater quality at waste management sites.
	The policy should ensure that potential effects of landscape quality are carefully assessed and mitigated.

Cumulative, Synergistic and Indirect Effects

6.9 The detailed assessment, the results of which are presented in Appendix F, was focused primarily on direct effects. As required by the SEA Regulations, cumulative, synergistic and indirect effects have also been recorded and analysed during the appraisal. Table 6.4 lists the results of this analysis.

Table 6.4 - Summary of Cumulative, Synergistic and Indirect Effects

Strategic Policy	Effect	SA Objectives	Causes	Significance
Beneficial				
1-6, 8, 10, 12, 13, 14	Cumulative effect on economic prosperity.	1-4	Establishment of a strong settlement hierarchy that reinforces the concept of directing mixed use development, including retail, to the most accessible locations should convey considerable benefits in terms of economic growth and the attraction and retention of the workers needed to drive growth. Improved connections via public transport across the County Borough should help to underpin improved vitality in the towns, delivering increased benefits against the objective over time. The development of the tourism market may offer some localised opportunities for employment, which are likely to be distributed across the County Borough.	Significant beneficial effects in the longer term. Effects likely to be long lasting and distributed across the County Borough.
1, 3, 4, 5, 13, 15	Cumulative effect on efficient use of land.	16, 17	Locational focus on key settlements, for development and transport systems, should encourage maximisation of the development potential within the existing urban envelope and safeguard against expansion into greenfield development. This should also generate benefits to soil quality, through the reuse of previously contaminated land and subsequent remediation.	Locational focus is likely to bring benefits in the short to medium term and possibly into the longer term.
1, 3-5, 8, 11, 12, 15	Synergistic and cumulative effect on accessibility to community facilities and improvement in community health and well being.	9, 10, 11	The policy seeks to direct development to the most accessible locations, including the reinforcement and growth of key settlements through directing investment, which includes the co-locating of employment, homes and all associated facilities and services. This will help to improve accessibility to community facilities and improve wellbeing and health through an increased sense of community cohesion. This also may lead to a reduction in crime which will further improve a sense of wellbeing. Although not included in the policy wording, the supporting text indicates that an increase in social housing quality is intended which would likely have a	Multiple beneficial effects once the policies are enacted, with full benefits that can be enjoyed by residents.

			synergistic positive effect on health.	
1, 3, 11	Cumulative effect to enact a shift to more sustainable modes of transport and an indirect effect to improve local air quality and health.	9, 10, 13, 20	The promotion of a shift to more sustainable modes of transport will likely have cumulative effects on health through an improvement in air quality, alongside an increase in walking and cycling as a mode of transport. Additionally, an increase in the use of public transport will increase community cohesion through increased interaction. A reduction in accidents will also likely ensue from a reduction in car usage.	Benefits of the implementation of this policy will be more prominent in the longer term.
9, 12, 13	Cumulative effect to protect the quality of the landscape.	25	Positive effects on the quality of the local landscape and townscape are likely due to the requirements of biodiversity improvement schemes and the provision for public open space as well as public art and high quality design to be part of new developments.	Benefits are likely to be significant over the longer term.
Adverse				
1, 4, 5	Cumulative effect of reducing local air quality.	20	In order to achieve redevelopment, prolonged construction works will be required throughout the plan area. This is likely to create dust from construction, and may result in increased traffic congestion with an adverse effect on air quality. Additionally, in the shorter term, an increase in economic development and population may lead to increased traffic congestion if the proposed shift to more sustainable modes is not yet enacted.	Significant adverse effects in the short to medium term, many of which can be mitigated if appropriately managed.
All	Cumulative effect of increasing developme nt has the potential to increase flood risk.	21	The policy may result in an increase in impermeable surfacing that may have the potential to increase risk of localised flooding.	Potential long-term adverse effects unless mitigated.
All	Cumulative effect of increasing overall GHG emissions.	All	Without stringent measures to ensure zero carbon new build and energy efficiency, increasing development is expected to increase net GHG emissions. An increase in traffic may also ensue from an increase in development, dependent on the effectiveness of the sustainable transport policy.	Potentially significant long term effects that could be minimised through energy efficiencies in transport and building/ development design.
19	Cumulative	19	There is likely to be an overall increase in	Potentially

	effect of increasing waste generation.		waste generated as a result of a growing resident population, and increased business and leisure activities. Without proactive measures to implement sustainable waste management infrastructure and encourage behavioural change, opportunities to reduce waste sent to landfill arising from redevelopment and creation of a higher density mixed use development are likely to be lost.	significant adverse in the short to medium term. Net increase in waste to landfill should decrease over time with increasing pressure from legislation and national initiatives.
7	Synergistic effect on an increase in antisocial behaviour through lack of mixed communities	11, 7	The policy to implement 100% affordable housing sites may result in unbalanced communities and thus may result in a lack of community cohesion which can lead to antisocial behaviour.	Potentially negative effects could result in the longer term, unless mitigation is established.

6.10 As Table 6.4 illustrates the Preferred Strategy performs well in terms of cumulative, synergistic and indirect effects relating to:

- economic prosperity in Blaenau Gwent;
- the efficient use of land;
- accessibility to community facilities;
- community health and well being;
- a shift to more sustainable modes of transport;
- local air quality;
- landscape

6.11 There are also a number of negative effects highlighted by the assessment. These include:

- local air quality;
- flood risk;
- GHG emissions;
- waste generation;
- antisocial behaviour

6.12 The assessment therefore serves to highlight the need for those elements that are expected to result in negative effects to be addressed more overtly as part of the LDP process, supported by mitigation as appropriate, as well as enhancement of positive effects where possible.

Consultation Question 3:
Do you have any comments on the appraisal of the preferred policies and the final set of preferred policies arrived at?

7. B5: Mitigation

7.1 The term 'mitigation' encompasses any approach, which is aimed at preventing, reducing or offsetting significant adverse sustainability effects that have been identified. In practice, a range of measures applying one or more of these approaches is likely to be considered in mitigating any significant adverse effects predicted as a result of implementing the LDP. In addition, it is also important to consider measures aimed at enhancing positive effects. All such measures are generally referred to as mitigation measures.

7.2 However, the emphasis should, in the first instance, be on proactive *avoidance* of adverse effects. Only once all alternative options or approaches to avoiding an effect have been examined should mitigation then examine ways of reducing the scale/importance of the effect.

7.3 Mitigation can take a wide range of forms, including:

- Changes to the preferred policies, including bringing forward new options to address specific elements that cause adverse effects, or adding or deleting options;
- Refining options in order to improve the likelihood of positive effects and to minimise adverse effects;
- Technical measures (such as setting guidelines) to be applied during the implementation stage;
- Identifying issues to be addressed in project environmental impact assessments for certain projects or classes of projects;
- Proposals for changing other plans and programmes; and
- Contingency arrangements for dealing with possible adverse effects.

7.4 Mitigation measures for each Core Policy have been identified in the individual assessments in Appendix F and are highlighted in the policy specific recommendations in section 6. The following general measures are proposed in order to mitigate the adverse sustainability effects identified in the sustainability assessment:

- Construction waste will need to be subject to sustainable management. There is a need to ensure that new development is associated with the establishment of sustainable waste management opportunities.
- There will be a need to ensure that development is designed to be both flood resilient and reduce the risk of flooding, particularly arising from increased run off.
- The development of public transport infrastructure should include a specification to use sustainably sourced products and resources.
- Drainage systems should incorporate appropriate filtration to minimise the risk of groundwater pollution.
- All new development should be subject to feasibility testing for SUDs and systems incorporated if appropriate; and designed to be flood resilient.
- There is a need to ensure that all new development is sited taking biodiversity considerations into account and include safeguards against adversely affecting the biodiversity resource, including on brownfield developments.
- Policies should include safeguards against adversely affecting the heritage resource.

- Reference should be made to the need to integrate energy efficiency and renewable energy sourcing into proposals.

Consultation Question 4:
Do you consider the identified mitigation measures for the LDP Preferred Strategy are acceptable?

8. B6: Monitoring

8.1 The SEA Directive states that 'member states shall monitor the significant environmental effects of the implementation of plans and programmes…..in order, inter alia, to identify at an early stage unforeseen adverse effects, and to be able to undertake appropriate remedial action' (Article 10.1). In addition, the Environmental Report should provide information on a 'description of the measures envisaged concerning monitoring' (Annex I (i)) (Stage E).

8.2 SA monitoring will cover significant social and economic effects as well as significant environmental effects and it involves measuring indicators which will enable the establishment of a causal link between the implementation of the plan and the likely significant effects (both positive and negative) being monitored. In line with the SEA Directive, these significant positive and negative effects should be monitored with the implementation of the LDP.

8.3 The sustainability appraisal of LDP Preferred Policies has identified significant effects with regards to most SA objectives (see Table 6.4 on cumulative effects) which will require monitoring.

8.4 The SA guidance recommends SA monitoring to be incorporated into Local Authority's existing monitoring arrangements. In accordance with Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004, , the Local Authority is required to prepare an Annual Monitoring Report (AMR) to assess the implementation of the Local Development Plan and the extent to which policies and proposals are being achieved and to identify any changes if a policy is not working or if the targets are not met. It is thus important that the Council seeks to integrate the monitoring of the LDP's significant sustainability effects in these wider monitoring arrangements.

8.5 The LDP already identifies a range of indicators for regular monitoring of social, environmental and economic significant issues in the Borough. At this stage it is anticipated that SA monitoring will take place annually alongside the monitoring of the LDP. The sustainability appraisal framework in Table 3.4 contains two types of indicators which have been identified taking the requirement for post-implementation monitoring in consideration: i) indicators taken from existing sources of indicators (at Borough, regional or national level); and ii) proposed indicators suggested by the Local Authority, SA team and by consultees on their responses to the Scoping Report consultations. These indicators should be used as the basis for preparing the monitoring programme bearing in mind that it will not always be necessary to collect data for all the indicators and that there are already some similarities between the indicators proposed in the Local Development Plan and the indicators identified by the SA. The indicators and targets set out in Table 8.1 below will thus form the basis of assessing the effectiveness of the Strategic Policies.

8.6 The Council will need to consider SA indicators to identify those that can be effectively used to monitor the sustainability effects of the Core Strategy. This will need to be undertaken in dialogue with statutory environmental consultees and other bodies as in many cases, the monitoring information will be provided by outside bodies.

8.7 It is likely that it will be necessary to review which effects require monitoring following consultation on this Initial SA Report as other effects may be deemed significant by consultees. This means that the Council can only prepare a realistic monitoring programme at a later stage.

8.8 The SA/SEA monitoring arrangements will therefore be confirmed at the LDP Deposit consultation.

Table 8.1 - Monitoring Framework

SA Objective	Predicted Long Term Effect of the Preferred Strategy	Potential indicators to monitor change	Target
1. To promote economic growth and strengthen and diversify the local economy	Positive effect	Employment by sector	Reduce reliance on manufacturing sector
		Accessibility between hubs	Improve
		% of new employment floorspace generated	Increase
2. To increase levels of local employment and ensure distribution of opportunities	Positive effect	% of working age population that are economically active	Improve
		% increase in average earnings	Improve
		Average household income by neighbourhood	Increase
		Proportion of population enrolled in adult education	Increase
		Number of jobs provided	Increase
3. To enable the development of a strong tourism economy in Blaenau Gwent, complementary to the regional offer	Positive effect	Total number of visitors	Increase
		Visitor Attractions	Increase
		Visitor Accommodation	Increase
		The number of Rod Licences sold annually in Blaenau Gwent	Increase
4. To enhance the viability and vitality of town centres	Positive effect	% change in vacancies in town centres	Decrease
		National retailer representation	Increase
5. To meet identified housing needs	Positive effect	Number of new homes delivered by type and tenure	Meet requirements; achieve more equitable balance between types
		Number of pitches for gypsy accommodation	Meet requirements
6. To improve the	Positive effect	Number of houses meeting Welsh Housing Quality Standard (WHQS)	100%

quality of Blaenau Gwent's housing stock	on social housing stock	(WHQS)	
7. To secure the delivery and maintenance of quality affordable housing	Overall positive effect	% Affordable Housing in a mixed type scheme	25%
		% of eligible residential planning permissions where affordable housing has been negotiated	100%
		Average house price to income ratio	No target identified
8. To improve educational attainment and increase skills levels	Overall positive effect	Percentage of the adult population with no qualifications	Decrease
		Proportion of adults with level 2 qualifications (5 GCSE A* - C or NVQ equivalent)	Increase
		Proportion of adults with level 4 qualifications (degree and above)	Increase
		Proportion of the population enrolled in adult education	Increase
9. To improve accessibility to education, leisure, employment, health, homes and community services for all sectors of the community	Positive effect	Accessibility /availability of community facilities	Distances from residents properties to community facilities as listed in assessment rationale to comply with the Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation.
		Length, connectivity and accessibility to public rights of way	Increase
10. To promote community health, social care and well-being	Positive effect	Life expectancy	To maintain/increase life expectancy Source: www.statistics.gov.uk
		Death rate per 100,000 by road traffic accidents	To reduce road traffic accidents by at least 20% by 2010 Source: UK Sustainable Development Quality of Life Indicators
		Community Satisfaction / perceptions surveys – Housing Estate Surveys	To decrease % of people who describe their health as poor

		Indices of deprivation	To decrease % of population living in most deprived areas
		Proportion of households not living within 400m of their nearest natural greenspace.	0% Source: CCW Accessible Greenspace Standards
		Proportion of households within 800m walking distance of key health services	100%
		Building design that contributes to a 'healthier' environment	Increase
		Percentage of population with 1kn of National Cycle Network (NCN)	Increase
		Increase Number of U11 children participating in sport.	Above national average of 58% for junior participation in sport
11. To reduce crime, social disorder and fear of crime	Overall positive effect	Average crime rate per 1000 population	No target identified
		Number of anti-social behaviour notices served	0
		Fear of crime in Blaenau Gwent during the day and night	Reduce
		Percentage of new housing that meets the 'secured by design' certification criteria	Increase
12. Protect and enhance the Welsh culture	No significant effects	Proportion of Welsh speakers	Increase
		Welsh medium schools as a proportion of all schools	Increase
		Bi-lingual published material	Increase
13. To encourage modal shift from private transport to sustainable transport	Overall positive effect	Frequency of buses between hubs	Increase
		Frequency of public transport to Cardiff or Newport	Increase
		% of people using public transport	Increase
		No. and value of S106 agreements secured for improvements in public transport, walking and cycling	Increase

		Modal split - % of population travelling to work by sustainable modes	Increase
		Length of additional cycle and walking network as a % of total length	Increase
14. To protect and enhance biodiversity across Blaenau Gwent	No significant effects	Loss and condition of international, European, national, regional and locally designated sites of biodiversity interest	To achieve favourable condition for all international, national and local designated sites by 2026
		Number of new developments delivering habitat creation	Increase
		% of LBAP species that are stable or increasing	Increase
		% of greenspace important for wildlife corridors identified and safeguarded from or enhanced as part of development	Increase
		% of planning permissions incorporating a condition which is to establish a buffer zone (relating to development adjacent to a watercourse)	Increase
		Sites important for biodiversity enhanced, or recovered	Increase
		Unavoidable loss of biodiversity compensated for	Increase
15. To conserve and enhance the heritage assets of Blaenau Gwent and their settings	Overall positive effect	Areas covered by Conservation Area designation	Increase
		Number of Listed Buildings at risk	Reduce
		Number of conservation area appraisals and conservation area management plans undertaken/ implemented	Increase
		Condition of registered parks and gardens of historic interest	Improve
16. To make the best	Positive effect	% new development on previously developed land	60% of all new dwellings p.a.

use of previously developed land and existing buildings to minimise pressure for greenfield development, where this will not result in damage or loss to biodiversity		Area of contaminated land remediated for development	Increase
17. To conserve soil resources and their quality	Positive effect	No. and area of contaminated land sites	Decrease through remediation
		Area of agricultural land by grade	Maintain quality and productivity
		Area of redevelopment of brownfield sites	Increase
		Area of greenfield land lost to development	Target should be nil
		Number of development projects implementing soil creation and conservation techniques	Target should be 100%
		Number of small greenfield developments on the periphery of urban areas	Minimise
		Maintenance of 10 year landbank (minerals)	Maintain
		Percentage use of secondary resources	Increase
18. To reduce emissions of greenhouse gases, in particular carbon	Negative effect	Greenhouse gas emissions (CO_2 equivalent) by sector and per capita (tonnes per year)	To reduce CO2 emissions by 20% by 2010 from a 1990 baseline figure (national target) *Source: UK Air Quality Strategy, 2000*

in particular carbon dioxide			A 3% year on year reduction in average overall carbon emissions across all sectors *Source: WAG/WLGA "Welsh Declaration on Climate Change and Energy Efficiency* Reduce carbon dioxide emissions by 3% each year until 2011 Source: One Wales
		Use of zero carbon technologies in developments	Increase
		Modal shift to more sustainable modes of transport	Increase
		Planting schemes to provide carbon sequestration	Increase
19. To reduce waste generation and maximise reuse and recycling	Negative effect	Number of fly-tipping incidents per year	Zero
		% of municipal waste recycled and composted	To recycle or compost at least 40 % of municipal waste by 2009/2010 and 58% of municipal waste by 2015/16 (TBC in new Welsh Strategy, Oct 2007) Source: Wise About Waste 2000 (Welsh Strategy)
		% of commercial waste recycled	Increase
		No. of sustainable waste management facilities close to centres of population	Increase
		Tonnage of waste to landfill	Decrease
20. To maintain current air quality	Overall negative effect	Estimated background air pollution data	To be below national targets for pollutants
		No. of exceedences of the 100ug/m3 8 hour mean objective	No more than 10 exceedences of the 100ug/m3 8 hour mean
21. To maintain current low levels of vulnerability of all	No significant effects	% relevant permissions with SUDS schemes	Increase
		Number of properties at risk from flooding	Decrease

development to flooding		New development generating surface water flows greater than 10 litres/second/hectare being discharged to any watercourse	Decrease
22. To promote the use of sustainably sourced products and resources	Overall Positive Effect	Use of reclaimed and sustainability sourced materials for construction	100%
		Greywater recycling systems and water savings devices installed in new developments	100%
		Water consumption per household	Decrease
23. To increase energy efficiency and generation and use of renewable energy across the County Borough	Both positive and negative effects	% of new build and retrofit meeting EcoHomes Very Good standard or above	Increase
		% of commercial buildings meeting BREEAM Very Good standard or above	Increase
		Energy consumption per capita	Decrease
		Electricity generated from renewable sources	10% renewable energy target by 2010 4TWh of electricity from renewable sources by 2010 (WAG)
24. To conserve and enhance surface and ground water quality	Both positive and negative effects	% of total classified river length complying with water quality	Improve
		% of total classified river length complying with RQO / RE (River Quality Objective/ River Ecosystem) target	Improve
		% of planning applications granted in sewered areas where there is no capacity and no planned upgrades	Zero
		Groundwater quality	Improve
25. Protect the quality and character of the landscape and enhance where necessary	Overall positive effect	Proportion of valued landscape lost to development	Decrease
		Amount or proportion of landscape subject to enhancement associated with development	Increase
		Proportion of landscape characterised and managed	Increase

Consultation Question 5:
Do you consider the proposed monitoring framework adequate?

9. Conclusions and Next Steps

9.1 Following discussions between the SA team and Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council, the findings of the SA have now been incorporated into the LDP Preferred Strategy for consultation. Various changes have been made to the strategy document, including modifications to the layout to provide policy justification where necessary.

9.2 Table 9.1 demonstrates how the final set of policies reflects the recommendations that arose from the SA. Changes have been made to include:

- Modifications to the wording of policies: SP3, SP8, SP9, SP10, SP11, SP12 and SP19
- Three new policies relating to:
  - Sustainable Development (SP4)
  - Leisure and Recreation (SP13)
  - Health and Education (SP14)
- Separation of the built and natural environment policies into two separate policies (SP16 and SP17).
- The original policies SP4 and SP5 were deleted as a result of repetition with Welsh Assembly Government Guidance.

Table 9.1 – Final Set of Policies for the Preferred Strategy

KEY

~~Deleted Text:~~

New text added

Original (and remaining) text

No.	Final Strategic Policy
Locational Strategy	
SP1	**Heads of the Valleys Area – Growth and Regeneration** The Heads of the Valleys area will be the focus for the County Borough's spatial development. Ebbw Vale will accommodate the majority of new homes, jobs and services and will be promoted as the main hub for Blaenau Gwent. Tredegar, Brynmawr and Blaina will be the focus for new development serving the growing needs of their respective communities. New development will be located within these centres or in locations highly accessible to them.
SP2	**South of the Borough - Regeneration** The South of the Borough will see a focus on regeneration with appropriate forms of growth to serve local needs. Abertillery will be the focus of new development serving the needs of its respective communities.
SP3	**Creating a network of sustainable linked communities to spread regeneration benefits** The development and use of land throughout the County Borough will be determined by the need to ensure that all communities will have good access to

No.	Final Strategic Policy
	Ebbw Vale. This will be achieved by creating a network of hubs which have ~~good~~ *safe, frequent and reliable* public transport links with Ebbw Vale.
~~SP4~~	~~**Climate Change**~~ ~~All new development shall be designed to reduce its impact on and adapt to the effects of climate change. This will be addressed through the following hierarchy:~~ • ~~Reducing overall energy use~~ • ~~Incorporation of renewable energy generation~~
~~SP5~~	~~**Good Design**~~ ~~The design of new development will assist in creating and sustaining safe places, strengthening local identity and projecting a positive local image~~
Sustainable Development	
SP4	*All new development should:* • *Make efficient use of land;* • *Offer sustainable transport choices that reduce the need to travel by car;* • *Deliver development of an appropriate type, form, scale, mix and density in relation to its location;* • *Reduce the use of natural resources through energy efficiency, waste reduction, reduced water use, renewable energy production and the use of sustainable products and resources in construction;* • *Protect and enhance the quality of the natural and built environment; and* • *Reduce its impact on and adapt to the effects of climate change.*
Retailing and Town Centres	
~~SP6~~ *SP5*	**Retail Hierarchy** Major retail, administrative and cultural developments will take place in the principal retail centre of Ebbw Vale. The District/Local centres of Tredegar, Brynmawr, Blaina and Abertillery will be protected and enhanced to improve vitality and viability and ensure they meet the needs of their districts. They will also develop new complementary roles based around historical, recreational and tourism potential. Local shopping centres will be protected and enhanced to provide facilities for local communities.
Employment	
~~SP7~~ *SP6*	**Employment and Diversification of the Economy** The employment and economic development needs of Blaenau Gwent will be met by the identification of 50 to 80 ha of land for employment and business purposes during the plan period. The employment roles of major industrial areas will be identified to assist in the diversification of employment and support the specialisation of manufacturing. Mixed-use sites will be identified close to town centres to enhance town centre based employment in the service sector.
~~SP8~~ *SP7*	**Development of the Tourism and Leisure sectors** Foster sustainable tourism and leisure sectors which re-engage local communities with the natural and historic environment and boost the local economy.
Housing	

No.	Final Strategic Policy
~~SP9~~ *SP8*	**Housing Provision** Provision will be made for the development *of between 2,250 and* 3,000 dwellings during the plan period; broken into the following Housing Market Areas Sirhowy Valley 800 Ebbw Fawr 1,500 Ebbw Fach Upper 400 Ebbw Fach Lower 300 *Housing sites will include a mix of dwelling types and sizes and tenure to meet the needs of Blaenau Gwent's current and future population.* The Delivery of the houses will be back loaded recognising the step change required to reach the higher figures. 2006-2011 500 -750 2011-2016 750 -1,000 2016-2021 1,000 -1,250
~~SP10~~ *SP9*	**Affordable Housing** ~~Affordable new homes will be provided between 2006 and 2021~~ *On sites of 10 or more dwellings at least 25% of the total number of dwellings should be affordable.*
~~SP11~~ *SP10*	**Gypsy Accommodation** 6 pitches for unmet gypsy and traveller housing will be provided between 2006-2021 *at Cwmcrachen*.
Transport	
~~SP12~~ *SP11*	**Transport Infrastructure Improvements** ~~The Council will support improvements to the existing transport infrastructure where they achieve at least one of the following criteria:~~ ~~• Increase accessibility between the sub-regional and district/local hubs~~ ~~• Increase accessibility of the strategic transport network~~ ~~• Increase accessibility of services and facilities~~ ~~• Reinforce the role and function of the hubs~~ ~~• Reduce the need to travel by car~~ *The Council will safeguard land for the following improvements to transport infrastructure:* • *phase 2 of the rail link from Parkway to Ebbw Vale Town (including land for a new station);* • *extension to the Parkway Park and Ride facility;* • *extension of rail link to Abertillery;* • *a network of walking and cycling routes;* • *dualling of the Heads of the Valleys Road (A465);* • *peripheral distributor road through the former Steelworks site;* • *online improvements between the PDR and the A465;* • *online improvements to the A4048 south of Tredegar;*

No.	Final Strategic Policy
	• *online improvements to theA4046 south of Cwm through to Aberbeeg; and* • *online improvements to the A467 south of Abertillery.*
~~SP13~~ *SP12*	**Transport Requirements for new Development** Development proposals will be assessed in relation to: • ~~Car parking standards set out in the Council's Car Parking Strategy~~ • ~~Promotion of public transport, walking and cycling~~ • ~~Protection of the safety of the highway network~~ • ~~Accessibility to all users~~ • ~~Pedestrian safety~~ • *Reduce the need to travel;* • *Promotion of public transport, walking and cycling;* • *Protection of the safety of the highway network;* • *Accessibility to all users;* • *Pedestrian safety; and* • *Car parking standards set out in the Council's Car Parking Strategy.*
Community Infrastructure	
SP13	***Leisure and Recreation*** *Sites will be safeguarded for a new leisure centre at Ebbw Vale, and to ensure that identified shortfalls in open space provision are met.*
SP14	***Health and Education*** *To improve health provision and skills sites will be safeguarded for a new hospital, Primary Care Resource Centres, the Learning Campus, relocation of the training centre and new schools.*
~~SP14~~ *SP15*	**Planning Obligations** The Council will negotiate planning obligations where appropriate to secure improvements in infrastructure, facilities and services appropriate to the scale, type and location of the proposed development. These obligations may include the provision or improvement of the following: • Affordable Housing; • Traffic, Transport and Highway Initiatives particularly the provision of sustainable transport infrastructure; • Education Facilities; • Community Development and Recreational Facilities; • Public Open Space; • Biodiversity and Geodiversity; • Skills and Labour Market; • Community Safety; and • Public Art.
Environmental Protection and Enhancement	
~~SP15~~	~~**Built and Natural Environment**~~ ~~The distinctive natural environment of the County Borough will be protected and~~

No.	Final Strategic Policy
	~~enhanced. Appropriate development proposals should promote:~~ • ~~High quality design that reinforces local character, enhances landscape settings, and respects the cultural and historic qualities of individual buildings, landscapes or Conservation Areas;~~ • ~~Opportunities for the creation, conservation or restoration of designated sites of national and local nature conservation interests.~~
SP16	***Environmental Protection*** *The County Borough's distinctive character, natural environment and designated landscape will be protected, preserved and enhanced. Of particular importance are:* • *Those attributes and features which make a significant contribution to the character, quality and amenity of the landscape;* • *Ecology, wildlife, habitats and the linkages between them;* • *Geological and heritage interests; and* • *The quality of natural resources, including water, air and soil.*
SP17	***Built Environment*** *The distinctive built environment of the County Borough will be protected and enhanced. Development proposals should:* • *respect local character and distinctiveness of the area; and* • *enhance sites protected for their historic or archaeological value.*
~~SP16~~ *SP18*	**Minerals** The Council will contribute to the regional demand for a continuous supply of minerals by: • Safeguarding known reserves of coal, sand and gravel, limestone and high quality hard rock taking into account relevant environmental, planning and transportation considerations; and • Maintaining a 10-year land-bank of permitted aggregate reserves in line with national guidance.
~~SP17~~ *SP19*	**Waste** The Council will implement a sustainable, integrated approach to waste management which minimises the production of waste and its impact on the environment, and maximises the use of unavoidable waste as a resource. To assist this aim ~~the following land-use commitments are made:~~ ~~All allocated and protected class B2 industrial sites and existing waste management sites are designated as potentially suitable locations for new waste management facilities, which provides substantial choice in meeting the estimated land requirement of between 1.4 and 4 ha~~ *1.4 to 4ha of allocated and protected B2 industrial sites and existing waste management sites will be identified for strategic waste management facilities through the use of regional search criteria.*

Stages to be completed

9.3 This ISAR will be placed on public consultation as part of wider pre deposit consultation on the LDP Preferred Strategy.

9.4 Following consultation on this document, then as part of the development of the Deposit LDP, work will begin on the Sustainability Appraisal Report which will replace the ISAR when

completed. The comments received during public consultation will be taken into consideration in preparing the Sustainability Appraisal Report which will be published alongside the Deposit LDP.

9.5 The Sustainability Appraisal Report will also consider the assessment of preferred development sites for the delivery of the Preferred Strategy.

10. References

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Appendix A Consultation Responses to Scoping Report

A.1 Respondents to the Consultation

A.1.1 Respondents with detailed comments that needed to be addressed in the SA are outlined in the table below. Consultees not included within this table, but from whom responses were received, were:

- Councillor Keith Barnes, Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council
- Yvonne Lewis, Nantglo and Blaina Town Council

Table A.1 – Consultation Responses, Comments and Actions

Name and Organisation/ Department	Comment	Response	Action
Janice Tse Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council	1. Would your organisation like more active involvement than has been suggested within the report?		
	No	No further action	No further action
	2. Have all relevant plans and programmes been consulted? If not, which ones should be included?		
	No Priority Habitats of Wales: A Technical Guide (2003) Guidelines for the Selection of Wildlife in South Wales: A Technical Guide (2004) PAS 2010: Planning to Halt the Loss of Biodiversity – Biodiversity Conservation Standards for Planning in the UK – Code of Practice (Aug 2006)	1) Not considered to be a P&P as it is a Technical Guide 2) As above 3) As above	No further action
	3. Are any significant environmental, social or economic data missing or misrepresented?		
	No	No further action	No further action
	4. Are judgements made concerning future baseline correct?		
	Yes	No further action	No further action
	5. Are there any additional sustainability problems or opportunities in the Blaenau Gwent area that need to be considered in the development of the LDP?		
	No	No further action	No further action
	6. Do you agree with the proposed SA framework? Are objectives, targets and indicators suggested appropriate?		

	No. It is uncertain if the draft 25 SA objectives are manageable and deliverable along the LDP process.	The SA Objectives are used to assess the LDP policies and thus the policies themselves will enable the delivery of the SA objectives.	No further action.
Rhidian Clement Dwr Cymru/Welsh Water	1. Would your organisation like more active involvement than has been suggested within the report?		
	No	No further action	No further action
	2. Have all relevant plans and programmes been consulted? If not, which ones should be included?		
	Yes	No further action	No further action
	3. Are any significant environmental, social or economic data missing or misrepresented?		
	Yes. Infrastructure provision for both sewerage and water supply needs to be considered. Also, the need to promote sustainable development.	Agreed	Added to key sustainability issues/ opportunities table. Added as indicator to SA objective 21
	4. Are judgements made concerning future baseline correct?		
	Yes.	No further action	No further action
	5. Are there any additional sustainability problems or opportunities in the Blaenau Gwent area that need to be considered in the development of the LDP?		
	No	No further action	No further action
	6. Do you agree with the proposed SA framework? Are objectives, targets and indicators suggested appropriate?		
	Yes.	No further action	No further action
Lynn Phillips Leisure Services BGCBC	1. Would your organisation like more active involvement than has been suggested within the report?		
	No	No further action	No further action
	2. Have all relevant plans and programmes been consulted? If not, which ones should be included?		

	No **1.National Plans and Programmes** Cadw: Review of Historical Environment **2.Regional Plans and Programmes** Capital Region Tourism – Tourism Strategy for South East Wales The Herian Strategy – South Wales Industrial Heritage **3.Local Plans and Strategies** The Blaenau Gwent Cultural Strategy The Blaenau Gwent Sports and Active Living Strategy The Blaenau Gwent Arts Strategy	1. Agreed 2. Tourism- used 'A Revised Tourism Strategy for South East Wales' (2003) 3. a) Agreed b) Agreed c) Agreed	1. Added to tables 3.1 and 3.2 2. Added to table 3.1; table 3.2 3. a) Cultural Strategy Update Reviewed. Objectives are already covered in the SA Framework objectives. Data added to table 3.1; table 3.2. b) added to table 3.1; table 3.2. Data added to baseline description; indicator added to SA Framework c) After a review of the document, it is considered that, as the document contains no objectives or aims, it is not necessary to include it within the report. The broad themes of the document are already covered.
	3. Are any significant environmental, social or economic data missing or misrepresented?		

	Yes a) P.3 – 10 Blaenau Gwent currently has 54 listed buildings as opposed to the stated 58. b) There is need to reference the WAG Historic Environment Group in section on Protect and Enhance the Valued Historic Environment and its settings.	a) Noted b) It is not clear why the Historic Environment Group needs to be referenced.	a) Data changed in SAR inc appendix b b) No further action
	4. Are judgements made concerning future baseline correct?		
	No. a) P.4 – 4 Reference Leisure provision in meeting community housing needs and the way it contributes to quality of life issues. b) P.4 – 5 Beneficial to reference Leisure Tourism in this section e.g. potential of Roundhouses in Nantyglo and quality accommodation/restaurants. c) P.4 – 10 Reference to recreation facilities could be changed to recreation opportunities which would then encompass both programmes and facilities. d) P.4 – 11 Pleasing to see the reference on the way that Leisure contributes to the Community Safety agenda.	a) Unclear how leisure provision can meet community housing needs b) Agreed c) Agreed d) Noted.	a) No further action required. b) Added to table 3.4 in SAR c) Changed to recreation opportunities in table 3.2, and subsequent parts of the document d) No further action required.
	5. Are there any additional sustainability problems or opportunities in the Blaenau Gwent area that need to be considered in the development of the LDP?		

	Yes. a) P.5 – 5 (9) A statement could include improving accessibility to Leisure. b) P.5 – 6 (12) Does this mean welsh language, culture or the cultural heritage of Blaenau Gwent?	a) It is felt that the indicators sufficiently encompass what would be deemed to be access to 'leisure' facilities, under community facilities e.g. community halls, sports facilities, open space, and theatres and cinemas. b) The objective infers the protection of the welsh culture of Blaenau Gwent.	a) No further action required. b) Wording of objective changed in SAR table
	6. Do you agree with the proposed SA framework? Are objectives, targets and indicators suggested appropriate?		
	Yes.	No further action	No further action
Jim Allen Environment-BGCBC	1. Would your organisation like more active involvement than has been suggested within the report?		
	No	No further action	No further action
	2. Have all relevant plans and programmes been consulted? If not, which ones should be included?		
	Yes	No further action	No further action
	3. Are any significant environmental, social or economic data missing or misrepresented?		
	No. In my opinion, the Festival Park serves a different type of customer to the town centres, and attracts shoppers into the Borough from neighbouring areas. I do not think this is a good example of an out-of-town retail area damaging a town centre. In this respect I think point 3.15 is misleading and might be beneficial to the Borough. Unlike many out-of-town developments the shops here are specialist, and don't really compete with those in town centres. The clientele is a little different and that is what attracts particular retailers. I'm not entirely sure that future attempts to discourage this sort of development based on the evidence in the document are a good idea. I live just outside the Borough, but do most of my shopping here, a lot of it in Festival Park or Tesco, whereas I wouldn't normally go into Ebbw Vale or Brynmawr.	Comment noted.	Specific reference to Festival Park has been removed.
	4. Are judgements made concerning future baseline correct?		
	Yes	No further action	No further action
	5. Are there any additional sustainability problems or opportunities in the Blaenau Gwent area that need to be considered in the development of the LDP?		
	No	No further action	No further action

	6. Do you agree with the proposed SA framework? Are objectives, targets and indicators suggested appropriate?		
	Yes	No further action	No further action
Stephen	Table 2.2		

	There is a revised Health & Social Care Needs analysis - completed by Jane Layzell in the NPHS	Agreed	Added to table 3.1 & 3.2; baseline description; key issues table.
	WAG has produced a strategy for social care in Wales called 'Fulfilled Lives Supportive Communities' and a vision for Health Care called 'Designed For Life'	Agreed	Designed for Life and 'Fulfilled Lives Supportive Communities' added to PP table and Sustainability Themes.
	There is also revised guidance for the new Health Social Care & Well Being Strategies that come into force from April 2008	SA is an iterative process and thus will be updated as necessary throughout its development.	Relevance to be checked when published.
	There is a Local Health Strategy called Blaenau Gwent 2010.	The strategy is not directly relevant to SA. Health issues have been addressed as necessary in the SA Framework .	No further action.
	When referring to 'Blaenau Gwent Development Plan for the Strategy for Older People in Wales', not sure if it's the same thing as our strategy and needs assessment called Living Independently In Blaenau Gwent In The 21st century'?	The documents are different.	Strategy for Older People replaced by Living Independently in PP review .
	There are probably some others that may have relevance, do you want me to try and get a fuller list? Under the sustainability themes you mention health and well being, where as we normally refer to health, social care and well being as per the HSC&WB strategy	It is not necessary for SA to cover all the possible relevant plans and programmes, as a strategic approach is required.	No further action required.
	Under the sustainability themes you mention health and well being, where as we normally refer to health, social care and well being as per the HSC & WB strategy.	Agreed	Wording changed in sustainability themes, and SA objective 10.
	We could also mention expending the range of accommodation for older people in particular as we are trying to develop Extra care sheltered Housing, and perhaps overall drive to support vulnerable people to maintain their independence in their own homes.	SA requires a strategic approach and therefore this level of detail is unnecessary.	SA objective 10 will include this aspect. An extra indicator has been added.

Deborah Beeson Ecologist, BGCBC	Overall, the document is very comprehensive but perhaps could have been simplified and better structured in places.	Comment noted	
	Introduction		
	a) It would be helpful to explain what biodiversity means and that it is a key component of the environment and indicator of sustainable development. b) In particular, SEA should follow the 'positive planning' sequential approach: • Avoiding biodiversity loss or damage • Enhancing biodiversity where possible or securing opportunities for recovery • Compensating for unavoidable loss of biodiversity • Consolidating information on biodiversity. c) It is strongly recommended that the Blaenau Gwent Biodiversity Partnership and Gwent Wildlife Trust is invited onto the LDP Forum to ensure that there is balanced representation of biodiversity interests.	a) Agreed b) Protecting and enhancing biodiversity in the SA Framework is thought to be reflective of this approach. c) This is an issue to be addressed by the LDP and not the SA	a) Text added to baseline description b) Indicators in SA Framework modified to reflect this approach c) No further action
	Table 2:1 Relevant Local Plans and Programmes.		
	a) It would be useful to date all the plans and programmes. Eg Convention on Biological diversity, Rio de Janeiro, 1992 and UK Biodiversity Action Plan 2005. b) It would be useful to group national plans into UK and Wales for easier reference. c) Please add the following to National Plans/Programmes UK: Conservation (Natural Habitats, & c) Regulations 1994 Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended by Schedule 9 of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000). Wales: Countryside Council for Wales Action for Wildlife, 1997 d) It is recommended that Tables 2.2 and 4.1 be combined into a simple table which is easier to understand covering SEA Topic, Key Policy Documents Listed, and it would be particularly helpful to clearly list the policy aims and how the LDP might assist in delivering these policy aims.	a) Agreed b) Agreed c) Agreed d) Comment noted but difficult to address as SA guidance recommends staged approach	a) Dates added to PP table. B)Plans re-ordered. c) Documents added to review. d) No further action.
	Table 2.2 Broad Sustainability Themes		

	Economic a) There is no link to sustainability under any of the economic themes. There needs to be reference to ensuring that economic growth and development is in line with sustainability principles and respects the environment in its location, scale and design.	a) The economic themes, alongside will be used in conjunction with the other sustainability themes. All resulting individual SA objectives for assessment will be used in the assessment of the plan, which will ensure that all aspects of sustainability are considered.	a) No further action
	b) It should also be noted, that economic growth is not just about promoting industrial development, with 70% of Blaenau Gwent, classified as rural, it is also about promoting farm diversification and supporting sustainable rural development which has consistently been ignored.	b) Promote the regeneration of disadvantaged wards and support the revitalisation of such areas goes someway to addressing this.	b) (link to comment below from MH CPRW- rural development plan) data added to baseline characteristics; SA Framework objective 2 has been amended to refer to rural development.
	c) I concur with the theme 'Establish a strong tourist economy, sensitively capitalising on environmental, heritage and leisure assets'. One of our biggest marketable assets is our natural environment and open spaces. It should be recognised in the report that there are huge opportunities in how the LDP may assist in delivering this aim through developing Eco tourism through the management of open spaces and heritage sites and improvement of facilities that will bring considerable investment into the area.	c) Agreed	c) Added to 'key sustainability issues' table. SA Objectives 1 and 15 address this point.
	Environmental - Biodiversity d) I would prefer to see one main theme which is to protect and enhance biodiversity, natural habitats and wild fauna and flora, including international, national and locally designated sites, protected species and species and habitat types identified as priorities for biological conservation.	d) Agreed	d) Themes merged in table and wording modified. Addressed in objective 14 of SA Framework.
	e) I would like to see more information provided on how the LDP might assist in delivering this through: detailed policies for the conservation, and where appropriate, enhancement of international, national and local designated sites, reflecting their relative significance; identifying the areas to which the policies apply; and providing for the conservation, and where appropriate, enhancement of biodiversity outside statutorily designated sites, in particular identifying opportunities to conserve important local habitats and species, and to safeguard and manage landscape features of major importance for nature conservation.	e) These opportunities should be identified as part of the LDP documents	e) No further action required

	Landscape f)It is recommended that the theme is changed to '…protect and enhance the quality and character of the landscape, including the countryside, the river valleys, upland areas and other green spaces…'	f) Agreed	f) Theme wording changed. Added to SA Framework
	Brownfield Land g) It should be recognised that some brownfield sites are rich in biodiversity. Therefore, it is recommended that the theme be changed to 'Encourage the redevelopment of previously developed land where this will not result in damage or loss to biodiversity before considering development of Greenfield sites'.	g) Agreed	g) Theme wording changed. SA Framework objective 16 modified
	Climate change h) It is preferable to state that the Authority will need to meet international targets for reducing greenhouse gases that cause climate change and plan for and adapt to the effects of climate change.	h) Targets are addressed in the indicators and targets section of the SA Framework.	h) targets included under SA objective 18.
	Social i)'Protect and provide social, recreational and leisure facilities' – add '…to increase participation in sport and physical activity to maximise their contribution to health and well-being…'	i) Agreed	i) Theme re-worded to include reference to sport and physical activity.
	Environmental Characteristics		

	Biodiversity, flora and fauna - This section is weak and needs a more thorough approach: a) Please provide a more specific geographic reference for each site listed, eg Cwm Merddog Woodlands, Cwm. b) Some reference should be made to what the wildlife site designations mean (there is a useful summary in the Draft TAN 5 which could be included in the appendices) and it should be made clear that the protection and management of these sites is imperative in terms of protecting the biodiversity resource of Blaenau Gwent. This resource is vulnerable to new developments and land management practices which could result in habitat loss and fragmentation. Up to date information on the condition of all sites is not currently available. c) 3.31 Reference should be made to the fact that the Usk Bat sites SAC is also referred to as Mynydd Llangattock SSSI. There could be confusion otherwise. Both the Usk Bat sites and Cwm Clydach Woodlands fall within the Brecon Beacons National Park boundary. d) 3.32 Reference should be made to Brynmawr Sections and Mynydd Llangattock that fall within the Brecon Beacons National Park part of the Authority. e) 3.34 Reference should be made to Cwm Clydach NNR which also falls within the Brecon Beacons National Park part of the Authority. f) 3.34 Delete '…which is at Parc Bryn Bach…' as this doesn't make sense.	a)Agreed b) Agreed c)Agreed d)Agreed e) The country park is named on the list of candidate LNRs which shows its wildlife importance. f)Agreed	a)No further action b) Text in key sustainability issues/ opportunities table elaborated. c)Added to baseline characteristics description d)Added to baseline characteristics description e)Added to baseline characteristics description f) Deleted from text.

	g)It would be useful to mention the Country Park Parc Bryn Bach as a valuable wildlife resource as it is not just a recreational resource, and say something about the types of habitats/species found there. h)It should be noted that the designation of LNRs is in accordance with targets in the community plan and that the Authority aims to designate 2 per year pending resources. i)Reference should also be made to the SINC designation process. The first tranche includes 62 not 60 sites – two have since been added Bryn Serth and Peacehaven Pond – information available from SEWBREC. 3.1 will therefore require updating. All sites identified qualify against scientific guidelines 'Guidelines for the selection of wildlife sites in South Wales' (August 2004) and it is anticipated will be taken through to Committee in early 2008. As stated, further tranches of SINCs are expected as survey information becomes available and sites are assessed. j)Reference needs to be made to the fact that biodiversity cannot just be protected through the protection of statutory and non-statutory designated wildlife sites alone, hence, the Local Biodiversity Action Plan, and need to protect important habitats and species in the wider countryside. k)Reference must be made to LBAP and key habitat and species as well as protected species and need to ensure that ecological connectivity is maintained and enhanced between sites and habitats. l)Figure 3.1 - Sites of Ecological importance in Blaenau Gwent- poor quality of map. It would be preferable to produce a series of separate A3 colour maps - one for international and national site designations - SAC, NNR and SSSIs, one for local wildlife site designations - this should include Silent Valley LNR and all candidate SINCs and LNRs and then a separate map for other types of important openspace such as Ancient Woodland, green corridors and LBAP priority habitats. I'm not sure why conifer areas have been included on the map as this isn't important habitat? Also, the names of sites should be contained within a simple key with numbers annotating the locations of the sites. Also, none of the information from Exergesis re openspace has been integrated into this report?	g)Agreed h)This is encompassed within the indicators of objective 14 of the SA Framework i)Agreed j)Agree k)Agree l) Agree	g)No further action h)Baseline description updated. i)Baseline description updated. j)This is addressed under SA objective 14. Text added to key sustainability issues/ opportunities table. k)LBAP habitats and species with action plans have been added to baseline description l)Figure 3.1 revised
	6. Do you agree with the proposed SA framework? Are objectives, targets and indicators suggested appropriate?		
	Yes	No further action	No further action
Dai Davies	1. Would your organisation like more active involvement than has been suggested within the report?		

	No. Consult on each area of inclusion with the general public who live there.	The SA includes relevant plans and programmes that have been consulted upon with the community, such as the Blaenau Gwent Community Plan. The SA is open to public consultation therefore any member of the general public is free to comment on and contribute to its content.	No further action
	2. Have all relevant plans and programmes been consulted? If not, which ones should be included?		
	No. Ensure that those directly affected by change are consulted fully.	The SA includes relevant plans and programmes that have been consulted upon with the community, such as the Blaenau Gwent Community Plan. The SA is open to public consultation therefore any member of the general public is free to comment on and contribute to its content.	No further action
	3. Are any significant environmental, social or economic data missing or misrepresented?		

	Yes. More general public opinion needed such as consultation around the development of land at Peacehaven in Tredegar	The SA includes relevant plans and programmes that have been consulted upon with the community, such as the Blaenau Gwent Community Plan. The SA is open to public consultation therefore any member of the general public is free to comment on and contribute to its content.	No further action
	4. Are judgements made concerning future baseline correct?		
	No. They do not take into account fully the views of the general public including young people. Also what happens when European Funding is removed?	Comment noted but issue not strategic enough for Sustainability Appraisal	No further action
	5. Are there any additional sustainability problems or opportunities in the Blaenau Gwent area that need to be considered in the development of the LDP?		
	Yes. Lack of social enterprise projects. More consultation with business on how economy should be developed.	This is an issue for the LDP.	
	6. Do you agree with the proposed SA framework? Are objectives, targets and indicators suggested appropriate?		
	No. More input required by SMEs and town centre business. Consider real minimum wage at a level of risk per year.	This is an issue for the LDP.	
Helen Madden Communities First, BlainA	1. Would your organisation like more active involvement than has been suggested within the report?		
	Yes. Communities First BGCBC –This does not include all Communities First areas in Blaenau Gwent- the programme is not run by BGCBC. Environmental organisations could include Friends of Parc Nantywaun, Cwmcelym TRA, Westside and Forgeside TRA to name but a few .	Comment noted. Issue for BGCBC	No further action
	2. Have all relevant plans and programmes been consulted? If not, which ones should be included?		

	No. What about Communities First? There should be Action Plans for each Partnership. These need to be considered as they have been done in full consultation with the communities they represent.	As a strategic document, it is not necessary to go into this level of detail in the Sustainability Appraisal.	The LDP should take these documents into consideration to ensure that the views of the community are considered fully.
	3. Are any significant environmental, social or economic data missing or misrepresented?		
	No	No further action	No further action
	4. Are judgements made concerning future baseline correct?		
	Yes	No further action	No further action
	5. Are there any additional sustainability problems or opportunities in the Blaenau Gwent area that need to be considered in the development of the LDP?		
	Yes. Opportunities exist within the Communities First Programme and indeed with Communities Next which will commence in 2009.	Comment noted.	No further action
	6. Do you agree with the proposed SA framework? Are objectives, targets and indicators suggested appropriate?		
	Yes.	No further action	No further action
Neil Maylan Glamorgan-Gwent Archaeological Trust	1. Would your organisation like more active involvement than has been suggested within the report?		
	No	No further action	No further action
	2. Have all relevant plans and programmes been consulted? If not, which ones should be included?		
	No. The Blaenau Gwent Landmap survey has been carried out, although we are not certain whether or not this work has been Quality assured at the current time. The information in this work will be important in determining the impact of the LDP on numerous landscape and environmental issues and it therefore should be included on lists 2.1 and 2.2.	Comment noted.	No further action
	3. Are any significant environmental, social or economic data missing or misrepresented?		
	Yes. The information held in the adopted Blaenau Gwent Historic Environment Record (previously Sites and Monuments Record) curated by this Trust, which includes all known archaeological sites in the County Borough is missing.	Agree.	Information added where appropriate.
	4. Are judgements made concerning future baseline correct?		
	Yes.	No further action	No further action
	5. Are there any additional sustainability problems or opportunities in the Blaenau Gwent area that need to be considered in the development of the LDP?		
	No		

	6. Do you agree with the proposed SA framework? Are objectives, targets and indicators suggested appropriate?		
	Yes	No further action	No further action
Dr Jane Layzell Blaenau Gwent Local Public Health Team	1. Would your organisation like more active involvement than has been suggested within the report?		
	Yes. Local Public Health Teams are a primary source of professional public health advice and support for both Local Health Boards and Local Authorities in Wales. As the Local Development Plan will have a significant impact on the wider determinants of health such as employment and behaviour, we would be keen to participate in the working group for the SEA, and any other groups as appropriate.	Comment noted. Issue for BGCBC	No further action
	2. Have all relevant plans and programmes been consulted? If not, which ones should be included?		
	No. a)'Design for Life' is the Welsh Assembly Government's overall plan for the future of health services in Wales. In Blaenau Gwent, this is reflected in the Gwent Healthcare NHS Trust 'Clinical Futures' plan, and also in the Local Health Board 'Primary Care Estate Strategy' and 'Blaenau Gwent 2010' plans for out of hospital care. The Local Authority plan for social area 'Living independently in the 21st Century' is also not mentioned. All of these plans reflect a direction of travel in the delivery of health and social care services whereby considerably more services will be delivered within people's homes, and in local primary care or health and social care resource centres. They include estate requirements for both services and housing. b) Blaenau Gwent's Mental Health Promotion Strategy is currently out for comment in draft format, and attempts to address issues of poor mental health (as opposed to mental illness) which have a fundamental impact on economic development within the County Borough. Land use, and planning of housing, town centres, transport routes etc can play an important role in promoting social cohesion and interaction, and ultimately better community mental health. c) A food policy, aimed at children and young people, has also been developed for the County Borough; planning policy in terms of the number and siting of food retail outlets could have a significant influence on the success of this policy in terms of improving population health. d) The 'Healthier Futures' Health, Social Care and Wellbeing Strategy included in Table 2.1 mentions most of the above strategies, but gives no details on them. It is also coming to the end of its lifespan, and will be replaced next year by Healthier Future 2, although many of the work strands will be ongoing. e)A single Children and Young People's Plan is currently under construction. This will be the overarching strategy for all services for children and young people from 2008 onwards.	a) Agree that the strategic level plan for Wales be added to the review. Taking a more strategic approach, the lower level plans will have similar objectives for development and thus it is not necessary to include them all. b) Agreed c) Needs to be incorporated in to LDP policy. d) SA is an iterative process, and subsequent versions of plans will be included through updating and monitoring processes. e)The plan should be considered in the LDP when published.	a) Designed for Life and Living Independently in the 21st Century added to review. b) Data added to table 3.1; key issues table. The SA Framework already includes objectives to improve environmental factors that may affect mental health. c)No further action d)PPPs will be updated throughout the SA process. e)No further action

	3. Are any significant environmental, social or economic data missing or misrepresented?		
	Yes. a)The key health statistics presented demonstrate the scale of ill health in the area, but give no information as to its causes. b)The majority of the burden of poor health in the areas is from common, largely preventable conditions such as coronary heart disease, chronic obstructive airways disease and type 2 diabetes. This is directly related to high levels of smoking, obesity, poor diet, sedentary lifestyles, and excess alcohol consumption. Poor mental health is also linked with these issues as both cause and effect. The combination of these issues and poor health status is a major contributor to the economic deficits of the area. c)All of these underlying health determinants can be influenced by planning policy, particularly for town centres and other areas where people do or could congregate. d)Comments on the transport network do not reflect the lack of public services to some residential and industrial estates, the current reliance on taxi services, and the perceived lack of safe parking facilities for HGVs in the area. Safe access for HGVs to industrial estates is also an issue in some cases. e)Current issues with the local landfill site and diffusion of landfill gas odours over surrounding residential areas are not mentioned. This could potentially result in conflict between encouragement of waste recycling to extend the active life of the site, and the desire of the local community to see it closed to prevent nuisance odours affecting their wellbeing. Early identification of a replacement site may be required.	a)Comment noted. b)Objectives in SA Framework already address this c)Comment noted d)Comment noted e) Comment noted but this is not a problem of strategic nature	a)No further action required b)No further action required c)Text in Issues table amended to reflect d)No further action e)No further action
	4. Are judgements made concerning future baseline correct?		

	a)It is extremely difficult to predict population growth at this point in time. If current trends continue, then the population is likely to continue to diminish; with an increasing proportion of very elderly individuals. This may be partially reduced by economic migration into the area, particularly into the health and social care sector. b)However, the new railway, relatively low house prices and economic growth generated through the Heads of the Valleys Strategic Programme could promote inwards migration from other areas in Wales/UK, as well as reduce the amount of outward migration, resulting in a larger and more balanced population. Planned improvements to post 16 educational opportunities through the Learning Campus on The Works site may also affect this. Both scenarios probably need to be taken into account until the effect of the railway in particular becomes apparent. c)High levels of poor health are going to be a feature of the area for at least the next generation; and are unlikely to improve without serious changes in lifestyles and opportunities for healthier lifestyles, particularly for children and young people. d)There are many areas that the LDP can directly contribute to this. Many of the contributions are subtle but important: e.g. town centre design to promote good mental health and reduce obesogenic environments; transport planning to encourage active travel and use of public transport; as well as the more obvious provision of recreation and leisure opportunities. Many of these issues are contained within the assessment, but are not overtly recognised as being population health issues. e)Access to safe, modern health and social services is a relatively minor, although also important, point. Much of the health service estate will be being replaced or relocated over the next ten years in line with changing service needs. Links with the Local Health Board to ensure planning are aware of developments will be essential to complement agendas- primary care services can increase footfall in town centres, for example, and health and social care is a major local employment sector. f)Consideration of health needs in design of new housing developments will also be important- the 'homes for life' concept enables a wide variety of people to maintain their independence in the community; and siting of development has a major role in social inclusion for residents.	a)Comment noted b)Comment noted c)Agreed d)Agreed e)Access to health care and employment is included within SA objective 9. f)Agreed	a)No further action b)Text added to baseline section c)Text added to baseline summary table d)The SA objectives will help to ensure that the LDP policies achieve these aims. e)No further action f)This has been included under SA objective 10
	5. Are there any additional sustainability problems or opportunities in the Blaenau Gwent area that need to be considered in the development of the LDP?		

	a)The team may be familiar with the concept of an 'obesogenic environment' where access to food, particularly less healthy food, is heavily promoted and physical activity including walking is effectively discouraged. This promotes obesity and therefore poor health in the population; and has been an unforeseen and unintended outcome of planning policy in some areas. It is something which should be consciously and actively avoided in the Blaenau Gwent LDP. Although exposure to tobacco smoke has been drastically reduced by recent legislation; the development of outdoor 'café quarter' environments could reverse this while smoking is currently permitted outside premises and in the street. Apart from cardiac and respiratory disease, smoking also plays a major role in babies being born with low birthweights. A low birthweight puts infants at risk of infection and failure to thrive as infants, and also increases their risk of obesity and chronic disease as adults. Consideration needs to be given to reducing exposure to tobacco smoke outdoors. b)Excess use of alcohol is also a major factor in the County Borough, and also contributes to both unplanned pregnancy and low birth weight babies. Again, consideration of retail policy and urban design may improve this, at least in public places. c)The environment can similarly affect mental health, as is alluded to in the scoping report, by encouraging or discouraging social interaction, antisocial behaviour and fear of crime. d)Because of the topography of the area, significant increase in motor traffic within the County Borough is likely to result in a significant increase in air pollution. There is the potential for this to be reduced by planning to maximise active and public transport, and reduce traffic bottlenecks. e)There are a number of industrial estates/ business parks within the County Borough which area not easily accessible by public transport. This needs to be addressed, in addition to improving public transport for some of the residential estates. f)In the view of the extent of the health problems within the area, and their contribution to the economic situation, a formal Health Impact Assessment should be carried out a suitable stage on the draft LDP. The Local Public Health Team would be willing to assist with this.	a)This is not an issue that should be addressed within the scope of this strategic level SA. b)This is not an issue that should be addressed within the scope of this strategic level SA. c)Comment noted. Already considered through SA objectives 13 and 20 d)SA objectives 13, 18 and 20 address this point. e)SA objective 13 seeks to improve more sustainable modes of transport. SA objective 9 seeks to improve access to employment. f)This is an issue to be addressed by the LDP and not the SA.	a)No further action required. b)No further action required. c)No further action required. d)No further action required. e)No further action required. f)No further action required.
	6. Do you agree with the proposed SA framework? Are objectives, targets and indicators suggested appropriate?		

	No. a)Both life expectancy and CHD death rates reflect advance in medical treatment as much as health status, and mainly apply to older adult. However, they are good long term outcome measures, albeit with a long lag time between cause and effect. b)Welsh Health Survey data on health related lifestyle behaviour and physical/mental component summary scores may be a more immediate reflection of population health and wellbeing status. These figures are available every 3-4 years. c)Another potential measure would be prevalence of long term conditions such as diabetes and hypertension in the population, taken from yearly Primary Care Quality and Outcome Framework measurements. d)Indicators selected will depend on space and length of document; but use of health behaviour data may be a way of encouraging some of the more subtle planning links with health and wellbeing.	a)Agreed b)It is not necessary for the SA to go into specific detail relating to social behaviour. c)It is not necessary for the SA to go into specific detail about individual health conditions. d)The SA addresses health issues and how they can be influenced by land use planning through the SA objectives.	a)No further action b)No further action c)No further action d)No further action
Kayna Tregay Planning Liaison Officer Environment Agency Wales	1. Would your organisation like more active involvement than has been suggested within the report?		
	We welcome the opportunity to comment on consultation documents produced by your Authority as part of the LDP process. We welcome the opportunity to attend any relevant meetings or workshops.	Noted.	As a statutory consultee the EA will be consulted at every relevant stage of the SA
	2. Have all relevant plans and programmes been consulted? If not, which ones should be included?		
	a)The Environment Agency has prepared a standard package of national data and information for SEA/SA purposes. The LPA has already been provided with access to our current data sets and these should be. For clarity, this data is as follows: SEA website- datasets currently available: Bathing Water Quality Sample Points; General Quality Assessment (GQA) Biology at 1:10,000; General Quality Assessment (GQA) Chemistry at 1:10,000; Groundwater Vulnerability at 1:100,000; Groundwater Vulnerability (drift) at 1:100,000; Groundwater- Source Location Points at 1:50,000; Groundwater- Source Protection Zones at 1:50,000- WA; Industry Sites with RAS Authorisations (Radioactive Substances); Industry- Sites Under Integrated Pollution Control (IPC); Industry- IPPC Sites; LEAP boundaries; Licensed Water Abstractions- Point Data; Licensed Water Abstraction- Line Data; Licensed Water Abstractions- Area Data/; Nitrate Vulnerable Zones at 1:25,000; Waste- Landfill Sites (Active) at 1:10,000; Waste- Landfill Sites (other known sites) at 1:50,000; Waste Management Licenses; Water Discharge Licenses (Active); and Water Discharge Licenses (Revoked); River Quality Objectives (RQO) at 1:10,000.	a)Most information already in Scoping Report (see next column). Atkins unable to obtain highlighted information from EA website as it is in GIS format.	a)Biological and chemical water quality already included; IPPC added; already have sufficient waste data Meeting (24th April 2008) of stakeholders concluded that it was unnecessary to collect data for environmental parameters where there are not issues. CCW referred to EA packs to be sent to local authorities containing pertinent data relating to specific issues in the County Borough.

	b)We would also stress the importance of utilising the most relevant and up-to-date information. Notably, it is the responsibility of the plan maker to collect data for the environmental baseline. c)It is also appreciated however, that some strategic environmental information has not yet been collected but could be recorded to encourage instigation of monitoring to address existing deficiencies and to improve the availability of such information for subsequent SEA and plan making. We welcome the inclusion of statements in the report that identifies this shortfall/ difficulty. As data is collected, we will make it available to your Authority to aid the plan making process. d)Consideration should also be given to the following information to measure sustainability objectives and targets: Catchment Abstraction Management Strategy (CAMS) Please note the Environment Agency is only responsible for direct abstractions, not household water usage. We wish to draw to the attention of the Local Planning Authority (LPA) the results of the recent Catchment Abstraction Management Strategy for this area, which indicated the likely restriction that would be placed on any new abstraction licences granted in this area. The Ebbw and Lwyd Catchment Abstraction Management Strategy covers the majority of Blaenau Gwent. The northeast corner of the Borough falls under the Rhymney CAMS. We would expect the LPA to consider any limitations this may place on the development planned in the borough. CAMS are available to download from our website. Asset Management Plan AMP, produced by the sewerage undertaker (Welsh Water/ Dwr Cymru and Severn Trent Water). These plans will identify where there are sewerage infrastructure constraints and planned improvements. Consultation with the sewerage Undertaker and/or their agents is advised. High Level Target Report The High Level Target Report provided to the Welsh Assembly Government may be a useful source of information with regard to flood risk measures. A Living and Working Environment for Wales: the state of the Welsh Environment 2003. e)The Sustainability Appraisal should consider issues identified at all levels and this document refers to sustainability issues facing Wales, including climate change, energy supply, wildlife, pollution, land use and use of resources. This document may be a useful source for comparable data at a Wales level. Draft TAN5 f)The emerging TAN5 on Nature Conservation and Planning will provide advice about the preparation and review of development plans with relation to biodiversity, including the relevant statutory requirements. While this is still in draft form, we recommend that it is considered as part of the LDP process.	b)Agreed c)This is an issue for the LDP d)This is an issue for the LDP e)Comment noted f)Agreed	b)CAMS added to pp review, and sustainability themes table. c)No further action to be taken d)No further action to be taken e)No further action f)Draft TAN5 added to PP review and sustainability themes
	3. Are any significant environmental, social or economic data missing or misrepresented?		

	a)Para 3.31 page 3-6 Environmental Characteristics: Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) habitats and species should also be considered as part of the baseline data discussion, although we note the inclusion of the Blaenau Gwent BAP in Table 2.2 (page 2-10). The LDP process should deliver the protection, enhancement and expansion of these BAP habitats too. b)In addition to statutory nature conservation designation, we would stress that rivers and other watercourses are important for biodiversity for the habitat they provide and for their wildlife corridor function. Please note that watercourses are now included in the recently updated national BAP. There are likely to be a number of other existing wildlife networks (in addition to watercourse corridors) in the area which have not been considered. The importance of the protection and expansion of these links is highlighted within the EU Habitats Directive and reflected in the Draft TAN 5. These habitats and networks should therefore also be considered as baseline data. c)Para 3.44 Water and Flood Risk We note that there are some errors in paragraph 3.44. We request that TAN15 be referred to as it is the appropriate national policy guidance with respect to flood risk. We suggest the following replacement for paragraph 3.44: 'TAN15 Development and Flood Risk (July 2004) is the appropriate framework for guiding planning decisions with respect to flood risk. The policy refers to the Welsh Assembly Government's (WAG) Development Advice Maps (dam), which are based on Environment Agency Wales' flood outlines. In Blaenau Gwent there are zones of both defended and undefended floodplain (C1 and C2 respectively). The DAM maps should be used as a trigger for guiding development away from areas of flood risk.' d)As TAN 15 is the mechanism used for guiding the location of development in flood plains, we recommend that figure 3.3 be replaced by a figure showing the DAM zones in Blaenau Gwent. The DAM maps are available from the Welsh Assembly Government on request. e)With regard to surface water runoff, we would seek to ensure that no development takes place that generates surface water flows greater that 10 litres/second/hectare being discharged to any watercourse in these catchments.	a)Agreed b)Agreed c)Agreed d)Agreed e)Agreed	a)BAP species and habitats for which action plans have been prepared have been added to the baseline discussion. b)Non designated sites are already included within the SA Framework c)Text modified according to recommendation d)Flooding maps provided in Appendix B e)Indicator added to SA objective 21
	4. Are judgements made concerning future baseline correct?		
	With regards to Objective 14- To protect and enhance biodiversity across Blaenau Gwent (see table 5.2), we note that the trend is 'stable' and would appreciate clarification on how this conclusion has been reached.		
	5. Are there any additional sustainability problems or opportunities in the Blaenau Gwent area that need to be considered in the development of the LDP?		

	We have a number of comments on the key issues suggested (relating to table 4.1), and also recommend below examples of opportunities for increasing sustainability in Blaenau Gwent: **Key Issue: Protection of ecological resources and biodiversity (page 4-13 and 4-14)** a)Ecological resources and biodiversity should be protected, enhanced and expanded. This applies to statutory sites, SINCs, LNRs, national and local BAP habitats, habitats for BAP and protected species and habitat networks, such as river corridors.	a)Agreed	a)Key issues/ opportunities table wording modified as a result of earlier comment of the same nature.
	b*)Implications for Plan:* The LDP should deliver the protection, enhancement and expansion of these BAP habitats. In addition, sites meeting the criteria of SINC designation must be identified as soon as possible, in order for them to be included within the LDP. This will reduce the risk of their removal by development.	b)Agreed. The text currently states words to the same affect.	b)Wording modified slightly in key issues/ opportunities table.
	c)Creation of habitat within new developments where it has previously been lost should be promoted. This could include landscaped areas to benefit wildlife and the use of SUDS incorporating habitat creation (eg green/brown roofs, wetlands)	c)Agreed	c)Creation of habitat added to key issues/opportunities table
	d)It is important to note that development and biodiversity do not have to be mutually exclusive in all cases. Dependent on the existing ecological conditions of an area, the level of possible development intensity should also be considered on a site by site basis. Correct determination of development intensity (and ultimately design) will enable the retention and potentially increased robust ecosystem and provide for high quality developments for the local community.	d)Agreed	d)Text added to key issues/opportunities table
	Key Issue: Limited Supply of Brownfield Land (page 4-14) e)We support proposals to remediate contaminated land, prior to development. Implications for plan: we would stress that remediation should seek to protect (rather than merely 'reduce the threat to') all controlled water, which includes groundwater, as well as watercourses.	e)Agreed	e)Text modified in key issues/opportunities table accordingly.
	Key issue: Waste Management (page 4-15) f)We welcome the approach to waste management proposed, although request that the plans also consider the disposal of waste water.	f)Agreed	f)Text modified in key issues/opportunities table accordingly.
	g)Implications for plan: the plans should consider the limitations on existing sewerage systems and locate development in areas where capacity already exists or where upgrades are planned. We recommend consultation with the Sewerage Undertaker. The plan should ensure that where capacity does not exist, development should be considered as premature until the necessary improvement works have been undertaken.	g)This is mainly an issue for the LDP.	g)Text modified in key issues/opportunities table accordingly.
	6. Do you agree with the proposed SA framework? Are objectives, targets and indicators suggested appropriate?		

	Additional Issue: Angling h)We would bring your Authority's attention to the positive impact that developing angling facilities can have on encouraging tourism and contributing to community health and wellbeing. The promotion of angling can bring in tourists from outside the area, which will provide extra customers for hotels, shops, restaurants and other local businesses. It should be recognised that the participation in angling has been shown to reduce local crime (especially amongst youths) and truancy. The levels of education amongst the new, young anglers have been found to improve, as the anglers are keen to learn about their environment and what they can do to conserve local public amenities. Furthermore, these facilities are less likely to be vandalised and damaged, as the local anglers take pride and ownership of these facilities, and wish to maintain then in food order. Fishing has also been shown to improve people's health, as it encourages gentle exercise, getting out into the fresh air, and reduces stress levels. *Implications for the Plan:* The LDP should seek to develop and promote angling in Blaenau Gwent. We would welcome the opportunity to assist with any such projects. Generally, the objectives, indicators and targets appear to cover all relevant issues. The wording used however, may require refinement to provide clarity and understanding. Specific comments with relation to Table 5.1 are as follows:	h)Agreed	h)Added to baseline description; key issues/opportunities table, and SA Framework
	Objective 10: To promote community health and wellbeing a)In response to Question 5, we commented on the benefits of angling and recommended that LDP promote the development of angling facilities. In order to measure this, we recommend the following indicator: The number of Rod Licences sold annually in Blaenau Gwent (target: increase) (depending on data availability)	a)Agreed	a)Added to Framework
	Objective 14: To protect and enhance biodiversity across Blaenau Gwent b)The target: 'to halt the loss of biodiversity by 2010- EU sustainable development strategy' appears vague. We would recommend a clearer target and would be willing to work with you on the development of this.	b)Agreed	b)Modified in line with information provided by CPRW below: to achieve favourable condition for all international, national and local designated sites by 2026
	c)With reference to the indicator on 'the amount of greenspace important for wildlife corridors' we recommend that an additional indicator be added to focus on enhancements: Amount of greenspace important for wildlife corridors enhanced as part of development.	c)Agreed- SA Framework already contains an indicator to this effect.	c)Indicator modified slightly
	d)This therefore covers corridors that may have been previously degraded and identifies strategic links to create a more robust ecosystem. However, it should be noted that the word 'amount' should be quantified, for example, into an area or percentage of planning applications approved.	d)Agreed	d)'amount' changed to '%'.
	e)For rivers and other watercourses this will also allow the evolution of natural processes and systems as promoted within the Draft TAN 5. However, all rivers, watercourses and associated terrestrial corridor are easily identifiable as important wildlife corridors. We therefore recommend the following additional indicators: % of planning permissions incorporating a condition which is to establish a buffer zone (relating to development adjacent to a watercourse)	e)Agreed	e)Indicator added to SA Framework

	Objective 16: to make the best use of previously development land and existing buildings to minimise pressure for greenfield development. f)This objective sets a target of 60% of all new dwellings to be situated on brownfield land. We consider this as an appropriate target and it is in line with government targets.	f)Agreed	f)No further action
	Objective 17: To conserve soil resources and their quality g)We agree that the number of Contaminated sites will decrease through remediation. We understand that Blaenau Gwent Environmental Health Department operate a particularly pro-active Contaminated Land inspection strategy (duty under Part IIa of the Environmental Protection Act 1990) and our Groundwater and Contaminated Land team has worked in cooperation with them in assessing the risks top both human health and controlled waters from prioritised sites. If required, this leads to remediation.	g)No further action	g)No further action
	h)We note the point in objective 17 that the target for Greenfield land lost to development should be nil. However, it is unclear how this is possible when the target for the redevelopment of brownfield sites is only 60%.	h)Remainder of land (greenfield) at 40% is acceptable by the Council	h)No further action
	Objective 19: Waste i)We recommend the following additional indicator:Number of fly-tipping incidents per year (target: zero)	j)Agreed	i)Added to SA Framework
	Objective 21: To minimise the vulnerability of all development to flooding j)With regards to the first indicator proposed, there may be situations in which a planning application in a DAM zone is accompanied by a Flood Consequences Assessment which demonstrates that the risks and consequences of flooding can be managed. We therefore recommend that the first indicator be amended to read: '% of planning permissions (minor development) approved contrary to Environment Agency sustained objectives on flood risk' and 2) '% of planning permissions (major development) approved contrary to Environment Agency sustained objections on flood risk.'The corresponding targets should be zero.	j)Agreed	j)Text modified
	Objective 23: to reduce water consumption k)We recommend that this objective be reworded to read: 'to promote a sustainable use of water resources'	k)Agreed in part	k)Objective modified to read 'To promote the more sustainable use of water resources'
	l)We recommend the following additional indicator: 'water consumption per household (target: decrease)	l)Agreed	l)Indicator added CAMS consulted
	m)We also recommend that our CAMS be consulted as a source for further indicators.	m)Comment	m)Indicators added to SA Framework
	Objective 25: To conserve and enhance surface and groundwater quality. n))We recommend the following amendments to the biological and chemical quality indicators: '% of total classified river length complying with water quality' '% of total classified river length complying with RQO / RE (River Quality Objective/ River Ecosystem) target' We collate this data at present and it is available on our SEA website	n)Agreed	n)24TH April meeting CCW indicated that under the WFD monitoring objectives have now changed
	o)We also recommend the following additional indicator:% of planning applications granted in sewered areas where there is no capacity and no planned upgrades (target zero)	o)Agreed	o)Indicator added to SA Framework

Susanne Whiting Cadw	**Table 2.2 Broad Sustainability Objectives** **Environmental** a)p.2-11 The protection and enhancement of the historic environment and its setting has been correctly identified as a Sustainability Theme. Sustainability Baseline- Key Features **P3-11 Cultural Heritage** b)Blaenau Gwent has 53 listed buildings on the Cadw Listed Building database but the variation is probably due to definition of records. c)3.38 There are 9 Scheduled Ancient Monuments (SAMs) in the Blaenau Gwent area. The 2nd bullet point should read 'Incline Haulage Winding Engine, Mynydd Bedwellty'. Mynydd Bedwellty is not listed separately as a SAM. There are also 2 other SAMs not mentioned- Y Domen Fawr Round Cairn and Trefil Quarries North. However, it is not necessary to name them individually as long as the correct number is recorded. **Table 4.1 Key Sustainability Issues** p.4-14 Under appreciation and protection of heritage resources d)Given the low number of SAMs it is fair that the sustainability issues concern listed buildings, conservation areas and townscapes. It is unfortunate though that there is no reference to archaeology. Are the industrial SAMs under any particular pressures? **Table 5.1 Draft SA Framework** e)p.5-7 Objective 15- this could refer to SAMs in Blaenau Gwent (particularly if any are owned by the local authority) to monitor their condition. Cadw would normally expect to see an objective relating to SAMs, however, with only 9 in their area they might not be significant at a strategic level. **Table 5.2 SA Baseline Data and Trends Summary** f)P5-13 Objective 15- recognises the pressure on the Historic Environment from development and seems concerned about the lack of designations. **Table A.1 Baseline Data, Indicators and Trends for Socio-Economic Issues** g)pA-46 No of Listed Buildings and proportion at risk- recognises the threat to listed buildings at risk without intervention. h)Archaeological Sites- recognises the scope for increasing tourism in the area particularly in respect of SAMs. The indicator itself should be re-drafted to, for example, 'increase public access to historic and archaeological sites' listing current numbers.	a)Noted b)53 listed buildings confirmed. c)Noted. d)Council believe that several SAMs are under pressure- e)Agreed f)Noted g)Noted h)Noted	a)No further action required b)added to document c)Appendix and baseline description text modified to reflect correct data. d)SAMs added as indicator to objective 15 e)SAMs added as indicator to objective 15 f)No further action required g)No further action required h)Indicator added to objective 1 in SA Framework
Margaret Hunt Newport and the Valleys CPRW	1. Would your organisation like more active involvement than has been suggested within the report?		
	CPRW is satisfied with the suggested level of involvement		
	2. Have all relevant plans and programmes been consulted? If not, which ones should be included?		

	No. **International** a)EU Landscape Convention (came into force on 1st March 2004, and ratified by the Westminster Government in November 2005, CPRW believes)	a)The European Landscape Convention (not EU)	a)Added to PP review and sustainability themes table
	National b)Question- is CPRW correct in assuming that A Winning Wales- the National Economic Strategy of the Welsh Assembly Government is the outcome of WAVE- A Vibrant Economy, consulted upon at the end of 2005?	b)No. a Winning Wales has been superseded by WAVE.	b)Replace A Winning Wales with WAVE.
	c)WAG Technical Advice Note 17- Planning and Managing Development, consulted upon toward the end of 2007.	c)This TAN is not directly relevant to the SA process, but should be referred to in the drafting of the LDP.	c)No further action required.
	d)National Assembly's *Rural Development Plan for Wales 2007-2013* (of relevance, despite the fact that Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council has not applied for funding under its provisions)	d)Noted and agreed.	d)Rural Development Plan for Wales added to PPPs, sustainability themes, baseline information and SA Framework objective 1
	Regional *e)Valleys Regional Park Framework Working Draft*, published in July 2007 by the Greening the Valleys Partnership. The initiative has strong recreational and tourism connotations.	e)This document is not directly relevant to the SA process, but should be referred to in the drafting of the LDP.	e)No further action
	f)[South Wales] Draft Regional Statement for Aggregates, published for consultation in November 2007.	f)This document is not directly relevant to the SA process, but should be referred to in the drafting of the LDP.	f)No further action
	g)Wales: Making Places Design Note, published by the Countryside Council for Wales in October 1999. It gives advice upon urban as well as rural areas.	g)This document is not directly relevant to the SA process, but should be referred to in the drafting of the LDP.	g)No further action
	Local h)Blaenau Gwent Local Transport Plan 2000-2005 published in October 2002.	h)The plan period ended in 2005, and so is not considered to be directly relevant.	h)No further action

	l)The Rhymney Catchment Abstraction Management Strategy, published by the Environment Agency in March 2006. The Ebbw and Lwyd Catchment Abstraction Management Strategy, EA Sept 2006 The two above documents have ecology management, tourism, agriculture and industry connotations.	i)Included as a result of EA comments above	i)No further action
	3. Are any significant environmental, social or economic data missing or misrepresented?		
	CPRW's direct comment is that coverage appears to be suitably comprehensive. a)Table 2.2 Broad Sustainability Objectives is not included in the index. b)Page 2-9, 4th item under SEA topics- Material Assets would seem applicable to the Sustainability Theme c)Page 2-11, 1st item under SEA topics- Landscape issues are of relevance to protection of floodplains from inappropriate development. d)Page 2-11, 2nd item under National/Regional- *The Blaenau Gwent Draft Rights of Way Improvement Plan* 2007 should appear in the Local column, also on pages 2-12 and 2-14. e)Page 2-11, 4th item under Sustainability Theme- CPRW would prefer to see '*valued landscape character'* only enhanced where this is necessary, enhancement not being regarded as a prescription to be generally applied. f)Page 2-12, 2nd item under SEA topics- CPRW is not sure why 'Human Health' is regarded as being directly relevant to the redevelopment of previously developed land Sustainability Theme. g)Page 2-12, 6th item under SEA topics- Landscape can be affected by waste management practices, the development of landfill sites in particular. They are often to be found in the countryside, and can be extremely disfiguring. h)Page 2-13, 4th item under SEA topics-Climatic Factors ought to be added; the levels of soil sequestration of carbon dioxide can have an influence. i)Page 2-15, 1st item under National/Regional- the *Environment Strategy for Wales* refers to housing quality (on pages 42 and 43) and should be included j)Page 2-15, 1st item under SEA topics- quality of housing is directly associated with Human Health	a)This issue will be resolved in the SAR b)Agreed c)Agreed d)Agreed e)Agreed. Theme already modified as a result of previous comments. f)Human Health was included as remediation of contaminated land will reduce levels of contaminants that may enter the food chain/ watercourses. g)Agreed h)Agreed i)Agreed j)Agreed	a)Check references in SAR b)Added to sustainability themes table (regeneration of disadvantaged wards) c)Added to table d)Document ref. moved to the correct column e)Theme further modified to reflect CPRW stance, also reflected in SA Framework objective 26. f)No further action g)Added to table h)Added to table i)Added to table j)Added to table

	k)Page 2-15, 2nd item under SEA topics- CPRW does not see 'Human Health' as being closely related to the crime and fear of crime Sustainability Theme, unless this is having a marked adverse upon the mental health of a substantial number of citizens, either in a given area or in Blaenau Gwent in general.	k)Disagree	k)Topic ref removed meeting 24th April- Human Health is regarded by the Local Health Board as being related to crime levels.
	l)Page 2-16, under Local- The *Blaenau Gwent Local Rights of Way Improvement Plan* is arguably of relevance to the Protect and provide local social, recreational and leisure facilities theme	l)Agreed	l)Added to table
	m)There is no reference to formal sports facilities in Chapter 3, Baseline Information	m)Agreed	m)Data from the Sports and Active Living Strategy added to baseline description alongside information from the council website.
	n)Page 3-5, para 3.24, 2nd sentence- it is not quite clear as to why primary school places will be 'particularly' reduced as a result of the trend toward an ageing population in Blaenau Gwent; over time, one would have expected this to percolate through to secondary educational establishments.	n)Agreed	n)Text modified
	o)Para 3-6, paragraph 3.30, 3rd sentence- the '17.8' figure is clearly incorrect, and presumably should be 37.8%	o)Agreed	o)Text modified
	p)Page 3-11 to 3-12- CPRW thinks that tourism connections with heritage ought to have been touched upon.	p)This is addressed in the key sustainability issues/opportunities table	p)No further action required
	q)Page 3-15- Figure 3.3 cannot be properly interpreted in the absence of colour. Additionally, rivers are not clearly depicted and named.	q)Agree	q)Text modified to reflect comments.
	r)Page 3-16, paragraph 3.52, 1st sentence- the '68%' of the Blaenau Gwent public rights of way network that consists of paths for walkers is not necessarily in a useable condition.	r)Noted	r)Figure Improved
	s)Page 3-16, paragraph 3.56- the bus services information is much appreciated as a rare instance of attention being paid to local detail.	s)Noted	s)No further action
	4. Are judgements made concerning future baseline correct?		
	CPRW agrees in general that the judgements made are correct, though adds a few incidental comments. a)Page 5-10, paragraphs 5-10 and 5-11 –CPRW has difficulty in understanding what is meant by 'sensitivity to change' and does not find 'thresholds' in this context and easy concept to grasp. This may be because examples are given from a single topic area.	a)Noted.	a)Further clarification provided in the text.

	b)Page 5-13, item 11- it is not clear as to why currently 'improving' trends in crime reduction will become 'stable' in future without the influence of the LDP.	b)The LDP is unlikely to have a substantial impact on crime levels; policing and other such measure are likely to be more influential.	b)'stable' changed to 'improving'
	c)Page 5-13 and 5-14, item 16 –pressure for greenfield development just outside settlement boundaries must be strongly resisted.	c)The objective is in support of this aim	c)No further action
	d)Pages 5-14, item 20- in view of the anticipated increase in car ownership, and thus of emissions, it might be difficult to maintain a stable state.	d)It is thought that the improvement to rail services (unrelated to LDP) may counter balance this effect. There is currently a low rate of car ownership in Blaenau Gwent, and with air pollution currently stable it is anticipated that this trend would continue in the absence of an LDP.	d)No further action
	5. Are there any additional sustainability problems or opportunities in the Blaenau Gwent area that need to be considered in the development of the LDP?		
	a)Page 4-3, 1st paragraph, 1st and 2nd sentences under key issues- it would be interesting to have the additional information as to the number of people on job seekers allowance who find temporary or permanent employment through this scheme.	a)It is not the task of the SA to comment on this.	a)No further action
	b)Page 4-4, paragraph under Implications for Plan- CPRW is not quite certain about the desirability of encouraging 'people of working age to settle in the area', unless it can be guaranteed that in-migrants do not take jobs from indigenous people who need them after training to improve skills. It is appreciated, however, that there is a need to change the population balance in favour of a smaller senior citizen percentage, especially in the light of the exodus of young people.	b)The text refers to the need to improve the population balance in the area. It would be difficult, however, for the LDP to dictate to whom job opportunities are awarded.	b)No further action
	c)Page 4-5, under Key Issues, Tourism Potential- it is noted that the topic missing from Chapter 3 is dealt with here.	c)Agreed	c)No further action

	d)Page 4-5, under Implications for the Plan, Tourism Potential- when 'increases in recreational function' are considered, the impact upon the countryside, particularly visual, must be taken into account. The tenor of this comment also applies to land designated for its ecological value.	d)Agreed	d)Added to table
	e)Page 4-5, under Implications for the Plan, High Vacancy Rate in Town Centres- CPRW does not think it is realistic for the LDP to 'ensure' that town centres can effectively compete with those in adjoining areas' these might offer superior retail facilities or be upgraded to a higher standard, and therefore attract shoppers from Blaenau Gwent. Improved public transport might also make the adjoining-area centre more accessible than at present. It is clearly necessary, however, for the Plan to contain positive town centre regeneration policies.	e)Agreed	e)Text modified to reflect comments.
	f)Page 4-7, under Implications for Plan, 3rd paragraph, 2nd sentence, poor housing quality and mismatch of housing size/tenure with needs and demand- while it is agreed that improved rail services could increase the demand for housing in Blaenau Gwent, it is likely to be the case that the majority of in-comers will be car owners, and that a sizeable proportion of these will therefore commute and take other trips by private transport.	f)The text is solely referring to the potential increase in demand for housing that may arise from the increased attractiveness of the area due to the improved rail services, not an increase in demand for housing in general.	f)No further action
	g)CPRW notes that under Implications for Plan, 3rd paragraph on page 4-9, 'increase car usage' is envisaged as a result of 'attracting people to Blaenau Gwent'.	g)Noted	g)No further action
	h)Pages 4.7 and 4.8, 1st paragraph, penultimate sentence under Housing affordability problems, Key Issues- the comment under page 4-7 above applies. Too much reliance should not be placed upon rail use by the anticipated influx of Cardiff workers (penultimate sentence).	h)Agreed. However, the comments are not intended to place reliance on rail services, just suggest that they may have an effect on demand.	h)Wording slightly modified.
	i)Page 4-8, under Low educational attainment, Key Issues, 2nd and 3rd paragraphs- in view of the fact that low educational attainment is attributed, at least in part, to truancy from school, it is interesting to learn that the two wards with the lowest performance (2nd paragraph) are not those with the highest percentage of non-attendance (3rd paragraph)	i)Noted	i)No further action
	j)Page 4-8, under the above heading, 4th paragraph. It would have been useful to include the Wales figure of 68% for 'total population…enrolled in higher education'	j)It is considered that the addition of this data will not add particular value to the comments.	j)No further action
	k)Page 4-8, under Low Education Attainment, Implications for the Plan- it is more realistic to encourage, rather than to seek to ensure higher educational take-up.	k)Agreed	k)Text currently uses the word 'encourage' as opposed to 'ensure'.

	l)Page 4-9, under Transport Access Constraints to the Area, Key Issues, 1st paragraph, 2nd sentence- the 'low cost options' for accessing the three airports listed should have been indicated.	l)Noted.	l)Further clarification provided in the text.
	m)Page 4-9, under Transport Access Constraints to the Area, Implications for the Plan, 'ensure' is considered to be the correct expression to employ, it being of utmost importance to protect the environment from increased vehicular traffic.	m)Agreed	m)No further action required
	n)Page 4-9, under the above heading, 4th paragraph- use of the term 'encourage' is welcomed as being more attainable than an attempt to ensure. Nonetheless, rights of way improvement, being crucial in connection with promoting sustainable transportation and health improvement must be prioritised.	n)Noted and agreed	n)Text modified slightly to include need for prioritisation
	o)Page 4-10, under Health, Key Issues, 3rd sentence- with reference to self-assessment of state of general health, CPRW sees the benefits dependency culture, with its associated lack of desire to work (20% of the economically inactive people in Blaenau Gwent), as being partially responsible for the way in which Blaenau Gwent residents estimate their health status.	o)It is not the task of the SA to make judgements as to reasons behind peoples' judgements of their health status.	o)No further action
	p)Page 4-10, under Welsh Language and Culture, Implications for Plan –the 1st sentence statement as to determination of the 'role of the Welsh Language and Culture' imparts an air of realism. In saying this, however, CPRW is keen to support these aspects of Welsh life where opportunity offers.	p)Noted	p)No further action
	q)Page 4-10, under Welsh Language and Culture, SEA Topics- 'landscape' is not regarded as having a very close connection with this themes, unless promotion and/or development of cultural sites is seen as having a visual influence.	q)Agreed	q)Landscape removed from list of relevant SEA topics.
	r)Page 4-10, 4.11 and 4.12, under Crime and Social Deprivation, Key Issues, 3rd paragraph, 5th indent- the smoking figure is a disturbing one, especially if people on low incomes tend to be among the heaviest smokers. They may spend too high a proportion of their income upon tobacco products, leaving insufficient cash for purchasing nutritious food for their families.	r)Noted	r)No further action
	s)Pages 4-10, 4.11 and 4.12, under Crime and Social Deprivation, Key Issues, 3rd paragraph, 8th indent- no figure for under-16 obesity is given.	s)Under 16 obesity is not data that has been collated. It is not the task of the SA to collate data in extensive detail, but to gain an overview of the area.	s)No further action
	t)Page 4-12, under High car usage and CO2 emissions, Key Issues , 2nd sentence- it has to be assumed that although Blaenau Gwent residents are slightly more likely than the national average to commute to work, their overall transport-related carbon dioxide emissions result from fewer car trips for leisure, social, shopping and healthcare purposes.	t)Agreed	t)Text added to in key issues table.
	u)Page 4-13, under Protection of ecological resources and biodiversity, Implications for the Plan- the LDP should pursue this objective by seeking to actively discourage car use; for example, by limiting car parking space in shopping centres that are well served by public transport, also by promoting park and ride sites, as in Policy T2 in the adopted UDP.	u)Agreed, but it is felt that these comments are more appropriate under the 'high car usage' issue.	u)Text added to high car usage issue.

	v)Page 4-13, under the above headings, 2nd implications paragraph, 1st sentence- while creation of a 'valued landscape area' in Blaenau Gwent is clearly desirable, existing landscape of good quality needs to be protected, in conformity with the 'ancient woodlands' recommendation (following paragraph). w)Pages 4-14 and 4-15, under Limited Supply of Brownfield Land, Implications for the Plan, 1st sentence- CPRW has a strong preference for integrating sustainability issues into the 'three dimensions', not balancing the former against the latter. x)Pages 4-14 and 4-15, under Limited supply of brownfield land, 'landscape' should be included as a SEA topic.	v)Agreed w)Agreed x)Agreed	v)Text added to beginning of paragraph. w)Wording changed throughout the document. x)Topic added
	6. Do you agree with the proposed SA framework? Are objectives, targets and indicators suggested appropriate?		
	a)It is to be hoped that definitive targets, to replace 'increase' and 'decrease', will emerge as the LDP stages are progressed and missing baseline data is established. A presented, the Table 5.1 report is too obviously an 'interim' statement. b)The '0%' targets or equivalent, are to be welcomed, though are arguably ambitious. The remark applies to: All targets under item 6 4th, 5ht, 6th, 7th and 8th targets under item 9 8th and 9th targets under item 10 2nd target under item 11 2nd target under item 14 2nd target under item 15 2nd target under item 16 1st item under item 21 Both targets under item 22 Target under item 23 c)Page 5-4, under item 4, Draft SA Objective, 2nd Potential Indicator- CPRW is not convinced that increased 'national retailer representation' in town centre will necessarily be beneficial in enhancing their vitality and viability. Chain outlets may well undercut prices charged by in local shopkeepers and, moreover, can add an unfortunate air of uniformity. d)Page 5-4, under item 7, 1st Potential Indicator- CPRW makes the assumption that the '20% Affordable Housing' figure is based upon assessed needs.	a)Agreed b)Noted c)National retailer representations are required to provide anchor stores, which will then encourage trips to the town centre from outlying areas. Independent stores can then be encouraged as they will enhance the retail offer and benefit from increased footfall. d)Noted	a)Targets will be changed as they are agreed during the development of the LDP b)No further action c)No further action d)No further action

	e)Page 5-4, under item 9, 1st Potential Indicator- use of the expression 'the elderly' to describe senior citizens is looked upon with disfavour. The text should have stated: residential homes for elderly people.	e)Agreed	e)Text modified
	f)Page 5-5 and 5-6, under item 10, 5th potential indicator- is it to be understood that 'death rate' is applicable to all accidents, including those in the workplace?	f)No. it refers to road traffic accidents only	f)Indicator modified
	g)Page 5-5 and 5-6, under item 1-, 5th target- it is questionable as to whether the poor health estimate is an adequate match for the potential indicator.	g)Comment noted	g)Target removed for SA Framework
	h)Page 5-7, under item 13, 2nd target- in the interests of sustainable living, and given that travel by private transport should be discouraged, it would certainly not be appropriate to more than stabilise car ownership. Ideally, it should be reduced during the lifetime of the LDP, though CPRW recognises that this would tend to be in conflict with the aim of improving conventional standards of living.	h)Noted. The indicators seek to reduce car usage through providing alternative modes of transport. It is not appropriate to discourage car use in the absence of alternative modes or reducing the need to travel in the first instance.	h)No further action
	i)Page 5-7, under item 13, 5th and 6th Targets- the commentary upon the bald 'increased' target is an interesting one (also page 5-8 under item 17, 4th and 5th targets).	i)Noted	i)No further action
	j)Page 5-7, under item 15, 4th potential indicator- the extent to which the only Blaenau Gwent Registered Historic Park and Garden (Bedwellty Park) needs to be improved is not mentioned in the report.	j)Noted	j)Indicator amended to cover designated registered parks and gardens of historic interest
	k)Page 5-8, under item 17, 2nd target- improvement of agricultural land, where appropriate, ought to be a joint target.	k)It is unclear as to what the target ought to be joined to	k)No further action
	l)Page 5-, under item 17, 4th target- CPRW very strongly agrees that there should be no greenfield land lost to development.	l)Noted	l)Topic added
	m)Page 5-8, under item 17, SEA Topics- CPRW considers landscape to be relevant to conservation of soil resources.	m)Agreed	m)No further action
	n)Page 5-8 and 5-9, under item 21, 1st potential indicator- the suggested zero % of 'highly sensitive development approved in flood risk areas' is applauded.	n)Noted	n)Topic added
	o)Page 5-9, item 24, 4th SEA Topic- since 'renewable energy schemes' may involve the development of wind turbines in scenic locations, possibly in large numbers, landscape is clearly indicated additional SEA topic.	o)Agreed Meeting 24th April 2008- BG is not a TAN 8 area and so will not be having large scale wind farms.	o)No further action

Dr Maggie Hill Countryside Council for Wales	General		
	a)The link between the baseline data and policy review to the issues and through to the objectives is made clearer. Data gaps should be identified for those issues that may be felt to be significant, even in the absence of adequate data. b)There is no mention of the requirement for a Habitats Regulations Assessment in this document. Following the ruling from the European Court of Justice that stated that the UK has failed to adequately transpose the provision of Article 6(3) and (4) of the Habitat Directive into national legislation as regards the appropriate assessment requirement for land use plans (Case C-6/04- Commission v. United Kingdom, October 2005), LDPs are required to undergo a Habitats Regulation Assessment. The LDP Manual states that guidance will be provided in a revised TAN 5 and that the HRA should be integrated with the Sustainability Appraisal. We trust that your authority has considered this requirement and seek clarification on how your authority plans to take this forward, given that Natura 2000 sites partly within the Borough and in neighbouring authorities may be affected by the LDP. c)Water quantity and geodiversity should be included as themes within table 2.2 d)While there is a good amount of data on Local Biodiversity Action Plan habitats and species in the appendices, this information has not been reflected within the summary paragraphs 3.31-3.35, nor within the issues table. e)There is reference to Local Development Frameworks on page 4-9. This is an error that should be corrected. f)Page 6-8. We welcome the discussion on the range of assessment techniques available and seek assurance that some of the modelling techniques will be used to help quantify some of the effects. g)Page A-47 The stated trends for biodiversity does not include mention of the Environment Strategy for Wales Action 32 which is to achieve favourable condition for all international, national and local designated sites by 2026. Resources are currently being allocated towards achieving this, for example through CCW's Special Sites project. h)Page A-47. The stated designated features for Usk Bat Sites SAC are incorrect. The ones listed are for Mynydd Llangatwg SAC. The correct features are European dry heaths, degraded raised bogs, blanket bog, calcareous rocky slopes, caves not open to the public, *Tilio-Acerion* forests and lesser horseshoe bats.	a)Noted b)Agreed. c)Noted d)Pertinent data has been added to baseline description as a result of comments from earlier consultees e)Agreed f)Noted. Unlikely that modelling techniques will be utilised given the nature of the LDP g)Agreed h)Agreed	a)Data gaps identified in report b)Documentation of the LDP and its potential Appropriate Assessment will be included in the SAR. c)Water quantity is covered in objective 23 in the SA Framework d)No further action e)Text modified f)No further action g)Added to baseline description and Text in appendix modified, SA Framework objective 14 target 1 changed accordingly. h)Text modified
	1. Would your organisation like more active involvement than has been suggested within the report?		
	CCW is a statutory consultee on the SEA of the LDP and as such we expect to be consulted on the environmental report when it is produced. However, it is unclear in the document on the level of involvement your authority would like from CCW during the preparation of the report. The Delivery Agreement published May 2007 states that CCW will also be part of the SA/SEA Working Group. We confirm that we are happy to be part of this group and attend future meeting as necessary.	Comment noted. Issue for BGCBC	No further action
	2. Have all relevant plans and programmes been consulted? If not, which ones should be included?		

	In addition to the list provided in table 2.1, we would recommend the following: ▪ Environment Act 1995 (specifically section 62 about the role of public bodies and National Park duties) ▪ Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006 (section 40) ▪ Interim Statement for the Couth East Wales Spatial Planning Group, Summer 2007. ▪ UDPs and LDPs of neighbouring local authorities ie Torfaen, Caerphilly and Brecon Beacons National Park. ▪ Scoping Report for Brecon Beacons National Park Management Plan, 2007 ▪ Catchment Abstraction Management Strategies ▪ Catchment Flood Management Plan Scoping Report for the Eastern Valley 2007 ▪ Significant Water Management Issues for the Severn River Basing District, EA 2007 ▪ LANDMAP ▪ Register of Landscape of Historic Interest in Wales (specifically area 16 and 52) ▪ Natural Heritage- a pathway to health, CCW 2007	Comment noted	Documents will be considered as necessary in the Sustainability Appraisal Report
	3. Are any significant environmental, social or economic data missing or misrepresented?		

	We recommend that information is collected on the following relevant topics: a)Recreation within the county borough to link issues on levels of tourism, including access to green space (an potential links to health) b)Protected species (Section 74 CRoW Act and European Protected Species) c)Landscape has not been adequately covered within the baseline. There is no mention of LANDMAP nor Special Landscape Areas. d)The Brecon Beacons National Park e)Presence of agricultural land, forestry and woodland f)Geodiversity (RIGS and geological SSSI) g)Capacity of existing water infrastructure in terms of water supply and sewerage infrastructure and Housing need h)Wildlife crime eg illegal offroading or poaching of protected bird species. i)Paragraph 3.31. The two SACs are underpinned by SSSI in addition to those named in the following paragraph. Cwm Clydach SAC is underpinned by Cwm Clydach SSSI while Usk Bat Sites is underpinned by Mynydd Llangatwg SSSI, Siambre ddu SSSI, Buskland Coachhouse and Ice House SSSI and Fox Wood SSSI. j)Paragraph 3.34. The name of a SSSI is inaccurate. It should read Cwm Merdogg Woodlands SSSI and not Cwm Merdogg and Coed Ty'n Gelli SSSI. k)Figure 3.1 We recommend changing the colours representing SINCs and SACs as the current choices are very similar and make differentiation difficult. l)Paragraph 3.40. It would be useful to include the percentage of carbon dioxide emissions from transport in this m)Paragraph 3.49. There is no mention here of the Assembly Government's target to achieve 4TWh of electricity from renewable sources by 2010 nor of the One Wales commitment to reduce carbon dioxide emissions by 3% each year until 2011 in areas of developed competence.	a)Agreed b)BAP species already in report: sufficient c)Agreed d)Brecon Beacons not in plan area e)Agreed f)Geodiversity-Brynmawr Sections (geological site) SSSI is already included within the baseline. g)Agreed Water infrastructure not considered to be an issue at this time h)Noted Wildlife crime is not considered to be an issue in the county borough i)Noted j)Noted k)Issue for BGCBC l)Agreed m)Noted	a)Recreation assessment currently being developed-detail to be added as appropriate b)No further action required c)Data added to baseline and subsequent sections where necessary d)No further action necessary e)ALC data received and added to baseline. f)Further detail on geodiversity to be added to baseline. There are no RIGS in BG. g)Water Quantity data will be added where appropriate h)No further action required i)Text added j)Text reflects this adjustment. k)Map modified l)Transport energy consumption included within baseline description. CO2 emissions: data gap. m)Added to text

	4. Are judgements made concerning future baseline correct?		
	a)While we commend your authority on attempts to consider the data gaps and trends likely without a plan in this report, we have concerns about some of the judgements made in table 5.2 where there appears to be a lack of evidence to qualify statements. For example, draft objective 13 on increasing sustainable transport is suggested to be improving without the need for an LDP. However, within the baseline information, it is noted that car ownership and therefore use is likely to rise. Similarly we would question whether improvements are likely on such issues as soil conservation, greenhouse gas emissions and biodiversity.	a)Noted. With regards to sustainable transport, it was considered that, as stated, the increase in rail facilities may counter balance the effects of an increase in car ownership and use. Other judgements on improvements are qualified within the table.	a)Sustainable transport trend changed to 'stable' and improvement made to explanation.
	b)Paragraph 5.16 states that only one objective where the prediction is for some improvement. We believe that table 5.2 contradicts this statement.	b)Agreed	b)Text modified
	5. Are there any additional sustainability problems or opportunities in the Blaenau Gwent area that need to be considered in the development of the LDP?		
	a)While we accept the issue of tourism within the county borough, there is no information in the baseline on this matter or on recreation per se. We recommend that data is gathered on this issue, as well as the potential for ecotourism, to provide for its significance.	a)Agreed	a)Tourism is now addressed in the SA scoping report
	b)Similarly, the lack of data on recreation has led to a gap in the issues covering levels of activity, access to green spaces and health. We recommend that this issue is covered.	b)Agreed	b)Heads of the Valleys Greenspace Provision Report September 2007 requested and received from BGCBC. Data added to baseline. Text added to key issues/opportunities table. Indicator provided on access to green space.
	c)The lack of energy efficient houses was mentioned as a key contributor to high domestic gas use in the baseline information but does not appear in the issues table. We recommend that it should be considered here, along with greenhouse gas emissions from commercial/ industrial properties.	c)Agreed	c)Added to key issues table
	d)Equally, there is no issue on the need to conserve landscape or water resources, which are two key environmental goods important to the area. We recommend that following baseline data review, inclusion of these issues is considered.	d)Comment noted	d)LANDMAP data to influence the key issues and baseline
	6. Do you agree with the proposed SA framework? Are objectives, targets and indicators suggested appropriate?		

	a)As previously expressed, we have some concerns about the linkages between the baseline data and the issues, leading to a lack of relevant objectives, such as on landscape. b)While we appreciate that work has gone into the derivation of indicators, the SEA Directive states that only significant effects need to be monitored. We therefore assume that there will be a shortened list of indicators within the environmental report once the assessment of alternatives has taken place. CCW will look to advise you on this list of indicators.	a)Agreed b)Agreed	a)Integrity of document checked and modified where necessary b)Indicators rationalised to reflect potential significant effects
Gwyn Smith Sustrans	1. Would your organisation like more active involvement than has been suggested within the report?		
	Yes. We would like to propose and promote the valleys cycle network (VCN) to ensure these proposals are part of the report. As well as the expertise SUSTRANS has in many other areas, such as Travel Smart (A scheme that can deliver up to 15% change in the way people travel)	Noted	Sustrans to be consulted on further stages of the report
	2. Have all relevant plans and programmes been consulted? If not, which ones should be included?		
	No. Sustrans proposals for VCN	Agreed	Added to PP review and sustainability themes table
	3. Are any significant environmental, social or economic data missing or misrepresented?		
	Yes. Length of cycle routes. This information should be in the draft ROWIP	Agreed	Further detail added to baseline description
	4. Are judgements made concerning future baseline correct?		
	Yes	No further action	No further aciton
	5. Are there any additional sustainability problems or opportunities in the Blaenau Gwent area that need to be considered in the development of the LDP?		
	No	No further action	No further action
	6. Do you agree with the proposed SA framework? Are objectives, targets and indicators suggested appropriate?		
	No. 10. to promote health and well-being – add extra indicator percentage of population with 1kn of National Cycle Network (NCN) 13. Modal shift- add extra indicator as number of travel smart programmes	Agreed	Indicators added to SA Framework
Mike Webb	1. Would your organisation like more active involvement than has been suggested within the report?		

<table>
<tr><td></td><td>Blaenau Gwent is nationally important for breeding lapwings, a scarce and declining bird species in Wales. The RSPB is a strategic partner of Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council in respect of the authority's Lapwing Conservation Officer, who provides advice to landowners and developers as to how to incorporate habitat management for lapwings as part of the development process. We would therefore wish to be involved with plan formulation and SEA production in respect of any present or historic lapwing sites in the County Borough</td><td>Noted.</td><td>Data added to text</td></tr>
<tr><td></td><td colspan="3">2. Have all relevant plans and programmes been consulted? If not, which ones should be included?</td></tr>
<tr><td></td><td>Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006, especially s40 and s42
The RSPB suggests two new themes :-
<table>
<tr><th>Sustainability Theme</th><th>Source International</th><th>Source National</th><th>Source Local</th><th>SEA Topics</th></tr>
<tr><td>Maximise Opportunities to Carry out Habitat Restoration at a Landscape Scale:</td><td>Convention on Biological Diversity</td><td>PPW; TAN 5; the UK Biodiversity Action Plan; the Wakes Environment Strategy and Action Plan; the CROW Act; the NERC Act; The Wales Spatial Plan: The Wales Spatial Plan Area Work "Southeast Wales; a Networked City Region"</td><td>The Blaenau Gwent LBAP</td><td>Biodiversity</td></tr>
<tr><td>Carry out measures which mitigate for climate change, such as sustainable floodplain management and upland management</td><td>The EU Sixth Environment Action Plan; The UN Framework on Climate Change</td><td>PPW; TAN 5; TAN 15; the UK Biodiversity Action Plan; the Wales Environment Strategy and Action Plan; the CROW Act; the NERC Act; The Wales Spatial Plan: The Wales Spatial Plan Area Work "Southeast Wales; a Networked City Region"</td><td>The Blaenau Gwent Community Strategy; The Blaenau Gwent Energy Policy Statement</td><td></td></tr>
</table>
The RSPB further suggests that the following are added to the Themes of protecting and enhancing Biodiversity" and "Identify, manage and protect habitats and species which are important on an international, national and local scale" :-
The Wales Spatial Plan Area Work "Southeast Wales a Networked City Region"</td><td>Agreed</td><td>Data added to key sustainability themes and SA Framework, except Wales Spatial Plan addition as the SP is already included</td></tr>
<tr><td></td><td colspan="3">3. Are any significant environmental, social or economic data missing or misrepresented?</td></tr>
<tr><td></td><td>Para 3.4: this paragraph is deficient in that, citing the LDP Manual, it states:-
"local planning authorities should focus baseline data collation on characteristics which will be directly affected by landuse plans" (emphasis added). Annex 1 of the SEA Directive "requires that the assessment of effects includes secondary or indirect effects and cumulative and synergistic effects" (emphasis added). Appendix 8, p78 of "A Practical Guide to the Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive" (ODPM, WAG et al) 2005</td><td>Agreed</td><td>Data added</td></tr>
</table>

<table>
<tr><td></td><td colspan="3">4. Are judgements made concerning future baseline correct?</td></tr>
<tr><td></td><td>Insert the following into the "Targets" section of the "Carbon Emissions" (tonnes) row in Table A2 :-
"A 3% year on year reduction in average overall carbon emissions across all sectors"
Reason: This is the target set out in the WAG/WLGA "Welsh Declaration on Climate Change and Energy Efficiency", to which Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council is a signatory.
Insert the following into the "Populations of Species and Areas of Priority Habitat" heading set out in Column 1 (Indicators") :-
<table>
<tr><th>Quantified Data (Blaenau Gwent)</th><th>Comparators</th><th>Targets</th><th>Trends</th><th>Issues Identified</th><th>Source</th></tr>
<tr><td>Lapwing (Vanellus vanellus)</td><td>Current estimated Wales population = 700 pairs</td><td>No further reduction in breeding numbers. A breeding success of 0.6 fledged young per pair per year (This is the adopted target for the WAG/Blaenau Gwent/RSPB Heads of the Valleys Lapwing Project)</td><td>Without intervention, it is likely that this species will experience further dramatic declines and extinction in Blaenau Gwent</td><td>The most important issue impacting on breeding lapwings is that of development pressure</td><td>WAG/BGCBC/RSPB</td></tr>
<tr><td>Grey Partridge (Perdix perdix)</td><td>Current estimated Wales population = 200 - 500 pairs</td><td>Halt decline and maintain and enhance range (Source : Blaenau Gwent LBAP)</td><td>Without intervention, it is likely that this species will experience further dramatic declines and extinction in Blaenau Gwent</td><td>Development pressure from built development</td><td>WAG/BGCBC/RSPB</td></tr>
</table></td><td>Agreed</td><td>Data added to appendices and main report</td></tr>
<tr><td>Nigel Bard</td><td colspan="3">1. Would your organisation like more active involvement than has been suggested within the report?</td></tr>
</table>

	No- retain same level as existing.	Agreed	No further action required.
	2. Have all relevant plans and programmes been consulted? If not, which ones should be included?		
	Yes	Agreed	No further action required.
	3. Are any significant environmental, social or economic data missing or misrepresented?		
	Yes. Social enterprises- development of CF and community groups involvement.- consideration needed.	Agreed. This is an issue for the LDP.	No further action required.
	4. Are judgements made concerning future baseline correct?		
	Yes	Agreed	No further action required.
	5. Are there any additional sustainability problems or opportunities in the Blaenau Gwent area that need to be considered in the development of the LDP?		
	Yes. Partnership working with CF: opportunity to promote, engage etc within localised areas. Sustainability: CF development of communities and projects including social enterprises and ability to access additional funding to support overall developments.	Agreed. This is an issue for the LDP.	No further action required.
	6. Do you agree with the proposed SA framework? Are objectives, targets and indicators suggested appropriate?		
	Yes.	Agreed	No further action required.

Appendix B Relevant Plans and Programmes

Table B.1 - Relevant Plans and Programmes

International Plans and Programmes	
Rio Declaration on Environment and Development 1992	www.unep.org/Documents.multilingual/Default.asp?DocumentID=78&ArticleID=1163
United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, Bali 2007	http://unfccc.int/2860.php
United Nations Statement of Principles on Forests 1992	http://www.un.org/documents/ga/conf151/aconf15126-3annex3.htm
Convention on Biological Diversity 1992	http://www.biodiv.org/default.shtml
United Nations Agenda 21 1992	http://www.un.org/esa/sustdev/documents/agenda21/english/agenda21toc.htm
Kyoto Protocol on Climate Change 1997	http://unfccc.int/resource/docs/convkp/kpeng.html
European Climate Change Programme (UK 2006)	http://ec.europa.eu/environment/climat/eccp.htm
The EU Directive on the Conservation of Wild Birds (79/409/EEC)	http://www.defra.gov.uk/wildlife-countryside/ewd/rrrpac/wildbirds/index.htm
The EU Nitrates Directive (91/676/EEC)	http://ec.europa.eu/environment/water/water-nitrates/index_en.html
The EU Directive on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and of Wild Flora and Fauna (92/43/EEC)	http://www.defra.gov.uk/wildlife-countryside/ewd/rrrpac/wildbirds/index.htm
The EU Noise Directive (2003/10/EEC)	http://europa.eu.int/eur-lex/pri/en/oj/dat/2003/l_042/l_04220030215en00380044.pdf
The EU Water Framework Directive (2000/60/EC)	http://ec.europa.eu/environment/water/water-framework/index_en.html
The EU Directive on Environmental Noise (2002/49/EEC)	http://europa.eu/scadplus/leg/en/lvb/l21180.htm
The EU Landfill of Waste Directive (97/11/EC)	http://ec.europa.eu/environment/waste/landfill_index.htm
The EU Directive on Environmental Impact Assessment (85/337/EEC)	http://ec.europa.eu/environment/eia/eia-legalcontext.htm
The Aarhus Convention on Access to information, public participation in decision making and access to justice in environmental matters	http://ec.europa.eu/environment/aarhus/index.htm

(2005/370/EEC)	
The EU Air Quality Framework Directive (96/62/EC)	http://ec.europa.eu/environment/air/ambient.htm#1
The EU Rural Development Policy 2007-2013	http://europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/05/766&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en
European Spatial Development Perspective, 1999	http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/sources/docoffic/official/reports/som_en.htm
The Common Agriculture Policy (Reform 2003)	http://ec.europa.eu/
The European Employment Strategy 2002	http://ec.europa.eu
Intelligent Energy Europe Programme 2007-2013	http://ec.europa.eu/energy/intelligent/index_en.html
EU Directive on Energy Performance of Buildings (2002/91/EC)	http://europa.eu.int/eur-lex/pri/en/oj/dat/2003/l_001/l_00120030104en00650071.pdf
EU Waste Framework Directive (91/156/EEC)	http://europa.eu/scadplus/leg/en/lvb/l21197.htm
Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development 2002	http://www.un.org/esa/sustdev/documents/WSSD_POI_PD/English/POI_PD.htm
Structural Funds Regulations 2007-2013	http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/sources/docoffic/official/regulation/newregl0713_en.htm
The EU Biodiversity Strategy 1998	http://www.birdlife.org/eu/eu_biodiversity.html
The EU Sixth Environmental Action Plan 2002-2012	http://www.birdlife.org/eu/eu_biodiversity.html
European Landscape Convention (ratified in UK 2006)	http://www.coe.int/t/e/Cultural_Co-operation/Environment/Landscape/
UK Plans and Programmes	
UK Sustainable Development Strategy –'Securing the Future' 2005	http://www.sustainable-development.gov.uk/
One Future, Different Paths – The UK's Shared framework for Sustainable Development (2005)	http://www.sustainable-development.gov.uk/publications/uk-strategy/framework-for-sd.htm
Planning for a Sustainable Future: White Paper, 2007	http://www.communities.gov.uk/index.asp?id=1510503
Code for Sustainable Homes, 2006	http://www.planningportal.gov.uk/uploads/code_for_sust_homes.pdf
UK Biodiversity Action Plan 2005	http://www.ukbap.org.uk/

Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended by Schedule 9 of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000).	http://www.jncc.gov.uk/page-1377
Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000	http://www.opsi.gov.uk/ACTS/acts2000/20000037.htm
Conservation (Natural Habitats, & c) Regulations 1994	http://www.opsi.gov.uk/si/si1994/uksi_19942716_en_1.htm
Meeting the Energy Challenge – A White Paper on Energy 2007	http://www.dti.gov.uk/files/file39387.pdf
Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006	http://www.opsi.gov.uk/acts/acts2006/ukpga_20060016_en_1
Wales Plans and Programmes	
People, Places, Futures – The Wales Spatial Plan 2004	http://www.wales.gov.uk/themesspatialplan/content/spatial-plan-e.htm
Wales: A Vibrant Economy The Welsh Assembly Government's Strategic Framework for Economic Development (Consultation 2005)	http://wales.gov.uk/docrepos/40382/4038231141/403821124153/wave_en.pdf?lang=en
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Ebbw Vale Urban Function Analysis	Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council
Brynmawr Urban Function Analysis	Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council
Tredegar Urban Function Analysis	Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council

Abertillery Urban Function Analysis	Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council
Blaenau Gwent Economic Development Strategy 2004	Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council
Blaenau Gwent Energy Policy Statement	Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council
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Blaenau Gwent Community Safety Strategy 2005 - 2008	Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council
Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council Tourism Strategy	Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council
Blaenau Gwent Waste Strategy 2004	Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council
Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council UDP (adopted July 2006)	http://www.blaenau-gwent.gov.uk/business/7725.asp
Blaenau Gwent CBC Corporate Improvement Plan 06/07	http://www.blaenau-gwent.gov.uk/166.asp
Blaenau Gwent Healthier Future Strategy 2005-2008	http://www.wales.nhs.uk/sites3/Documents/280/HealthierFutureStrategy%5FEnglish1.pdf
Blaenau Gwent Local Biodiversity Action Plan	http://www.ukbap.org.uk/lbap.aspx?id=415
Blaenau Gwent Housing Strategy	Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council
Blaenau Gwent Housing Market Assessment	Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council
Blaenau Gwent Regeneration Strategy	Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council
Blaenau Gwent Adopted School Organisational Plan	Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council
Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council Single Education Plan	Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council
Blaenau Gwent Play Strategy 2004	Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council
UDP Environmental Appraisal	Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council
Blaenau Gwent Heritage Strategy	Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council
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Blaenau Gwent Sport and Active Living Strategy	Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council
Needs Assessment for Blaenau Gwent 2007	Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council
Strategy for promoting Mental Health and Wellbeing in Blaenau Gwent Jan 2008	Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council

Appendix C Socio-Economic Baseline Data

C.1 Economic Characteristics

Incomes and Economic Activity

C.1.1 77% of Blaenau Gwent is classified as rural.

C.1.2 In terms of employment sectors, statistics indicate a tendency towards employment within the manufacturing sectors as representing a higher proportion of employment than the regional and national averages. The relative value of employment in this sector is reflected in wage levels, which are below regional averages: in 2006 the average gross weekly income for Blaenau Gwent was £346, compared to the regional average gross weekly income of £474.

C.1.3 The number of people economically inactive in 2005/06 was 12,400 people. This equates to 30.4% of the workforce, which is significantly above the Welsh average of 24.9%.

C.1.4 Between 2004 and 2007, the proportion of working age adults claiming Job Seekers Allowance has increased very slightly to 4.6%, but Incapacity Benefit claim and total Welfare Benefit claim percentages have continued to fall slowly to 17% and 29% respectively.

Entrepreneurial Dynamism

C.1.5 The key indicator used to assess economic enterprise is total VAT registrations – at the end of 2005 there were 940 businesses registered in Blaenau Gwent. During 2005 new registrations totalled 1.46 per 1000 population; however, in the previous year (2004), new registrations totalled 1.61 per 1000 population. Thus the percentage change between 2004 and 2005 was -9%. These statistics are broadly similar to the South East Wales region (-8%) and Wales (-9%) figures. In contrast, there were 80 deregistrations (1.2 per 1000 population) in Blaenau Gwent in 2005 (-9.6%) in comparison with -6.8% for Wales. A comparison at the regional level reveals that Blaenau Gwent has consistently experienced the second least number of new registrations over the past five years after Merthyr Tydfil and, in most recent years, registrations in Blaenau Gwent have been over 150 less than any other authority in the region (with the exception of Merthyr Tydfil, which is performing below Blaenau Gwent).

Retail

C.1.6 The central shopping areas in Blaenau Gwent are Abertillery, Blaina, Brynmawr, Ebbw Vale, and Tredegar. The towns are located within the deeply incised and roughly parallel valleys of the Sirhowy, Ebbw Fach and Ebbw Fawr rivers which flow in a north to south direction through the County Borough.

C.1.7 Tredegar is located in the Sirhowy valley to the North of the County Borough; Ebbw Vale sits along the Ebbw Fach river in the next valley towards the East; and Brynmawr, Blaina and Abertillery are situated in the Ebbw Fawr valley, with Brynmawr in the extreme North of the Borough, Abertillery in the South, and Blaina between them.

C.1.8 Out of centre retail parks have created negative impacts upon the vitality and viability of town centres in Blaenau Gwent. High vacancy rates currently exist within many of the town centres . However, the Council through mechanisms such as Commercial Improvement Grants and Town Centre Strategies are endeavouring to address this problem.

Car Ownership Rates

C.1.9 Blaenau Gwent experiences low car ownership rates, (35% of households with no car or van, compared to 26% in Wales) in conjunction with high levels of deprivation; meaning that accessibility to town centres may be difficult for some members of the community.

C.2 Social Characteristics

Housing

C.2.1 In 2000, 83.4% of the housing in Blaenau Gwent was within council tax bands A and B, compared to the South East which had 22% in band A and 26% in band B. Furthermore, seven of the 16 electoral divisions in Blaenau Gwent had more than 90% of housing within these two bands and only 0.09% of housing in Blaenau Gwent was within council tax bands G and H compared to 4% for the South East. This suggests that the overall size and market value of housing stock in the County Borough is relatively modest, particularly in the regional context.

C.2.2 The average house price in Blaenau Gwent in 2006 was £82,486 – this was nearly £50,000 less than the South East average, which was £131,462. Trend data indicates that the area has seen substantial increases in house prices in recent years, which is likely to be a reflection of the increase in house prices in Cardiff and Newport, encouraging people to buy further north. It is likely that this trend will continue with the new rail line and proportional increase in prices across Wales.

C.2.3 In 2001, 55% of Blaenau Gwent's housing stock consisted of terraced properties built pre 1919. This may be a further reason for lower average house prices in the County Borough since a higher representation of smaller properties, i.e. terraces and flats, will skew the statistic downwards. In addition to this, 8% of private properties were considered unfit (1,740) and a further 12% were classified as being in need of substantial repair (2,610) in the latest survey.

C.2.4 The total number of households in Blaenau Gwent was 29,586 in 2001. Average household sizes were above the national averages but below regional averages – 2.34 compared to 2.40 in the South East region and 1.87 in Wales.

C.2.5 According to the 2001 census, a significant proportion of properties in Blaenau Gwent were owned outright (62.62%). However, this was significantly less than regional and national averages, which were 72.79% and 71.3% respectively. There was also a significant percentage of council housing rental (24.34%) compared to regional and national averages of 13.59% and 17.9% respectively.

Population

C.2.6 The population of Blaenau Gwent has been falling since its peak of 127,611 in 1921 - according to the 2005 mid year population estimate the total was 68,400. In the context of the County Borough, the population is projected to grow by 7% between 2003 and 2011, which would equate to a total population of approximately 73,725 by 2011. However, although the overall longer term trend suggests a likely net increase, in recent years (1999-2002) the population has experienced a decline of -4.63%, attributed to a combination of accelerated out-migration and falling birth rates. Over the same period in the South East region as a whole, population grew at a rate of 0.034% and the national population increased by 1.59% in the same period.

C.2.7 An examination of population demographics indicates that Blaenau Gwent has a relatively ageing population in comparison to national averages, particularly notable for persons over 65 (16.89% compared to 16% for South East Wales, in 2001). In addition, the proportion of the population under the age of 16 is lower than the South East average.

C.2.8 A continuation of these trends is likely to result in conditions which will be increasingly difficult to sustain, both socially and economically, with a smaller proportion of workers being required to support a higher proportion of elderly dependents. This trend also places additional pressure on services and decreases demand for school places, particularly in the primary sector.

C.2.9 However, the new railway, relatively low house prices and economic growth generated through the Heads of the Valleys Strategic Programme could promote inwards migration from other areas in Wales/UK, as well as reduce the amount of outward migration, resulting in a larger and more balanced population. Planned improvements to post 16 educational opportunities through the Learning Campus on The Works site may also affect this.

C.2.10 The population is still very homogenous, although numbers of welsh speakers and demand for welsh language education has increased, and there is a modest inward migration of workers from Eastern Europe and Iberia.

Health and Well Being

C.2.11 Life expectancies for both males and females across the County Borough are below national averages. Males have an average life expectancy of 73.8 years and females of 78.4 years – this compares to 75.8 for males and 80.3 for females nationally (2002 - 2004).

C.2.12 The proportion of people with limiting long term illness is above the South East and national averages: 28.26% compared to 23.4% in the South East and 23.3% in Wales. In addition, people who self-assessed their general health as 'good' (2001 Census) represented a lower proportion of the population than the South East and national averages: 59.38% in Blaenau Gwent compared to 64.48% in the South East and 60.06% in Wales.

Crime and Fear of Crime

C.2.13 In general terms, Blaenau Gwent has relatively low levels of crime, totalling 2,978 crimes in 2004/05 (including violence against the person, burglary in a dwelling, theft of a motor vehicle and theft from a motor vehicle), falling to 2,731 crimes in 2005/06. Within this total, the majority of crime types appear to be falling in the area, including crimes related to violence, which represent the largest proportion of all recorded crimes in the County Borough. However, motor vehicle theft statistics appear to be higher and less stable than the regional average and theft from motor vehicles seems to be rising.

Education, Skills and Qualifications

C.2.14 Data relating to education, skills and qualifications in the area indicates a considerable disparity between Blaenau Gwent and the South East and Wales. In Blaenau Gwent the proportion of people holding NVQ level 2 in 2003 was 41.1% compared to 43.25% for the South East and 60% for Wales. Similarly, the proportion of people holding the higher level 4 qualification in 2003 was only 9.5% in Blaenau Gwent compared to 17.38% and 22.5% for the South East and Wales respectively.

C.2.15 There is also a lower percentage of the population achieving a level 4/5 qualification (such as a degree, HNC, HND) with only 13.6% in Blaenau Gwent compared to the Welsh average of 17.4%. Blaenau Gwent had 4,360 adults engaged in adult education in 2003, which represented 6.3% of the total population; this was lower than the Welsh average of 6.8%. Latest statistics also show that there was a lower proportion of 19 year olds with 5 GCSE's

(A*-C), with 43% achieving this compared to the Welsh average of 56%. These educational attainment statistics have implications for the manner in which the local economy will be able to expand and grow over the Plan period.

C.2.16 In 2001, 45.02% of the Blaenau Gwent population held no qualifications, compared to 34.37% and 33% for the South East and Wales respectively. By 2003, this had considerably improved to approximately 13,000 persons, which represented 30.4% of the population at the time. Although this compares unfavourably to the Welsh average of 37.8% for the same year, the statistic does suggest that the trend is moving in a positive direction, with a substantial reduction in the proportion of the population with no qualifications.

Recreation

C.2.17 Research identified within the Healthy and Active Lifestyle in Wales document (2003) reports that only 28% of adults in Wales are active at the recommended levels for health. Furthermore, in excess of 50% of adults are considered overweight, with the prevalence of obesity approximately doubling over the last ten years.

C.2.18 Blaenau Gwent Leisure Services offers a wealth of recreational facilities with excellent dual use Sports Centres at Abertillery, Ebbw Vale, Nantyglo and Tredegar, together with satellite facilities in Glyncoed and Brynmawr Athletics Track.

C.2.19 Blaenau Gwent Sports Centres caters for all ages and abilities, with rugby, football and netball sessions as well as a wide range of classes from Aqua Aerobics, Parent and Toddler swimming sessions and Fit Ball Sessions.

C.2.20 As well as the Blaenau Gwent Sports Centres, the borough also has the Abertillery Indoor Bowls Centre, Ebbw Vale Cricket School, Glyncoed Community Hall and the new Brynmawr Athletics track, which only opened in September 2006.

C.2.21 Sports and Leisure activities include:

- Splash Programme over 100 youths participating holiday periods
- Street League football currently being held at Glyncoed Sports Centre
- Newly Established Disability Sport Forum
- Volunteering opportunities through: Volunteering Counts, Dragon Sport, Millennium Volunteers. (Sport in Blaenau Gwent highly dependent upon volunteers.)

C.3 Regeneration: ‘The Works’

Objectives of the Development

Economic

C.3.1 The goal for the economic sustainability objectives is to maximise the economic benefit which can be delivered to local people and help achieve a sustainable economic future for Ebbw Vale and the wider Heads of the Valleys area. This will be achieved through the following objectives:

- To assist in creating a more dynamic and enterprising local economy through:

- economic diversity
- investment
- local procurement

- To maximise accessibility and employment for local people and wider Heads of the Valleys residents through:
  - providing appropriate employment
  - providing training and skills development

Social

C.3.2 The aim of the social sustainability objectives is to improve the quality of life for local people through strengthening local communities, encouraging the participation of all residents and reaffirming the strong cultural identity of Ebbw Vale and the wider Heads of the Valleys area. This will be achieved through the following objectives:

- To strengthen the local community of Ebbw Vale and those of the wider Heads of the Valleys area through:
  - Strengthening community cohesion and relationships
  - Increasing the participation of the community
  - Strengthening local image and confidence
- To improve the quality of life for local people through:
  - Creating a healthy environment for all people to enjoy; to increase wellbeing
  - To increase access for all residents to open spaces/facilities and landscapes/greenscapes
- To increase social assets through investing in valuable social assets and key infrastructure such as housing.

Environmental

C.3.3 The aim of the environmental sustainability objectives is to provide strong stewardship of the natural, built and historic environment for the benefit of this and future generations of residents and visitors to Ebbw Vale. This will be achieved through the following objectives:

- To create and implement a best practice Environmental Management System.
- To protect and enhance local biodiversity.
- To protect and enhance the local landscape.
- To enhance the local built environment through creating a high quality urban environment and through respecting the surrounding historic and archaeological environment and character.

Resource Objectives

C.3.4 The aim of the resource objectives is to reduce the ecological footprint of Ebbw Vale through implementing ambitious initiatives aimed at encouraging more sustainable use of resources, lowering emissions levels and promoting recycling. This will be achieved through the following objectives:

- To promote more efficient energy use and reduce emissions through:
  - Establishing an ambitious target for development
  - Increasing access to public transport for residents and visitors
- To protect water resources through reducing potential risks to water quality, prevent flooding impacts and utilising SUDS.
- To restore local land resources through remediating and developing brownfield land.
- To reduce materials use and minimise waste production through:
  - Building in a green procurement code for the contractor/developer
  - Encouraging greater reduction, reuse and recycling of materials
  - Building in green travel plans for construction

Figure C.3.1 - The Works: New Carbon Emissions Targets

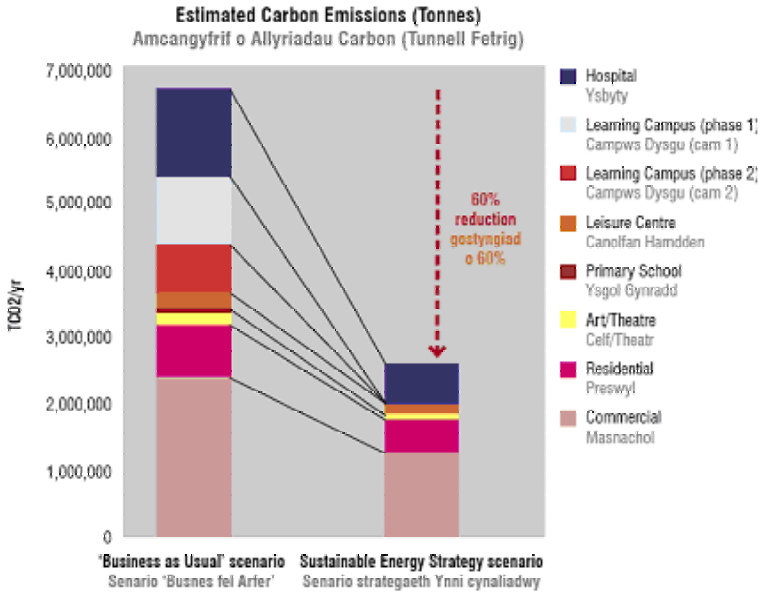


Table C.1 - Baseline Data, Indicators and Trends for Socio-Economic Issues

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

Indicator	Quantified data (Blaenau Gwent)	Comparators (Quantified data for South Wales and Wales/England)	Targets	Trends	Issue identified	SEA topics	Source
			Gwent **2012** Increase average weekly earnings to 84% GB levels	***Male*** **2002 -** £343.8 **2003 -** £381.5 **2004 -** £379.4 **2005 -** £426 ***Female*** **2002 -** £275.3 **2003 -** £306.8 **2004 -** £305.4 **2005 -** £313.5 ***Total*** **2002 -** £309.55 **2003 -** £344.15 **2004 -** £342.4 **2005 -** £369.75 **South East** Full time mean weekly pay ***Male*** **2002 -** £438.98 **2003 -** £461.28 **2004 -** £480.89 **2005 -** £512.96 ***Female*** **2002 -** £349.78 **2003 -** £367.96	for men and £140 for women with the deficit between the two genders still being around £130. From 2002 to 2005 weekly income has been less than that of the rest of the south east and for the whole of Wales.		

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

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

Indicator	Quantified data (Blaenau Gwent)	Comparators (Quantified data for South Wales and Wales/England)	Targets	Trends	Issue identified	SEA topics	Source
	Ebbw Vale N – 40.2 Ebbw Vale S – 36 Gerogetown – 31.9 Lanhilleth – 48 Nantyglo – 51.3 Rassau – 37.8 Sirhowy - 40 Six Bells - 39 Tredegar C & W – 41.8						
Working Age Economically Inactive	*Jan 2000 – 2,130 (9.6%) people unemployed* ***July 2005-Jun 2006*** *Proportion of the working age population that is economically inactive* – 12,400 (30.4%) *Wanting a job* – 4,200 (10.4%) *Not wanting a job* – 8,100 (20%) *Unemployed* 2,000 (7.5%) (2003/04) **2000 (ward data)** Percentage of male unemployment in the economically active population (aged 15 – 64)	**Wales** *Proportion of the working age population that is economically inactive* 24.9% *Wanting a job* – 6.2% *Not wanting a job* – 18.7%	**Blaenau Gwent** **2008** Reduce unemploy-ment to 4% **2012** Reduce unemploy-ment to 3%		There is a high proportion of economically inactive people in the borough, over 5% more than that of the Wales average. 10.4% of people from that percentage are wanting a job which may indicate that there is a shortage of opportunities suited to local skills in the area. However, 20% are highlighted as not wanting a job. This statistic is also higher than the Wales average of 18.7%. In 2000 the unemployment rate was 6.9% which by 2003/04 had increased to 7.5%, further highlighting opportunity issues in	Population	ONS annual population survey Blaenau Gwent UDP Health and social needs June 2002 Blaenau Gwent

Indicator	Quantified data (Blaenau Gwent)	Comparators (Quantified data for South Wales and Wales/England)	Targets	Trends	Issue identified	SEA topics	Source
	Ebbw Vale North - 11.5 Ebbw Vale South - 11.1 Nantyglo - 10.4 Brynmawr - 10.2 Rassau - 10.0 Cwmtillery - 9.1 Cwm - 9.0 Tredegar C&W - 8.8 Beaufort - 8.4 Badminton - 7.7 Six Bells - 7.6 Georgetown - 7.3 Sirhowy - 7.2 Blaina - 6.6 Abertillery - 6.5 Llanhilleth - 6.3 Percentage of female unemployment in the economically active population (aged 15 – 64) Ebbw Vale South - 5.8 Ebbw Vale North - 5.6 Cwm - 4.9 Brynmawr - 4.8 Cwmtillery - 4.8 Rassau - 4.6 Sirhowy - 4.5 Blaina - 4.3				the area. The wards of Ebbw Vale North and South, Brynmawr and Nantyglo have particularly high unemployment problems compared to other wards.		

Indicator	Quantified data (Blaenau Gwent)	Comparators (Quantified data for South Wales and Wales/England)	Targets	Trends	Issue identified	SEA topics	Source
	Nantyglo - 4.2 Beaufort - 4.2 Six Bells - 4.2 Tredegar C&W - 3.9 Badminton - 3.6 Abertillery - 3.1 Llanhilleth - 2.9 Georgetown - 2.0 Total Percentage of unemployed people among the economically active population (aged 15 – 64) Ebbw Vale North - 9.1 Ebbw Vale South - 9.0 Nantyglo - 8.0 Brynmawr - 8.0 Rassau - 7.8 Cwm - 7.5 Cwmtillery - 7.4 Tredegar C&W - 6.8 Beaufort - 6.6 Six Bells - 6.2 Sirhowy - 6.1 Badminton - 6.0 Blaina - 5.7 Abertillery - 5.2 Georgetown - 5.1 Llanhilleth - 5.0						

Indicator	Quantified data (Blaenau Gwent)	Comparators (Quantified data for South Wales and Wales/England)	Targets	Trends	Issue identified	SEA topics	Source
Working Age Economic Activity Rates	*2001* *All persons* – 49,747 *Economically Active* – 27,564 ***2003/04 (rounded statistics)*** *All people economically active* 29,000 (68.6%) *In employment* 26,000 (63.5%) *Employees* 24,000 (58.6%) *Self employed* 2,000 (4.35%) *Unemployed* 2,000 (7.5%) ***Males*** *Economically active* – 16,000 (72.3%) *In employment* – 14,000 (66.2%) *Employees* – 13,000 (59.3%)	**South East** *Economically Active* – 74.1% (2003/04 average) **2003/04** ***Males*** *Economically active* – 78.6% *In employment* – 74.0% *Employees* – 61.4% *Self employed* – 12% *Unemployed* – 5.9% ***Females*** *Economically active* – 69.6% *In employment* – 66.7% *Employees – 61.7%* *Self employed* – 4.5%	**Blaenau Gwent** **2008** Increase labour market participat-ion to 72% (from 67.5% in 2000) Increase employm-ent rate to 64% (from 60.4% in 2000) Increase self employm-ent rate to 9.7% (from, 9% in 2000) **Blaenau Gwent** **2012** Increase labour market participatio n to 74%	**Blaenau Gwent** ***1981 -*** 84.8% *of men economically active.* 53.8% *of women economically active* ***1991*** – 18,398 *men* (77.1%) *economically active* 21,452 *women (58.1%) economically active)* ***2001*** *People aged 16-74: economically active:* *employees part time* – 10.26% *People aged 16-74: economically active:* *employees full time* – 35.68% *People aged 16-74: economically active:* *Unemployed* – 4.68% *People aged 16-74: economically inactive: retired – 14.71%*	In 1981 84.8% of men and 53.8% of women were economically active. More recently in 2003/04 these figures had altered quite significantly and were shown to be 72.3% and 64.7% respectively. These more recent figures for men and women are in both cases lower than the Welsh average. The total number of people economically active In the County Borough in 2003/04 was 29,000 (68.6%). This was over 5% lower than the south east area which averaged 74.1% in total in the same year.	Population	Neighbourh ood statistics 2001 ONS annual population survey Local Area Labour Force Survey (Mar 2003-Feb 2004) Blaenau Gwent UDP ONS, 2001 Census (UV28 – Economic Activity)

Indicator	Quantified data (Blaenau Gwent)	Comparators (Quantified data for South Wales and Wales/England)	Targets	Trends	Issue identified	SEA topics	Source
	Self employed – 1,000 (5.9%) *Unemployed* – 1000 (8.4%) ***Females*** *Economically active* – 13,000 (64.7%) *Employees* – 12,000 (57.7%) *In employment* – 12,000 (60.5%) *Self employed* – 1,000 (2.6%) *Unemployed* – 1000 (5.5%)	*Unemployed* – 4.2% **Wales** *Economically Active* – 75.1% (2006) *Economically Active - unemployed* – 5.2% *(2006)* **South East** *All persons* – 994,173 *Economically Active* – 605,474 *Percentage of working age population economically active* 61% **South East (Average)** *All persons* – 99,417 *Economically Active* – 60,507 *Percentage of working age population economically active* 61% **Wales** *All persons* –	n to 74% Increase employment rate to 67% Increase self employment rate to 10%	*People aged 16-74: economically inactive:* *student – 3.75%* *People aged 16-74: economically inactive: permanently* *sick /disabled – 13.79%* ***2002*** 7.9% unemployment 68.5% activity rates 63.1% employment rates **Wales** 1991 – 86.6% men economically active 67.6% women economically active (Mar 2003 – Feb 2004) *All people economically active* 74.2% *In employment* 70.5%			

Indicator	Quantified data (Blaenau Gwent)	Comparators (Quantified data for South Wales and Wales/England)	Targets	Trends	Issue identified	SEA topics	Source
		2,075,347 *Economically Active* – 1,265,497 *Percentage of working age population economically active* 61%		*Employees* 61.6% *Self employed* 8.4% *Unemployed* 5.1%			
Employee Jobs By Occupation (%)	 *Managers and Senior Officials* – 10.6 *Professional Occupations* –5.8 *Associate Prof & Tech Occupations* – 11.6 *Administrative and Secretarial Occupations* – 11.4 *Skilled Trades Occupations* – 9.2 *Personal Services Occupations* – 11.0 *Sales and Customer Service Occupations* – 7.9 *Process, Plant and Machine Operatives* – 14.7 *Elementary Occupations* – 17.1	**South East** *Managers and Senior Officials* – 12.54 *Professional Occupations* – 11.87 *Associate Prof & Tech Occupations* – 13.82 *Administrative and Secretarial Occupations* – 12.85 *Skilled Trades Occupations* – 9.85 *Personal Services Occupations* – 7.65 *Sales and Customer Service Occupations* – 9.04 *Process, Plant and Machine Operatives* – 8.92 *Elementary*		**Blaenau Gwent** *Jan 2000 – new manufacturing accounted for 70% of all manufacturing employment (5,250)* *2000/01 – employment dominated by manufacturing (7,600) and other services (5,300)*	Professional occupations in the borough account for 5.8% whereas in the south east they account for 11.87%. The employment is predominantly based around manufacturing and service industry; this may be a reason for the lower income rates. The lack of other opportunities may lead to out migration and commuting elsewhere to work, particularly for those residents educated to degree level or higher.	Population and Human Health	Apr 2005-Mar 2006 annual population survey (NOMIS)

Indicator	Quantified data (Blaenau Gwent)	Comparators (Quantified data for South Wales and Wales/England)	Targets	Trends	Issue identified	SEA topics	Source
		Occupations – 13.08 **Wales** *Managers* *and Senior* *Officials* – 12.5 *Professional* *Occupations* – 11.3 *Associate Prof & Tech Occupations* – 13.4 *Administrative and Secretarial* *Occupations* – 12.1 *Skilled Trades* *Occupations* – 12.3 *Personal Services Occupations* – 8.5 Sales and *Customer Service Occupations* – 8.3 *Process, Plant* *and Machine Operatives* – 8.9 *Elementary Occupations* – 12.4					
Frequency of Home working	*Proportion of working population working mainly at or from home* – 5.8% (2001)	**Wales** Proportion of working population working mainly at or from home – 9.7% (2001)			In 2001 there was only a small percentage of people working from home, which is likely to mean the number of people using their cars for work is	Population Human Health Air Climatic Factors	ONS, 2001 Census (Map 24, National SEA of WSP)

Indicator	Quantified data (Blaenau Gwent)	Comparators (Quantified data for South Wales and Wales/England)	Targets	Trends	Issue identified	SEA topics	Source
					higher.		
Percentage of Job Seekers Allowance Claimants	Dec 2006 - Proportion of resident working age population estimates claiming JSA (Rate) – 4.3% **Feb 2003** Aged 18 – 24 – 645 (38.6%) Aged 25 – 49 – 770 (46%) Aged 50+ – 240 (14.3%) *Job Seekers Allowance Claimants (2005)* ***All people –*** 1,683 (4.1%) ***Male –*** 1,327 (6.2%) ***Female –*** 356 (1.8%)	**Wales** **Feb 2003** Aged 18 – 24 - 34.1% Aged 25 – 49 - 49% Aged 50+ - 15.5% *Job Seekers Allowance Claimants (2005)* ***All people –*** 2.4% ***Male –*** 3.6 % ***Female –*** 1.2%		**Blaenau Gwent** Proportion of resident working age population estimates (Rate) **Apr 2000 – 4.9** **Apr 2001 – 4.9** **Apr 2002 – 4.4** **Apr 2003 – 3.8** **Apr 2004 – 3.8** **Apr 2005 – 4.0** **Apr 2006 – 4.7**	From April 2000 to April 2005 the proportion of resident working population claiming JSA had fallen from 4.9% to 4%. More recently in April 2006 that figure has risen again to 4.7%. 2003 saw Blaenau Gwent have 38.6% of people aged 18 – 24 (645 people) claim JSA which was higher than the Wales figure of 34.1%. Male unemployment in the Borough in 2005 was significantly higher than female by nearly 1,000. JSA numbers close to double the rate for the whole of Wales in 2005 suggesting unemployment is a significant problem in the borough.	Population Human Health	NOMIS National Statistics (Feb 2003) Claimant Count (February 2005) national statistics
Percentage of Income	*2005 –*	**Wales**		**Blaenau Gwent**	The breakdown of income support	Population	ONS (Income

Indicator	Quantified data (Blaenau Gwent)	Comparators (Quantified data for South Wales and Wales/England)	Targets	Trends	Issue identified	SEA topics	Source
Support Claimants	*Incapacity benefit*: 62% *Lone parent*: 31% *Carers and others*: 8% **2006 -** Income Support Claimants (16 and over) – 4,050	*Income support claimants by type – national percentages (August 2005):* *Incapacity benefit* :60% *Lone parent*: - 32% *Carers and others*: -8% 2006 – Income Support Claimants (16 and over) - 126,160		**1998** *% of persons aged 16 and over on income support (wards)* Abertillery – 9.6 Badminton – 9.6 Beaufort – 11.5 Blaina – 10.6 Brynmawr – 11.9 Cwm – 9.7 Cwmtillery – 13.4 Ebbw Vale N -12.7 Ebbw Vale S – 12.7 Georgetown – 7.7 Llanhilleth – 14.4 Nantyglo – 17.5 Rassau – 11.2 Sirhowy – 12.9 Six Bells – 10.1 Tredegar C & W – 15.3 % of persons aged 60 and over on income support Abertillery – 13.4 Badminton – 16.6	claimants by type indicates that the situation in Blaenau Gwent is broadly comparable to that across Wales as a whole. In 1998 the figures for the percentage of people on income support or in income support households were particularly high in Nantyglo, Brynmawr, Cwmtillery, Tredegar and Ebbw Vale north and South.	Human Health	Support Claimants, August 2005) Health and social needs June 2002 Blaenau Gwent

Indicator	Quantified data (Blaenau Gwent)	Comparators (Quantified data for South Wales and Wales/England)	Targets	Trends	Issue identified	SEA topics	Source
				Beaufort – 18.3 Blaina – 15.3 Brynmawr – 21.4 Cwm – 17.6 Cwmtillery – 19.2 Ebbw Vale N – 21.8 Ebbw Vale S – 17.5 Georgetown – 10.8 Llanhilleth – 16.9 Nantyglo – 21.8 Rassau – 14.4 Sirhowy – 18 Six Bells – 14.5 Tredegar C & W – 21 % children aged 0 - 15 in income support households Abertillery – 21.8 Badminton – 16.5 Beaufort – 26.5 Blaina – 22.4 Brynmawr – 20.6 Cwm – 18.6 Cwmtillery – 31.4 Ebbw Vale N – 27 Ebbw Vale S – 33.5 Georgetown – 16.9 Llanhilleth – 35.5			

Indicator	Quantified data (Blaenau Gwent)	Comparators (Quantified data for South Wales and Wales/England)	Targets	Trends	Issue identified	SEA topics	Source
				Nantyglo – 46.3 Rassau – 31 Sirhowy – 31.6 Six Bells – 21.7 Tredegar C & W – 33.3			
Total VAT Registrations by Employment Size Band	2005/06 Total Enterprises - 830 0-4 employees – 550 – 66.3% 5-9 employees – 145 – 17.5% 10-19 employees – 55 – 6.6% 20+ employees – 80 – 9.6%	2005/06 **South East** Total Enterprises – 26,780 0-4 employees – 19,685 5-9 employees – 3,905 10-19 employees – 1,495 20+ employees – 1,705 **South East Average** Enterprises by authority – 2,678 0-4 employees – 1,969 – 73.5% 5-9 employees – 391 – 14.6% 10-19 employees – 150 – 5.6% 20+ employees – 171 – 6.4% **Wales**			Blaenau Gwent has a significantly lower number of VAT registrations than the average for authorities in the South East Wales region (830 compared to 2678). The representation of enterprises by size band indicates that Blaenau Gwent has a lower than average proportion of very small businesses compared to the average for South East Wales authorities (66.3% compared to 73.5%). Conversely, the representation of registrations of 20+ employees is above average – 9.6% compared to 6.4%. It has the second	Population	ONS (Counts of VAT Based Enterprises by Employment Size Band 2005/06)

Indicator	Quantified data (Blaenau Gwent)	Comparators (Quantified data for South Wales and Wales/England)	Targets	Trends	Issue identified	SEA topics	Source
		Total Enterprises – 74,115 0-4 employees – 57,615 5-9 employees – 9,415 10-19 employees – 3,490 20+ employees – 3,590 **Wales Average** 0-4 employees – 2619 5-9 employees – 428 10-19 employees – 159 20+ employees – 163			lowest number of VAT registrations in the south east after Merthyr Tydfil. This suggests that there is either a lack of entrepreneurial spirit, or insufficient support (premises, training, etc.) suitable to assist SMEs and start ups.		
Number of new VAT Registrations per annum	**2005** *Registrations* – 100 (10.6%) Deregistrations – 80 (8.5%) Stock at the end of the year - 940	**South East** **2005** **SE Total –** 2930 Bridgend - 275 Rhondda Cynon Taff - 395 Vale of Glamorgan - 265 Merthyr Tydfil - 100 Cardiff - 800 Caerphilly - 270 Blaenau Gwent - 100 Torfaen – 160 Newport – 305		**Blaenau Gwent** 1998 - 85 1999 - 85 2000 - 85 2001 - 75 2002 - 75 2003 - 105 2004 - 110 **% change** 1997/98 – 31% 1998/99 – 0% 1999/00 – 0% 2000/01 – -12% 2001/02 – 0%	In 2002/03 Blaenau Gwent experienced a 40% increase in VAT registrations from the previous year. However, more recently it experienced a -9% drop. This was also experienced by the south east and Wales. A comparison at the regional level reveals that Blaenau Gwent has consistently experienced the second least number of new registrations over the past 5 years after Merthyr Tydfil,		VAT Registrations/Deregistration By Industry (NOMIS)

Indicator	Quantified data (Blaenau Gwent)	Comparators (Quantified data for South Wales and Wales/England)	Targets	Trends	Issue identified	SEA topics	Source
		Monmouthshire - 260 **Wales** **2005 total -** 6430		2002/03 – 40% 2003/04 – 5% 2004/05 – -9% **South East** 1998 - 2745 1999 - 2770 2000 - 2790 2001 - 2725 2002 - 2900 2003 - 3165 2004 - 3185 **% change** 1997/98 – -4% 1998/99 – 1% 1999/00 – 1% 2000/01 – -2% 2001/02 – 6% 2002/03 – 9% 2003/04 – 1% 2004/05 – -8% 1998 **SE Total –** 2745 Bridgend - 230 Rhondda Cynon Taff - 350 Vale of Glamorgan - 295	and in most recent years registrations in Blaenau Gwent have been over 150 less than any other authority in the region with the exception of Merthyr Tydfil.		

Indicator	Quantified data (Blaenau Gwent)	Comparators (Quantified data for South Wales and Wales/England)	Targets	Trends	Issue identified	SEA topics	Source
				Merthyr Tydfil - 70 Cardiff - 770 Caerphilly - 265 Blaenau Gwent - 85 Torfaen - 135 Newport – 295 Monmouthshire - 250 1999 **SE Total –** 2770 Bridgend - 250 Rhondda Cynon Taff - 335 Vale of Glamorgan - 285 Merthyr Tydfil - 80 Cardiff - 780 Caerphilly - 270 Blaenau Gwent - 85 Torfaen - 145 Newport - 265 Monmouthshire - 275 2000 **SE Total -** 2790 Bridgend - 255 Rhondda Cynon Taff - 345 Vale of Glamorgan -			

Indicator	Quantified data (Blaenau Gwent)	Comparators (Quantified data for South Wales and Wales/England)	Targets	Trends	Issue identified	SEA topics	Source
				285 Merthyr Tydfil - 75 Cardiff - 815 Caerphilly - 235 Blaenau Gwent - 85 Torfaen - 150 Newport – 295 Monmouthshire - 250 2001 **SE Total -** 2725 Bridgend - 245 Rhondda Cynon Taff - 340 Vale of Glamorgan - 240 Merthyr Tydfil - 75 Cardiff - 785 Caerphilly - 255 Blaenau Gwent - 75 Torfaen - 135 Newport - 300 Monmouthshire - 275 2002 **SE Total -** 2900 Bridgend - 255 Rhondda Cynon Taff - 365			

Indicator	Quantified data (Blaenau Gwent)	Comparators (Quantified data for South Wales and Wales/England)	Targets	Trends	Issue identified	SEA topics	Source
				Vale of Glamorgan - 315 Merthyr Tydfil - 70 Cardiff - 830 Caerphilly - 285 Blaenau Gwent - 75 Torfaen - 135 Newport – 290 Monmouthshire - 280 2003 **SE Total -** 3165 Bridgend - 330 Rhondda Cynon Taff - 380 Vale of Glamorgan - 295 Merthyr Tydfil - 70 Cardiff - 830 Caerphilly - 335 Blaenau Gwent - 105 Torfaen - 165 Newport - 315 Monmouthshire - 325 2004 **SE Total -** 3185 Bridgend - 280 Rhondda Cynon Taff			

Indicator	Quantified data (Blaenau Gwent)	Comparators (Quantified data for South Wales and Wales/England)	Targets	Trends	Issue identified	SEA topics	Source
				- 430 Vale of Glamorgan - 320 Merthyr Tydfil - 110 Cardiff - 820 Caerphilly - 300 Blaenau Gwent - 110 Torfaen - 175 Newport - 320 Monmouthshire - 320 **Wales** 1998 - 6165 1999 - 6120 2000 - 6290 2001 - 6025 2002 - 6430 2003 - 7145 2004 - 7040 **% change** 1997/98 – -2% 1998/99 – -1% 1999/00 – 3% 2000/01 – -4% 2001/02 – 7% 2002/03 – 11% 2003/04 – -1% 2004/05 – -9%			

Indicator	Quantified data (Blaenau Gwent)	Comparators (Quantified data for South Wales and Wales/England)	Targets	Trends	Issue identified	SEA topics	Source
Percentage of Vacant Properties	*Percentage of households spaces which are unoccupied (second residences, holiday accommodation or otherwise vacant):* **5.7% (2001)**	**Wales** *percentage of households spaces which are unoccupied (second residences, holiday accommodation or otherwise vacant):* **5.2% (2001)**			The percentage of vacant properties is higher than the Welsh average. Given the nature of the county borough, it is considered likely that this statistic represents unoccupied properties as opposed to second homes or holiday homes.	Population Human Health	ONS, 2001 Census (UV53 – Housing Stock)
Recorded Crime Figures of ***(i) theft of or from vehicles*** ***(ii) burglary in dwellings*** ***(iii) robbery***	(Apr 05 – Mar 06) Violence against the person 1,436 (Apr 05 – Mar 06) Burglary in a dwelling 234 (Apr 05 – Mar 06) Theft of a motor Vehicle: 397 Apr 05 – Mar 06) Theft From a Motor Vehicle: 664	**Wales** **Total Crime Rates** ***Violence against the person*** 2002 – 36,453 2003 – 53,135 2004 – 53,014 2005 – 53,341 2006 – 52,639 ***Robbery*** 2002 – 1,030 2003 – 1,377 2004 – 1,280 2005 – 1,085 2006 – 1,134 ***Burglary in a Dwelling*** 2002 – 12,526 2003 – 14,954 2004 – 13,902 2005 – 11,697 2006 – 10,009 ***Theft of a motor***		**Blaenau Gwent** **Total Crime rates** ***Violence against the person*** 2002 – 1,672 2003 – 2,751 2004 – 2,256 2005 – 1,664 2006 – 1,436 ***Robbery*** 2002 – 18 2003 – 10 2004 – 10 2005 – 11 2006 – 13 ***Burglary in a Dwelling*** 2002 – 283 2003 – 372 2004 – 252 2005 – 297 2006 – 234 ***Theft of a motor***	Violence against the person, although on a decreasing trend, seems to be significantly higher than the other crime rates, possibly reflecting poor urban design and planning for safe communities. There may be many areas in the Borough where crime is prevalent because visibility is hindered or there are no surveillance techniques in design.	Population Human Health	Sustainable Development Indicators (Maps 115-116, National SEA of WSP) Notifiable Offences Recorded by the Police Series (using data from: Office for National Statistics, Population Estimates Unit)

Indicator	Quantified data (Blaenau Gwent)	Comparators (Quantified data for South Wales and Wales/England)	Targets	Trends	Issue identified	SEA topics	Source
		2002 – 16,954 2003 – 17,810 2004 – 16,133 2005 – 12,996 2006 – 11,696 ***Theft from a motor vehicle*** 2002 – 25,653 2003 – 31,066 2004 – 29,810 2005 – 26,061 2006 – 26,125		2002 – 404 2003 – 424 2004 – 398 2005 – 409 2006 – 397 ***Theft from a motor vehicle*** 2002 – 447 2003 – 582 2004 – 505 2005 – 597 2006 – 664			
Overall crime rate per 1000 population	***Total number of offences*** Apr-Jun 2005 - 1573 Jul-Sep 2005 - 1433 Oct-Dec 2005 - 1632 Jan-Mar 2006 – 1334 **Offences per 1000 population** Apr-Jun 2005 – 22.9 Jul-Sep 2005 – 20.8 Oct-Dec 2005 – 23.7 Jan-Mar 2006 – 19.4	**South East** ***Total number of offences*** Apr-Jun 2005 – 32,693 Jul-Sep 2005 – 30,938 Oct-Dec 2005 – 31,174 Jan-Mar 2006 – 29,137 **Offences per 1000 population** Apr-Jun 2005 – 26.8 Jul-Sep 2005 – 25.4 Oct-Dec 2005 – 25.6 Jan-Mar 2006 – 23.9 **England/Wales** ***Total number of offences*** Apr-Jun 2005 – 1,400,465 Jul-Sep 2005 – 1,374,201 Oct-Dec 2005 – 1,374,886 Jan-Mar 2006 – 1,323,048			Crime rates are relatively high but compare favourably with the south east and Wales statistics	Population Human Health	SD Indicators, WSP Crime in England and Wales 2005/06 (British Crime Survey) Home Office Crime Statistics

Indicator	Quantified data (Blaenau Gwent)	Comparators (Quantified data for South Wales and Wales/England)	Targets	Trends	Issue identified	SEA topics	Source
		Offences per 1000 population Apr-Jun 2005 – 26.4 Jul-Sep 2005 – 25.9 Oct-Dec 2005 – 25.9 Jan-Mar 2006 – 24.9 Overall crime rates (per 1,000 population) in Wales 2005/06: 87 Overall crime rate (per 1,000 population) 2005/06 for England and Wales: 103					
Housing Completions	Housing completions of all tenures (2002): 35 Jan – Mar 2004 Private Sector *Starts - 21* *Completions - 6* Registered Social Landlords *Starts - 0* *Completions - 0*	**South East** Jan – Mar 2004 Private Sector *Starts – 1,068* *Completions – 952* Registered Social Landlords *Starts - 84* *Completions - 74* **Wales 2002** total: 8,530 Jan – Mar 2004 Private Sector *Starts – 2,191* *Completions – 1,753* Registered Social Landlords *Starts - 122* *Completions - 127*			Housing completion rates in 2002 were very low. No trend data has been sourced as yet. However, continuation at this level would seriously undermine aspirations for growth in the County Borough.	Population Human Health Soil Landscape Material Assets	Welsh Housing Statistics 2002 (Map 77, National SEA of WSP) Welsh Housing Statistics quarterly - Jan - Mar – 2004 - (http://new.wales.gov.uk/legacy_en/keypubstatisticsforwales/content/publication/housing/2004/sb73-2004/sb73-2004.pdf)

Indicator	Quantified data (Blaenau Gwent)	Comparators (Quantified data for South Wales and Wales/England)	Targets	Trends	Issue identified	SEA topics	Source
Central Heating: characteristics of dwellings	2001 *With central heating and sole use of bath/shower and toilet (households)* Count – 28,802 Percentage – 97.35% *Without central heating and sole use of bath/shower and toilet (households)* Count – 27 Percentage – 0.09% *Without central heating , with sole use of bath/shower and toilet (households)* Count – 712 Percentage – 2.41% *With central heating, without sole use of bath/shower and toilet (households)* Count – 44 Percentage – 0.15%	**Wales** 2001 *With central heating and sole use of bath/shower and toilet (households)* Count – 1,115,461 Percentage – 92.26% *Without central heating and sole use of bath/shower and toilet (households)* Count – 1,878 Percentage – 0.16% *Without central heating , with sole use of bath/shower and toilet (households)* Count – 88,911 Percentage – 7.35% *With central heating, without sole use of bath/shower and toilet (households)* Count – 2,798 Percentage – 0.23%			In general terms Blaenau Gwent performs above average in these statistics, with only a small minority of households not enjoying central heating and sole use of bath/shower and toilet. However, a count of 712 households without central heating is a notable statistic, suggesting that there is room for improvement in the quality of the existing housing stock.	Population Human Health Air Climatic Factors	2001 Census
Housing benefit	*All claimants of housing benefit/council tax benefit (count) 2005* 9,585 *Percentage of people claiming housing benefit (ward data)* Nantyglo - 34.8 EV North - 28.2	**South East** *All claimants of housing benefit/council tax benefit 2005 (count)* 149,280 **Wales**			The wards of Nantyglo, Ebbw Vale North and South, Tredegar and Cwmtilery have high percentages of people claiming housing benefit.	Population Human Health	Health and social needs June 2005 Blaenau Gwent

Indicator	Quantified data (Blaenau Gwent)	Comparators (Quantified data for South Wales and Wales/England)	Targets	Trends	Issue identified	SEA topics	Source
	Sirhowy - 28.0 Tred C&W - 27.9 Cwmtillery - 26.9 Rassau - 25.9 Blaina - 25.0 Llanhilleth - 24.8 Beaufort - 24.6 Brynmawr - 22.7 EV South - 21.3 Badminton - 19.6 Georgetown - 14.0 Cwm - 13.9 Abertillery - 13.8 Six Bells - 13.5	*All claimants of housing benefit/council tax benefit 2005 (count)* 292,045					
Council Tax Benefit	*Percentage of households claiming council tax benefit benefit (ward data)(Dec 2000)* Nantyglo - 39.1 Sirhowy - 33.2 EV North - 32.6 Cwmtillery - 32.3 Tred C&W - 31.9 Llanhilleth - 30.6 Rassau - 29.0 Beaufort - 27.8 Blaina - 27.7 Brynmawr - 26.4 EV South - 24.9 Badminton - 24.6 Six Bells - 21.7 Cwm - 19.2 Abertillery - 19.0 Georgetown - 17.9	**South East** *All claimants of housing benefit/council tax benefit 2005 (count)* 149,280 **Wales** *All claimants of housing benefit/council tax benefit 2005 (count)* 292,045			The wards of Nantyglo, Sirhowy, Ebbw Vale North and South, Tredegar and Cwmtilery have high percentages of people claiming Council Tax benefit and housing benefit. This suggests that these wards are suffering particularly from low incomes, or have high proportions of single person households, either of which may be an indication of pockets of deprivation.	Population Human Health	Health and social needs June 2002 Blaenau Gwent
Religion or Faith	2001 *Christian* – 44,973 *Buddhist* – 86 *Hindu* – 51 *Jewish* – 11 *Muslim* – 152	2001 **Wales** *Christian* – 2,087,242 *Buddhist* – 5,407 *Hindu* – 5,439 *Jewish* – 2,256			The majority of residents in the Borough in 2001 were Christians (44,973, approx 64%) and only very small minorities	Population	Neighbourhood Statistics (2001)

Indicator	Quantified data (Blaenau Gwent)	Comparators (Quantified data for South Wales and Wales/England)	Targets	Trends	Issue identified	SEA topics	Source
	Sikh – 26 *Any other religion* – 161 *No religion* – 17,575 *Not stated* – 7,029	*Muslim* – 21,739 *Sikh* – 2,015 *Any other religion* – 6,909 *No religion* – 537,935 *Not stated* – 234,143			of other religions, Muslim being the 2nd highest religion in terms of representation with 152 residents practising the faith. There was also a large number of people who stated having no religion or did not state any religion. The sheer difference in numbers of religious groups could mean that problems relating to social exclusion and integration may occur in the Borough and the LDP will need to be sensitive to this.		

Indicator	Quantified data (Blaenau Gwent)	Comparators (Quantified data for South Wales and Wales/England)	Targets	Trends	Issue identified	SEA topics	Source
Average House Prices	H.M Land Registry Oct-Dec 2003 Detached - £106,004 Semi-detached - £58,501 Terraced - £40,226 Flat/Maisonette - £23,050	**England & Wales** *Average house price* £131,462 *(2006)* UK average £201,090 *(Dec 2006)*		**Blaenau Gwent** *Dec 2000* - £36,558 *Dec 2001* – £38,019 *Dec 2002* – £40,719 *Dec 2003* – £51,675 *Dec 2004* – £71,179 *Dec 2005* - £79,239 *Dec 2006* – £88,608 **Wales** *Dec 2000* - £58,209 *Dec 2001* – £65,318 *Dec 2002* – £80,458 *Dec 2003* – £98,120 *Dec 2004* – £120.432 *Dec 2005* - £125,089 *Dec 2006* – £136,419	The average house price for Blaenau Gwent in 2006 was nearly £50,000 less than that of the Welsh average (£136,419). This suggests that Blaenau Gwent may be one of the less desirable authorities in which to live in Wales. As it is an average, it may also be a reflection on the nature of the overall housing stock, which may in general terms be more modest than other parts of Wales (i.e. smaller properties, lots of terraces and a high representation of flats) and also of affordability problems as large percentage of households on low incomes. Trend data does, however, indicate that the area has seen a substantial increase in house prices in the last six years, broadly tracking the proportional increase in prices across the Principality.	Population Human Health	Land Registry Residential Property Price Report, January-March 2003 (Map 70, National SEA of WSP) http://www.landregistry.gov.uk/housepricesindex/report/default.asp Blaenau Gwent Housing strategy 2004 - 2009

Indicator	Quantified data (Blaenau Gwent)	Comparators (Quantified data for South Wales and Wales/England)	Targets	Trends	Issue identified	SEA topics	Source
Condition of Housing Stock	2003 – 31,387 households (total) (2.6% Welsh Housing Stock) 2003 - 94% (29,585) have people residing; remaining 6% (1,802) vacant) Terraced House – 55.3% Semi-detached – 24.5% Detached – 9.4% Purpose built flats – 8.5% Flats in Commercial building – 1.1% Converted/shared house – 1% Caravans/mobile home – 0.2% 55% of housing stock was terraced properties built pre 1919 (2001) (2001) - 8% of private properties considered unfit (1,740) Further 12% needed substantial repair (2,610) **Owner Occupied Stock** Terraced – 69% Semi-detached – 16% Detached – 9% Flats – 3% Other 3% **Council Owned Stock** 4 bed house – 1% 3 bed house – 52% 2 bed house – 17%	**Wales** 2000 23% of dwellings had repair costs over £1,000 13% of homes were classified as unfit; more than one in twenty lacked one or more basic amenities; one in five required repairs costing £1,500 or more.			Many of the houses built pre 1919 may be in need of repair and modernisation and are likely to be less energy efficient than more modern properties. The percentage of unfit properties and those in need of substantial repair is considerable – this could be a reflection of low incomes and deprivation. The majority of the owner occupied housing stock is terraced housing. This may meet current needs for the area but does not give residents a choice of housing type in Blaenau Gwent or allow residents to meet their housing aspirations within Blaenau Gwent. It also means limited suitable provision is available for single people within the owner occupier sector. The vast majority of the council housing stock of Blaenau	Population Human Health Air Climatic Factors Material Assets	Blaenau Gwent UDP http://www.jrf.org.uk/knowledge/findings/housing/H209.asp http://www.jrf.org.uk/knowledge/findings/housing/n10.asp

Indicator	Quantified data (Blaenau Gwent)	Comparators (Quantified data for South Wales and Wales/England)	Targets	Trends	Issue identified	SEA topics	Source
	2 bed flat – 13% 1 bed flat – 1% OAP accommodation - 12% Sheltered housing – 4%				stock of Blaenau Gwent is 2-3 bed family accommodation and provision for the elderly. There is very little single person housing or housing to meet the needs of large families.		
Household Size and Tenure	2001 Average Household Size: 2.34 Average Number of Rooms per Household: 5.14 ***Housing tenure*** Owner occupied – 62.62% Rented from Council – 24.34% Housing association/registered social landlord – 4.53% Private landlord or letting agency – 6.1% Other – 2.41% ***Communal Establishments*** People resident in communal establishments – 0.99% People resident in communal establishments of which people sleeping rough – 0.00% People resident in households – 99.01%	2001 **South East** Average Household Size: 2.396 Average Number of Rooms per Household: 5.517 Owner occupied – 72.29 Rented from Council – 13.59 Housing association/registered social landlord – 4.75 Private landlord or letting agency – 6.46 Other – 2.91 ***Communal Establishments*** People resident in communal establishments -1.42% People resident in communal establishments of which people sleeping rough – 0.00		**Blaenau Gwent 1991** *Percentage of households non-owner occupied by ward* Nantyglo - 61.0% Rassau - 50.3% Tredegar Central & West - 48.6% Ebbw Vale North - 48.5% Cwmtillery - 44.3% Sirhowy - 43.3% Llanhilleth - 43.2% Blaina - 42.1% Brynmawr - 40.9% Beaufort - 39.6% Badminton - 37.3% Ebbw Vale South - 35.6% Cwm - 19.7% Georgetown - 17.1% Six Bells - 14.5% Abertillery - 13.3% **2000** *Percentage of housing owned by Local Authority*	The average household size is similar to that of the Welsh average. However, the average number of rooms is lower than the Welsh average. The percentage of owner occupied housing is less than the Welsh average. This may reflect residents' inability to afford to buy housing in Blaenau Gwent, even though the average house price is relatively low. There is also a high percentage of homes rented from the council - 24.34% compared to 13.59% across Wales. Linked to this, trend data indicates that although the proportion of homes not owner-occupied	Population Human Health	ONS, 2001 Census (KS18 – Tenure, KS20 – Household Composition, UV85 – Residents in Households) ONS, 2001 Census (Map 74, National SEA of WSP) Health and social needs June 2002 Blaenau Gwent

Indicator	Quantified data (Blaenau Gwent)	Comparators (Quantified data for South Wales and Wales/England)	Targets	Trends	Issue identified	SEA topics	Source
		People resident in households – 98.58 ***National average household size***: 1.87 ***National household tenure:*** Owner occupied: 71.3% Social rented: 17.9% Private rented: 7.4% Other rented: 3.3%		Nantyglo - 52.8 Rassau - 43.0 EV North - 36.2 Sirhowy - 33.9 Badminton - 31.3 Tredegar Central & West - 30.7 Cwmtillery - 30.6 Beaufort - 30.6 Llanhilleth - 28.3 Blaina - 27.4 Brynmawr - 26.4 EV South - 24.3 Georgetown - 19.7 Cwm - 9.5 Abertillery - 2.0 Six Bells - 2.0	has decreased since 1991, in certain wards the percentage remains considerable (e.g. Nantyglo, Rassau and Sirhowy).		
Council tax bands (2000)	**Blaenau Gwent** **A – 55.16%** **B – 27.18%** **C – 9.26%** **D – 4.91%** **E – 2.94%** **F – 0.44%** **G – 0.04%** **H – 0.06%** **X – 0%** **A & B** Llanhilleth - 94.9 Ebbw Vale North - 93.1 Cwmtillery - 93.1 Abertillery - 92.1 Six Bells - 92.1 Blaina - 90.9 Ebbw Vale South - 90.2 Cwm - 85.4 Nantyglo - 84.3	**South East Average** **A – 22%** **B – 26%** **C – 19%** **D – 13%** **E – 11%** **F – 5%** **G – 4%** **H – 0%** **X – 0%** **Wales Average** **A – 20%** **B – 25%** **C – 20%** **D – 15%** **E – 12%** **F – 5%** **G – 3%** **H – 0%**			83.4% of housing in Blaenau Gwent is within Council tax bands A & B. Seven of the sixteen electoral divisions have more than 90% of housing within these two bands. 0.09% of housing in Blaenau Gwent is within council tax bands G & H. This suggests that the overall size and quality of housing stock in the County Borough is relatively modest, particularly in	Population	Health and social needs June 2002 Blaenau Gwent

Indicator	Quantified data (Blaenau Gwent)	Comparators (Quantified data for South Wales and Wales/England)	Targets	Trends	Issue identified	SEA topics	Source
	Tredegar Central & West - 82.6 Georgetown - 75.0 Brynmawr - 74.4 Rassau - 74.2 Sirhowy - 72.5 Badminton - 69.3 Beaufort - 60.6 **G & H** Brynmawr - 0.28 Tredegar Central &West - 0.16 Cwm - 0.16 Beaufort - 0.12 Ebbw Vale South - 0.10 Nantyglo - 0.10 Ebbw Vale North - 0.09 Rassau - 0.07 Blaina - 0.05 Cwmtillery -0.04 Sirhowy - 0.04 Llanhilleth - 0.00 Abertillery - 0.00 Six Bells - 0.00 Georgetown - 0.00 Badminton - 0.00	**X – 0%**			the regional context.		
Population	**2001 (census)** 70,064 **2003 (UDP)** 68,900 6.44 per hectare (2001) (10,876 hectares) Ebbw Vale = 23,600 Abertillery = 16,600 Tredegar = 15,000 Nantyglo & Blaina = 9,100	**South East** 1,393,645 2001 Average per hectare 6.09 (280,823 hectares **Wales** 2,903,085 2001 Average per hectare 4.07		**Blaenau Gwent** *Population change* *1999 – 2002* -4.63% *1982 – 2002* -7.2% *Population Decline* *1981 – 1991* 5.84% *1981 – 1991* Decline of 4% in 5 -	Since 1921 when the population was 127,611, Blaenau Gwent has experienced substantial population decline. Between 1982 and 2002 it experienced a 7.2% drop. The population in 1991 was 73,250 and the population in 2003 was 68,900, over 100 less than	Population Human Health	ONS, 2001 Census (UV01 – Population) ONS, 2001 Census (Map 39, National SEA of WSP) WSP Topic Paper J: Population Unitary

Indicator	Quantified data (Blaenau Gwent)	Comparators (Quantified data for South Wales and Wales/England)	Targets	Trends	Issue identified	SEA topics	Source
	Brynmawr = 5,600	(2,074,201 hectares)		24 year old age group 1921 - population 127,611 (peak) 1951 – 1991 20% population decline in BG 1981 – 1991 6% decline though out migration 1991 – population 73,250 2011 – projection 73,725 **South East** *Population change 1999 – 2002* 0.034% **Wales** *Population Growth 1999 – 2002* 1.59% 1982 – 2002 4.1%	two years previous. The future projections for 2011 only estimate the population to be 500 more than the 1991 figure; However, the South East of Wales and Wales as a whole have experienced population increase since 1999, suggesting Blaenau Gwent is becoming less of a desirable place to live and out migration is contributing to population decline.		Authority Profiles, WAG
Population Age Profile (%)	*(0 – 4)* – 5.6% *(5 – 15)* – 15.7% *(16 – 19)* – 4.91% *(20 – 24)* – 32.3% *(45 – 64)* – 24.6% *(65+)* –16.89%	**South East (average)** *(0 – 4)* – 6.07% *(5 – 15)* – 15.05% *(16 – 19)* – 5.19% *(20 – 24)* – 33.85% *(45 – 64)* – 23.85% *(65+)* –16.00%		**Blaenau Gwent** *Population change by age group 0-25 age group 1981 – 2001 (%)* -19% **Wales** *Population change by age group 0-25*	The population of 16 – 19 year olds is the lowest percentage age group. 45 – 64 and 65+ age groups are slightly higher than the South East average suggesting there is an ageing population. The	Population	Census 2001

Indicator	Quantified data (Blaenau Gwent)	Comparators (Quantified data for South Wales and Wales/England)	Targets	Trends	Issue identified	SEA topics	Source
				age group 1981 – 2001 (%) -11%	percentage of 0 – 4 year olds is also lower than the South East average by almost 1%. Population change In the 0 – 25 years olds range in Blaenau Gwent from 1981 – 2001 saw a 19% decrease whereas Wales only experienced an 11% decrease.		
Ethnic Diversity (percentage)	*Asian or Asian British* – 0.31 *Black or Black British* – 0.09 *Chinese or other* – 0.17 *Mixed* – 0.25 *White* – 99.17 *People Identifying themselves as Welsh* **–** 12.01	**South East** *Asian or Asian British* – 1.39 *Black or Black British* – 0.40 *Chinese or other* – 0.51 *Mixed* – 0.85 *White* – 96.85 *People Identifying themselves as Welsh* – 13.28 **Wales** *Asian or Asian British* – 0.9% *Black or Black British* – 0.3% *Chinese or other* – 0.04% *Mixed* – 0.6% *White* – 97.9%			Ethnic populations make up less than 1% of the Blaenau Gwent population, with over 99% being white in ethnic origin. For those minority groups, integration and social inclusion may be a problem. There is a slightly lower proportion of people identifying themselves as Welsh in Blaenau Gwent than the South East regional or Welsh national averages (12.01% compared to 13.28% and 14.4% respectively).	Population	ONS, 2001 Census (KS06A – Ethnic Group and Identification as Welsh) ONS, 2001 Census (KS06A – Ethnic Group and Identification as Welsh) WSP Topic Paper J: Population

Indicator	Quantified data (Blaenau Gwent)	Comparators (Quantified data for South Wales and Wales/England)	Targets	Trends	Issue identified	SEA topics	Source
		People Identifying themselves as Welsh – 14.4%					
Percentage of Welsh Speakers	2001 *Welsh speakers as a percentage of total population aged 3 and over.* *Either speaks, reads or writes Welsh* – 11.13 *Reads Welsh* – 8.58 *Speaks Welsh* – 9.47 *Understands spoken Welsh* – 9.02 *Writes Welsh* – 7.84	2001 **Wales** Aged 3 and over - 20.8% Aged 3 – 15 – 44%			Approximately 90% of the County Borough's population don't speak Welsh or have no Welsh speaking communications skills. This could be interpreted as a reflection of a lack of strong cultural heritage in the County Borough. It may also be an indication of difficulty in accessing welsh medium education.	Population	ONS, 2001 Census (UV84 – Welsh Language Skills) WSP Topic Paper J: Population 2004 Welsh Language Use Survey, Welsh Language Board Blaenau Gwent UDP
Net migration	Net migration of 16-24 year olds 1999-2001. **-2.7%** Net migration of 25-44 years olds 1999-2001 **-1.1%**	**Wales** Net migration of 16-24 year olds 1999-2001. **-1.0%** Net migration of 25-44 years olds 1999-2001 **0.3%**			The younger generation support the older generation in terms of contributing to the economy. The net out migration of young people from the County Borough will therefore prove unsustainable if the trend continues over time. In addition, if the young population are leaving with good levels of education then the out migration of skilled young workers may	Population	ONS, 2001 Census (Maps 42 and 42a, National SEA of WSP)

Indicator	Quantified data (Blaenau Gwent)	Comparators (Quantified data for South Wales and Wales/England)	Targets	Trends	Issue identified	SEA topics	Source
					act as a disincentive for potential business investment in the area.		
Dependant Children	2001 *Households with dependant children (all ages)* Count – 9,447 Percentage – 31.93% *Households with an adult in employment with dependant children* Count – 2,583 Percentage – 8.73%	2001 **Wales** *Households with dependant children (all ages)* Count – 365,553 Percentage – 30.23% *Households with an adult in employment with dependant children* Count – 73,013 Percentage – 6.04%			The percentages of households with dependant children and adults in employment with dependant children are higher than the national averages. With Blaenau Gwent being a low earning area, the quality of life for the dependant children in these households might potentially be relatively low. As such, this statistic may be an indication of pockets of deprivation.	Population Human Health	Neighbourhood statistics Census 2001 (KS21)
Lone Parent Households	*1991* *Male –* *224 (count)* *In full time employment – 43.75%* *In part time employment – 4.91%* *Female –* *2,427 (count)* *In full time employment – 16.56%*	**South East** *Male – 3,875 (count)* *Female – 42,164 (count)* **Total – 46,039** **Average** *Male – 388 (count)* *In full time*			There are high percentages of lone parent households in Rassau, Nantyglo and Ebbw Vale North and South. Lone parent households are more likely to earn less and seek benefits, therefore putting less money back into the economy. Children in	Population Human Health	Health and social needs June 2002 Blaenau Gwent (1991 census) Neighbourhood Statistics

Indicator	Quantified data (Blaenau Gwent)	Comparators (Quantified data for South Wales and Wales/England)	Targets	Trends	Issue identified	SEA topics	Source
	In part time employment – 19.61% **Total – 2,651 (count)** *Percentage of lone parent households by ward.* Rassau - 7.5 Nantyglo - 6.3 Ebbw Vale North - 6.1 Ebbw Vale South - 5.2 Beaufort - 4.5 Sirhowy - 4.4 Tredegar Central & West - 4.3 Llanhilleth - 4.2 Blaina - 4.1 Brynmawr - 3.7 Cwm - 3.4 Cwmtillery - 3.3 Six Bells - 3.3 Abertillery - 2.6 Badminton - 1.9 Georgetown - 1.5	*employment – 49.1%* *In part time employment – 5.14%* **Female –** *4,216 (count)* *In full time employment –18.5%* *In part time employment -23.6%* **Wales** *Male – 8,134 (count)* *Female – 79,831 (count)* **Total – 87,965 (count)** **Average** **Male –** *370 (count)* *In full time employment – 51%* *In part time employment - 6.3%* **Female –** *3,629 (count)* *In full time employment – 18.7%* *In part time employment – 25.7%*			those households are more likely to have a lesser quality of life and experience other types of deprivation.		2001 census (KS22)
Percentage of second homes in the south	2001 *Unoccupied spaces (second residence or holiday home accommodation) as a*	2001 **Wales** Average national percentage 23.2%			Only 2.1% of residences were unoccupied in Blaenau Gwent in	Population	ONS, 2001 Census (UV53 – Housing

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

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

Indicator	Quantified data (Blaenau Gwent)	Comparators (Quantified data for South Wales and Wales/England)	Targets	Trends	Issue identified	SEA topics	Source
					additional benefits and support should pregnancies carry to full term. Higher rates of teenage conception are also often linked to pockets of deprivation.		
Number of Play Areas	*Static play areas -53* *Visitor play area – 3* *Multi-use games areas (MUGAs) – 8* *Wheeled sports areas – 10* ***Local Play Areas*** *Beaufort - 3* *Cwm – 3* *Badminton – 1* *Rassau – 2* *Ebbw Vale North – 3* *Ebbw Vale South – 4* *Brynmawr – 3* *Abertillery – 2* *Six Bells – 3* *Llanhilleth – 6* *Cwmtillery – 5* *Nantyglo – 7* *Blaina – 5* *Tredegar Central & West – 1* *Sirhowy – 3* *Georgetown – 2* ***Visitor Play Areas*** *Abertillery – 1* *Tredegar – 1* *Brynmawr – 1*		Local Play Area – 56 Visitor Play Areas – 5 MUGAs – 16 Wheeled Sports Areas - 16 1 play area per 250 children under 14		A ratio of 1 play area per 250 children under 14 was originally set (1991 census) to ensure that static play provision was provided across the borough equitably. This ratio will remain the target as demographic figures for this age group have not dramitically changed since 1991 when the ratio was set.		Blaenau Gwent Play Strategy 2004

Indicator	Quantified data (Blaenau Gwent)	Comparators (Quantified data for South Wales and Wales/England)	Targets	Trends	Issue identified	SEA topics	Source
	MUGAs *Beaufont - 1* *Cwm – 1* *Badminton – 1* *Abertillery – 1* *Llanhilleth – 1* *Cwmtillery – 1* *Nantyglo – 1* *Blaina – 1* ***Wheeled Sports Areas*** *Cwm – 1* *Rassau – 1* *Ebbw Vale North – 2* *Brynmawr – 1* *Six Bells – 1* *Cwntillery – 1* *Blaina – 1* *Tredegar C & Wt – 2*						
General Health of Population	2001 *Proportion with a 'good' general state of health* 59.38	2001 **South East** *Proportion with a 'good' general state of health* – 64.48 **Wales** *Proportion with a 'good' general state of health – 65.06%*			The County Borough has a significantly lower proportion of people with a good general state of health than that of the South East and Wales.	Population Human Health	ONS, 2001 Census
Proportion of people with a limiting long-term illness	2001 28.26% *People with limiting long-term illness* – 19,798 *People without a limiting long-term illness* – 50,266	2001 **South East** 23.4% **Wales** 23.3% *People with limiting long-term illness –*		**Blaenau Gwent** Standardised limiting long-term illness	Blaenau Gwent has a higher percentage of people with a limiting long-term illness than that of the South East. This could reflect poorer living conditions and standards of health	Population Human Health	ONS, 2001 Census (Map 65, National SEA of WSP) Neighbourhood

Indicator	Quantified data (Blaenau Gwent)	Comparators (Quantified data for South Wales and Wales/England)	Targets	Trends	Issue identified	SEA topics	Source
		675,622 *People* without *a limiting long-term illness* – 2,277,423 **England** 17.9%			in the county. Given the industrial legacy of the area, there is also a considerable likelihood that some illnesses are linked to manual labour and/or former mine working.		statistics 2001 Census
Permanently Sick Persons	*Percentage of people permanently sick (ward data)(1991)* Tredegar Central & West - 11.2 Sirhowy - 9.9 Blaina - 9.9 Nantyglo - 9.9 Cwm - 9.8 Llanhilleth - 9.0 Cwmtillery - 8.8 Rassau - 8.6 Six Bells - 8.2 Ebbw Vale North - 8.0 Brynmawr - 8.0 Beaufort - 7.9 Badminton - 7.9 Abertillery - 7.5 Georgetown - 7.1 Ebbw Vale South - 7.1				Tredegar, Sirhowy, Blaina, Nantyglo and Cwm had high levels of people permanently sick in 1991. This may reflect poorer the number with limiting long term illnesses, etc from past hazardous industrial work (mining).	Population Human Health	Health and social needs June 2002 Blaenau Gwent
People of working age with disabilities	2001 *Percentage of people of working age with disabilities'* 21.2%	2001 **Wales** *Percentage of people of working age with disabilities'* – 15.2%			The percentage of people of working age with disablilites in Blaenau Gwent is significantly higher than the percentage for Wales, which further reflects the poor health	Population Human Health	ONS, 2001 Census (Map 64, National SEA of WSP)

Indicator	Quantified data (Blaenau Gwent)	Comparators (Quantified data for South Wales and Wales/England)	Targets	Trends	Issue identified	SEA topics	Source
					conditions which exist in Blaenau Gwent.		
Life expectancy at birth for (i) men (ii) women	2001 *life expectancy at birth – males:* 73.80 *Life expectancy at birth – females*: 78.40	2001 **Wales** *Life expectancy at birth – males:* 75.8 *Life expectancy at birth – females*: 80.3			The significantly lower than average figures for life expectancy for both men and women, compared to figures for Wales, highlights the County Borough's poor health conditions.	Human Health	ONS, 2001 Census (Life Expectancy at Birth, 2002-2004)
Death Rates by cause from (a) circulatory disease (b) cancer and (c) external causes	*Death rate per 1,000 population (2001)* 12.7 *Death from circulatory disease per 1,000 (2001)* 40.9 *Death from cancer per 1,000 (2001)* 26.1 *Deaths from all external causes per 1,000 (2001)* *3.0*	**South East** *Death rate per 1,000 population (2001)* 10.8 *Death from circulatory disease per 1,000 (2001)* 39.9 *Death from cancer per 1,000 (2001)* 25.8 *Deaths from all external causes per 1,000 (2001)* *2.8* **Wales** *Death from circulatory disease (2003) -* 8,600 *Death from cancer (2003) – 8,400*			Blaenau Gwent's death rate per 1000 population is above the regional average by just under 2 per 1000. However, in general terms the statistics for the three principal causes are broadly comparable to the regional rates.	Human Health	
Prevalence	*2004*	**2004**		Given the relatively	The proportion of	Population	Digest of

Indicator	Quantified data (Blaenau Gwent)	Comparators (Quantified data for South Wales and Wales/England)	Targets	Trends	Issue identified	SEA topics	Source
of smoking in all adults	*Proportion of adult smokers* 34.0%	**Wales** *Proportion of adult smokers* *31%*		recent introduction of the smoking ban in Wales, it is likely that number of smokers will reduce.	adult smokers is 3% higher than the proportion for Wales. Higher numbers of smokers could lead to poorer health and more strain on the health service, with potential decline in economic participation affecting the local economy.	Human Health	Welsh Local Area Statistics 2004
Prevalence of obesity	*Proportion of overweight or obese adults (aged 16+)* 59%	**Wales** *Proportion of overweight or obese adults (aged 16+)* 54%			The proportion of adults (aged 16+) who are obese is 59%, which is 5% higher than the Wales proportion. Obesity can lead to health problems which can create strain on the health service, with potential decline in economic participation affecting the local economy	Population Human Health	Welsh Health Survey 2003/04
Proportion of (i) people consuming five or more portions of fruit and vegetables per day and (ii) in low-income households.	*Proportion of people consuming five fruit or vegetables per day* 35%	**Wales** *Proportion of people consuming five fruit or vegetables per day* 39% *Average fruit and vegetable consumption* 4.6 potions per day			The proportion of people eating 5 or moreportion of fruit and vegetables per day is 4% lower than the Welsh average. A high percentage would mean the County is more likely to be of better health, reducing the strain on the heath service.	Population Human Health	Welsh Health Survey 2003/04
Percentage	17,000 (41.1%) (2003)	**South East**		**Blaenau Gwent**	The percentage of	Population	ONS, 2001

Indicator	Quantified data (Blaenau Gwent)	Comparators (Quantified data for South Wales and Wales/England)	Targets	Trends	Issue identified	SEA topics	Source
of people aged 16-74 with at least an NVQ level 2 qualifications or equivalent		43.25% (2001) **Wales** 60.3% (2003)		30.92% (2001) 1999 – 2000 data *are shown by primary school allocated to electoral division.* **Wales** 44% (2001)	people with at least NVQ level 2 qualifications was substantially lower than the South East average in 2001, and considerably lower than that for Wales as a whole. There is potential causality between the type of job opportunities available, which do not include a high proportion of high end roles, and possible disincentives to educational achievement. Aspirations may also be lower in the locality as a result of a perceived lack of opportunities.	Human Health	Census (UV24 – Qualifications)
Proportion of population with at least an NVQ level 4 qualification or equivalent	4,000 (9.5%) (2003)	**South East** 17.38% (2001) **Wales** 22.5% (2003)	**Blaenau Gwent** 9.33% (2001) **Wales** 22.2% (2001)		Only 9.3% of Blaenau Gwent's population had at least NVQ level 4 qualifications in 2001 compared to the South East which had 17.38% and the Welsh average, which was 22.5%. A lack of high skilled employment opportunities may act as a deterrent for further study in the area. In addition,	Population	ONS, 2001 Census (UV24 – Qualifications) Health and social needs June 2002 Blaenau Gwent

Indicator	Quantified data (Blaenau Gwent)	Comparators (Quantified data for South Wales and Wales/England)	Targets	Trends	Issue identified	SEA topics	Source
					relatively low educational attainment at school may preclude progression into further education.		
Percentage of pupils achieving 5 or more GCSE grade A*-C or equivalent	43%	**Wales** 51%		**Blaenau Gwent June 2000** *667 sat GCSE Exams. Of these, 266 pupils achieved five or more A*-C grades (39.8%).* *Less than 50% of pupils achieved five or more A*- C grades in all except one of the County Borough's electoral divisions* Llanhilleth - 25.0 Sirhowy - 25.5 Tredegar Central & West - 32.1 Beaufort - 33.3 Georgetown - 34.6 Ebbw Vale North - 36.4 Six Bells - 36.8 Nantyglo - 38.3 Cwm - 38.6 Cwmtillery - 40.0 Rassau - 41.5 Ebbw Vale South - 42.6 Blaina - 45.1 Brynmawr - 45.2 Abertillery - 46.3 Badminton - 75.0	Less than 50% of the school population are achieving 5 or more GCSEs grade A*-C. Llanhillieth and Sirhowy have particular issues with low attainment. This might reflect poor quality lifestyles, and with less people achieving higher grades the ability to attract investment by higher skilled businesses is less likely. A lower skilled workforce will also have implications in terms of the manner in which the local economy can expand in the future.	Population	Unitary Authority Profiles, WAG Health and social needs June 2002 Blaenau Gwent

Indicator	Quantified data (Blaenau Gwent)	Comparators (Quantified data for South Wales and Wales/England)	Targets	Trends	Issue identified	SEA topics	Source
Proportion of the population with no qualifications	13,000 (30.4%) (2003)	**South East** 34.37% (2001) **Wales** 17.8 (2003)	**Blaenau Gwent** 45.02% (2001) **Wales** 33% (2001)	Compared to 2001, the statistics suggest that the trend is moving in a positive direction, with a significant reduction in the proportion of the population with no qualifications.	The high percentage of the population with no qualifications is likely to lead to unemployment or low skilled, low paid work.	Population	ONS, 2001 Census (UV24 – Qualifications) Local Area Labour Force Survey (Mar 2003-Feb 2004)
Number of adults engaged in adult education activities	Number of residents aged 19+ enrolled at further education institutions (2003/04): 4360 6.3% total population	**Wales** Number of residents aged 19+ enrolled at further education institutions (2003/04): 195,960 6.8% total population			The relatively small proportion of the total population enrolled in further education is likely to have a knock on effect on the economy in terms of development of higher skilled, higher paid jobs.	Population	Further Education, Work-Based Learning and Community Learning in Wales Statistics: 2003/04, Welsh Assembly Government
Percentage of non-attendance in primary and secondary schools	*Percentage non-attendance for schools within each of the electoral divisions at primary and secondary school level combined* (1999 – 2000) Tredegar Central & West - 11.4 Ebbw Vale North - 10.1 Cwmtillery - 9.8				Tredegar and Ebbw Vale North have relatively higher percentages of non attendance in primary and secondary schools, likely to lead to lower educational attainment. Low	Population	Health and social needs June 2002 Blaenau Gwent Health and social needs June 2002

Indicator	Quantified data (Blaenau Gwent)	Comparators (Quantified data for South Wales and Wales/England)	Targets	Trends	Issue identified	SEA topics	Source
	Rassau - 9.4 Nantyglo - 9.2 Blaina - 9.0 Sirhowy - 9.0 Cwmtillery - 8.9 Llanhilleth - 8.4 Badminton - 8.3 Abertillery - 8.3 Brynmawr - 8.0 Six Bells - 7.8 Georgetown - 7.4 Ebbw Vale South - 7.1 Beaufort - 7.1				attendance records can also be a reflection on deprivation.		Blaenau Gwent
Truancy Rates	*Absenteeism by pupils of compulsory school age in all maintained primary and secondary schools and special schools.* **Primary Schools (2006)** *All absence* – 8.4% *Unauthorised Absence* – 0.6 **Secondary Schools (2006)** *All absence* – 10.3% *Unauthorised Absence* – 1.8%	**South East Average** **Primary Schools (2006)** *All absence* – 7.7% *Unauthorised Absence* – 1.2% **Secondary Schools (2006)** *All absence* – 10.6% *Unauthorised Absence* – 1.82% **Wales** **Primary Schools (2006)** *All absence* – 7.5% *Unauthorised Absence – 1.0*		**Blaenau Gwent** **Primary Schools** **2002/03** *All absence* – 7.2% *Unauthorised Absence* – 0.5% **2003/04** *All absence* – 7.7% *Unauthorised Absence* – 0.8% **2004/05** *All absence* – 8.0% *Unauthorised Absence* – 0.7% **Secondary Schools** **2002/03** *All absence* – 9.9% *Unauthorised*			http://new.wales.gov.uk/docrepos/40382/40382313/statistics/schools-2006/sdr143-2006.pdf?lang=en http://new.wales.gov.uk/docrepos/40382/40382313/statistics/schools/1152752/sdr24-2007.pdf?lang=en

Indicator	Quantified data (Blaenau Gwent)	Comparators (Quantified data for South Wales and Wales/England)	Targets	Trends	Issue identified	SEA topics	Source
		Secondary Schools (2006) *All absence* – 9.8% *Unauthorised Absence – 1.7%*		*Absence* – 1.0% **2003/04** *All absence* – 9.9% *Unauthorised Absence* – 2.3% **2004/05** *All absence* – 9.5% *Unauthorised Absence* – 1.5% **South East Average Primary Schools** **2002/03** *All absence* – 7.4% *Unauthorised Absence* – 0.8% **2003/04** *All absence* – 6.9% *Unauthorised Absence* – 1% **2004/05** *All absence* – 7.2% *Unauthorised Absence* – 1% **Secondary Schools** **2002/03** *All absence* – 9.81%			

Indicator	Quantified data (Blaenau Gwent)	Comparators (Quantified data for South Wales and Wales/England)	Targets	Trends	Issue identified	SEA topics	Source
				Unauthorised Absence – 2.59% **2003/04** *All absence* – 9.75% *Unauthorised Absence* – 1.83% **2004/05** *All absence* – 9.53% *Unauthorised Absence* – 1.76% **Wales** **Primary Schools** **2002/03** *All absence* – 7% *Unauthorised Absence* – 0.6% **2003/04** *All absence* – 6.7% *Unauthorised Absence* – 0.75 **2004/05** *All absence* – 6.8% *Unauthorised Absence* – 0.7% **Secondary Schools** **2002/03** *All absence* – 9.5%			

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

Appendix D Environmental Baseline Data

D.1 Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna

D.1.1 Draft TAN5 defines biodiversity and geodiversity and their importance for sustainable development in the following way:

'"Biodiversity" is the term applied to the variety of life on earth and is short for biological diversity. It describes the richness and variety of all living things, from the smallest microscopic organism to the largest tree. "Geodiversity" is the variety of geological environments, phenomena and active processes that make landscapes, rocks, minerals, fossils, soils and other superficial deposits that provide the framework for life on earth... Wildlife and its habitats are of fundamental importance to our future well-being and prosperity because a rich and diverse environment supports a long-term sustainable economy and contributes to a healthier and happier society. Biodiversity is an important indicator of sustainable development. Biodiversity and geodiversity add to the quality of life and local distinctiveness.'

D.1.2 There are two Special Areas of Conservation (SAC) that fall partly within the Blaenau Gwent area: Usk Bat Sites and Cwm Clydach Woodlands, each designated under the EC Habitats and Species Directives. Usk Bat Sites is one of the best areas in the United Kingdom for the lesser horseshoe bat. Usk Bat sites SAC is also referred to as Mynydd Llangattock SSSI. Some features of both SAC sites are found to be in favourable condition, whilst others are in an unfavourable condition.

D.1.3 Cwm Clydach SAC is underpinned by Cwm Clydach Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) while Usk Bat Sites is underpinned by Mynydd Llangatwg SSSI, Siambre ddu SSSI, Buskland Coachhouse and Ice House SSSI and Fox Wood SSSI.

D.1.4 There are also three SSSI in the area:

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

D.1.5 The Cwm Merddog Woodlands site is in an unfavourable but recovering condition, Brynmawr Sections' condition is unfavourable maintained and the condition of Mynydd Llangatwg is partially favourable and partially unfavourable for different features.

D.1.6 Cwm Clydach is designated as a National Nature Reserve (NNR). It is the largest and most representative area of native beechwood in South East Wales. Blaenau Gwent has one Local Nature Reserve (LNR) - the Silent Valley LNR, which includes Cwm Merddog and Coed Ty'n y Gelli SSSIs and covers a total area of 51.62 ha. The parts of the LNR that include SSSIs have been designated as such as a result of the presence of Ancient Semi-Natural Woodland. The Silent Valley is designated as a Wildlife Trust Reserve (WTR).

D.1.7 The designation of LNRs is in accordance with targets in the community plan and that the Authority aims to designate 2 per year pending resources. Ten candidate LNRs have been currently defined for the County Borough area:

- Beaufort Hills;
- Parc Nant-y-Waun;
- Sirhowy Hill Woodland and Cardiff Pond;

- Six Bells Colliery Site;
- Garden City;
- Roseheyworth Community Woodlands;
- Trevor Rowson Heritage Park;
- Cwmcelyn Pond;
- Cwmtillery Lakes;
- and Parc Bryn Bach.

D.1.8 Part of the Brecon Beacons National Park falls within the northern part of the Blaenau Gwent administrative area, and includes Brynmawr Sections and Mynydd Llangattock (Usk Bat) SSSIs and Cwm Clydach NNR.

D.1.9 There are 14 Ancient Semi-Natural Woodland (ASNW) sites and three Plantations on Ancient Woodland Sites (PAWS). The total number of SINCs is unknown. The first tranche of designations will include 62 SINCs. All sites identified qualify against scientific guidelines 'Guidelines for the selection of wildlife sites in South Wales' (August 2004) and it is anticipated will be taken through to Committee in late 2008. Subsequent tranches are planned, but it is unclear how many SINCs these will contain. Figure 3.1 maps all the sites of ecological importance in the Blaenau Gwent area and Figure 3.2 shows the Forestry Commission land management area and its 'Semi-naturalness score'.

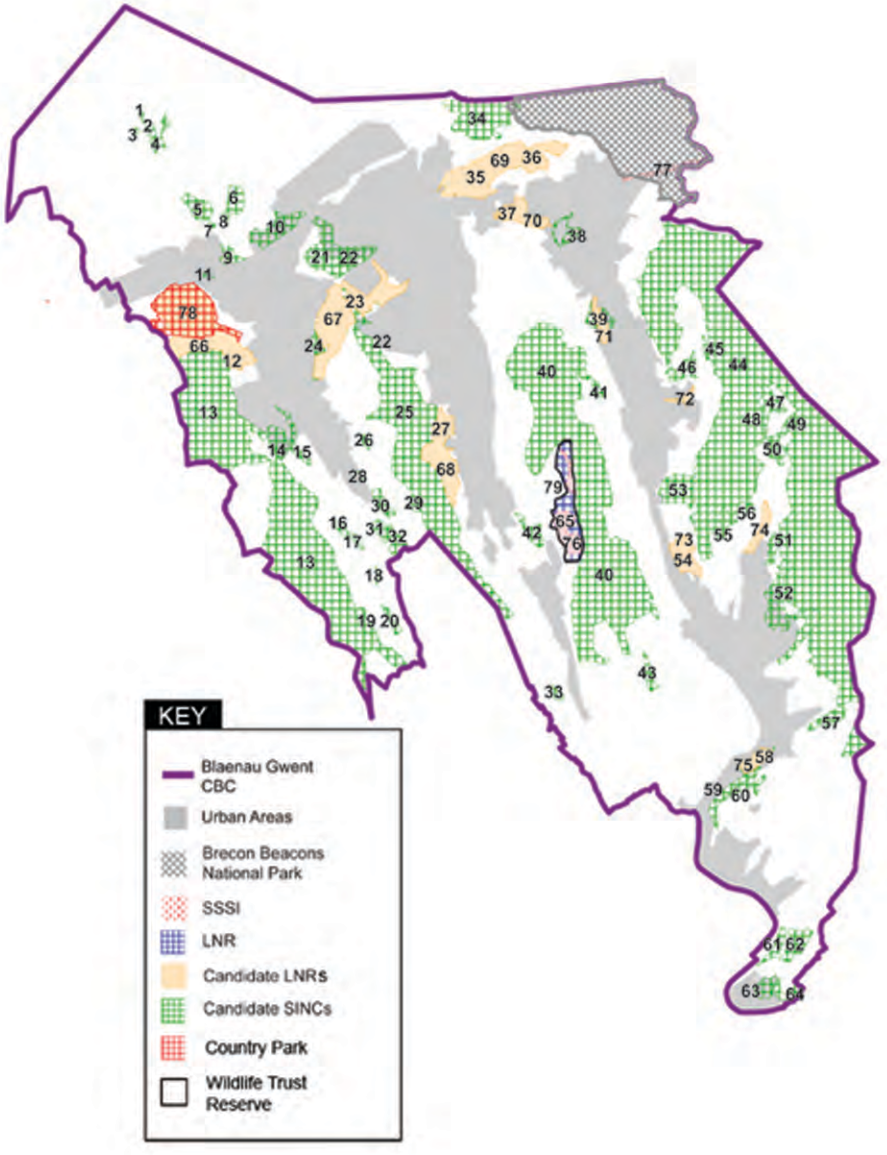
D.1.10 Blaenau Gwent is nationally important for breeding lapwings, a scarce and declining bird species in Wales.

D.1.11 The Blaenau Gwent Local Biodiversity Action Plan contains key habitat and species as well as protected species. Species and habitats for which action plans have been prepared include:

Table D.1 - Blaenau Gwent BAP Species and Habitats Action Plans

Group	Species
Amphibians	Great Crested Newt (*Triturus cristatus*)
Birds	Skylark (*Alauda arvensis*); Grey Partridge (*Perdix perdix)*; Lapwing *(Vanellus vanellus)*
Birds	Grey Partridge (*Perdix perdix*)
Butterflies	Pearl-bordered Fritillary (*Boloria euphrosyne*)
Mammals	Brown Hare (*Lepus europaeus*)
Mammals	Otter (*Lutra lutra*)
Mammals	Pipistrelle Bat (*Pipistrellus pipistrellus*)

Group	Species
Mammals	Lesser Horseshoe Bat (*Rhinolophus hipposideros*)
Broad Habitats	Calcareous grassland
Broad Habitats	Dwarf shrub heath
Priority Habitats	Blanket bog
Priority Habitats	Mesotrophic lakes
Priority Habitats	Purple moor grass and rush pastures
Priority Habitats	Upland mixed ashwoods
Priority Habitats	Upland oakwood
Priority Habitats	Wet woodland



Candidate SINCs

1. North Pen-y-Lan Grassland
2. South Pen-y-Lan Grassland
3. Pine Tree House Grassland
4. Trefil Village Grassland
5. Shon Sheffrey's Reservoir Banks
6. Milgatw Farm Grassland
7. Fairview Field
8. Carnddu Meadow
9. Nine Arches Grassland
10. Hirgan Fields Grassland
11. Bryn Bach School
12. Tredegar Patch Grassland
13. Mynydd Bedwellte
14. Sheepfold Grasslands
15. Tredegar Leisure Centre Grasslands
16. Highlands Grasslands
17. Bedwellty Pits Field
18. Lower Farm Field
19. Darren Ddu
20. Chapel House Field
21. Bryn Serth
22. Waun -y-Pound
23. Sirhowy Hill Woodlands & Cardiff Pond
24. Industrial Estates Grassland
25. Mynydd Manmoel
26. St James' Reservoir
27. Garden City
28. The Ducky and Small Ducky
29. Upper Troedrhiwgwair Grasslands
30. Lower Troedrhiwgwair Grassland
31. The Fountain Inn Meadows
32. South of Troedrhiwgwair
33. East of Penrhiwgwngi
34. Garnlydan
35. Beaufort Hill Ponds and Woodlands
36. Bryn Farm
37. Parc Nant y Waun
38. Semtex Pond
39. Coalbrookvale
40. Mynydd Carn y Cefn
41. Coed Trostre
42. Garn Carn Isaf
43. Cwm Big North
44. Mulfran, Mynydd Coity, Mynydd James & Cwasted
45. Cwmcelyn West
46. Cwmcelyn East
47. Blaentillery Farm North
48. West of Blaentillery Farm
49. Blaentillery Farm South
50. North of Hendre
51. East of Cwastod Farm
52. Greenmeadow Farm
53. Bourneville Slip
54. Roseheyworth Community Woodlands
55. Llanerch Padarn West
56. Llanerch Padarn East
57. Coed y Gilfach
58. Six Bells
59. Coed Argoed
60. Coedcae Coch
61. Craig Suffryd
62. Suffryd Fach
63. Cefn Bach
64. Suffryd Wood

Local Nature Reserve

65. Silent Valley

Candidate Local Nature Reserves

66. Parc Bryn Bach
67. Sirhowy Woodlands
68. Garden City
69. Beaufort Hills
70. Parc Nant-y-Waun
71. Trevor Rowson Heritage Site
72. Cwmcelyn Pond
73. Roseheyworth Community Woodlands
74. Cwmtillery Lakes
75. Six Bells Colliery Site

SSSI

76. Cwm Merddog Woodlands
77. Brynmawr Sections

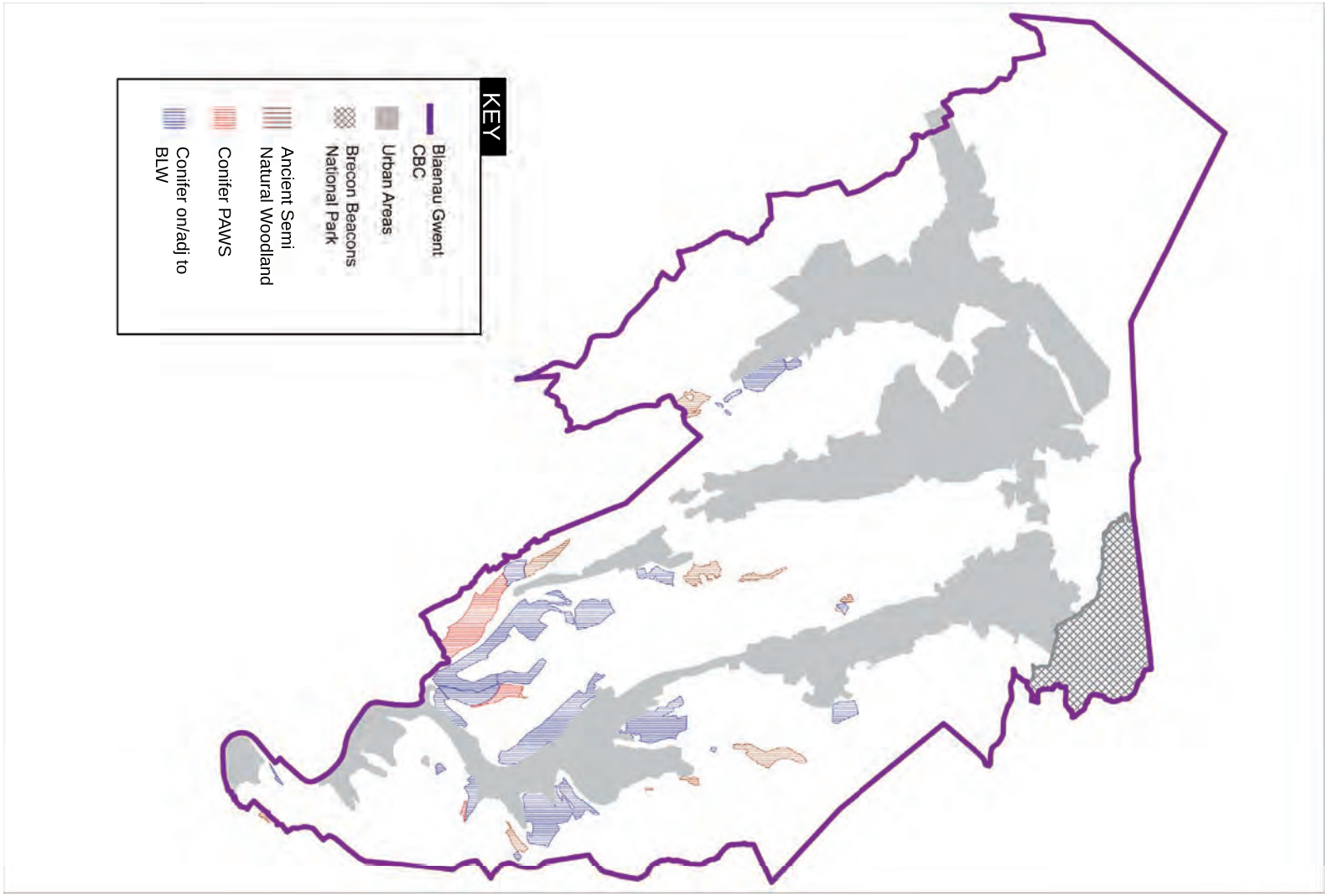
Country Park

78. Parc Bryn Bach

Wildlife Trust Reserve

79. Silent Valley

Figure D.1.2 – Woodland



D.2 Cultural Heritage

D.2.1 Blaenau Gwent has 53 listed buildings, recognised for their special historical and architectural importance. The majority are Grade II listed, although of the total, ten fall into the higher category of Grade II*. However, there are also a number of listed buildings in the County Borough that appear on Cadw's register of listed buildings 'at risk', namely:

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

D.2.2 Currently there is one conservation area in Blaenau Gwent, Bedwellty House and Park. Additional conservation area designations under review include:

- Garden City;
- Ebbw Vale;
- St. Michael's Church area in Abertillery;
- St. Illtyds Church area in Brynithel;
- Castle Street and the Circle, Tredegar.

D.2.3 The South East Wales region, which comprises 10 Local Authority Areas, contains approximately 56 Registered Historic Parks and Gardens. Of these, only one falls within the boundary of Blaenau Gwent – the Bedwellty Park (also designated as a conservation area). This site is included in Cadw's 'Register of Parks and Gardens of Special Historic Interest in Wales'. Blaenau Gwent also has 9 Scheduled Ancient Monuments (SAMs), which are: -

- St Illtyd Castle Mound;
- Incline Haulage Winding Engine,
- Mynydd Bedwellty;
- Sirhowy Ironworks;
- Marine Colliery Pumping Engine;
- Clydach Railroad Bridge, Brynmawr;
- Clydach Coal Levels;.
- Tredegar Ironworks
- Cholera Cemetery;
- Y Domen Fawr Round Cairn; and
- Trefil Quarries North

Air Quality and Greenhouse Gas Emissions

D.2.4 There are currently no designated Air Quality Management Areas (AQMAs) within the Blaenau Gwent area. However, at the regional level there are AQMAs in place in Cardiff and Newport as a result of significant traffic flows and peak hour congestion.

D.2.5 Data relating to estimated carbon dioxide emissions in 2004 indicate that the County Borough had slightly higher Industrial/Commercial and Domestic emissions in terms of proportions of total emissions than the average proportional breakdowns for the South East Wales authorities. However, as a percentage of the overall regional emissions total, Blaenau Gwent was contributing very little - only 3.5% of Industrial/Commercial and 4% of Domestic emissions in the South East region actually originate from Blaenau Gwent. When emissions are cross-referenced per capita, Blaenau Gwent compares favourably against the South East Wales average, producing 6.5 tonnes per capita as opposed to 9.8 tonnes per capita.

Water and Flood Risk

D.2.6 The main water courses in Blaenau Gwent are the rivers Ebbw Fach, Ebbw Fawr and Sirhowy.

D.2.7 From 1999 to 2005 the following trends for chemical and biological quality were observed at the sites monitored by the Environment Agency:

- Ebbw Fach (Afon Tyleri - Trib.Henwaun Coll.) - remained ‘B’ (Good) chemical classification in the period 1999-2005. Biological water quality deteriorated from ‘B’ (Good) in 2000 to ‘C’ (Fairly good) in 2003-2004.
- Ebbw Fach (Conf.Trib.Henwaun Coll-Conf.Nant Ystruth) - remained ‘B’ (Good) chemical classification in the period 1999-2005. Biological water quality deteriorated from ‘B’ (Good) in 2000 to ‘C’ (Fairly good) in 2004.

- Ebbw Fach (Ebbw Fawr Conf. - Afon Tyleri) – had a chemical classification of 'B' (Good) in 1999-2003, which improved to 'A' (Very good) in 2003-2005. Biological water quality was classified as 'D' (Fair) in 2000. Biological water quality of the site was not assessed in other years.
- Ebbw Fawr (Conf.Ebbw Fach - Conf.Nant Big) – chemical water quality improved from 'B' (Good) in 1999-2003 to 'A' (Very good) in 2003-2005. Biological water quality was classified as 'B' (Good) in 2000 deteriorating to 'C' (Fairly good) in 2004.
- Ebbw Fawr (Conf.Nant Big - Conf.Nant Merddog) – chemical water quality remained at 'B' (Good) level in 1999-2003 and then improved to 'A' (Very good) in 2003-2005. Biological water quality was assessed as B (Good) in 2000 deteriorating to 'C' (Fairly good) in 2004.
- Ebbw Fawr (Conf.Nant Kendon - Glandwr Bk.) – chemical water quality was classified as 'B' (Good) throughout the years 1999-2003 improving to 'A' (Very Good) in 2003-2005. Biological water quality remained C (Fairly good) classification in 2000-2003.
- Ebbw Fawr (Conf.Nant Merddog - Culvert Inlet) – chemical water quality was classified as 'C' (Fairly good) in 1999-2001 deteriorating to 'E' (Poor) in 2001-2003 and slightly improving to 'D' (Fair) in 2003-2005. Biological water quality remained stable at 'C' (Fairly good) level in 2000-2004.
- Ebbw Fawr (Culvert Inlet - Rassau Bk.) – chemical water quality was 'B' (Good) in 1999-2001 deteriorating to C (Fairly good) in 2001-03 and improving to 'B' (Good) in 2003-2005. Biological water quality was at D (Fair) level in 2000 and improved to C (Fairly good) in 2002-2003.
- Ebbw Fawr (Glandwr Bk. - Conf.Ebbw Fach) – chemical water quality was 'A' (Very good) in 2005. Biological water quality on this site remained fairly good in 2000-2005.
- Sirhowy (Nant Melyn - Outlet Shon-Shefris Res. – chemical water quality remained at B (Good) level throughout 1999-2003 improving to 'A' (Very good) in 2003/2005. Biological water quality was 'C' (Fairly good) in 2000 improving to B (Good) in 2002 and subsequently declining back to 'C' (Fairly good) in 2005.
- Sirhowy (Nant Yr Helyg - Scotch Peter Trib. – chemical water quality remained at B (Good) level throughout 1999-2003 improving to 'A' (Very good) in 2003-2005. Biological water quality was C (Fairly good) in 2000 improving to 'B' (Good) in 2002 and then deteriorating back to 'C' (Fairly good) in 2005.
- Sirhowy (Scotch Peter Trib.-Nant Melyn) – chemical water quality was 'E' (Poor) in 2003-2005 – a decline from 'C' (Fairly good) in 2001-2003 and D (Fair) in 1999-2001. Biological water quality was assessed as 'E' (Poor) in 2000 improving to 'C' (Fairly good) in 2002 but then deteriorating to 'D' (Fair) in 2005.

D.2.8 Aggregate data for England and Wales for the same period indicate that there was a slight improvement in water quality: an increase from 91.9% (1999) of Good/Fair grades to 93.5% (2005) for chemical water quality and from 94.9% (2000) to 95.4% (2005) for biological water quality.

D.2.9 Water service provision in Blaenau Gwent is the responsibility of Welsh Water/Dwr Cymru. Wales has a relatively high rainfall compared to the rest of the UK, with an average of 1400mm per year compared to 700mm in the south east of England. Companies in Wales are predicting increases in household demand for water over coming years, not just because of rising numbers of households but also because of greater individual consumption. Only 5% of households in Blaenau Gwent have a metered water supply.

D.2.10 TAN15 Development and Flood Risk (July 2004) is the appropriate framework for guiding planning decisions with respect to flood risk. The policy refers to the Welsh Assembly Government's (WAG) Development Advice Maps (DAM), which are based on Environment Agency Wales' flood outlines. In Blaenau Gwent there are zones of both defended and undefended floodplain (C1 and C2 respectively). The DAM maps should be used as a trigger for guiding development away from areas of flood risk.

D.2.11 Flood defences are only present in one location – to the north west of Cwm. These form part of a network of defences for the rivers Ebbw, Llwyd and Sirhowy. They are designed to be effective for a 1 in 100 year flood event and, to date, have performed acceptably.

Figure D.2.1 - Flood Risk Map for Blaenau Gwent

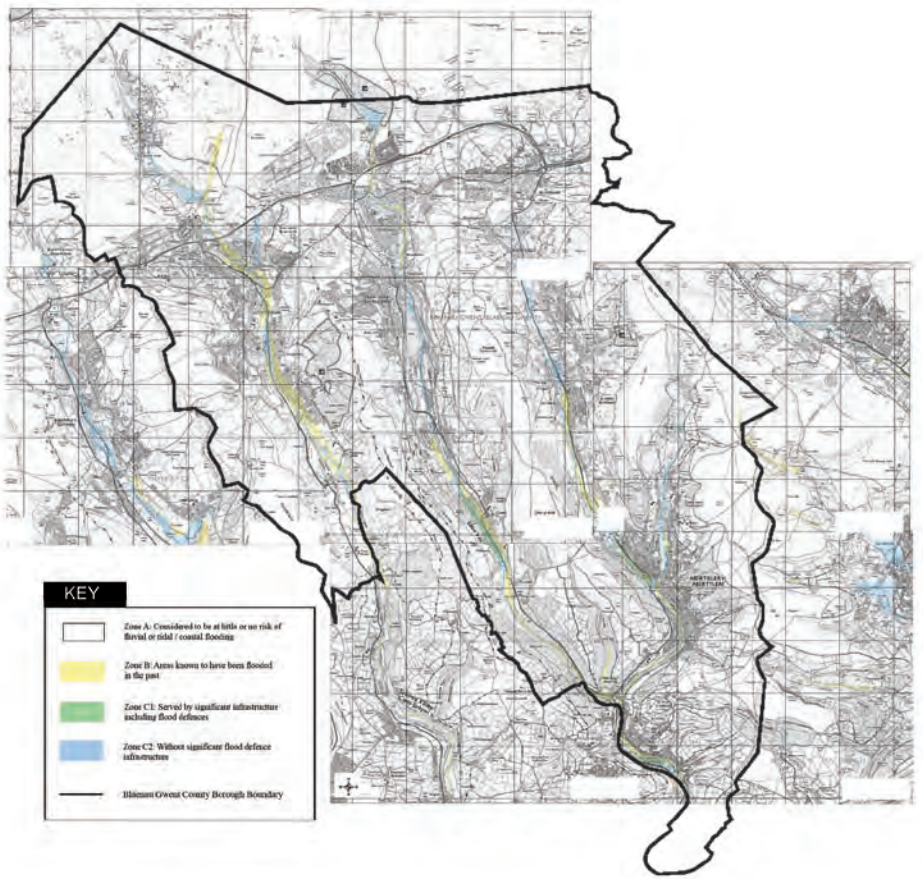
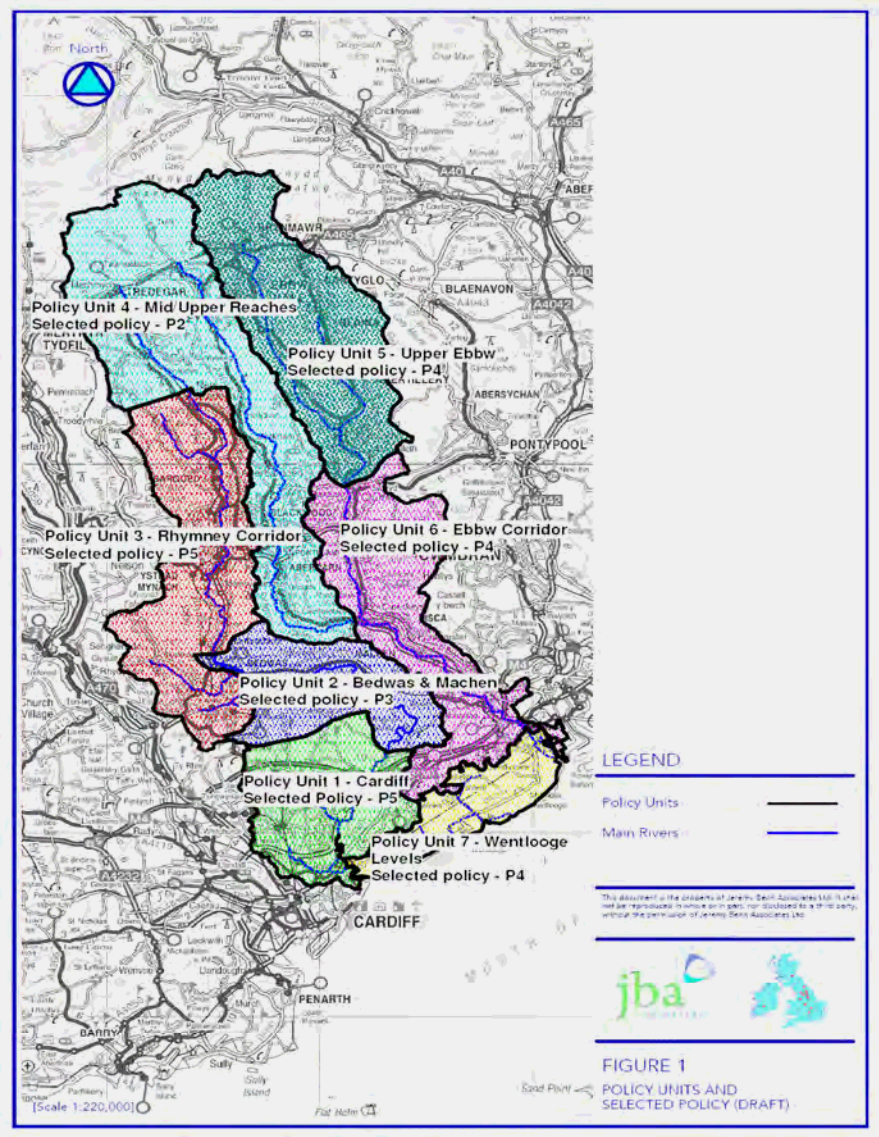


Figure D.2.2 Eastern Valleys Catchment Flood Management Plan April 2008

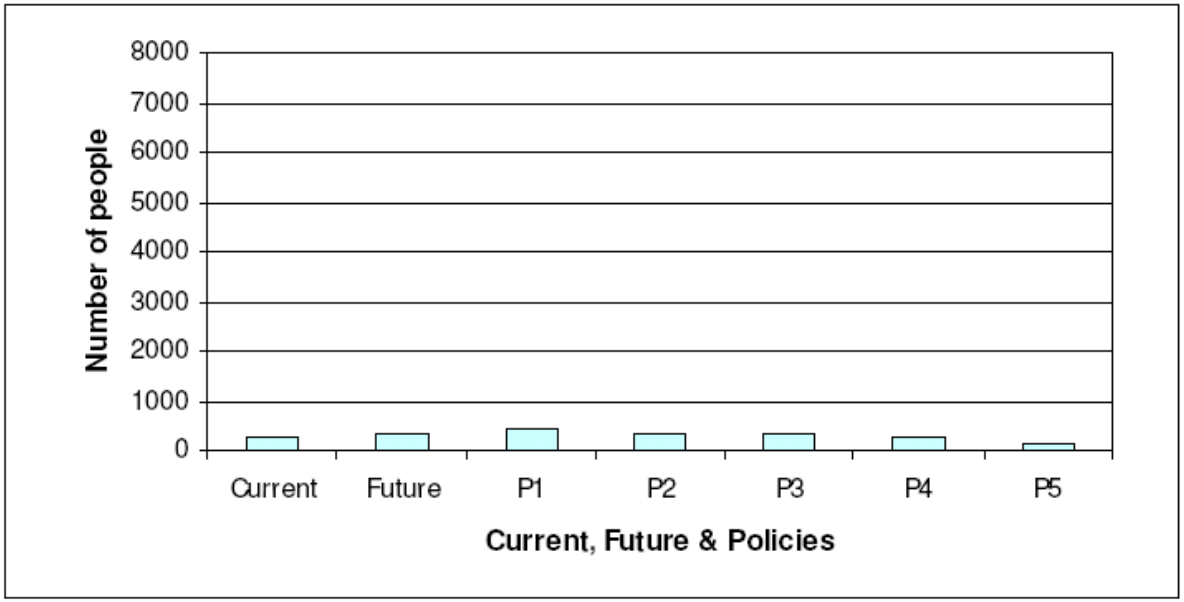


D.2.12 Draft policies for the plan area from the CFMP are:

- Upper and Mid Reaches: Reduce existing flood risk management actions (accepting that flood risk will increase with time).
- Upper Ebbw: Take further action to sustain the current scale of flood risk into the future (responding to the potential increases in flood risk from urban development, land use change and climate change).

D.2.13 The figures below demonstrate how flood risk in the area is low:

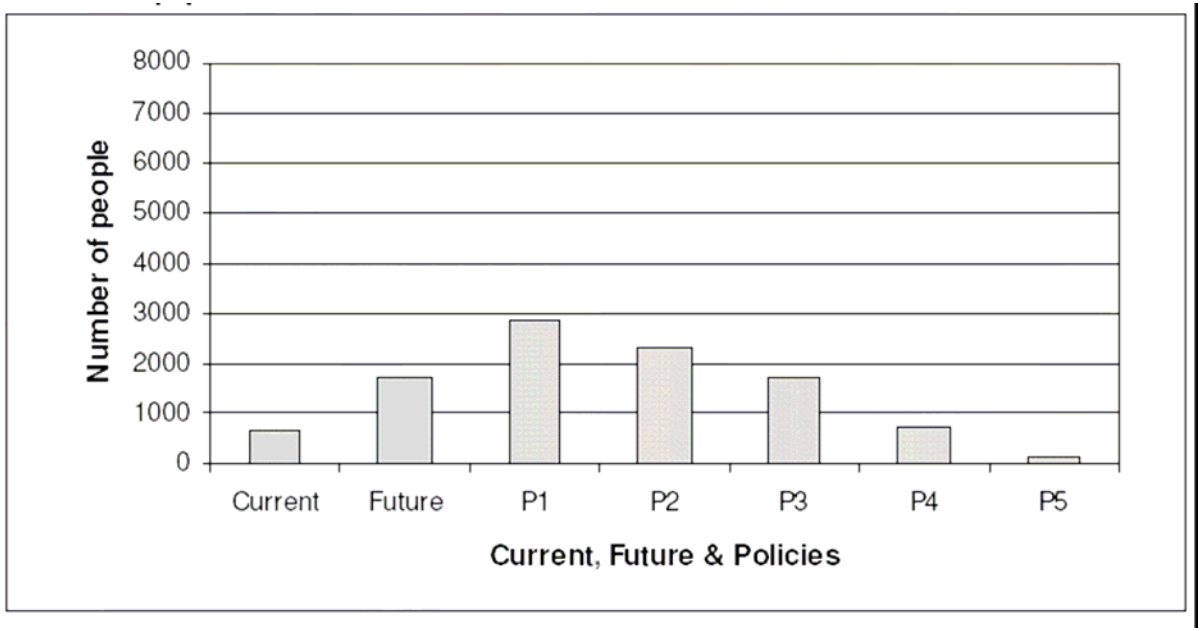
Figure D.2.3 - Total number of people at flood risk for all policy units and policies: Upper and Mid Reaches



- Policy selected for the Upper and Mid Reaches.
- Policy Unit 4: Main Flood Risk (Fluvial); No main areas).
- Reduce existing actions.
- The current level of flood risk is low in comparison to other areas of the Eastern Valleys.
- The future level of flood risk is low in comparison to other areas of the Eastern Valleys.

- Some areas within the policy unit may warrant a reduction in current flood risk management activities and maintenance, particularly in rural areas.
- There is little harm to life, community disruption and economic damages both now and into the future.
- Increasing the current flood risk management actions brings little reduction in flood risk in this policy unit.

Figure D.2.4 - Total number of people at flood risk for all policy units and policies: Upper Ebbw



Policy Unit 5: Upper Ebbw

- Main Flood Risk (Fluvial); Main Areas (Abertillery, Cwm and Ebbw Vale)

Policy 4 – Take further action to sustain current risk

- The future levels of fluvial flood risk are unacceptable and the risks present severe consequences for harm to life.
- Risks for extreme fluvial events (0.1% AEP) are unacceptable.
- There are a significant number of properties in the future that will be at flood risk, including numerous residential properties, and critical community assets.
- The existing flood defences should be raised in Cwm, Abertillery and Llanhilleth.

- The current level of maintenance should be continued or improved as to help improve conveyance, reducing the impacts of flooding and maintaining water levels.
- The current level of risk is acceptable in this policy unit, reducing damages to this level is economically justifiable.

Water Availability (source: water resources for the future: EA)

D.2.14 Figures 3.4 demonstrates that Blaenau Gwent has no additional water available for abstraction during the summer, but has an excess supply in the winter.

Table D.2- Surface Water Availability

1. Summer Surface Water

2. Winter Surface Water

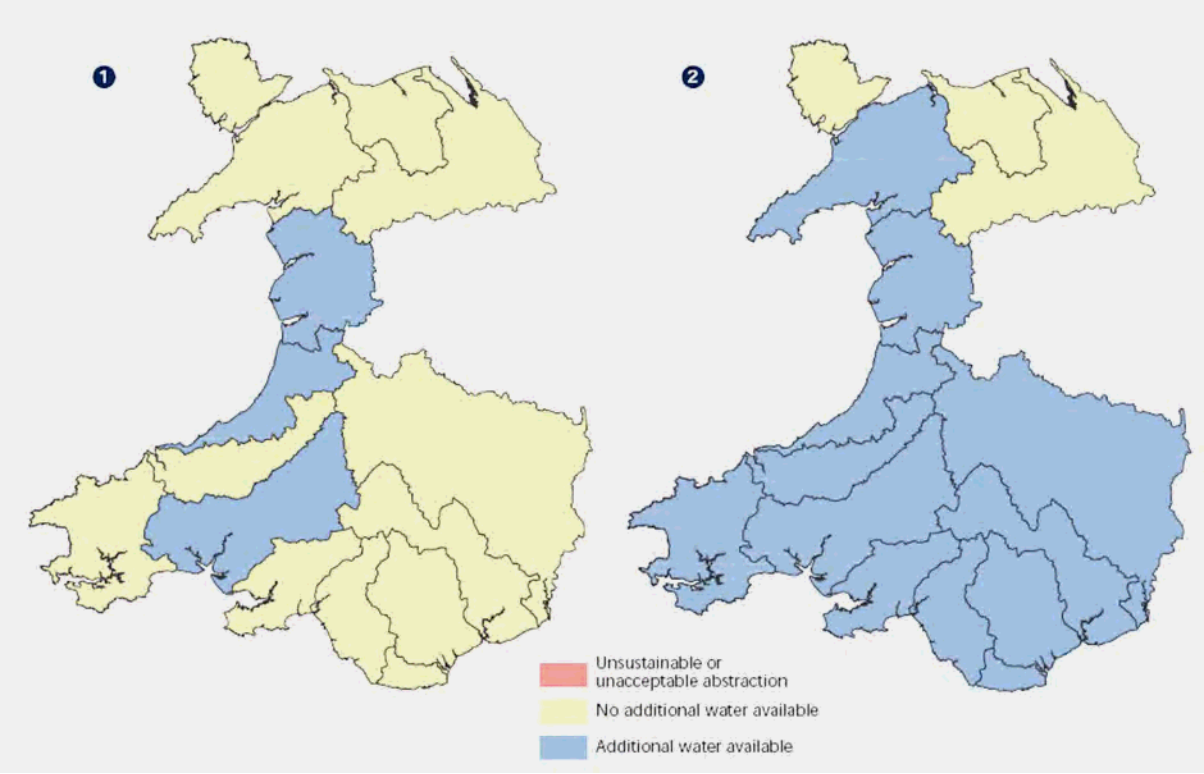
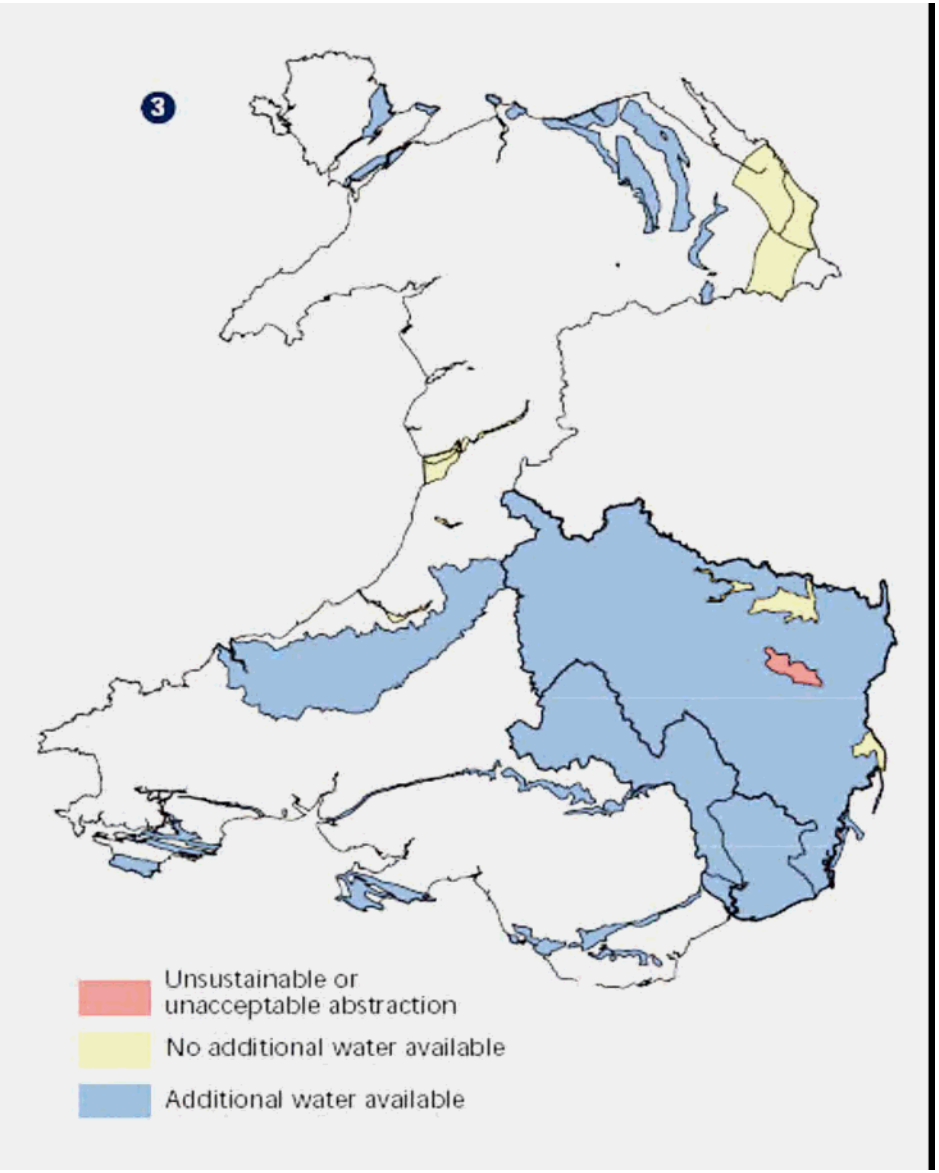


Figure D.2.5 – Groundwater Availability



D.3 Waste

D.3.1 In 2004/05, the total municipal waste arisings in Blaenau Gwent were 54,853 tonnes, of which 22.5% was recycled or composted. The total household waste arisings were 44,578 tonnes. The majority of waste originates from industrial and commercial sources (not including special waste) – in 2003 waste from these sources totalled 56,971 tonnes, of which 17,422 tonnes went to landfill (31%). In order for Blaenau Gwent to meet the national maximum landfill 2009/10 target of 37,525 tonnes for the County Borough, based on predicted arisings of 53,883 tonnes for the County Borough, 16,358 tonnes will need to be diverted from landfill. This will require significant alterations to current waste production and management practices in the County Borough.

D.4 Energy

D.4.1 Expressed as a percentage of industrial and commercial energy consumption in the South East Wales region, Blaenau Gwent contributed 4.6% in 2003. The same percentage in respect of domestic energy consumption was 6.4%, with the statistic for transport based energy consumption being just 1%. It should be noted, however, that the relatively low proportional contribution may, in part at least, be explained by the fact that the South East Wales region includes the capital and second cities of Wales, together with the busiest section of the principal east-west road corridor (the M4 motorway from the Severn bridge to J32), which together make a significantly greater contribution to the regional totals.

D.4.2 Figures on national, regional and local gas consumption (Kwh) indicate that Blaenau Gwent uses a higher share of gas domestically when compared to the regional averages, but less industrially than neighbouring authorities. This may potentially be a reflection of Blaenau Gwent's housing conditions - there is a considerable amount of older housing stock in the Local Authority Area that, due to its age, may be less energy efficient and this will be combined with the fact that the altitude results in a relatively cooler climate than neighbouring authorities.

D.4.3 There is no specific data relating to electricity generated from renewable sources within the Blaenau Gwent area alone. However, in 2003 it was estimated that 2.6% of electricity in Wales was generated from renewables, representing a slight increase from 2.44% in 2002. The UK has set a target of producing 10% of electricity from renewable sources by 2010.

D.5 Landscape, Land Use and Soil

D.5.1 The main features of Blaenau Gwent are the deeply incised valleys of the Sirhowy, Ebbw Fach and Ebbw Fawr rivers, which flow in a southerly direction from the relatively high moorland plateau running across the northern extremity in an east to west direction. Much of the natural vegetation has been removed because of the industrialisation of the area.

D.5.2 The largest land use designation in the County Borough is open countryside (45%) and the defined urban area is only 23%. The remainder comprises a combination of other designations including rural settlements and forestry.

D.5.3 Blaenau Gwent has a history of potentially contaminating land uses that may have introduced soil contamination to the area. The 2003 Contaminated Land Strategy Review identified 1607 potentially contaminated sites in Blaenau Gwent of which there were 51 High Risk sites (previous or current uses include gas works, landfill sites, petrol stations and military land); 880 Medium Risk sites; and 676 Low Risk Sites. Sites with a history of contaminative usage that have been remediated include the former British Coal Workshops at Tredegar and the Dunlop Semtex site at Brynmawr.

D.5.4 In Blaenau Gwent there are currently 30 installations regulated under the Pollution Prevention and Control (England and Wales) Regulations. A list of the processes can be found on the link below. Of these 23 are part B, 2 are A2 and 5 are A1.

Transport

D.5.5 The public rights of way network in the County Borough is 299.4km in length. 69% of this network is footpaths available solely to walkers, or carriageways mainly used as footpaths. Also, the distribution of the network is not even across the County Borough, and there are several factors arising from a lack of maintenance that have lead to restricted usability of this facility. Three factors identified that need improving are: more circular routes- signed and advertised as such; the need to link paths together- defragmentation; and more long distance routes.

D.5.6 In terms of travel distances to work, in Blaenau Gwent the majority of the population travels less than 5km commuting distance. 31% of the County Borough's population relies on the private car for their work journey, with only 6.6% of the population walking or cycling to work. In terms of car ownership, 45.1% of the resident population owns one car only, with 35.1% of Blaenau Gwent's residents neither owning nor having access to a car or van. In comparison to regional and national statistics, in general terms car ownership levels are considerably below average in Blaenau Gwent and a considerably greater proportion of the population is without access to a car.

D.5.7 Currently the nearest rail links are at the Valleys line station at Rhymney and West coast mainline at Abergavenny. Valleys lines provide access to and from Cardiff, which is linked with the Great Western line giving links eastward to London and westward to Swansea, Fishguard and the Republic of Ireland. Rhymney station has a good bus service (Route 20) to Tredegar including Parc Bryn Bach. Abergavenny Station links to the X3 service between Cardiff and Hereford via Pontypool and Cwmbran. The X4 service between Hereford and Cardiff via Brynmawr, Ebbw Vale, Tredegar, Merthyr and Pontypridd is available within a walking distance to the bus station.

D.5.8 The Ebbw Valley Railway Line, providing an hourly service to Cardiff Central, with six stations, is set to be re-opened to passenger transport in autumn 2007 for the first time since 1962. The stations will be located at Ebbw Vale Parkway, Llanhilleth, Newbridge, Crosskeys, Risca & Pontymister and Rogerstone on brownfield sites, of which only Ebbw Vale and Llanhilleth will be in the Blaenau Gwent County Borough area. Although these stations offer good interchange opportunities with local bus services, new bus routes are needed to connect more settlements, e.g. Tredegar, Brynmawr, Nantyglo and Blaina, with this railway line. National Cycle Network Route 47 crosses the line and runs south, parallel to the railway, from near Crosskeys Station. Cwmcarn Forest Drive, which has an off-road cycle route, is also accessible. The rail service from Abertillery to Newport and Cardiff is due to commence in the near future according to the Abertillery Urban Function Analysis.

D.5.9 The X15 and X16 bus links connect Brynmawr, Nantyglo, Blaina and Abertillery with Newport and Cardiff respectively. Other bus services include the X18 between Ebbw Vale and Newport, and the E3 and E4, both between Brynmawr, Ebbw Vale, Abertillery and Brynmawr, and the 22 service between Ebbw Vale and Newport via Pontypool. These bus links provide a good level of service during weekdays and on Saturday, connecting the Blaenau Gwent major towns with the area. Conversely, Sunday service is limited and some lateral connections between valleys are poor.

D.5.10 The area's principal road system provides A-road access to the motorway network (the M4, M5 and M50) and combined with the A470 and A465 Heads of the Valley roads, connects the area with the South East, South West, Midlands and London. Dualling work is being carried out to improve the motorway access.

D.5.11 The nearest airports to Blaenau Gwent are Cardiff International, Bristol and Birmingham. Locals are largely reliant on private transport or car hire to access the airports, as public transport links are limited to the proposed rail link to Cardiff, which will connect with the onward rail link from Cardiff to the airport.

Table D.3 – Baseline data table

Indicator	Quantified data (Blaenau Gwent)	Comparators (Quantified data for South Wales and Wales/England)	Targets	Trends	Issue identified	SEA topics	Source
PM_{10} Concentrations	Background concentrations 2004:15.9 µg/m^3 2005: 16 µg/m^3	South East 2004 - 17 µg/m^3 2005 - 17 µg/m^3		Overall PM_{10} concentrations predicted to decrease slightly within South East region by 2010		Air Climatic Factors Human Health	UK National Air Quality Archive (http://www.airquality.co.uk/) 'Air Quality in Wales', Welsh Air Quality Forum (2005)
NO_2 Concentrations	Background concentrations 2004: 10.1 µg/m^3 2005: 9.8 µg/m^3	South East 2004 - 12 µg/m^3 2005 - 12 µg/m^3		Overall NO_2 concentrations predicted to decrease in the South East region by 2010		Air Climatic Factors Human Health	UK National Air Quality Archive (http://www.airquality.co.uk/) 'Air Quality in Wales', Welsh Air Quality Forum

Indicator	Quantified data (Blaenau Gwent)	Comparators (Quantified data for South Wales and Wales/England)	Targets	Trends	Issue identified	SEA topics	Source
							(2005)
National Atmospheric Emissions Inventory (NAEI) levels of key air pollutants (Benzene, 1,3-Butadiene, SO2)	Benzene – 0.12 -1.3 Butadiene – 0.02 SO2 – 5.42	South East Benzene – 0.114 -1.3 Butadiene – 0.28 SO2 – 13.224				Air Climatic Factors Human Health	http://www.airquality.co.uk/archive/laqm/laqm.php
Carbon Emissions (tonnes)	Industry & Commercial – 248 (54%) Domestic – 144 (31%) Road Transport – 71 (16%) Land Use Change - -5 (1%) Total - 457 Per Capita CO_2 (tonnes)- 6.5 Domestic per capita CO_2 (tonnes) – 2.0 Percentage of regional emissions total originating from Blaenau Gwent Industry & Commercial – 2.5%	<u>South East</u> nd & Com – 7119 (52%) Domestic – 3628 (26%) Road Transport – 3023 (22%) Land Use Change - -55 (0.4%) Total – 13,715 Per Capita CO_2 (tonnes)- 9.8 Domestic per capita CO_2 (tonnes) – 2.6 <u>Wales</u> Ind & Com - 16,539 (53%)			The biggest contributors to CO_2 emissions in Blaenau Gwent are industrial and commercial (54%) and domestic (31%) sectors. The Wales averages for these sectors are 53% and 25% respectively. However the Percentage of the regional emissions total originating from Blaenau Gwent is only 3.5% for Industrial and Commercial and 4% for	Air Climatic Factors Human Health	Defra 2006: http://www.defra.gov.uk/environment/statistics/globatmos/regionalrpt/laregionalco2rpt20061127.xls

Indicator	Quantified data (Blaenau Gwent)	Comparators (Quantified data for South Wales and Wales/England)	Targets	Trends	Issue identified	SEA topics	Source
	3.5% Domestic – 4.0% Road Transport – 2.3%	Domestic – 7954 (25%) Road Transport - 7244 (23%) Land Use Change - -433 (1.4%) Total – 31,303 Per Capita CO_2 (tonnes)- 10.8 Domestic per capita CO_2 (tonnes) – 2.7			Domestic, meaning Blaenau Gwent is contributing very little to the total. The share of road transport related CO_2 emissions in Blaenau Gwent is lower than the Wales average – 16% and 23% respectively. This suggests there may be a low car ownership rate. Blaenau Gwent only contributes 2.3% of the regional Total road transport carbon emissions. Domestic contributions are significantly higher in Blaenau		

Indicator	Quantified data (Blaenau Gwent)	Comparators (Quantified data for South Wales and Wales/England)	Targets	Trends	Issue identified	SEA topics	Source
					Gwent: 31% compared to the South East and Wales (26% and 25% respectively). This may indicate that there is an above average proportion of energy inefficient housing.		
No. of conservation areas	At the moment there is one conservation area in BG - Bedwellty House and Park (the Park included in Cadw's Register of Parks and Gardens of Special Historic Interest in Wales). Identification of areas worthy of conservation will be constantly under review. One more area is likely to be designated in the near future.	The South East Wales region includes a considerable number of designated conservation areas and, in comparison, Blaenau Gwent has relatively little protection of areas of heritage interest.		Number of designated sites under review and likely to increase.	Despite having a considerable number of sites of heritage interest, there is only one designated Conservation Area in the Authority. This may result in development pressure eroding the character and value of heritage sites, which in turn may reduce the opportunities for tourism in	Cultural Heritage Landsc-ape	The Ebbw Vale Works Environ-mental Stateme-nt 2007 BGCBC, personal commun-ication with Heritage Officer, 23.04.20 07

Indicator	Quantified data (Blaenau Gwent)	Comparators (Quantified data for South Wales and Wales/England)	Targets	Trends	Issue identified	SEA topics	Source
					the area.		
No. of Listed Buildings and proportion at risk	There are 53 listed buildings with ten listed as Grade II* in recognition of their special historical and architectural importance. The buildings particularly at risk are: -British Steel Tinplate Works General Office - Former Boiler House at Dunlop Semtex Factory -Ebbw Vale Adult Education Centre -Stables and Barn at the Fountain Inn -The Fountain Inn -Milgatw -Agricultural Range at Milgatw -Mount Pleasant Stores -Roundhouse at Roundhouse Farm (1863 AA SW) -Roundhouse at Roundhouse Farm (17086 AB NE) -Agricultural Range at	5475 in the South East region (c. 550 per LA area).		Without intervention, it is likely that the conditions of listed buildings will continue to deteriorate and an increased no. will enter the at risk register.	Nearly 20% of all the listed buildings in the area are at risk. Continuation of current trends would place these heritage assets at greater risk; however, the LDP provides an opportunity to improve this through regeneration and development that enhances the character of the surroundings and protects the buildings from further threat.	Cultural Heritage Landsc-ape	http://www.blaenau-gwent.gov.uk/leisure/5931.asp Personal correspondence with the BGCBC Heritage Officer on 14.05.07 (new listed building - Aberbeeg Packhorse Bridge).

Indicator	Quantified data (Blaenau Gwent)	Comparators (Quantified data for South Wales and Wales/England)	Targets	Trends	Issue identified	SEA topics	Source
	Roundhouse Farm -Former Tredegar Company Shop						
Archaeological Sites	Bedwellty Park - included in Cadw's Register of 'Parks and Gardens of Special Historic Interest in Wales' *Scheduled Ancient Monuments:* - St Illtyd Castle Mound -Incline Haulage Winding Engine, Mynydd Bedwellty -Sirhowy Ironworks - Marine Colliery Pumping Engine -Clydach Railroad Section near Brynmawr -Clydach Coal Level -Tredegar Ironworks Cholera Cemetery - Y Domen Fawr Round Cairn and - Trefil Quarries North	Registered Parks and Historic Gardens - South East approx – 56			The South East has approximately 56 registered historic parks and Gardens: out of 10 authorities Blaenau Gwent only has 1 registration - this is a significantly low proportion. There is an opportunity to improve the Area of Blaenau Gwent for tourism and landscape values. The area has a number of scheduled ancient monuments that could provide a basis for tourism.	Cultural Heritage Landsc-ape	Blaenau Gwent UDP

Indicator	Quantified data (Blaenau Gwent)	Comparators (Quantified data for South Wales and Wales/England)	Targets	Trends	Issue identified	SEA topics	Source
No. & area of designated sites	*SAC:* **Usk Bat Sites** (one of the best areas in the United Kingdom for lesser horseshoe bat) , 1686.4 ha (partially in the BG area) European dry heaths, degraded raised bogs, blanket bog, calcareous rocky slopes, caves not open to the public, Tilio-Acerion forests and Lesser Horseshoe Bats **Mynydd Llangatwg** Site condition by feature name: • Blanket bog (other ombrogenous mire) - Unfavourable – judgement (confidence in assessment - high) • Calcareous grassland - Unfavourable – judgement (medium)		The Environment Strategy for Wales Action 32 seeks to achieve a favourable condition for all international, national and local designated sites by 2026. Resources are currently being allocated towards achieving this, for example through CCW's Special Sites project.	The total number of SINCs is unknown. The first tranche of designations will include 60 SINCs. Subsequent tranches are planned, but it is unclear how many SINCs these will contain.	The area has a limited number of designated sites some which protect important species. The lack of designation and the current designations do not reflect the valuable resources in the area. However there are plans for 70 new designations which will add to the ability to protect valuable resources and add to potential for a tourism industry.	Landsc-ape Biodive-rsity Flora and Fauna	The Ebbw Vale Works Environ-mental Stateme-nt 2007 Blaenau Gwent Commun-ity Plan 2005-2009 BGCBC, persona-l communi cation with Biodiver-sity Officer, 20.04.20 07 BGCBC LBAP 2002 SEWBRe C,

Indicator	Quantified data (Blaenau Gwent)	Comparators (Quantified data for South Wales and Wales/England)	Targets	Trends	Issue identified	SEA topics	Source
	• Natural inland rock exposures, screes & upland ledges - Favourable – judgement (medium) • Semi-natural broad-leaved woodland - Unfavourable – judgement (medium) • Heathland - Unfavourable – measured (high) • Raised Bog - Unfavourable – measured (high) • Vascular Plant assemblage (with several individually qualifying species) - Unfavourable - judgement (medium but most species doing ok) • Bryophyte Assemblage (with individually qualifying species) - Favourable – judgement (medium) • Lichen Assemblage - Favourable – judgement (medium) • Lesser Horseshoe Bats - Favourable - judgement(medium) • Bat Assemblage - Favourable – judgement						Biodiver-sity Informat-ion Search Results: Blaenau Gwent Designat-ions (Sustain-ability Appraisal LDP), 18/05/20 07

Indicator	Quantified data (Blaenau Gwent)	Comparators (Quantified data for South Wales and Wales/England)	Targets	Trends	Issue identified	SEA topics	Source
	(medium) • Geology - Karst and Caves - Unknown • Geology - Karst and Caves- Unknown • Lesser Horseshoe Bats - Favourable – judgement (medium) • Lesser Horseshoe Bats - Favourable - judgement(medium) • Lesser Horseshoe Bats - Favourable - judgement(medium) **Cwm Clydach Woodlands / Coedydd Cwm Clydach,** 28.81 ha (partially in the BG area) Site condition by feature name: • Geology - Lower Carboniferous - Unfavourable – judgement (confidence in assessment - high) • Geology - Upper Carboniferous - Unfavourable – judgement (medium) • Semi-natural broad-						

Indicator	Quantified data (Blaenau Gwent)	Comparators (Quantified data for South Wales and Wales/England)	Targets	Trends	Issue identified	SEA topics	Source
	leaved woodland - Favourable – measured (medium) • Vascular Plant assemblage - Favourable – judgement (medium) • Fungi Assemblage - Favourable – judgement (medium) *SSSI:* **Cwm Merddog Woodlands** – 23.54 ha Unfavourable condition, recovering **Brynmawr Sections** - (geological site), 4.36 ha: Unfavourable, maintained Mynydd Llangatwg (Mynydd Llangattock) - 1,681.30 ha Site condition by feature name: • Blanket bog (other ombrogenous mire) - Unfavourable – judgement (confidence in assessment						

Indicator	Quantified data (Blaenau Gwent)	Comparators (Quantified data for South Wales and Wales/England)	Targets	Trends	Issue identified	SEA topics	Source
	- high) • Calcareous grassland - Unfavourable – judgement (medium) • Natural inland rock exposures, screes & upland ledges - Favourable – judgement (medium) • Semi-natural broad-leaved woodland - Unfavourable – judgement (medium) • Heathland - Unfavourable – measured (high) • Raised Bog - Unfavourable – measured (high) • Vascular Plant assemblage (with several individually qualifying species) - Unfavourable - judgement (medium but most species doing ok) • Bryophyte Assemblage (with individually qualifying species) - Favourable – judgement (medium) • Lichen Assemblage - Favourable – judgement (medium) • Lesser Horseshoe Bats -						

Indicator	Quantified data (Blaenau Gwent)	Comparators (Quantified data for South Wales and Wales/England)	Targets	Trends	Issue identified	SEA topics	Source
	Favourable - judgement(medium) • Bat Assemblage - Favourable – judgement (medium) • Geology - Karst and Caves - Unknown *WTR* **Silent Valley** (SSSI CWM MERDDOG WOODLANDS) 45.70 ha *National Parks:* The Brecon Beacons National Park *Country Park* Bryn Bach - 121.8249 ha *NNR* Cwm Clydach - 24.26 ha *LNRs* • Silent Valley - 51.62 ha (includes Cwm Merddog and Coed Ty 'n y Gelli S.S.S.I.). Some of the reserve has been designated a SSSI – for						

Indicator	Quantified data (Blaenau Gwent)	Comparators (Quantified data for South Wales and Wales/England)	Targets	Trends	Issue identified	SEA topics	Source
	ancient semi natural Woodland; *Candidate LNRs* • Parc Nant-y-Waun - 20.51ha • Sirhowy Hill Woodland & Cardiff Pond - 81.55ha • Beaufort Hills - 81.61ha • Six Bells Colliery Site - 10.31 ha • Garden City - 43.29 ha • Roseheyworth Community Woodlands - 18.75 ha • Trevor Rowson Heritage Park- 9.3 ha • Cwmcelyn Pond - 4.03 ha • Cwmtillery Lakes - 9.88 ha • Parc Bryn Bach – 112.22 ha *Potential SINCs* • Mynydd Manmoel - 294.70ha						

Indicator	Quantified data (Blaenau Gwent)	Comparators (Quantified data for South Wales and Wales/England)	Targets	Trends	Issue identified	SEA topics	Source
	• Roseheyworth - 18.70ha • Swffryd-fach - 14.39ha • Coalbrookvale - 19.35ha • Bryn-Bach School - 0.56ha • Beaufort Hill Ponds & • Woodland - 63.07ha • Bryn Farm, Brynmawr - 19.31ha • Cefn Bach - 8.58ha • Garnlydan - 49.90ha • St. James Reservoir - 1.71ha • Parc Nant-y-Waun - 10.19ha • Six Bells Colliery Site - 10.28ha • Bournville Slip, Blaina - 23.14ha • Waun y Pound - 17.9 ha • Mynydd Carn-y-Cefn and Cefn-yr-Arail - 418.00ha • Mynydd Bedwellte - 09.30ha • Waen Rydd Pond Group - 0.19ha • Waun Pwll Dwr Pond Group -0.09ha						

Indicator	Quantified data (Blaenau Gwent)	Comparators (Quantified data for South Wales and Wales/England)	Targets	Trends	Issue identified	SEA topics	Source
	• Twyn Blaenant Pond Group - 0.03ha • Ty Picca Pond Group - 0.03ha • Tir Watkin Pond Group - 0.18ha • Old Hafordian Pond & Woodland - 2.10ha • Ponds at West Monmouthshire Golf Course - 0.08 ha • South of Troedygwair - 9.81 ha • Garn-Cam-Isaf - 8.03 ha • East of Penrhiwgwingi - 2.43 ha • Cwmcelyn East - 1.69 ha • Cwmcelyn West - 5.75 ha • North of Hendre Gwyndwr -8.98 ha • Llanerch Padarn West - 6.70 ha • East of Gwastad Farm - 6.53 ha • Coed y Gilfach - 9.54 ha • Coed Argoed - 10.92 ha • Craig Syffryd - 9.84 ha • Sorfydd Wood - 5.04 ha • Sirhowy Hill Woodlands						

Indicator	Quantified data (Blaenau Gwent)	Comparators (Quantified data for South Wales and Wales/England)	Targets	Trends	Issue identified	SEA topics	Source
	& Cardiff Pond - 83.27 ha • Cwmcelyn Pond -1.40 ha • Cwmtillery Pond -1.28 ha • Shon Sheffrey's Reservoir Banks - 4.38 ha • Waunlwyd - 12.32 ha • Sheepfold Grasslands - 12.36 ha • Tredegar Leisure Centre • Grasslands - 8.65 ha • Highlands Grassland - 3.31 ha • Lower Troedrhiwgwair - 7.24 ha • Upper Troedrhiwgwair Grasslands -2.73 ha • Pine Tree House Grassland -0.69 ha • North Pen-y-Lan Grassland -0.47 ha • Tredegar Patch Grassland - 3.32 ha • Trefil Village Grassland (1 of 2) -4.61 ha • Trefil Village Grassland (2 of 2) - 1.42 ha • South Pen-y-Lan Grassland - 0.45 ha • Hirgan Fields Grassland - 21.87 ha						

Indicator	Quantified data (Blaenau Gwent)	Comparators (Quantified data for South Wales and Wales/England)	Targets	Trends	Issue identified	SEA topics	Source
	• Fairview Field - 0.71 ha • Garn-ddu Meadow - 0.90 ha • Lower Farm Field - 1.12 ha • The Fountain Inn Meadows -4.31 ha • Chapel House Field- 4.12 ha • Bedwellty Pits Field -1.64 ha • Blaentillery Farm North - 10.84 ha • Blaentillery Farm South - 4.00 ha • Nine Arches Grassland - 5.53 ha • Milgatw Farm Grassland - 10.71 ha • Coed Troestre - 3.64 ha • West of Blaentillery Farm, Cwmtillery - 3.74 ha • Cwm Big North, Aberbeeg - 5.46 ha • Coedcae Coch, Aberbeeg - 7.19 ha • Industrial Estate Grasslands - 3.72 ha • Darren Due - 0.00 ha • Llanerch Padern East -						

Indicator	Quantified data (Blaenau Gwent)	Comparators (Quantified data for South Wales and Wales/England)	Targets	Trends	Issue identified	SEA topics	Source
	2.12 ha • Mulfran, Mynydd Coity, • Mynydd James & Gwastad - 2056.00 ha • Greenmeadow Farm - 37.59 ha • Garden City - 43.33ha						
Population of species and areas of priority habitat	The Local Biodiversity Action Plan provides a framework for reversing the decline of Blaenau Gwent's wildlife resource and includes 14 Habitat Action Plans and 21 Species Action Plans *Species for which action plans have been prepared*: **Group Species** Amphibians Great Crested Newt (Triturus cristatus) Birds Skylark (Alauda arvensis) Grey Partridge (Perdix perdix) Butterflies Pearl-bordered Fritillary (Boloria euphrosyne)				*Current factors affecting the habitat and associated species:* The most important issue impacting on breeding lapwings and grey partridges is that of development pressure	Landsc-ape Biodive-rsity Flora and Fauna	http://biodiversitywales.org.uk/English/LocalToYou/area.aspx?id=18 http://www.ukbap.org.uk/lbap.aspx?ID=415 BGCBC LBAP 2002 WAG/BGCBC/RSPB

Indicator	Quantified data (Blaenau Gwent)	Comparators (Quantified data for South Wales and Wales/England)	Targets	Trends	Issue identified	SEA topics	Source
	Mammals Brown Hare (Lepus europaeus) Otter (Lutra lutra) Pipistrelle Bat (Pipistrellus pipistrellus) Lesser Horseshoe Bat (Rhinolophus hipposideros) Lapwing (Vanellus vanellus) Grey Partridge (Perdix perdix)	Lapwing Current estimated Wales population = 700 pairs Grey Partridge: Current estimated Wales population = 200 - 500 pairs	Lapwing: No further reduction in breeding numbers. A breeding success of 0.6 fledged young per pair per year (This is the adopted target for the WAG/Blaenau Gwent/RSPB Heads of the Valleys Lapwing Project) Grey Partridge: Halt decline and maintain and enhance range (Source : Blaenau Gwent LBAP)Selected	Without intervention, it is likely that species will experience further dramatic declines and extinction in Blaenau Gwent			

Indicator	Quantified data (Blaenau Gwent)	Comparators (Quantified data for South Wales and Wales/England)	Targets	Trends	Issue identified	SEA topics	Source
	Priority Habitats: **Upland Oakwood** Extent: Greater Gwent: Between 500-700 ha Blaenau Gwent: Unknown. More information is needed to fully assess the current status of the upland oak woodland resource in Blaenau Gwent.	**Priority Habitats:** **- Upland oakwood -** National: Total area of UK Upland Oak woodlands is between 80,000-110,000 hectares. Wales: An estimate of 39,000 ha, equivalent to 40% of the UK resource.- **-**	targets: - **Upland oakwood** • Identify opportunities for further expansion of existing oak woodland, with a view of expanding it by 10% through planting or natural regeneration. • Encourage the establishment of a Nursery in the area, which uses stock of only local provenance. • Identify and designate appropriate woodlands as SINC's. (By 2003)		**Upland Oakwood** • Overgrazing mostly by sheep and to a lesser extent rabbits leading to change in thewoodland structure, ground flora impoverishme-nt and lack of natural regeneration. • Lack of traditional management practices, such as coppicing, leading to neglect and a reduction in structural and age diversity. • Invasive species such as sycamore can lead to changes in the composition of the woods. • Climate		

Indicator	Quantified data (Blaenau Gwent)	Comparators (Quantified data for South Wales and Wales/England)	Targets	Trends	Issue identified	SEA topics	Source
	Upland mixed Ashwoods Extent: Greater Gwent: Estimated as inexcess of 600 ha Blaenau Gwent: Unknown	**Upland mixed ashwoods** National: The total resource is uncertain, although it is estimated as 67,500 ha in the UK action plan Wales: An estimate of 17,000 ha, equivalent to 25% of the UK resource	**Upland mixed ashwoods** Determine the extent, distribution and condition of the resource over 1ha in BGCBC by 2003. • Identify opportunities for further expansion of existing ash woodland, with a view of expanding it by 15% of the known existing resource through		change has potential to change vegetation communities and atmospheric pollution to damage them. • Invasive bracken halts natural regeneration. **Upland Mixed Ashwoods** *Current factors affecting the habitat and associated species:* • Overgrazing leading to a lack of natural regeneration. • Cessation of traditional management practices, especially coppicing, has led to neglect. • Invasion by non-native species, such		

Indicator	Quantified data (Blaenau Gwent)	Comparators (Quantified data for South Wales and Wales/England)	Targets	Trends	Issue identified	SEA topics	Source
			planting or natural regeneration by 2006. • Identify and designate appropriate woodlands as SINC's by 2003. • Ensure the management plans and appropriate active management regimes are in place for all designated sites and other key sites by 2005. • Encourage the establishment of a Nursery in the area, which uses stock of only local provenance.		as sycamore, leading to changes in the species composition of the woods. • The replacement of the woodlands with conifers after felling. A continuing threat is that these woods remain as conifer plantations for a second rotation where the original ground flora remains intact. • Increased ecological isolation resulting from tree / hedgerow removal for agricultural practices. • Climate change has potential to change		

Indicator	Quantified data (Blaenau Gwent)	Comparators (Quantified data for South Wales and Wales/England)	Targets	Trends	Issue identified	SEA topics	Source
					vegetation communities and atmospheric pollution to damage them. • Invasive bracken halts natural regeneration.		
	Wet woodland Greater Gwent: An area of approximately 200- 500 ha is present. Blaenau Gwent: Unknown. More information is needed to fully assess the current status of the wet woodland resource in Blaenau Gwent.	**Wet woodland** National: The estimated total area of UK wet woodland lies between 50,000 – 70,000 ha. Wales: The estimate for Wales lies between 5,000 – 7,000 ha, equivalent to 10% of the UK resource.	**Wet woodland** • Determine the extent and distribution of the resource for all sites > 0.5 ha within BG by 2003. • Maintain current extent and improve condition of existing wet woodlands. Once the condition is known management can be targeted where required. • Identify suitable		**Wet Woodland** *Current factors affecting the habitat and associated species:* • Natural succession leading to development of drier woodland communities • Habitat loss through clearance and conversion to other land uses. In particular development along rivers or stream		

Indicator	Quantified data (Blaenau Gwent)	Comparators (Quantified data for South Wales and Wales/England)	Targets	Trends	Issue identified	SEA topics	Source
			candidates for designation as SINC by 2003. • Ensure appropriate management regimes are in place for all key wet woodland sites, by 2006. • Ensure that there is no loss of the current resource. • Create a further 5-7 ha of wet woodland on an existing wet woodland site by 2010 in line with the Greater Gwent Biodiversity Action group objectives. • Encourage the establishment of a Nursery in the area, which uses stock of only local		corridors. • Man made and natural changes to the hydrological regime on which the woodland depends e.g. flood alleviation schemes and subsequent economic development, leading to development of drier woodland types • Lack of appropriate management e.g. coppicing and inappropriate grazing etc. leading to lack of regeneration or changes in vegetation structure • Fragmentation of woods leading to increased		

Indicator	Quantified data (Blaenau Gwent)	Comparators (Quantified data for South Wales and Wales/England)	Targets	Trends	Issue identified	SEA topics	Source
			provenance.		likelihood of loss of wet wood component through development of drier woodland types • Lack of natural regeneration • Alder disease reduces Alder populations, thus changing the composition of alder woods. • Lack of financial support to encourage appropriate management • Invasion by introduced non native species such as Japanese Knotweed and Himalayan balsam which reduces quality of individual woodland sites		

Indicator	Quantified data (Blaenau Gwent)	Comparators (Quantified data for South Wales and Wales/England)	Targets	Trends	Issue identified	SEA topics	Source
					woodland sites • Changes in the composition of lower plant communities as a result of atmospheric pollution and global warming. • Water pollution reducing the quality of individual sites • Difficulty with management due to poor access and boggy condition of site. **Lowland Beech and Yew Woodland** *Beech and yew woodland is affected by the following:* • Grey squirrels strip the bark from young		
	Lowland beech and yew woodland Greater Gwent: 279 ha Blaenau Gwent: More information is needed on the extent and condition of surviving beech woodland resource in Blaenau Gwent. Beech and yew woodland has not been subject to	**Lowland beech and yew woodland** National: A habitat limited to southern England and Wales with an estimate total area of 30,000 hectares. Wales: An estimate of 3,000 ha,	**Lowland beech and yew woodland** Determine the extent and condition of the beech woodland in Blaenau so that by 2003 all woods over 2 hectares within				

Indicator	Quantified data (Blaenau Gwent)	Comparators (Quantified data for South Wales and Wales/England)	Targets	Trends	Issue identified	SEA topics	Source
	has not been subject to extensive replanting although much of the woodland is a remnant of former larger stands especially in the west.	equivalent to 10% of the UK resource.	hectares within BG should have been surveyed. • Maintain current extent of beech woodlands. • Improve the condition of 100% of beech woodland within SSSI's by 2010. • Consider the establishment of a site or sites demonstrating good practice in both retention and management of existing beech woodland and the expansion of those woodlands by 2015. • Initiate colonisation or planting of 10%		trees resulting in the death of the trees and changes in age and species composition. • Invasive woodland trees spreading into beech and yew woodland especially sycamore, Acer pseudoplatanus, rhododendron, Rhododendron ponticum and cherry laurel, Prunus laurocerasus. • The predominant old age structure of existing stands makes them prone to drought, storms and disease. • Grazing of the understory,		

Indicator	Quantified data (Blaenau Gwent)	Comparators (Quantified data for South Wales and Wales/England)	Targets	Trends	Issue identified	SEA topics	Source
			of the existing beech woodland, expanding on existing woodland sites by 2010 in line with the Greater Gwent Biodiversity Action Group objectives.		particularly by sheep preventing natural regeneration. • Many owners of woodland lack expertise/interest or are unaware of the incentives available to correctly manage the woodland. • The loss of mature and dying trees will have an adverse affect on priority species. • On steep sites some woodlands are inaccessible making fencing operations difficult and a low priority. Many sites are unstable and subject to land slide.		

Indicator	Quantified data (Blaenau Gwent)	Comparators (Quantified data for South Wales and Wales/England)	Targets	Trends	Issue identified	SEA topics	Source
	Purple moor-grass and rush pasture Greater Gwent: Estimated at 420 ha from Phase 1 Survey (1990), approximately 0.75% of the UK resource. Blaenau Gwent: Unknown	**Purple moor-grass and rush pasture** National: 56,000 hectares Wales: 31,000 hectares	**Purple moor-grass and rush pasture** Define extent and condition of purple moor-grass and rush pasture by completion of the upland survey and other locations (by 2003). • Secure sympathetic management agreements and/or conservation status (SINC) for at least 25% of purple moor-grass and rush pasture in BG (by 2004). • Seek opportunities to create/recreate 5% of purple moor-grass and rush		slide. **Purple moor-grass and Rush Pasture** *Current factors affecting the habitat and associated species:* • Agricultural improvement through drainage, cultivation, reseeding and fertiliser applications. • Inappropriate management, including overgrazing by sheep and too frequent burning. • Agricultural abandonment, leading to rankness and scrub encroachment through lack of grazing.		

Indicator	Quantified data (Blaenau Gwent)	Comparators (Quantified data for South Wales and Wales/England)	Targets	Trends	Issue identified	SEA topics	Source
			pasture in BG. (by 2006).		• Fragmentation and disturbance by developments such as housing, industry and road construction. • Afforestation. • Inappropriate land reclamation schemes where purple moor-grass and rush pasture is often viewed as 'wasteland'. • Limited applicability of agri-environment schemes such as Tir Gofal. Much purple moorgrass and rush pasture is found on commons where its is difficult, though not		

Indicator	Quantified data (Blaenau Gwent)	Comparators (Quantified data for South Wales and Wales/England)	Targets	Trends	Issue identified	SEA topics	Source
					not impossible, to apply Tir Gofal. • Lack of up to date survey information. • Failure to digitise and analyse existing data. • Lack of awareness of purple moorgrass and rush pasture within the Local Authority, landowners and the public.		
	Calcareous grassland Greater Gwent: Unknown 52 ha, consisting of 44 hectares of unimproved habitat and 8 hectares of semi improved habitat recorded within the Phase 1 Habitat Survey of Gwent in 1995 (Westwood et al.).	**Calcareous grassland** National: 21,900ha - Upland; 33,333ha (estimate) - Lowland Wales: 800ha about 3.6% of the national resource – upland; 1,000 ha at least about 3% of the national resource –	**Calcareous grassland** • Arrest the depletion of unimproved lowland calcareous grassland throughout the UK. • Prepare and maintain a complete		**Calcareous Grassland** *Specific factors relating to the habitat decline include:* • Industrial and residential development (including sites which are currently proposed for		

Indicator	Quantified data (Blaenau Gwent)	Comparators (Quantified data for South Wales and Wales/England)	Targets	Trends	Issue identified	SEA topics	Source
	Blaenau Gwent: 4.73ha (estimate-there maybe some overlap between upland and lowland in this figure.) – upland; Unknown – lowland. The limited resource of calcareous grassland has been severely depleted in recent decades and many remaining areas are now fragmented, with many sites containing small pockets of habitat of less than 1 hectare.	lowland.	complete record of the habitat resource in BG by2003. • Maintain the ecological characteristics of the existing BG resource of calcareous grassland habitat. • Secure appropriate management of calcareous grassland to favourable conservationst atus by 2010. • Identify sites which can be restored/re-created by an additional 10% of the total BG habitat resource, targeting those sites which are adjacent to or near to existing habitat (via land		development in Unitary Development Plans). • Agricultural 'improvements', including re-seeding and heavy applications of fertiliser and other chemicals. • Lack of appropriate management by over-grazing, under-grazing and cessation of grazing (which allows the onset of scrub for example) – a particular problem where the habitat is included in common land, where grazing levels can be difficult to influence/contr ol. •		

Indicator	Quantified data (Blaenau Gwent)	Comparators (Quantified data for South Wales and Wales/England)	Targets	Trends	Issue identified	SEA topics	Source
			management and land purchases) where appropriate (e.g. Trefil Quarry). Minimum of 1ha by 2006.		Unsympathetic management of road verges and other man-made sites. • Fragmentation, isolation and disturbance of the habitat as a result of residential, industrial or road developments. • Grant aided woodland planting or commercial forestry. • Lack of biological information relating to the habitat and its associations with other habitats/ species. • An incomplete inventory identifying the extent of the habitat within		

Indicator	Quantified data (Blaenau Gwent)	Comparators (Quantified data for South Wales and Wales/England)	Targets	Trends	Issue identified	SEA topics	Source
					Blaenau Gwent – sites may exist which have not yet been identified. • Limited availability of agri-environment grants and in particular specific financial incentives for the management of lowland calcareous grassland. • Lack of awareness of the nature conservation significance of the habitat, and particularly on the part of planning authorities, landowners/managers and national or local government bodies		

Indicator	Quantified data (Blaenau Gwent)	Comparators (Quantified data for South Wales and Wales/England)	Targets	Trends	Issue identified	SEA topics	Source
	Dwarf Shrub heath Gwent: 340 ha. of Lowland Heath: 2460 ha. of upland heath Blaenau Gwent: Unknown	**Dwarf Shrub heath** UK and Ireland: The total area of lowland heath is 290,000 ha. National: 58,000 ha of lowland heath - 20% of the worlds total: 2,112,000 ha. of upland heath Wales: 62,500 ha.	**Dwarf Shrub heath** • Define extent and condition of dwarf shrub heath by completion of the upland survey and other locations (by 2003). • Secure sympathetic management agreements and/or conservation status (SINC) for at least 25% of dwarf shrub heath in BG – by 2004 • Review existing and proposed tree planting schemes to ensure that dwarf shrub heath is not adversely		bodies. **Dwarf Shrub Heath** *Factors affecting the habitat and associated species:* • Unsuitable grazing levels – too high or too low • Erosion from recreational vehicles, bicycles and walkers • Invasion by scrub and/or bracken • Heathland fires • Tree planting schemes shading out regenerating heather • Developments especially industrial units • Pipeline		

Indicator	Quantified data (Blaenau Gwent)	Comparators (Quantified data for South Wales and Wales/England)	Targets	Trends	Issue identified	SEA topics	Source
			affected – by 2002 • Recreate, adjacent to existing blocks of dwarf shrub heath, 5% of the total area by 2005.		developments predominantly gas pipelines • Emissions of nitrous oxide leading to artificial enrichment • Emissions leading to acid rain • Dwarf shrub heath is often on common land where achieving agreed grazing levels that harmonise nature conservation with agricultural land-use can sometimes be difficult • Fragmentation caused by the above factors		

Indicator	Quantified data (Blaenau Gwent)	Comparators (Quantified data for South Wales and Wales/England)	Targets	Trends	Issue identified	SEA topics	Source
	Blanket Bogs Greater Gwent: An area of approximately 200- 500 ha is present. Blaenau Gwent: Unknown. More information is needed to fully assess the current status of this habitat in Blaenau Gwent.	**Blanket Bogs** National: The estimated total area of UK blanket bog is 1,475,000 ha. Wales: The estimate for Wales lies between 5,000 – 7,000 ha, equivalent to 10% of the UK resource	**Blanket Bogs** • Define extent and condition of blanket bog by completion of the upland survey and other locations (by 2003). • Maintain current extent of blanket bogs • Consider the need to protect blanket bogs with Site of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC) status (by 2003) • Create further blanket bog (5 Ha.) by constricting flows in existing mires by 2010 in line with the Greater Gwent Biodiversity Action Group objectives. • Enter into		**Blanket Bogs** *Factors affecting this habitat and associated species:* • Upland afforestation predominantly with coniferous trees • Drainage of upland areas often to improve grazing • Changes in grazing pressure lead to increased disturbance to the habitat • Recreational pressure on uplands causing erosion on peatlands and disturbance to the habitat • Pipelines, Pylons and Windfarms leading to		

Indicator	Quantified data (Blaenau Gwent)	Comparators (Quantified data for South Wales and Wales/England)	Targets	Trends	Issue identified	SEA topics	Source
			discussions with Commoners Associations to secure sympathetic grazing regimes. (by 2010)		development and destruction of the habitat • Aerial pollution. The result of acid rain is to remove sphagnum from blanket bogs. • Lack of financial support to encourage appropriate management • Burning of moorland • Failure of Tir Gofal to address moorland degradation by unsympathetic management.		
	Mesotrophic standing waters Greater Gwent: 5 Candidate lakes are found in Gwent Blaenau Gwent:	**Mesotrophic standing waters** National: Approximately 600 known or potentially known mesotrophic lakes have been	**Mesotrophic standing waters** • Define extent and condition of mesotrophic		**Mesotrophic Standing Waters** *Factors affecting this habitat and associated*		

Indicator	Quantified data (Blaenau Gwent)	Comparators (Quantified data for South Wales and Wales/England)	Targets	Trends	Issue identified	SEA topics	Source
	Approximately 10.9 ha	lakes have been identified as part of the UK Mesotrophic Lakes Inventory but further work is required to quantify the complete resource Wales: A list of 33 sites under consideration as mesotrophic lakes has been established. Further information is required to confirm their status	lakes (by 2003). • Maintain and improve the conservation interest of standing open waters • Create new standing open waters of maximum wildlife benefit where possible		*species:* • Eutrophication caused primarily by nitrates or phosphates in sewage or fertiliser run-off. • Acidification may occur locally in areas with sensitive geology and soils, as a result of atmospheric deposition of pollutants. • The delicate balance of nutrients found within mesotrophic lakes means that their biological character is very sensitive to environmental change. Pollution arising from		

Indicator	Quantified data (Blaenau Gwent)	Comparators (Quantified data for South Wales and Wales/England)	Targets	Trends	Issue identified	SEA topics	Source
	Ponds and temporary water *Factors affecting this habitat and associated species:* Greater Gwent: Unknown Blaenau Gwent: Little is known about the extent of small ponds in the borough. • Agricultural in-filling has been responsible for the loss of many farmland ponds. • Industrial and residential development has led to the loss or compromising of urban fringe pools and ponds through in-filling and draining. • Land-fill schemes continue to threaten the remaining pond resource. • Competition for alternative land-use, e.g. development • Natural in-filling, from	**Ponds and temporary water** National: There are 295,000 ponds in Britain. Wales: There are 4,500 ponds in Wales.	**Ponds and temporary water** • Define number and condition of ponds by survey (by 2004). • Maintain and improve the conservation interest of ponds.		organic matter, silt, heavy metals and thermal discharges represents a major threat to this habitat. Pollution in the form of nutrient enrichment (particularly Phosphorus) often results from contamination with sewage effluent, accidental spillages and run-off from adjacent land used for agriculture and forestry. Algal blooms are a common symptom of enrichment • Lowering of water levels caused by over abstraction of surface or ground water; or by drainage.		

Indicator	Quantified data (Blaenau Gwent)	Comparators (Quantified data for South Wales and Wales/England)	Targets	Trends	Issue identified	SEA topics	Source
	sediment and marsh vegetation. • Rubbish tipping. • Over fishing. • Pollution (including mine water seepage and historical chemical dumping) is an on-going problem on many sites. • Lack of management or inappropriate management threatens many sites. • Occasionally over-enthusiastic management can destroy marginal and shallow water features of biodiversity value.				or by drainage. • Urbanisation and in-filling of ponds. • Inappropriate management on multiple use water bodies where activities (e.g. Recreation, fish farming) are not sensitively managed (e.g. by zoning), and where surrounding habitats are inappropriately managed or neglected. • Fish introduced for sport can also affect the delicate ecological balance of Mesotrophic lakes, through increased competition, release of nutrients and		

Indicator	Quantified data (Blaenau Gwent)	Comparators (Quantified data for South Wales and Wales/England)	Targets	Trends	Issue identified	SEA topics	Source
					by introducing species such as microscopic crustaceans which play an important role in controlling algal populations. • Changes in surrounding land use that alters the water table, change the pollution load, or degrade or remove valuable adjacent habitat. In particular soil erosion from neighbouring land can add nutrients and reduce water clarity. • Recreation. Water borne traffic can damage aquatic plants and cause a decline in the		

Indicator	Quantified data (Blaenau Gwent)	Comparators (Quantified data for South Wales and Wales/England)	Targets	Trends	Issue identified	SEA topics	Source
	Gardens Greater Gwent: Unknown Blaenau Gwent: 25,411 gardens (maximum possible)	**Gardens** National: At least 16 million (covering over a thousand square miles). (Readers digest statistics). Wales: Unknown	**Gardens** • Identify those species that are common or rare in BG gardens. (by 2004) • Increase biodiversity in suburban environments.		macrophyte communities, which may favour algal growth. **Gardens** *Factors affecting this habitat and associated species:* • Pesticides and fertilisers are detrimental to biodiversity. • Tidy gardens, where there is a lack of decaying material left for micro-organisms and invertebrates. • Tarmac and patios decrease the natural resource available for wildlife to use. • Alternative land-use, usually in the		

Indicator	Quantified data (Blaenau Gwent)	Comparators (Quantified data for South Wales and Wales/England)	Targets	Trends	Issue identified	SEA topics	Source
					form of developments that either reduce the size of gardens or totally swallow them. • Drainage of garden pools, ponds and boggy areas reduce habitats suitable for amphibians and aquatic species. • Felling of mature trees and shrubs near to houses reduces opportunities for birds, bats and insects. • Small gardens found in many new housing developments. • Non-native plants introduced may not favour local wildlife.		

Indicator	Quantified data (Blaenau Gwent)	Comparators (Quantified data for South Wales and Wales/England)	Targets	Trends	Issue identified	SEA topics	Source
					• Domestic pets can be a threat to wildlife e.g. cats.		
Geodiversity	The main features of Blaenau Gwent are the deeply incised valleys of the Sirhowy, Ebbw Fach and Ebbw Fawr rivers, which flow in a southerly direction from the relatively high moorland plateau running across the northern extremity in an east to west direction. Much of the natural vegetation has been removed because of the industrialisation of the area. The landscape /geomorphology of the Blaenau Gwent area is controlled by Upper Palaeozoic, Upper Carboniferous rocks of the Productive Coal Formation (Lower-Middle Coal Measures) and overlying South Wales Pennant and Grovesend formations (Pennant Measures/Upper Coal Measures). 23 Aspect Areas have			The geological landscape is relatively robust; in upland plateau areas where the condition is generally Good. The trend, where subject mainly to natural weathering and degradation – as across wide areas of the upland plateau - is considered relatively Constant. In coal mining areas, extraction has largely ceased, and reclaimed or made ground in the valleys has been developed. The condition in such areas is more generally Fair, but the	Coal mining was an important industry, and evidence of previous mining activity remains in the landscape in the form of spoil heaps, tips, mine shafts and areas of made ground. On valley slopes with ancient landslips, renewed instability has resulted from extraction of coal and ironstone.		http://landmap.ccw.gov.uk/files/BLNGWGL170904%5B1%5D.pdf http://www.wefo.cymru.gov.uk/resource/Blaenau_Gwent_Local_Strategy_2003.pdf

Indicator	Quantified data (Blaenau Gwent)	Comparators (Quantified data for South Wales and Wales/England)	Targets	Trends	Issue identified	SEA topics	Source
	been described and recorded in LANDMAP Collector. Evaluations are based on the potential for research and education as outlined for the Geological Conservation Review (GCR), where Outstanding evaluations are restricted to areas with prime geoconservation sites. Currently there are no RIGS sites listed, which typically include prime educational sites not covered by an SSSI designation. Of the 23 Aspect Areas, 26% are rated as Outstanding or High, 61% as Moderate (which is the default), and 13% low.			Fair, but the trend remains Constant. Management priorities are long-term, as is appropriate to a Level 3 study.			
Woodland cover	Cwm Merddog and Coed Ty'n y Gelli SSSIs near Cwm are fine examples of ancient semi natural woodland, notably beech woodlands at the western extremity of their range. It is a biological SSSI on the Silent Valley Local Nature Reserve.		Increase woodland cover by 10% over the next 10 years		The plan to increase woodland cover will provide Blaenau Gwent with a more attractive environment and help to combat Air Quality issues.	Landsc-ape Biodive-rsity Flora and Fauna	Blaenau Gwent Commun-ity Plan 2005-2009 SEWBReC, Biodiversity Informat-

Indicator	Quantified data (Blaenau Gwent)	Comparators (Quantified data for South Wales and Wales/England)	Targets	Trends	Issue identified	SEA topics	Source
	ASNW/PAWS sites: Site ID 2051 – ASNW, 1.95ha 2055 – ASNW, 1.13 ha 2082 – ASNW, 7.16 ha 2083 – ASNW, 4.43 ha 2102 – ASNW, 15.53 ha 2114 – ASNW, 12.17 ha 2120 – ASNW, 3.05 ha 2131 – ASNW, 2.29 ha 2167 – ASNW, 4.26 ha 2175 – ASNW, 3.26 ha 2181 – PAWS, 12.10 ha 2182 – ASNW, 3.10 ha 2188 – PAWS, 82.72 ha 2209 – PAWS, 2.61 ha 2002 – ASNW, 8.62 ha 2199 – ASNW, 1.34 ha 2305 – ASNW, 1.46 ha						Information Search Results: Blaenau Gwent Designations (Sustainability Appraisal LDP), 18/05/2007
Land utilisation	Open Countryside - 45% Defined urban area - 23% Enclosed agricultural land – 20% Urban fringe – 9% Recreation sites – 3%				The area is predominantly Open countryside which may present development opportunity	Landscape Material Assets	The Countryside and Landscape Strategy 1998

Indicator	Quantified data (Blaenau Gwent)	Comparators (Quantified data for South Wales and Wales/England)	Targets	Trends	Issue identified	SEA topics	Source
					opportunity issues. The defined urban area is only 23% and this could mean that opportunities are concentrated and people living outside the urban areas may be at disadvantage with getting access to employment and services. There is also only a small proportion of recreational sites at only 3%		
Contaminated Land	2003 Contaminated Strategy Review: 1607 potentially contaminated sites, of which: - High Risk (previous or current uses include gas				There is a high proportion of contaminated sites which may present future development issues as the	Landsc-ape Human Health Soil	Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council Contami-nated Land

Indicator	Quantified data (Blaenau Gwent)	Comparators (Quantified data for South Wales and Wales/England)	Targets	Trends	Issue identified	SEA topics	Source
	works, landfill sites, petrol stations and military land) - 51 - Medium Risk - 880 - Low Risk - 676 Sites with a history of contaminative usage, which have been remediated: the former British Coal Workshops at Tredegar and the Dunlop Semtex site at Brynmawr.				cost of remediation might put investors off. There are only two sites that have had a history of contamination and have been remediated.		Strategy, Environmental Health and Trading Standards Division
Water Quality (Biological and Chemical quality classified under the General Quality Assessment (GQA) scheme)	The main water courses in Blaenau Gwent are the rivers Clydach, Ebbw Fach , Ebbw Fawr and Sirhowy Chemical water quality 2003/05: Clydach at: • STW Disch.Pt-Conf.Trib.abv B.m'r Rndabt) – B (Good) Ebbw Fach at: • Afon Tyleri - Trib.Henwaun Coll.- B (Good)	England & Wales Chemical water quality (percentage length) Good/Fair - 93.5 (2005) Poor/Bad - 6.5 (2005) Biological quality (percentage length) Good/Fair - 95.4(2005)		Chemical water quality: Clydach at: • STW Disch.Pt-Conf.Trib.abv B.m'r Rndabt) – A (Very Good), 2001/03 and B (Good), 1999/2001. Ebbw Fach at: • Afon Tyleri - Trib.Henwaun Coll.- B (Good), 2001/03 and B (Good), 1999/2001			Environment Agency: River Quality

Indicator	Quantified data (Blaenau Gwent)	Comparators (Quantified data for South Wales and Wales/England)	Targets	Trends	Issue identified	SEA topics	Source
	• Conf.Trib.Henwaun Coll-Conf.Nant Ystruth - B (Good) • Ebbw Fawr Conf. - Afon Tyleri – A (Very good) Ebbw Fawr at: • Conf.Ebbw Fach - Conf.Nant Big – A (Very good) • Conf.Nant Big - Conf.Nant Merddog – A (Very good) • Conf.Nant Kendon - Glandwr Bk. – A (Very Good) • Conf.Nant Merddog - Culvert Inlet – D (Fair) • Culvert Inlet - Rassau Bk. – B (Good) • Glandwr Bk. - Conf.Ebbw Fach – A (Very good) Sirhowy at: • Nant Melyn - Outlet Shon-Shefris Res. – A (Very good) • Nant Yr Helyg - Scotch Peter Trib. – A (Very good)	Poor/Bad - 4.6 (2005)		1999/2001 •Conf.Trib.Henwaun Coll-Conf.Nant Ystruth - B (Good) , 2001/03 and B (Good), 1999/2001 • Ebbw Fawr Conf. - Afon Tyleri – B (Good) , 2001/03 and B (Good),1999/2001 Ebbw Fawr at: • Conf.Ebbw Fach - Conf.Nant Big – B (Good) , 2001/03 and B (Good), 1999/2001 • Conf.Nant Big - Conf.Nant Merddog – B (Good) , 2001/03 and B (Good), 1999/2001			

Indicator	Quantified data (Blaenau Gwent)	Comparators (Quantified data for South Wales and Wales/England)	Targets	Trends	Issue identified	SEA topics	Source
	• Scotch Peter Trib.-Nant Melyn – E (Poor) Biological water quality: 2005: Clydach at: • STW Disch.Pt-Conf.Trib.abv B.m'r Rndabt) – B (Good) Ebbw Fawr at: • Glandwr Bk. - Conf.Ebbw Fach – C (Fairly good) Sirhowy at: • Nant Melyn - Outlet Shon-Shefris Res. – C (Fairly good), • Nant Yr Helyg - Scotch Peter Trib. - C (Fairly good), • Scotch Peter Trib.-Nant Melyn – D (Fair)			• Conf.Nant Kendon - Glandwr Bk. – B (Good) , 2001/03 and B (Good), 1999/2001 •Conf.Nant Merddog - Culvert Inlet – E (Poor) , 2001/03 and C (Fairly good), 1999/2001 • Culvert Inlet - Rassau Bk. – C (Fairly good) , 2001/03 and B (Good), 1999/2001 • Glandwr Bk. - Conf.Ebbw Fach – B (Good) , 2001/03 and B (Good), 1999/2001 Sirhowy at: • Nant Melyn - Outlet Shon-Shefris Res. – B (Good) , 2001/03 and B (Good),			

Indicator	Quantified data (Blaenau Gwent)	Comparators (Quantified data for South Wales and Wales/England)	Targets	Trends	Issue identified	SEA topics	Source
				1999/2001 • Nant Yr Helyg - Scotch Peter Trib. – B (Good) , 2001/03 and B (Good), 1999/2001 • Scotch Peter Trib.-Nant Melyn – C (Fairly good) , 2001/03 and D (Fair), 1999/2001 Biological water quality: Clydach at: • STW Disch.Pt-Conf.Trib.abv B.m'r Rndabt) – C (Fairly good), 2000 and C (Fairly good), 2002 Ebbw Fach at: • Afon Tyleri - Trib.Henwaun Coll.- B (Good), 2000 and C (Fairly good), 2003 and 2004 •Conf.Trib.Henw			

Indicator	Quantified data (Blaenau Gwent)	Comparators (Quantified data for South Wales and Wales/England)	Targets	Trends	Issue identified	SEA topics	Source
				aun Coll-Conf.Nant Ystruth - B (Good) , 2000 and C (Fairly good), 2004 • Ebbw Fawr Conf. - Afon Tyleri – D (Fair) , 2000 Ebbw Fawr at: • Conf.Ebbw Fach - Conf.Nant Big – B (Good) , 2000 and C (Fairly good), 2004 • Conf.Nant Big - Conf.Nant Merddog – B (Good) , 2000 and C (Fairly good), 2004 • Conf.Nant Kendon - Glandwr Bk. – C (Fairly good) , 2000 and C (Fairly good) , 2003 •Conf.Nant Merddog - Culvert Inlet – C			

Indicator	Quantified data (Blaenau Gwent)	Comparators (Quantified data for South Wales and Wales/England)	Targets	Trends	Issue identified	SEA topics	Source
				(Fairly good) , 2000 and C (Fairly good), 2004 • Culvert Inlet - Rassau Bk. – D (Fair) , 2000 and C (Fairly good), 2002, and C (Fairly good) , 2003 • Glandwr Bk. - Conf.Ebbw Fach – C (Fairly good) , 2000 Sirhowy at: • Nant Melyn - Outlet Shon-Shefris Res. – C (Fairly good), 2000 and B (Good), 2002 • Nant Yr Helyg - Scotch Peter Trib. – C (Fairly good) , 2000 and B (Good), 2002 • Scotch Peter Trib.-Nant Melyn – E (Poor) , 2000 and C (Fairly good),			

Indicator	Quantified data (Blaenau Gwent)	Comparators (Quantified data for South Wales and Wales/England)	Targets	Trends	Issue identified	SEA topics	Source
				2002 England & Wales Chemical water quality (percentage length) Good/Fair - 91.9 (1999), 94.3 (2002), 93.5 (2005) Poor/Bad - 8.1 (1999), 5.7 (2002), 6.5 (2005) Biological quality (percentage length) Good/Fair - 94.9 (2000), 95.3 (2003), 95.4(2005)			

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

Indicator	Quantified data (Blaenau Gwent)	Comparators (Quantified data for South Wales and Wales/England)	Targets	Trends	Issue identified	SEA topics	Source
			annually.		area.		
Annual Energy Consumption (Gwh)	2003 Industry & Commercial – 841.1 Domestic – 780.3 Transport – 252.5	2003 South East Ind & Com -18,333.3 Domestic – 12,203.3 Transport – 24.921.4 Wales Ind & Com 56,294.9 Domestic – 29,554.7 Transport – 24,921.4			Blaenau Gwent's contribution as a percentage of the South East for industrial commercial is 4.6% and 6.4% and 1% for Domestic and Transport respectively. These figures may not be as significant because energy consumption activity is on a much smaller scale than other areas in the south East, which houses the Capital city and second City where energy consumption activity is on a much larger scale	Material Assets Climatic Factors	http://www.dti.gov.uk/files/file19335.xls

Indicator	Quantified data (Blaenau Gwent)	Comparators (Quantified data for South Wales and Wales/England)	Targets	Trends	Issue identified	SEA topics	Source
Average Annual Gas Consumption (KWH)	2003 Average Domestic Consumption – 21,854 Average Industrial and Commercial Consumption – 458,411	2003 South East Average Domestic Consumption - 19,632.4 Average Industrial and Commercial Consumption – 902,509.6 Wales Average Domestic Consumption - 19,092 Average Industrial and Commercial Consumption – 896,725			The average domestic consumption for Blaenau Gwent is 21,854 Kwh, which is higher than the South East average at 19,632.4 Kwh. This may potentially be a reflection of Blaenau Gwent's housing conditions - there is a considerable amount of public housing stock in the LA area that, due to its age, may be less energy efficient.	Material Assets Climatic Factors	http://www.dti.gov.uk/files/file37898.xls
Annual Road Fuel Consumption (Kwh) thousand tonnes	2002 Personal – 13.2 Freight – 6.4	2002 South East Average Personal – 52.9 Freight – 26.12 Wales Personal – 58.6			Currently the fuel consumption is low in comparison with the South East and Wales, but if development is loaded into	Air Climatic Factors Material Assets	http://www.dti.gov.uk/files/file30072.xls

Indicator	Quantified data (Blaenau Gwent)	Comparators (Quantified data for South Wales and Wales/England)	Targets	Trends	Issue identified	SEA topics	Source
		Freight – 28.1			loaded into Blaenau Gwent as a result of the LDP, it is likely to be siginifcantly altered.		
Area of Open Country	*[awaiting data]*	National Area: 996,573 Ha				Landsc-ape	South East – Wales Spatial Plan Area Environ-mental Profile Draft October 2006
Area of Registered Common Land	*[awaiting data]*	South East: 5,261 Ha National Area: 115,283 Ha				Landsc-ape	South East – Wales Spatial Plan Area Environ-mental Profile Draft October 2006
Area of Public Forest	*[awaiting data]*	South East:				Landsc-ape	South East –

Indicator	Quantified data (Blaenau Gwent)	Comparators (Quantified data for South Wales and Wales/England)	Targets	Trends	Issue identified	SEA topics	Source
		20,596 Ha National Area: 99,261 Ha					Wales Spatial Plan Area Environmental Profile Draft October 2006
Area of Other Statutory Access Land	*[awaiting data]*	South East: 556,600Ha National Area: 612,098 Ha				Landsc-ape	South East – Wales Spatial Plan Area Environmental Profile Draft October 2006
Area of Country Parks	*[awaiting data]*	South East: 1,433 Ha National Area: 3,854 Ha				Landscape	South East – Wales Spatial Plan Area Environmental Profile Draft October 2006

Indicator	Quantified data (Blaenau Gwent)	Comparators (Quantified data for South Wales and Wales/England)	Targets	Trends	Issue identified	SEA topics	Source
Length of Public Rights of Way	299.4Km, comprising: Footpaths: 68% Bridleway: 18% CRB (carriageway mainly used as a Bridleway): 12% CRF (carriageway mainly used as a footpath): 1% BOAT (byway open to all traffic): 1%	South East: 5,744.1 Km National Area: 33,217.6 km		Only 5% of the network is surveyed on an annual basis.	The distribution of the different sorts of rights of way is uneven across the County Borough. The backlog of maintenance of rights of way means that the 68% of rights of way is not accessible to walkers. The factors restricting access are: Overgrown vegetation	Landscape	South East – Wales Spatial Plan Area Environmental Profile Draft October 2006 The Blaenau Gwent Rights of Way Improvement Plan 2007 (draft)

Indicator	Quantified data (Blaenau Gwent)	Comparators (Quantified data for South Wales and Wales/England)	Targets	Trends	Issue identified	SEA topics	Source
Use of Public Rights of Way	25% of population use footpaths on a daily basis. Most walk less than 4 miles, some walk 15 miles or more.					Landscape, Human Health, Population, Air	The Blaenau Gwent Rights of Way Improvement Plan 2007 (draft)

Indicator	Quantified data (Blaenau Gwent)	Comparators (Quantified data for South Wales and Wales/England)	Targets	Trends	Issue identified	SEA topics	Source
Length of National Trail	0 Km.	South East: 19.5 Km National Area: 640.1 km				Landsc-ape	South East – Wales Spatial Plan Area Environmental Profile Draft October 2006
Area of National Park	*[awaiting data]*	South East: 16,910 Ha National Area: 409721 Ha				Landsc-ape	South East – Wales Spatial Plan Area Environmental Profile Draft October 2006
Area of Historic Landscape	*[awaiting data]*	South East: 41,260 Ha National Area: 410,968 Ha				Landsc-ape	South East – Wales Spatial Plan Area Environmental Profile Draft October 2006

Indicator	Quantified data (Blaenau Gwent)	Comparators (Quantified data for South Wales and Wales/England)	Targets	Trends	Issue identified	SEA topics	Source
Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty	0Ha.	South East: 11,713 Ha National Area: 83,576 Ha				Landscape	South East – Wales Spatial Plan Area Environmental Profile Draft October 2006
Travel to Work Method	2001 Train - 75 Bus -1,010 Taxi - 201 Car or Van – 15,507 Motorcycle/Scooter - 142 Bicycle - 146 Walking – 3,135	2001 South East Average Train – 1,106 Bus – 3775.7 Taxi – 281.2 Car/Van – 34,701.6 Motorcycle – 421.8 Bicycle – 784 Walking – 5891.6 Wales Average Train – 646.2 Bus – 2730.1 Taxi – 252.5 Car/Van – 31,169.1 Motorbike – 4,573 Bicycle – 707.4		Overall in Wales the trend is towards increased trip rates, with an emphasis on increased road based transport.	There are significantly less people using public transport in Blaenau Gwent than the rest of the south east average. The main emphasis is around use of the car however this is still over 50% less than the average for the South East Local Authorities. Increased development may significantly alter these	Air Climatic Factors Soil Human Health Landscape Water	http://neighbourhood.statistics.gov.uk

Indicator	Quantified data (Blaenau Gwent)	Comparators (Quantified data for South Wales and Wales/England)	Targets	Trends	Issue identified	SEA topics	Source
		Walking – 5,301.8			figures and place more pressure on the environment with increased car use as Blaenau Gwent does not have the infrastructure to cope with significant increases in road usage.		
Distance Travelled to Work	2001 Less 2Km – 6,059 2km – 5Km – 5,993 5Km -10 Km – 3,696 10km – 20Km – 4,059 20Km – 30Km – 1,684 30Km – 40Km - 646 40Km – 60Km - 325 60+ Km – 345	2001 South East Average Less 2Km – 11,809 2km - 5Km – 11,938 5Km -10Km – 10,487 10km -20Km – 9,305 20Km -30Km – 3,603 30Km -40Km – 1,349 40Km -60Km - 325 60+ Km – 345 Wales Average			People in Blaenau Gwent are travelling significantly less distances compared to the averages for the South East Authorities as a whole. If access to a car is an issue it may be more difficult for people to travel so they are forced to find work in close proximity to their homes. If	Air Climatic Factors Soil Human Health Landscape Water	http://neighbourhood.statistics.gov.uk

Indicator	Quantified data (Blaenau Gwent)	Comparators (Quantified data for South Wales and Wales/England)	Targets	Trends	Issue identified	SEA topics	Source
		Less 2Km – 11,232 2km -5Km – 9,765 5Km -10Km -9,568 10km-20Km -8,615 20Km -30Km -3,246 30Km -40Km -1,288 40Km -60Km - 939 60+ Km – 1,649			their homes. If intense development was to occur around the Borough, the distances travelled may significantly increase and may also encourage more people to commute into Blaenau Gwent, which is likely to have environmental consequences.		
Road Accidents (Occupants Killed or Seriously Injured)	Jan 01 – Dec 01 - 15 Jan 02 – Dec 02 - 7 Jan 03 – Dec 03 - 15	South East Average Jan 01- Dec 01 - 32.2 Jan 02 -Dec 02 - 26.1 Jan 03 -Dec 03 - 33 Wales Average Jan 01- Dec 01 - 43.1 Jan 02 -Dec 02 - 41 Jan 03 -Dec 03 - 42.4			The number of people killed or seriously injured in Blaenau Gwent is significantly lower than the averages for South East Wales and Wales as a whole. However if as a result of the LDP there was intense	Human Health Population	http://neighbourhood.statistics.gov.uk

Indicator	Quantified data (Blaenau Gwent)	Comparators (Quantified data for South Wales and Wales/England)	Targets	Trends	Issue identified	SEA topics	Source
					development in the area, then Blaenau Gwent is unlikely to cope as well with increased traffic and these numbers may potentially significantly increase.		
Distance to Services (Miles)	*[no data sourced to date]*	South East **Cycle Path** <0.5 miles – 30% 0.5 – 1 miles -16% 1 – 2 miles - 7% 2 – 3 miles - 3% Over 3 miles - 6% Don't Know - 33% **Bus Stop** <0.5 miles - 87% 0.5 – 1 miles – 8% 1 – 2 miles - 1% 2 – 3 miles - 0% Over 3 miles – 0% Don't Know – 0%					http://www.sewta.gov.uk/PDF/AnnualReport0506.pdf

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

Indicator	Quantified data (Blaenau Gwent)	Comparators (Quantified data for South Wales and Wales/England)	Targets	Trends	Issue identified	SEA topics	Source
		1,143,121 No car or van – 297,665 (26%) 1 car or van – 520,040 (45.5)% 2 car or van – 262,068 (23%) 3 car or van – 49,111 (4.3%) 4+ 14,237 (1.2%) Total Vehicles – 1,254,628			of people without car access, means that there may be difficulties in access to employment, potentially resulting in higher numbers of people in local lower skilled employment.		
Municipal Solid Waste Arisings (tonnes)	98/99 – 46,350 99/00 – 46,960 99/01 – 43,242 01/02 – 47,530 02/03 – 47,867 03/04 – 50,737 04/05 – 54,853	**South East Average** 98/99 – 70,422.2 99/00 – 69,942.4 99/01 – 71,067.4 01/02 –75,278.2 02/03 – 76,221.5 03/04 – 79,797.5 04/05 – 84,261.7			Blaenau Gwent is producing far less municipal solid waste than the South Wales authority average, however further development is likely to increase this number significantly.	Soil Human Health Air Climatic Factors	South East Wales Regional Waste Group, Annual Monitoring Report March 2006

Indicator	Quantified data (Blaenau Gwent)	Comparators (Quantified data for South Wales and Wales/England)	Targets	Trends	Issue identified	SEA topics	Source
Household Waste Arisings (tonnes)	98/99 – 36,415 99/00 – 37,209 99/01 – 35,886 01/02 – 38,142 02/03 – 35,586 03/04 – 38,402 04/05 – 44,578	**South East Average** 98/99 – 60,687.1 99/00 – 63,761.3 99/01 – 61,394.7 01/02 – 63,440.7 02/03 – 65,019.4 03/04 – 67,585.7 04/05 – 70,012.1		Direction of change is broadly towards an increase in household waste arisings.	The household waste arisings for Blaenau Gwent are significantly lower than the south east average. This is likely to be because Blaenau Gwent is less densely populated than other authorities in the region so as a total for the county, produces relatively less than other authorities. However, increased housing development and improvements to existing housing stock are likely to significantly increase household waste.	Soil Human Health Air Climatic Factors	South East Wales Regional Waste Group, Annual Monitoring Report March 2006

Indicator	Quantified data (Blaenau Gwent)	Comparators (Quantified data for South Wales and Wales/England)	Targets	Trends	Issue identified	SEA topics	Source
Household Waste Arisings (Per Household) (tonnes)	97/98 - DNA 98/99 – 1,321 99/00 – 1,258 99/01 – 1,213 01/02 – 1,289 02/03 – 1,169 03/04 – 1,298 04/05 – 1,507	**South East** 97/98 – 1,092 98/99 – 1,113 99/00 – 1,170 99/01 – 1,126 01/02 – 1,164 02/03 – 1.193 03/04 – 1,240 04/05 – 1,284	By 2009/10 Arisings should be no more than those (for Wales) in 1997/98		The household waste arisings per household since 1998 have been increasing more rapidly than the south east; in 1998 Blaenau Gwent showed 1,321 tonnes per household compared to 1,113 for the south east. Then in 2005 Blaenau Gwent was 1,507 compared to 1,284. Increased housing development is likely to significantly increase these figures; Blaenau Gwent is not as capable of dealing with as high waste productions as other areas in	Soil Human Health Air Climatic Factors	South East Wales Regional Waste Group, Annual Monitoring Report March 2006

Indicator	Quantified data (Blaenau Gwent)	Comparators (Quantified data for South Wales and Wales/England)	Targets	Trends	Issue identified	SEA topics	Source
					the south east.		
Household Waste Arisings (Per Person) (tonnes)	98/99 – 511 99/00 – 524 99/01 – 509 01/02 – 545 02/03 – 499 03/04 – 557 04/05 – 648	**South East** 98/99 – 455 99/00 – 478 99/01 – 460 01/02 – 476 02/03 – 486 03/04 – 503 04/05 – 519	By 2020 waste arisings per person should be less than 300kg per annum		The waste arisings per person since 1998 in Blaenau Gwent have been increasing more rapidly than the south east; in 1998 Blaenau Gwent showed 511 tonnes per person compared to 455 for the south east. Then in 2005 Blaenau Gwent was 648 compared to 519. Improved housing stock and development of affordable housing together with increased job opportunities is likely to increase to the population of	Soil Human Health Air Climatic Factors	South East Wales Regional Waste Group, Annual Monitoring Report March 2006

Indicator	Quantified data (Blaenau Gwent)	Comparators (Quantified data for South Wales and Wales/England)	Targets	Trends	Issue identified	SEA topics	Source
					the area and these numbers could significantly increase. Blaenau Gwent is also less equipped for dealing with high amounts of waste than other areas in the South East.		
Municipal Solid Waste Recycled or Composted (tonnes)	98/99 – 1,493 (3.2%) 99/00 – 1,476 (3.1%) 99/01 – 1,075 (2.5%) 01/02 – 1,401 (2.9%) 02/03 – 3,102 (6.5%) 03/04 – 9,389 (18.5%) 04/05 – 12,228 (22.3%)	**South East** **98/99** 30,912 (4.4%) **99/00** 37,654 (5.4%) **99/01** 33,253 (4.7%) **01/02** 48,372 (6.4%) **02/03** 82,137 (10.8%) **03/04** 137,074 (17.2%) **04/05** 174,729 (20.7%)		**Blaenau Gwent** ***2006/07 forecast*** 14,832 (25%) ***2009/10 forecast*** 26.695 (40%) **South East Wales** ***2006/07 forecast*** 227,844 (25%) ***2009/10 forecast*** 410,069 (40%)	Blaenau Gwent compares relatively well with recycling to the south east: in 2005 it was 22.5% compared to 20.7% from the south east. Significant development may see more issues related to recycling for Blaenau Gwent as the capacity to cope is less than other areas, which may see them fail to meet their future	Soil Human Health Air Climatic Factors	South East Wales Regional Waste Group, Annual Monitoring Report March 2006

Indicator	Quantified data (Blaenau Gwent)	Comparators (Quantified data for South Wales and Wales/England)	Targets	Trends	Issue identified	SEA topics	Source
					their future targets.		
Land filled Biodegradable Municipal Solid Waste (tonnes)	2002/03 – 27,891 2003/04 – 25,498	**South East Average** 2002/03 – 41,774 2003/04 – 40,73.5 **Actual Tonnes** 2002/03 – 417,740 2003/04 – 407,335		**Blaenau Gwent** ***2009/10*** ***Landfill allowance-*** 20,224 ***Diversion Required***– 20,485 ***2012/13*** ***NWSW target -*** 10,221 ***Diversion Required –*** 35,572 **South East**	Blaenau Gwent is sending less biodegradable waste to landfill than the south east. Increased development may, however, have a significant impact on the current situation.	Soil Human Health Air Climatic Factors	South East Wales Regional Waste Group, Annual Monitoring Report March 2006

Indicator	Quantified data (Blaenau Gwent)	Comparators (Quantified data for South Wales and Wales/England)	Targets	Trends	Issue identified	SEA topics	Source
				Wales ***2009/10*** ***Landfill allowance-*** 315,024 ***Diversion Required***– 310,331 ***2012/13*** ***NWSW target -*** 203,667 ***Diversion Required –*** 499,772			
Industrial and Commercial Waste by management method 2003/03 (tonnes)	Land Disposal – 17,422 Land Recovery - 257 Re-used – 4,006 Recycled – 18,729 Thermal - 827 Transfer - 2,485 Treatment – 922 Unrecorded/ Unsampled – 12.323	**South East Average** Land Disposal 31,164.4 Land Recovery 930.8 Re-used 27,982.3 Recycled		**Blaenau Gwent** ***Forecast arisings*** ***2008/09 –*** 54,650 ***2009/10 –*** 53,883 ***2010/11*** – 53,257 ***2011/12*** – 52,746	Blaenau Gwent is generating less industrial and commercial waste by all management methods than the south east. In order to meet the NWSW landfill in 2009/10 Blaenau Gwent	Soil Human Health Air Climatic Factors	South East Wales Regional Waste Group, Annual Monitoring Report March 2006

Indicator	Quantified data (Blaenau Gwent)	Comparators (Quantified data for South Wales and Wales/England)	Targets	Trends	Issue identified	SEA topics	Source
	Total – 56,971	39,991,2 Thermal 2,260.1 Transfer 4,251.9 Treatment 2,733.6 Unrecorded/ Unsampled 22,303.7 Total 131,619.1 **Actual Tonnes** Land Disposal 311,644 Land Recovery 9,308 Re-used 279,823 Recycled 399,912 Thermal 22,601 Transfer 42,519 Treatment		52,746 ***2012/13*** – 52,329 ***2013/14*** – 51,992 ***2014/15*** – 51723 ***2016/16*** – 51,457 ***Forecast requirement for diversion from landfill*** ***(2003/03 I&C to Landfill – 17,422)*** ***2009/10*** ***NWSW target*** 37,525 ***Diversion required*** 16,358 **South East** ***Forecast arisings***	is going to need to divert 16,358 tonnes. Blaenau Gwent's forecasting a predicted reduction in industrial and commercial waste arisings. Increased development could affect these figures.		

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

Indicator	Quantified data (Blaenau Gwent)	Comparators (Quantified data for South Wales and Wales/England)	Targets	Trends	Issue identified	SEA topics	Source
				NWSW target 746,423 ***Diversion required*** 423,757			
Special Waste	1999 – 18,307 2000 – 17,528 2001 – 21,763 2002 – 9,525 2003 – 11,426	**South East Average** 1999 – 25,263.9 2000 – 19,027.6 2001 – 12,995.0 2002 – 10,667.4 2003 – 10,923.7 **Actual Tonnes** 1999 – 252,639 2000 – 190,276 2001 – 129,950 2002 – 106,674 2003 – 109,237	**Blaenau Gwent** **2010** – 14,022 **South East** **2010 –** 152,221	**South East** **2005 – 2015** Linear change from +5% towards -5% pa **2016 – 2025** -1% pa	In 2001 Blaenau Gwent was producing significantly more special waste (17,528) than the south east (12,995). In 2002 it cut that figure by half (9,525) and was under the south east average (10,667), but in 2003 it was slightly above again with 11,426 tonnes compared to 10,923. Dealing with special waste could become an issue for	Soil Human Health Air Climatic Factors	South East Wales Regional Waste Group, Annual Monitoring Report March 2006

Indicator	Quantified data (Blaenau Gwent)	Comparators (Quantified data for South Wales and Wales/England)	Targets	Trends	Issue identified	SEA topics	Source
					Blaenau Gwent.		
IPPC Sites three separate tiers of regulation A1 These tend to be large and complex processes. Local Authority Integrated Pollution Prevention and Control (LA-IPPC) - known as part A2 Installations. Local Authority Pollution Prevention and Control - (LAPPC) - known as part B Installations. These are regulated by Local Authorities and are the most	In Blaenau Gwent there are currently 30 installations regulated under the Pollution Prevention and Control (England and Wales) Regulations. A list of the processes can be found on the link below. Of these 23 are part B, 2 are A2 and 5 are A1						http://www.blaenau-gwent.gov.uk/community/1582.asp

Indicator	Quantified data (Blaenau Gwent)	Comparators (Quantified data for South Wales and Wales/England)	Targets	Trends	Issue identified	SEA topics	Source
common type of process regulated.							

Appendix E Strategic Options Assessment

Table E.1 - Assessment of Options to achieve the 'vision' of the County Borough

Scale of Effect (SE): 0 – no effect; +++ strongly positive; ++ moderately positive; + slightly positive; --- strongly negative; -- moderately negative; - slightly negative; ? effect unknown

	Option 1: Regeneration (continuation of the Unitary Development Plan Strategy) ▪ population decline from the 2006 figure ▪ no new housing allocations (urban containment) and a house build rate of 117 per annum ▪ continuation of the existing employment allocations and strategy ▪ the main towns of Tredegar, Ebbw Vale, Brynmawr, Blaina and Abertillery would be the focus of shopping, commercial, cultural, social and leisure activity ▪ the main expansion of services in Ebbw Vale		**Option 2: Growth and Regeneration** ▪ stems out-migration leading to an increase in population to 71,000 ▪ a house build rate of 200 per annum ▪ emphasis of growth and regeneration in the Heads of Valleys and a regeneration focus in the south of the County Borough ▪ a new hierarchy of towns with Ebbw Vale becoming the regional centre, with Tredegar, Brynmawr and Abertillery becoming district shopping centres. Blaina would become a local shopping centre ▪ specific roles would be provided for town centres, which are currently in decline, in an attempt to encourage their growth. ▪ new employment opportunities to broaden offer This option is based around attempting to address the issues identified at the July 2007 (prioritisation of issues) workshop and is informed by National Guidance, particularly the Wales Spatial Plan and the Blaenau Gwent Regeneration Strategy.		**Option 3: Balanced and Interconnected Communities** ▪ stems out-migration and stabilises population at 2006 levels ▪ the house build rate would be 157 per annum ▪ the emphasis is to spread growth according to the share of population which means it would be allocated in the Ebbw Fach Valley ▪ equalise employment through de-allocating some employment sites in the north and relocating them County Borough wide, close to towns ▪ no retail hierarchy but the number of town centres in the County Borough would be reduced from five to four (Abertillery, Brynmawr, Ebbw Vale and Tredegar) by excluding Blaina ▪ new complementary roles for the town centres. This strategy attempts to address the issues identified and is based on ideology set out in the regional guidance document Turning Heads.	
SA Objective	**SE**	**Comments/Explanation**	**SE**	**Comments/Explanation**	**SE**	**Comments/Explanation**
Economic						
1. To promote economic growth and strengthen and diversify the local economy	--	The option will not lead to the diversification of the economy, as the strategy focuses on large inward investment projects, which are no longer appropriate in the current economic climate.	++	The option will promote economic growth and seeks to specifically diversify the economy through the development of the manufacturing, tourism, leisure and social care sectors.	+	The option seeks to de-allocate land identified for manufacturing and re-allocate sites closer to the main towns. It should be ensured that the sites are appropriate for the diversification of the economy. The

						towns are to be developed to provide tourism and leisure functions alongside retail and other services which will improve and enhance the diversification of the economy.
2. To increase levels of local employment and ensure distribution of opportunities	--	The economic development strategy is unsuitable for the current economic climate, and this is unlikely to provide local employment opportunities.	+	The diversification of the economy is likely to lead to an increase in employment opportunities for local people. The location of sites near to the main towns may improve the distribution of opportunities. However, the focus on Ebbw Vale may lead to appropriate opportunities not being well distributed.	+	The allocation of sites for employment closer to the main towns in the area will improve the level and distribution of employment opportunities.
3. To enable the development of a strong tourism economy in Blaenau Gwent, complementary to the regional offer	--	There is no mention of strengthening the tourism offer through this option and thus this objective is unlikely to be achieved.	++	The option seeks to promote diversification of the economy, with one element being the tourism sector. This will help to further this objective.	++	The option seeks to develop tourism in the main towns.
4. To enhance the viability and vitality of town centres	--	The option does not specify where the existing employment allocations are located, and thus the effect on the town centres in the plan area is difficult to determine. However, the current economic climate suggests that the option's strategy for economic growth is unlikely to be successful and this is unlikely to contribute to the town centre's vitality and viability	+	Employment allocations under this option are sought to be located close to the main towns in the plan area, as well as a new focus for retail and facilities to be location in various hubs. This will improve the focus and vitality and viability of these centres. The option seeks to identify sites for housing in the Heads of the Valleys area, and it should be ensured that these allocations are close to town centres.	+	Focusing development on the main towns will help to ensure their vitality and viability. It should be ensured and specified that housing is also provided in these locations.
Social						

5. To meet identified housing needs	--	An urban containment policy due to a continued loss of population under this option will reduce opportunities to meet housing needs in terms of different types and tenures of properties, as a sufficient supply of committed housing sites already have permission.	+	The option seeks to increase the population, and thus seeks to provide further housing to accommodate this desired growth. The option does not mention, however, the types and tenure of housing to be provided. It should be ensured that the provision of housing comprises a mix of types and tenures in accordance with predicted need, in order that people are attracted to the area as a place to live and sustainable, mixed, communities are created.	--	It is unclear how the area will require further housing growth when the aim is to stabilise the population at 2006 levels. This may result in a surplus supply of housing which is not considered a sustainable option.
6. To improve the quality of Blaenau Gwent's housing stock	?	The option contains no information as to whether the current housing stock will be improved.	?	The option does not include mention of the need for improve the current housing stock.	?	The option does not include mention of the need to improve the current housing stock.
7. To secure the delivery and maintenance of quality affordable housing	--	An urban containment policy due to a continued loss of population under this option will reduce opportunities to deliver affordable housing.	++	The option provides an opportunity to deliver affordable housing, through the allocation of more sites for housing.	--	The small amount of housing provision is unlikely to give rise to significant potential for affordable housing provision.
8. To improve educational attainment and increase skills levels	-	As housing developments have already been granted permission, it is unlikely that planning agreements through such permissions will lead to the creation of new schools for these populations. Skills levels may improve through the use of existing facilities, although this is not specified in the option description.	++	The option does not specifically mention the need to improve educational attainment. However, the potential to increase the provision of educational facilities is increased through the release of sites for housing, through which educational sites may be provided through planning agreements. The diversification of employment may also lead to an increase in skills levels.	+	The option does not specifically mention the need to improve educational attainment. However, the potential to increase the provision of educational facilities is increased through the release of sites for housing, through which educational sites may be provided through planning agreements. This opportunity will be minimal however, due to the small number of allocated sites.
9. To improve accessibility to education, leisure, employment, health, homes and community services for all sectors	--	An urban containment policy due to a continued loss of population under this option will reduce opportunities to deliver play space and other community facilities as planning permission has already been	+	This option focuses service provision on the main centre of Ebbw Vale. District Centres seek to provide 'local services' although the types are not specified. The option will likely improve provision of services, especially in	-/+	The option seeks that the main towns will be the main service centres and thus may improve facilities and subsequent accessibility to services. However,

of the community		granted for housing development. It is unknown where these permissions are in relation to current facilities.		Ebbw Vale. It should be specified, however, that improved access to this area by public transport is necessary. The required uses for the district centres should also be specified to ensure all sectors of the community have easy access to essential facilities.		the option should specify the need for improved accessibility to these centres by sustainable modes for people living outside of these areas. It should also be specified which services and facilities should be provided in each centre.
10. To promote community health, social care and well-being	--	An urban containment policy due to a continued loss of population under this option will reduce opportunities to deliver community facilities as planning permission has already been granted for housing development. It is unknown where these permissions are in relation to current facilities.	+	This option focuses health provision on the main centre of Ebbw Vale, in the form of a hospital. District Centres seek to provide 'local services' although the types are not specified. The required uses for the district centres should also be specified to ensure all sectors of the community have easy access to health facilities. The option should also promote walking and cycling facilities as a mode of transport to improve health through exercise and improved air quality, which can also contribute to a sense of wellbeing.	-/+	The option seeks that the main towns will be the main service centres and thus may improve facilities and subsequent accessibility to services. However, the option should specify the need for improved accessibility to these centres by sustainable modes for people living outside of these areas. It should also be specified which services and facilities should be provided in each centre, to include health facilities.
11. To reduce crime, social disorder and fear of crime	--	As current permissions for the required housing provision under this option have already been granted, it is unlikely that the enforcement of measures such as those provided in 'Secured by Design' guidance and other ways to design out crime will be implemented.	++	The allocation of new areas for housing and employment give rise to the opportunity for enforcing principles to design out crime. This should be specified in the option.	+	The allocation of new areas for housing and employment give rise to the opportunity for enforcing principles to design out crime, although these opportunities will be minimal. This should be specified in the option.
12. To protect and enhance the Welsh culture	-	This option will result in a further loss of population in the plan area. Therefore it is unlikely that there will be sufficient population of local people to enable cultural enhancement facilities, such as more Welsh-speaking schools, in the County Borough.	++	The desire to attract an increased population to the area will reinforce the community and strengthen its identity in this valleys location. The provision of cultural facilities may be required through planning agreements as a result of housing developments.	+	Maintaining the population in the area helps to maintain a sense of community and may help to maintain the Welsh culture. The provision of cultural facilities may be required through planning agreements as a result of housing developments, although this potential is minimal.

Environmental						
13. To encourage modal shift from private transport to sustainable transport	?	There is no detail within the option with regards to transportation. The employment and housing sites that are already allocated are not demonstrated in terms of their location, so the feasibility of achieving this objective is uncertain.	-/+	The focus of the development of services in Ebbw Vale may lead to an increase in travel from the wider area to reach this destination. The need for this travel to be undertaken by sustainable modes should be specified. The option should ensure that an appropriate range of facilities is provided in the district centres in order to improve accessibility and thus reduce the need to travel by private car.	+	The need for this travel to be undertaken by sustainable modes should be specified. The option should ensure that an appropriate range of facilities is provided in the district centres are provided in order to improve accessibility and thus reduce the need to travel by private car.
14. To protect and enhance biodiversity across Blaenau Gwent	-/+	The option does not detail how biodiversity might be affected. However, the focus on large scale employment projects suggests that large areas of land are likely to be affected, which would be detrimental to biodiversity. However, the loss of population and thus reduction in house building may have a positive effect on biodiversity.	--	An increase in development is likely to lead to a loss of habitats, and thus the biodiversity in the area is likely to decrease. The option should seek to ensure that mitigation measures are in place to minimise this impact, such as the provision of green infrastructure and replacement habitats.	-	An increase in development is likely to lead to a loss of habitats, and thus the biodiversity in the area is likely to decrease. The option should seek to ensure that mitigation measures are in place to minimise this impact, such as the provision of green infrastructure and replacement habitats.
15. To conserve and enhance the heritage assets of Blaenau Gwent and their settings	-/+	The option seeks to strengthen the attraction and use of town centres, so is likely to encourage the enhancement of these areas, which are likely to include heritage assets. The development of large scale employment and housing sites may lead to the loss of heritage assets or be detrimental to the landscape which is an asset in itself as the areas' industrial and natural heritage.	-/+	The diversification of the economy to focus on tourism is likely to capitalise and thus enhance the heritage assets of the area. This, however, should be specified in the option to ensure that potential negative impacts from the development of housing and employment sites do not occur.	-/+	Developing tourism roles is likely to capitalise and thus enhance the heritage assets of the area. This, however, should be specified in the option to ensure that potential negative impacts from the development of housing and employment sites do not occur.
16. 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 to biodiversity.	-/+	The strategy aimsto strengthen the attraction and use of the town centres is likely to lead to some re-use of previously developed land. However, the housing and employment site locations and sizes are not indicated. These may therefore be located in greenfield land, which would be contrary to this sustainability objective.	-	The option does not specifically refer to the need to reuse previously developed land as a priority over greenfield land. Business sites are sought to be located 'near' the main towns, which indicates that greenfield development may occur. The use of previously developed land should be prioritised where possible.	-	The option does not specifically refer to the need to reuse previously developed land as a priority over greenfield land. Business sites are sought to be located 'near' the main towns, which indicates that greenfield development may occur. The use of previously developed land should be prioritised where possible.

17. To conserve soil resources and their quality	-/+	The housing and employment site locations and sizes are not indicated. These may therefore be located on greenfield land, which may lead to a detrimental impact on soil resources. However, increased development may also lead to the remediation of previously contaminated land, which would be beneficial for soil quality.	-/+	The housing and employment site locations and sizes are not indicated. These may therefore be located on greenfield land, which may lead to a detrimental impact on soil resources. However, increased development may also lead to the remediation of previously contaminated land, which would be beneficial for soil quality.	-/+	The housing and employment site locations and sizes are not indicated. These may therefore be located on greenfield land, which may lead to a detrimental impact on soil resources. However, increased development may also lead to the remediation of previously contaminated land, which would be beneficial for soil quality.
18. To reduce emissions of greenhouse gases, in particular carbon dioxide	-	An increase in employment development on a large scale would likely lead to an increase in traffic and thus greenhouse gas emissions. However, this development may lead to the use of greenfield land, which may decrease carbon sequestration. Greenhouse gas emissions may be reduced through the predicted reduction in population which may lead to a decrease in traffic levels. However, as the housing allocations already have planning permission, there is little feasibility within the option to encourage house builders to build more sustainably, thus new housing is likely to contribute to greenhouse gas emissions, creating an overall increase.	--	An increase in development is likely to lead to an increase in greenhouse gas emissions from the buildings themselves, as well as the new traffic generated, and the loss of carbon sink capacity. The option should specify the need to minimise these impacts through reducing the need to travel through appropriate layouts and land uses, provision of green infrastructure, and the use of sustainable building techniques and materials.	-	An increase in development is likely to lead to an increase in greenhouse gas emissions from the buildings themselves, as well as the new traffic generated, and the loss of carbon sink capacity. The option should specify the need to minimise these impacts through reducing the need to travel through appropriate layouts and land uses, provision of green infrastructure, and the use of sustainable building techniques and materials.
19. To reduce waste generation and maximise reuse and recycling	-/+	A reduction in population may lead to a decrease in waste generation. However, the strategy promotes large scale employment sites which may increase waste levels. Additionally, planning obligations, through housing permissions, to ensure waste recycling facilities in dwellings are not possible through this option as all necessary housing	--	An increase in development will lead to an increase in the generation of waste. The option should seek to minimise this effect through allocating sites for waste management near to centres of population, as well as within buildings, to move waste up the hierarchy.	-	An increase in development will lead to an increase in the generation of waste. The option should seek to minimise this effect through allocating sites for waste management near to centres of population, as well as within buildings, to move waste up the hierarchy.

		developments already have permission.				
20. To maintain current air quality	?	A decline in population may lead to improved air quality locally, through a reduction in traffic levels. The option does not state, however, where housing allocations will be located in relation to employment uses. Therefore new traffic growth that will contribute to local air quality is unknown. Additionally, if the new employment is to comprise certain types of manufacturing, this may have a negative influence on air quality.	--	A substantial increase in population as well as increased employment development will lead to an increase in traffic. This could be minimised if alternative modes of transport were promoted, as well as the reduction in the need to travel through the provision of specified facilities in the district hubs to reduce the need to travel hence reduce air emissions. Development of the manufacturing sector may lead to negative implications for air quality. Planting schemes could also provide capacity for the absorption of pollutants.	-	Increasing development could lead to an increase in traffic. This could be minimised if alternative modes of transport were promoted, as well as the reduction in the need to travel through the provision of specified facilities in the district hubs to reduce the need to travel hence reduce air emissions. Planting schemes could also provide capacity for the absorption of pollutants.
21. To maintain current low levels of vulnerability of all development to flooding	--	New development is likely to lead to an increase in hard surfacing and a subsequent increase in surface water run off, which may increase flood risk. The option should specify the need for SUDs as part of any new built development. No new built development should be permitted in the flood plain.	--	The option encourages an increase in development, which is likely to lead to an increase in hard surfacing and a subsequent increase in surface water run off, which may increase flood risk. The option should specify the need for SUDs as part of any new built development. No new built development should be permitted in the flood plain.	-	The option encourages an increase in development, which is likely to lead to an increase in hard surfacing and a subsequent increase in surface water run off, which may increase flood risk. The option should specify the need for SUDs as part of any new built development. No new built development should be permitted in the flood plain.
22. To promote the use of sustainably sourced products and resources	?	The option does not mention the potential sourcing of materials for development and should specify that products and resources should have low embodied energy and be sourced sustainably.	?	The option does not mention the potential sourcing of materials for development and should specify that products and resources should have low embodied energy and be sourced sustainably.	?	The option does not mention the potential sourcing of materials for development and should specify that products and resources should have low embodied energy and be sourced sustainably.
23. To increase energy efficiency and generation and use of renewable energy	-	The option does not specify that energy efficient measures will be required through built development and thus, as housing permissions have already been granted,	+	Although the option doesn't specifically mention the need for energy efficiency and the generation of renewable energy, there is potential for the option to specify that this is	+	Although the option doesn't specifically mention the need for energy efficiency and the generation of renewable energy,

across the County Borough		this is unlikely to be achieved.		the case for all new development in the County Borough.		there is potential for the option to specify that this is the case for all new development in the County Borough.
24. To conserve and enhance surface and ground water quality	--	New development is likely to lead to an increase in hard surfacing and a subsequent increase in surface water run off. This may lead to an increase in flooding which can lead to exceedences of drain capacity. Pollutants then may enter watercourses leading to a reduction in quality. SUDs should be specified as part of all new development. This could form part of a green infrastructure network.	--	New development is likely to lead to an increase in hard surfacing and a subsequent increase in surface water run off. This may lead to an increase in flooding which can lead to exceedences of drain capacity. Pollutants then may enter watercourses leading to a reduction in quality. SUDs should be specified as part of all new development. This could form part of a green infrastructure network.	--	New development is likely to lead to an increase in hard surfacing and a subsequent increase in surface water run off. This may lead to an increase in flooding which can lead to exceedences of drain capacity. Pollutants then may enter watercourses leading to a reduction in quality. SUDs should be specified as part of all new development. This could form part of a green infrastructure network.
25. Protect the quality and character of the landscape and enhance where necessary	-	An urban containment strategy may help to reduce pressure on the landscape through minimising built development. However, the current allocations for both housing and employment uses are not specified in terms of their location. The large scale nature of the employment allocations is likely to have a negative impact on the landscape. Design controls are not specified to reduce this effect.	--	The option does not specify the need for development to be sensitive to the landscape character. Increased built development is likely to be detrimental to the landscape and thus the potential effects should be minimised through sensitive design.	-	The option does not specify the need for development to be sensitive to the landscape character. Increased built development is likely to be detrimental to the landscape and thus the potential effects should be minimised through sensitive design.

Appendix F Strategic Policies Assessment

F.1 Strategic Policy Assessments

The individual detailed strategic policy assessments are included on the following pages. The same key applies to all of the assessments and is set out below.

Key

Terms

Cond	Baseline Condition
Sens	Baseline Sensitivity
Curr	Future
Ftre	Current
Mag	Magnitude
Scale	Geographic extent
T/P	Temporary/permanent
Cert	Certainty
ST	Short term
MT	Medium term
LT	Long term
Sm	Summary assessment

Effects

✓✓	Local	ST-MT	Temp	Low
✓	Sub-Reg	ST-LT	Perm	Med
-	Reg/Nat	MT-LT		High
?		ST		
x		MT		
xx		LT		

Assessment

+++	Strongly positive
++	Moderately positive
+	Slightly positive
0	No effect
-	Slightly negative
--	Moderately negative
---	Strongly negative
+/-	Combination of positive and negative effects / neutral effect

Table F.1 – SA Assessment of SP1

SP1 - Heads of the Valleys Area – Growth and Regeneration

The Heads of the Valleys area will be the focus for the County Borough's spatial development. Ebbw Vale will accommodate the majority of new homes, jobs and services and will be promoted as the main hub for Blaenau Gwent. Tredegar and Brynmawr will be the focus for new development serving the growing needs of their respective communities. New development will be located within these centres or in locations highly accessible to them.

SA Objective		*Baseline*		*Trends*			*Effects*						*Assessment*				Commentary	Mitigation/ enhancement
		Cond	Sens	Curr	Ftre		Mag	Scale	Dur	T/P	Cert		ST	MT	LT	Sm		
1	To promote economic growth and strengthen and diversify the local economy	Poor	Med	Stable	Stable		✓✓	Sub-Reg	MT-LT	Perm	Med		++	++	+++	+++	The establishment of a strong settlement hierarchy supported by a policy that reinforces the concept of directing mixed use development to the most accessible locations should convey considerable benefits in terms of economic growth and the attraction and retention of the workers needed to drive growth.	
2	To increase levels of local employment and ensure distribution of opportunities	Poor	Med	Impr	Stable		✓✓	Sub-Reg	MT-LT	Perm	Med		++	++	+++	+++	The policy supports a high level of investment in growth and seeks to ensure that employment increases in key accessible settlements, distributed across three main locations. This should convey considerable benefits over time.	
3	To enable the development of a strong tourism economy in Blaenau Gwent, complementa-ry to the regional offer	Mod	Med	Stable	Stable		✓	Sub-Reg	MT-LT	Perm	Low		+	+	++	++	The policy supports the concept of developing a clear settlement hierarchy. This offers the potential to better support tourism development by providing clarity of investment foci - improvement of facilities to support the resident population should also improve the potential offer to people visiting the area.	
4	To enhance the viability and vitality of town centres	Poor	Med	Impr	Impr		✓✓	Sub-Reg	MT-LT	Perm	Med		+	++	++	++	By focusing investment in key centres and siting new development in locations that are accessible to these key centres, the policy offers considerable potential to encourage greater town centre vitality, which underpins viability.	
5	To meet identified housing needs	Poor	Med	Stable	Stable		-	Local	ST-LT	Perm	High		0	0	0	0	There is no clear interrelationship between the policy and the objective.	
6	To improve the quality of Blaenau Gwent's housing stock	Poor	Med	Stable	Stable		-	Local	ST-LT	Perm	High		0	0	0	0	There is no clear interrelationship between the policy and the objective.	

7	To secure the delivery and maintenance of quality affordable housing	Mod	Med	Stable	Stable		-	Local	ST-LT	Perm	High		0	0	0	0	There is no clear interrelationship between the policy and the objective.	
8	To improve educational attainment and increase skills levels	Poor	Med	Impr	Impr		-	Local	ST-LT	Perm	High		0	0	0	0	There is no clear interrelationship between the policy and the objective.	
9	To improve accessibility to education, leisure, employment, health, homes and community services for all sectors of the community	Mod	Med	Stable	Stable		✓✓	Sub-Reg	MT-LT	Perm	High		+	++	+++	++	The policy seeks to direct development to the most accessible locations, including the reinforcement and growth of key settlements through directing investment, which includes the co-locating of employment, homes and all associated facilities and services.	
10	To promote community health, social care and well-being	Poor	Med	Stable	Stable		✓	Sub-Reg	MT-LT	Perm	High		+	++	++	++	The policy seeks to direct development to a number of key settlements and locations that are accessible to them. This should help to foster a stronger sense of well-being through environmental enhancement and improved access to facilities and services necessary to deliver benefits against the objective.	
11	To reduce crime, social disorder and fear of crime	Mod	Low	Impr	Impr		✓	Local	MT-LT	Perm	Med		+	+	++	++	The locational focus of the policy on the key settlements should help to improve the physical environment, which has been identified as a key factor in respect of crime - by delivering improvements to the physical environment and the accessibility of facilities and services, the policy offers the potential to deliver benefits against the objective.	
12	To protect and enhance the Welsh culture	Mod	Low	Stable	Stable		✓	Local	MT-LT	Perm	Low		+	+	+	+	In seeking to direct development and investment towards key settlements, the policy offers the potential to strengthen the cohesiveness of the towns' offers, which could potentially deliver benefits in terms of encouraging a greater sense of local culture.	
13	To encourage modal shift from private transport to sustainable transport	Mod	Med	Stable	Stable		✓✓	Sub-Reg	MT-LT	Perm	Med		++	++	+++	+++	By seeking to focus development on key settlements and locations highly accessible to them, the policy should underpin the aims of the objective.	

14	To protect and enhance biodiversity across Blaenau Gwent	Mod	High	Stable	Impr		?	Sub-Reg	ST-LT	Temp	Med		+	+/-	+/-	+	By focusing development on key settlements and existing developed areas with good transportation links, the policy should help to safeguard connecting countryside from undue fragmentation; however, urban biodiversity value may be threatened by increased development densities and construction on brownfield sites.	
15	To conserve and enhance the heritage assets of Blaenau Gwent and their settings	Poor	High	Decl	Decl		?	Sub-Reg	ST-LT	Temp	Med		+/-	+/-	+/-	+/-	The majority of the heritage assets in the County Borough are within the existing settlements - there is a risk that increased development pressure may threaten certain sites; however, the policy approach will safeguard rural heritage from intrusive development.	There will be a need to ensure that urban development is undertaken in accordance with the Heritage Strategy.
16	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 to biodiversity.	Mod	Med	Stable	Stable		✓✓	Sub-Reg	ST-MT	Temp	High		+++	++	++	+++	The locational focus of the policy on the key settlements should encourage maximisation of the development potential within the existing urban envelope and safeguard against expansion into greenfield development, at least in the short to medium term and possibly into the longer term, which accords with the objective.	
17	To conserve soil resources and their quality	Poor	Med	Stable	Impr		✓✓	Local	ST-LT	Temp	Med		++	++	++	++	Insofar as the policy seeks to direct development to the existing urban areas, it should be effective in safeguarding the quality of soil resources within the countryside and assist in maximising the development potential of available brownfield land, which may also involve the remediation of contaminated land, resulting in further benefits.	

18	To reduce emissions of greenhouse gases, in particular carbon dioxide	Mod	High	Stable	Impr		×	Reg/Nat	MT-LT	Perm	Med		+/-	-	--	-	The policy is concerned primarily with the location of development as opposed to the amount. However, insofar as it supports an increase in development, it will also result in an increase in sources of GHG emissions that are unlikely to be completely offset by the potential for a reduction in the need to travel and increased availability of public transport.	
19	To reduce waste generation and maximise reuse and recycling	Poor	Med	Decl	Decl		×	Sub-Reg	MT-LT	Perm	Med		-	-	--	-	The policy is concerned primarily with the location of development as opposed to the amount. However, insofar as it supports an increase in development, it will also result in an increase in waste arising from construction activity and, ultimately, operation upon completion. The opportunities for reuse and recycling are not addressed.	Construction waste will need to be subject to sustainable management. There is a need to ensure that new development is associated with the establishment of sustainable waste management opportunities.
20	To maintain current air quality	Good	Low	Stable	Stable		××	Local	MT-LT	Perm	Med		-	--	---	--	The policy is concerned primarily with the location of development as opposed to the amount. However, insofar as it supports an increase in development, it will also result in an increase in density of emissions sources that are unlikely to be completely offset by the potential for a reduction in the need to travel and increased availability of public transport.	
21	To maintain current low levels of vulnerability of all development to flooding	Good	High	Stable	Stable		×	Local	LT	Perm	Low		0	-	-	-	The policy should result in an increase in development densities within the key settlements - these are not currently subject to high levels of flood risk; however, there will be an increase in impermeable surfacing that may have the potential to increase risk of localised flooding.	There will be a need to ensure that development is designed to be both flood resilient and reduce the risk of flooding, particularly arising from increased run off.

22	To promote the use of sustainably sourced products and resources	?	?	?	?		-	Local	ST-LT	Perm	Med		0	0	0	0	The policy is concerned primarily with the location of development as opposed to the means of construction. There is therefore no clear interrelationship between the policy and the objective.	
23	To increase energy efficiency and generation and use of renewable energy across the County Borough	?	?	?	?		-	Local	ST-LT	Perm	Med		0	0	0	0	The policy is concerned primarily with the location of development. There is therefore no clear interrelationship between the policy and the objective.	
24	To conserve and enhance surface and ground water quality	Mod	Med	Impr	Impr		×	Sub-Reg	MT-LT	Perm	Low		0	-	-	-	The policy should result in an increase in development densities within the key settlements - this will increase the potential for pollutants to enter the water system.	
25	To protect the quality and character of the landscape and enhance where necessary	Mod	Med	Stable	Decl		✓	Sub-Reg	ST-LT	Perm	Med		+	+	+	+	There is the potential for a slight benefit in the longer term insofar as the locational focus of development within existing settlements should safeguard against adverse effects on the quality and character of the landscape where openness is considered to be of particular importance.	

Table F.2 – SA Assessment of SP2

SP2 - South of the Borough – Regeneration

The South of the Borough will see a focus on regeneration with appropriate forms of growth to serve local needs. Abertillery will be the focus of new development serving the needs of its respective communities.

SA Objective		*Baseline*		*Trends*			*Effects*						*Assessment*				Commentary	Mitigation/ enhancement
		Cond	Sens	Curr	Ftre		Mag	Scale	Dur	T/P	Cert		ST	MT	LT	Sm		
1	To promote economic growth and strengthen and diversify the local economy	Poor	Med	Stable	Stable		✓	Local	MT-LT	Perm	Med		+	++	++	++	Regeneration should, over the medium to longer term, be effective in improving local economic conditions and promoting growth within the south of the Borough to complement the focus on the north in other policies.	
2	To increase levels of local employment and ensure distribution of opportunities	Poor	Med	Impr	Stable		✓✓	Local	ST-LT	Perm	Med		+	++	++	++	In combination with other policies, balancing the focus of growth with a strong regeneration focus in the south of the Borough should help to increase local employment and secure a distribution of opportunities across the Borough.	
3	To enable the development of a strong tourism economy in Blaenau Gwent, complementary to the regional offer	Mod	Med	Stable	Stable		-	Local	ST-LT	Perm	Med		0	0	0	0	There is no clear interrelationship between the policy and the objective.	
4	To enhance the viability and vitality of town centres	Poor	Med	Impr	Impr		✓✓	Local	MT-LT	Perm	High		+	+	++	++	The policy focuses on delivering regeneration within Abertillery - this should have significant localised benefits in terms of boosting the vitality and viability in this town.	
5	To meet identified housing needs	Poor	Med	Stable	Stable		✓	Local	LT	Perm	Med		0	+	++	+	The wording of the policy is not specific; however, regeneration is assumed to include an element of residential development and there is an emphasis on meeting local needs - in this respect the policy has the potential to deliver localised benefits in the longer term.	
6	To improve the quality of Blaenau Gwent's housing stock	Poor	Med	Stable	Stable		✓	Local	LT	Perm	Low		0	+	+	+	The policy focuses on delivering regeneration within Abertillery - this is assumed to include an element of improvements to existing built development thus the policy has the potential to deliver limited local benefits.	

7	To secure the delivery and maintenance of quality affordable housing	Mod	Med	Stable	Stable		-	Local	ST-LT	Perm	High		0	0	0	0	There is no clear interrelationship between the policy and the objective.	
8	To improve educational attainment and increase skills levels	Poor	Med	Impr	Impr		-	Local	ST-LT	Perm	Med		0	0	0	0	There is no specific reference to education as part of regeneration. There is therefore no clear interrelationship between the policy and the objective.	
9	To improve accessibility to education, leisure, employment, health, homes and community services for all sectors of the community	Mod	Med	Stable	Stable		✓	Local	MT-LT	Perm	Low		0	+	+	+	The policy refers to the regeneration of Abertillery for residents in the south of the Borough - this should deliver benefits to those communities accessible to the settlement; however, these will be localised in nature.	
10	To promote community health, social care and well-being	Poor	Med	Stable	Stable		✓	Local	MT-LT	Perm	Low		0	0	+	+	There is no specific reference to health, social care and environmental enhancement (which contributes to well-being) within the policy; however, it is assumed that regeneration activities have the potential to deliver localised benefits over time.	
11	To reduce crime, social disorder and fear of crime	Mod	Low	Impr	Impr		✓	Local	LT	Perm	Low		0	0	+	+	There is no specific reference to regeneration incorporating emphasis on tackling crime; however, there is evidence of causality between the physical environment and a heightened incidence and fear of crime thus it is considered that regeneration could deliver some benefits against the objective at the local level.	
12	To protect and enhance the Welsh culture	Mod	Low	Stable	Stable		✓	Local	MT-LT	Perm	Low		0	+	+	+	Insofar as developing Abertillery as a community focus may strengthen the sense of community identity and pride, there is the potential for some localised benefits to arise against the objective.	
13	To encourage modal shift from private transport to sustainable transport	Mod	Med	Stable	Stable		-	Local	ST-LT	Temp	Med		0	0	0	0	The policy does not make specific reference to transport. Consequently there is no clear interrelationship between the policy and the objective.	The policy should make specific reference to the improvement of transportation as part of the regeneration activities linked to Abertillery.

14	To protect and enhance biodiversity across Blaenau Gwent	Mod	High	Stable	Impr		✓	Local	LT	Temp	Low		0	0	+	+	The policy is considered too locationally specific to effect significant changes; however, in principle by focusing regeneration on an existing settlement there is the potential to safeguard rural biodiversity in the surrounding countryside from undue development pressure.	
15	To conserve and enhance the heritage assets of Blaenau Gwent and their settings	Poor	High	Decl	Decl		-	Local	ST-LT	Temp	Med		0	0	0	0	The policy is considered too locationally specific to effect significant changes. There is therefore no clear interrelationship between the policy and the objective.	
16	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 to biodiversity.	Mod	Med	Stable	Stable		✓	Local	ST-LT	Perm	Med		0	+	+	+	The concept of regeneration is assumed to imply that new development will be focused on maximising the potential of previously developed land and restricting growth to the existing urban envelope. The policy is focused exclusively on Abertillery thus any benefits will be localised.	
17	To conserve soil resources and their quality	Poor	Med	Stable	Impr		✓	Local	ST-LT	Perm	Med		0	+	+	+	Insofar as the policy seeks to direct development to an existing urban area, it should be effective in safeguarding the quality of soil resources within the surrounding countryside and assist in maximising the development potential of available brownfield land, which may also involve remediating contamination, resulting in further benefits. However, the effects will be highly localised.	
18	To reduce emissions of greenhouse gases, in particular carbon dioxide	Mod	High	Stable	Impr		×	Reg/Nat	MT-LT	Perm	Med		-	--	---	--	The policy is concerned primarily with the location of development as opposed to the amount. However, insofar as it supports an increase in development, it will also result in an increase in sources of GHG emissions that are unlikely to be completely offset by the potential for a reduction in the need to travel and increased availability of public transport. Effects are likely to be small scale due to the exclusive focus of the policy on Abertillery.	

19	To reduce waste generation and maximise reuse and recycling	Poor	Med	Decl	Decl		×	Local	ST-LT	Perm	Med		-	-	-	-	The policy is concerned primarily with the location of development as opposed to the amount. However, insofar as it supports an increase in development, it will also result in an increase in waste arising from construction activity and, ultimately, operation upon completion. The opportunities for reuse and recycling are not addressed. Effects are likely to be localised due to the exclusive focus of the policy on Abertillery.	Construction waste will need to be subject to sustainable management. There is a need to ensure that new development is associated with the establishment of sustainable waste management opportunities.
20	To maintain current air quality	Good	Low	Stable	Stable		×	Local	ST-LT	Perm	Med		0	-	-	-	The policy is concerned primarily with the location of development as opposed to the amount. However, insofar as it supports an increase in development, it will also result in an increase in density of emissions sources that are unlikely to be completely offset by the potential for a reduction in the need to travel and increased availability of public transport. Effects will be localised due to the exclusive focus of the policy on Abertillery.	
21	To maintain current low levels of vulnerability of all development to flooding	Good	High	Stable	Stable		×	Local	MT-LT	Perm	Low		0	0	-	-	The policy may result in an increase in impermeable surfacing that may have the potential to increase risk of localised flooding.	There will be a need to ensure that development is designed to be both flood resilient and reduce the risk of flooding, particularly arising from increased run off.
22	To promote the use of sustainably sourced products and resources	?	?	?	?		-	Local	ST-LT	Perm	Med		0	0	0	0	The policy is concerned primarily with the location of development as opposed to the means of construction. There is therefore no clear interrelationship between the policy and the objective.	

23	To increase energy efficiency and generation and use of renewable energy across the County Borough	?	?	?	?		-	Local	ST-LT	Perm	Med		0	0	0	0	The policy is concerned primarily with the location of development. There is therefore no clear interrelationship between the policy and the objective.	
24	To conserve and enhance surface and ground water quality	Mod	Med	Impr	Impr		×	Local	LT	Perm	Low		0	0	-	-	The policy should result in an increase in development densities within Abertillery - this may increase the potential for pollutants to enter the water system, although the effects are considered likely to be highly localised.	
25	To protect the quality and character of the landscape and enhance where necessary	Mod	Med	Stable	Decl		✓	Local	ST-LT	Perm	Low		0	+	+	+	There is the potential for a slight benefit in the longer term insofar as the locational focus of development on an existing settlement should safeguard against adverse effects on the quality and character of the surrounding landscape where openness is considered to be of particular importance.	

Table F.3 – SA Assessment of SP3

SP3 - Creating a network of sustainable linked communities to spread regeneration benefits

The development and use of land throughout the County Borough will be determined by the need to ensure that all communities will have good access to Ebbw Vale. This will be achieved by ensuring that there is a network of hubs which have good public transport links with Ebbw Vale.

SA Objective		*Baseline*		*Trends*			*Effects*						*Assessment*				Commentary	Mitigation/ enhancement
		Cond	Sens	Curr	Ftre		Mag	Scale	Dur	T/P	Cert		ST	MT	LT	Sm		
1	To promote economic growth and strengthen and diversify the local economy	Poor	Med	Stable	Stable		✓	Sub-Reg	MT-LT	Perm	Med		+	++	++	++	An effective transport system is critical in supporting economic growth - the development of a connecting hub network centred on Ebbw Vale should support the objective.	
2	To increase levels of local employment and ensure distribution of opportunities	Poor	Med	Impr	Stable		✓	Sub-Reg	MT-LT	Perm	Low		+	+	++	++	The establishment of connected hubs should assist in facilitating a more even distribution of opportunities across the County Borough.	
3	To enable the development of a strong tourism economy in Blaenau Gwent, complementary to the regional offer	Mod	Med	Stable	Stable		✓	Local	MT-LT	Perm	Low		0	+	+	+	The policy is not directly linked to promoting tourism; however, the establishment of effective public transport links between networked communities will provide a good support for any tourism growth.	
4	To enhance the viability and vitality of town centres	Poor	Med	Impr	Impr		✓	Sub-Reg	MT-LT	Perm	Med		+	++	++	++	Improved connections via public transport across the County Borough should help to underpin improved vitality in the towns, delivering increased benefits against the objective over time.	
5	To meet identified housing needs	Poor	Med	Stable	Stable		-	Local	ST-LT	Perm	Med		0	0	0	0	There is no clear interrelationship between the policy and the objective.	
6	To improve the quality of Blaenau Gwent's housing stock	Poor	Med	Stable	Stable		-	Local	ST-LT	Perm	High		0	0	0	0	There is no clear interrelationship between the policy and the objective.	
7	To secure the delivery and maintenance of quality affordable housing	Mod	Med	Stable	Stable		-	Local	ST-LT	Perm	High		0	0	0	0	There is no clear interrelationship between the policy and the objective.	
8	To improve educational attainment and increase skills levels	Poor	Med	Impr	Impr		-	Local	ST-LT	Perm	Med		0	0	0	0	There is no clear interrelationship between the policy and the objective.	

9	To improve accessibility to education, leisure, employment, health, homes and community services for all sectors of the community	Mod	Med	Stable	Stable		✓✓	Sub-Reg	MT-LT	Perm	Med		++	+++	+++	+++	The aims of the policy directly align with those of the objective. Effects should be most marked in the medium to longer term as more development comes forward.	
10	To promote community health, social care and well-being	Poor	Med	Stable	Stable		✓	Local	MT-LT	Perm	Low		+	++	++	++	Improved connections via public transport across the County Borough should help to enable a greater proportion of the population to access key services and facilities, as well as providing increased choices.	
11	To reduce crime, social disorder and fear of crime	Mod	Low	Impr	Impr		✓	Local	LT	Perm	Low		0	0	+	+	Insofar as ensuring that all communities have access to Ebbw Vale, which will offer the greatest range of services and facilities, there is the potential for the policy to deliver some indirect benefits against the objective.	
12	To protect and enhance the Welsh culture	Mod	Low	Stable	Stable		✓	Local	LT	Perm	Low		0	0	+	+	The establishment of connected hubs should assist in fostering a greater sense of community and support cultural activities.	
13	To encourage modal shift from private transport to sustainable transport	Mod	Med	Stable	Stable		✓✓	Sub-Reg	MT-LT	Perm	Med		++	++	+++	+++	The aims of the policy directly align with those of the objective. Effects should be most marked in the medium to longer term as more development comes forward.	
14	To protect and enhance biodiversity across Blaenau Gwent	Mod	High	Stable	Impr		-	Local	ST-LT	Perm	Low		0	0	0	0	There is no clear interrelationship between the policy and the objective.	
15	To conserve and enhance the heritage assets of Blaenau Gwent and their settings	Poor	High	Decl	Decl		-	Local	ST-LT	Perm	Low		0	0	0	0	There is no clear interrelationship between the policy and the objective.	
16	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 to biodiversity.	Mod	Med	Stable	Stable		✓	Sub-Reg	ST-LT	Perm	Med		+	++	++	++	The policy supports the delivery of a cohesive public transport network across hub settlements and linked to Ebbw Vale - this will be an important element of enabling the maximisation of development potential within the existing urban envelope of settlements across the County Borough, which should deliver benefits against the objective.	
17	To conserve soil resources and their quality	Poor	Med	Stable	Impr		?	Sub-Reg	ST-LT	Temp	Low		+/-	+/-	+/-	+/-	There is insufficient detail to make an accurate prediction of effects.	

18	To reduce emissions of greenhouse gases, in particular carbon dioxide	Mod	High	Stable	Impr		✓	Reg/Nat	LT	Temp	Low		0	0	+	+	The policy has the potential to contribute to a reduction in transport related emissions through the provision of a connected network of public transport.	
19	To reduce waste generation and maximise reuse and recycling	Poor	Med	Decl	Decl		-	Local	ST-LT	Perm	Med		0	0	0	0	There is no clear interrelationship between the policy and the objective.	
20	To maintain current air quality	Good	Low	Stable	Stable		✓	Sub-Reg	LT	Temp	Low		0	0	+	+	The policy has the potential to contribute to a reduction in transport related emissions and subsequent improvement to localised air quality through the provision of a connected network of public transport.	
21	To maintain current low levels of vulnerability of all development to flooding	Good	High	Stable	Stable		**?**	Sub-Reg	ST-LT	Temp	Med		+/-	+/-	+/-	+/-	There is insufficient detail to make an accurate prediction of effects.	
22	To promote the use of sustainably sourced products and resources	?	?	?	?		**?**	Local	ST-LT	Perm	Med		+/-	+/-	+/-	+/-	There is insufficient detail to make an accurate prediction of effects.	The development of public transport infrastructure should include a specification to use sustainably sourced products and resources.
23	To increase energy efficiency and generation and use of renewable energy across the County Borough	?	?	?	?		-	Local	ST-LT	Perm	Med		0	0	0	0	There is no clear interrelationship between the policy and the objective.	
24	To conserve and enhance surface and ground water quality	Mod	Med	Impr	Impr		**?**	Sub-Reg	ST-LT	Temp	Low		+/-	+/-	+/-	+/-	There is insufficient detail to make an accurate prediction of effects.	The development of public transport infrastructure should include a specification to incorporate appropriate filtration in any drainage systems
25	To protect the quality and character of the landscape and enhance where necessary	Mod	Med	Stable	Decl		**?**	Sub-Reg	ST-LT	Temp	Low		+/-	+/-	+/-	+/-	There is insufficient detail to make an accurate prediction of effects.	

Table F.4 – SA Assessment of SP4

SP4 - Retail Hierarchy

Major retail, administrative and cultural developments will take place in the principal retail centre of Ebbw Vale. The District /Local centres of Tredegar, Brynmawr, Blaina and Abertillery will be protected and enhanced to improve vitality and viability and ensure they meet the needs of their districts. They will also develop new complementary roles based around historical, recreational and tourism potential. Local shopping centres will be protected and enhanced to provide facilities for local communities.

SA Objective		*Baseline*		*Trends*			*Effects*						*Assessment*				Commentary	Mitigation/ enhancement
		Cond	Sens	Curr	Ftre		Mag	Scale	Dur	T/P	Cert		ST	MT	LT	Sm		
1	To promote economic growth and strengthen and diversify the local economy	Poor	Med	Stable	Stable		✓✓	Sub-Reg	MT-LT	Perm	High		++	++	+++	+++	Retail is a critical component of the economy and in seeking to protect and enhance the offer and complementary activities across the County Borough, the policy has considerable potential to deliver beneficial effects.	
2	To increase levels of local employment and ensure distribution of opportunities	Poor	Med	Impr	Stable		✓✓	Local	ST-LT	Perm	High		++	++	+++	+++	The provision of increased retail development at centres across the County Borough, supported by complementary forms of development, can be a key source of increased local job opportunities at a range of levels.	
3	To enable the development of a strong tourism economy in Blaenau Gwent, complementary to the regional offer	Mod	Med	Stable	Stable		✓	Sub-Reg	MT-LT	Perm	Med		+	+	++	++	The policy supports the development of retail in conjunction with historical, recreational and tourism related development in key settlements across the County Borough, which should deliver benefits for tourism, particularly over the medium to longer term.	
4	To enhance the viability and vitality of town centres	Poor	Med	Impr	Impr		✓	Sub-Reg	MT-LT	Perm	High		+	+	++	++	Retail provision and the complementary offer are key to attracting custom in town centres - an improvement to these for local and visitor needs across the County Borough should help to support the objective.	
5	To meet identified housing needs	Poor	Med	Stable	Stable		-	Local	ST-LT	Perm	Med		0	0	0	0	There is no clear interrelationship between the policy and the objective.	
6	To improve the quality of Blaenau Gwent's housing stock	Poor	Med	Stable	Stable		-	Local	ST-LT	Perm	Med		0	0	0	0	There is no clear interrelationship between the policy and the objective.	
7	To secure the delivery and maintenance of quality affordable housing	Mod	Med	Stable	Stable		-	Local	ST-LT	Perm	High		0	0	0	0	There is no clear interrelationship between the policy and the objective.	
8	To improve educational attainment and	Poor	Med	Impr	Impr		-	Local	ST-LT	Perm	Med		0	0	0	0	There is no clear interrelationship between the policy and the objective.	

	increase skills levels																
9	To improve accessibility to education, leisure, employment, health, homes and community services for all sectors of the community	Mod	Med	Stable	Stable		✓	Local	MT-LT	Perm	Low		+	+	++	++	The policy makes reference to ensuring that complementary recreational and tourism activities are developed in tandem with retail - this has the potential to deliver some localised benefits over time.	
10	To promote community health, social care and well-being	Poor	Med	Stable	Stable		✓	Local	LT	Perm	Med		+	+	++	++	Insofar as the policy supports an increase in the range of facilities and services provided at the local level and for regional catchments (in the case of Ebbw Vale) there is the potential for some beneficial effects against the objective.	
11	To reduce crime, social disorder and fear of crime	Mod	Low	Impr	Impr		✓	Local	MT-LT	Perm	Low		+	+	+	+	There is evidence to suggest causality between criminal activity and a 'lack of things to do'. As such, in seeking to broaden the offer of all key centres in the County Borough, the policy offers the potential to deliver some benefits.	
12	To protect and enhance the Welsh culture	Mod	Low	Stable	Stable		✓	Sub-Reg	MT-LT	Perm	Med		+	+	+	+	In supporting additional retail, cultural and other complementary developments within the key settlements of the County Borough, the policy could work with others to support an enhanced cultural identity.	
13	To encourage modal shift from private transport to sustainable transport	Mod	Med	Stable	Stable		✓	Local	MT-LT	Perm	Low		+	+	+	+	The policy seeks to bolster the range of facilities and services in key settlements across the County Borough - this will help to increase the appeal of destinations already served by public transport, which could have some benefits against the objective.	
14	To protect and enhance biodiversity across Blaenau Gwent	Mod	High	Stable	Impr		?	Sub-Reg	MT-LT	Temp	Med		+	+/-	+/-	+	By focusing development onto the existing settlements, the policy may assist in safeguarding against physical expansion of settlements, thus protecting against harmful effects to rural biodiversity. This may offset to some degree by demand for brownfield sites for regeneration.	Policies should include safeguards against adversely affecting the biodiversity resource.
15	To conserve and enhance the heritage assets of Blaenau Gwent and their settings	Poor	High	Decl	Decl		?	Sub-Reg	MT-LT	Temp	Med		+/-	+/-	+/-	+/-	Dependent upon the types of development proposed and their form, there is the potential for a range of effects in respect of urban heritage assets.	Policies should include safeguards against adversely affecting heritage.

16	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 to biodiversity.	Mod	Med	Stable	Stable		✓	Sub-Reg	MT-LT	Perm	Med		+	++	++	++	In focusing retail and associated development on existing settlements, the policy should contribute to achieving the objective and delivering maximised development within the existing urban envelope.	Policies should include safeguards against adversely affecting the biodiversity resource.
17	To conserve soil resources and their quality	Poor	Med	Stable	Impr		-	Local	ST-LT	Perm	Med		0	0	0	0	There is no clear interrelationship between the policy and the objective.	
18	To reduce emissions of greenhouse gases, in particular carbon dioxide	Mod	High	Stable	Impr		×	Reg/Nat	ST-LT	Perm	High		-	--	--	-	The policy encourages increased levels of development, which will increase the sources of emissions of greenhouse gases as well as potentially encouraging an increase in trip generation. It is likely that in combination these will have adverse effects against the objective.	
19	To reduce waste generation and maximise reuse and recycling	Poor	Med	Decl	Decl		×	Sub-Reg	ST-LT	Perm	Med		--	--	--	--	The policy encourages increased levels of development, which is likely to increase waste generation from construction and subsequent operation. The policy does not reference waste management, thus effects are assumed to be potentially adverse.	
20	To maintain current air quality	Good	Low	Stable	Stable		×	Local	ST-LT	Perm	High		--	--	--	--	The policy involves increased levels of development within the existing settlements - this is likely to increase emissions and development densities, both of which may result in localised degradation of air quality.	
21	To maintain current low levels of vulnerability of all development to flooding	Good	High	Stable	Stable		×	Local	MT-LT	Perm	Med		-	-	-	-	The policy may result in an increase in impermeable surfacing that may have the potential to increase risk of localised flooding.	There will be a need to ensure that development is designed to be both flood resilient and reduce the risk of flooding, particularly arising from increased run off.
22	To promote the use of sustainably sourced products and resources	?	?	?	?		-	Local	ST-LT	Perm	Med		0	0	0	0	The policy is concerned primarily with the location and type of development as opposed to the means of construction. There is therefore no clear interrelationship between the policy and	

																	the objective.	
23	To increase energy efficiency and generation and use of renewable energy across the County Borough	?	?	?	?		-	Local	ST-LT	Perm	Med		0	0	0	0	The policy is concerned primarily with the location and type of development. There is therefore no clear interrelationship between the policy and the objective.	
24	To conserve and enhance surface and ground water quality	Mod	Med	Impr	Impr		×	Local	MT-LT	Perm	Low		-	-	--	-	The policy should result in an increase in development densities within all key settlements - this may increase the potential for pollutants to enter the water system, although the effects are considered likely to be localised.	
25	To protect the quality and character of the landscape and enhance where necessary	Mod	Med	Stable	Decl		✓	Sub-Reg	MT-LT	Perm	Low		+	+	+	+	There is the potential for a slight benefit in the longer term insofar as the locational focus of development on existing settlements should safeguard against adverse effects on the quality and character of the surrounding landscape where openness is considered to be of particular importance.	

Table F.5 – SA Assessment of SP5

SP5 - Employment and Diversification of the Economy

The employment and economic development needs of Blaenau Gwent will be met by the identification of 50-80 ha of land for employment and business purposes during the plan period. The employment roles of major industrial areas will be identified to assist in the diversification of employment and support the specialisation of manufacturing. Mixed-use sites will be identified close to town centres to enhance town centre based employment in the service sector.

SA Objective		*Baseline*		*Trends*			*Effects*						*Assessment*				Commentary	Mitigation/ enhancement
		Cond	Sens	Curr	Ftre		Mag	Scale	Dur	T/P	Cert		ST	MT	LT	Sm		
1	To promote economic growth and strengthen and diversify the local economy	Poor	Med	Stable	Stable		✓✓	Sub-Reg	ST-LT	Perm	High		++	++	+++	+++	The policy is directly aligned with the objective and should achieve significant benefits over the duration of the plan period.	
2	To increase levels of local employment and ensure distribution of opportunities	Poor	Med	Impr	Stable		✓✓	Sub-Reg	ST-LT	Perm	High		++	++	+++	+++	The policy is directly aligned with the objective and should achieve significant benefits over the duration of the plan period, particularly as the locational focus covers both existing business locations and new sites close to the key settlements.	
3	To enable the development of a strong tourism economy in Blaenau Gwent, complementary to the regional offer	Mod	Med	Stable	Stable		-	Local	ST-LT	Perm	Med		0	0	0	0	There is no clear interrelationship between the policy and the objective.	
4	To enhance the viability and vitality of town centres	Poor	Med	Impr	Impr		✓	Local	MT-LT	Perm	Med		+	+	++	++	The development of mixed use sites close to town centres should serve to increase the catchment population for town centre facilities and services with the potential for beneficial effects against the objective over time.	
5	To meet identified housing needs	Poor	Med	Stable	Stable		-	Local	ST-LT	Perm	Med		0	0	0	0	There is no clear interrelationship between the policy and the objective.	
6	To improve the quality of Blaenau Gwent's housing stock	Poor	Med	Stable	Stable		-	Local	ST-LT	Perm	High		0	0	0	0	There is no clear interrelationship between the policy and the objective.	
7	To secure the delivery and maintenance of quality affordable housing	Mod	Med	Stable	Stable		-	Local	ST-LT	Perm	High		0	0	0	0	There is no clear interrelationship between the policy and the objective.	
8	To improve educational attainment and increase skills levels	Poor	Med	Impr	Impr		✓	Local	MT-LT	Perm	Med		+	+	++	++	Diversification of the local employment and business opportunities should serve to increase the range and availability of opportunities for vocational and work-place based training and upskilling.	

9	To improve accessibility to education, leisure, employment, health, homes and community services for all sectors of the community	Mod	Med	Stable	Stable		✓	Local	MT-LT	Perm	Med		+	+	++	++	The locational approach to employment and business development set out in the policy should assist in increasing the accessibility of employment opportunities, which supports the objective.	
10	To promote community health, social care and well-being	Poor	Med	Stable	Stable		✓	Local	LT	Perm	Low		+	+	+	+	There is some evidence to suggest that worklessness and poor health can be linked - by increasing the range and availability of job opportunities locally, the policy offers the potential to deliver some benefits against the objective.	
11	To reduce crime, social disorder and fear of crime	Mod	Low	Impr	Impr		✓	Local	MT-LT	Perm	Low		+	+	+	+	There is evidence to suggest causality between criminal activity and a 'lack of things to do'. As such, in seeking to broaden the range and availability of employment opportunities in the County Borough, the policy offers the potential to deliver some benefits.	
12	To protect and enhance the Welsh culture	Mod	Low	Stable	Stable		-	Local	ST-LT	Perm	Med		0	0	0	0	There is no clear interrelationship between the policy and the objective.	
13	To encourage modal shift from private transport to sustainable transport	Mod	Med	Stable	Stable		✓	Sub-Reg	LT	Perm	Low		0	+	+	+	The policy seeks to group employment in existing centres and adjacent to town centres - this increases the viability of utilising public transport and may convey benefits against the objective in the longer term.	
14	To protect and enhance biodiversity across Blaenau Gwent	Mod	High	Stable	Impr		?	Sub-Reg	MT-LT	Perm	Med		+/-	+/-	+/-	+/-	Insofar as the policy seeks to deliver development predominantly in or adjacent to existing centres, the policy may help to minimise expansion into the countryside. However, benefits may be offset to some degree by biodiversity loss on brownfield sites.	
15	To conserve and enhance the heritage assets of Blaenau Gwent and their settings	Poor	High	Decl	Decl		?	Local	ST-LT	Temp	Med		+/-	+/-	+/-	+/-	There is unlikely to be a direct relationship between the policy and the objective; however, this will be dependent upon the precise locations of development and as such, effects cannot be accurately predicted.	
16	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 to biodiversity.	Mod	Med	Stable	Stable		✓	Sub-Reg	MT-LT	Perm	Med		+	++	++	++	The policy seeks to deliver increased employment development in existing locations, which should help to secure the re-use of brownfield sites in advance of greenfield.	There is a need to ensure that all new employment development is sited taking biodiversity considerations into account.

17	To conserve soil resources and their quality	Poor	Med	Stable	Impr		✓	Local	MT-LT	Perm	High		+	+	++	++	In seeking to increase employment development in established industrial locations, it is considered likely that the policy will result in the remediation of contaminated land, which should convey benefits against the objective.	
18	To reduce emissions of greenhouse gases, in particular carbon dioxide	Mod	High	Stable	Impr		××	Reg/Nat	ST-LT	Perm	High		--	--	--	--	The delivery of the policy will involve substantial new development, which is likely to increase the sources of GHG emissions, both in terms of built development and transport movements.	
19	To reduce waste generation and maximise reuse and recycling	Poor	Med	Decl	Decl		××	Sub-Reg	MT-LT	Perm	High		--	--	--	--	The development of 50-80 ha. of new employment land will result in considerable construction and potentially demolition wastes, as well as operational wastes. There is no reference to how this will be addressed in the policy.	New development should be subject to a sustainable waste management system.
20	To maintain current air quality	Good	Low	Stable	Stable		××	Local	ST-LT	Perm	High		--	--	--	--	The scale of development supported by the policy has the potential to give rise to increased emissions and localised degradation of air quality arising from a combination of built development, processes and transportation.	
21	To maintain current low levels of vulnerability of all development to flooding	Good	High	Stable	Stable		×	Local	ST-LT	Perm	Low		-	-	--	-	There is a risk that the level of new development will introduce a sufficient increase in impermeable surfacing to result in an elevated risk of localised flooding arising from run off.	All new development should be subject to feasibility testing for SuDS and systems incorporated if appropriate; and designed to be flood resilient.
22	To promote the use of sustainably sourced products and resources	?	?	?	?		**?**	Local	ST-LT	Temp	Low		+/-	+/-	+/-	+/-	There is insufficient detail for this to be accurately assessed.	
23	To increase energy efficiency and generation and use of renewable energy across the County Borough	?	?	?	?		**?**	Sub-Reg	MT-LT	Perm	Low		+/-	+/-	+/-	+/-	There is the potential for the policy to make a contribution to this objective; however, no reference is made in the policy thus an accurate prediction of effects cannot be made.	Reference should be made to the need to integrate energy efficiency and renewable energy sourcing into proposals.
24	To conserve and enhance surface and ground water quality	Mod	Med	Impr	Impr		×	Local	MT-LT	Perm	Low		-	-	--	-	There is the potential for development delivered under this policy to increase the risk of groundwater pollution from run off.	Drainage systems should incorporate appropriate filtration to minimise the risk

																		of groundwater pollution.
25	To protect the quality and character of the landscape and enhance where necessary	Mod	Med	Stable	Decl		×	Sub-Reg	MT-LT	Perm	Med		-	--	--	-	Dependent upon the precise location and form of development, there is a risk that the policy could result in adverse effects through intrusion into the landscape.	

Table F.6 – SA Assessment of SP6

SP6 - Development of the Tourism and Leisure sectors

Foster sustainable tourism and leisure sectors which re-engage local communities with the natural and historic environment and boost the local economy.

SA Objective		*Baseline*		*Trends*			*Effects*						*Assessment*				Commentary	Mitigation /enhancement
		Cond	Sens	Curr	Ftre		Mag	Scale	Dur	T/P	Cert		ST	MT	LT	Sm		
1	To promote economic growth and strengthen and diversify the local economy	Poor	Med	Stable	Stable		✓	Sub-Reg	MT-LT	Perm	Med		+	+	++	++	There is the potential for the development of the tourism economy to deliver increased economic growth in a currently under-exploited market sector, delivering benefits against the objective.	
2	To increase levels of local employment and ensure distribution of opportunities	Poor	Med	Impr	Stable		✓	Local	MT-LT	Perm	Low		+	+	++	++	The development of the tourism market may offer some localised opportunities for employment, which are likely to be distributed across the County Borough.	
3	To enable the development of a strong tourism economy in Blaenau Gwent, complementary to the regional offer	Mod	Med	Stable	Stable		✓✓	Sub-Reg	MT-LT	Perm	High		++	+++	+++	+++	The policy is aligned with the objective and should deliver considerable benefits over the duration of the plan period.	
4	To enhance the viability and vitality of town centres	Poor	Med	Impr	Impr		✓✓	Local	MT-LT	Perm	Med		++	++	+++	+++	Focused investment in delivering tourism development across the County Borough should assist in supporting and, to some extent, catalysing investment to improve town centre vitality and viability.	
5	To meet identified housing needs	Poor	Med	Stable	Stable		-	Local	ST-LT	Perm	High		0	0	0	0	There is no clear interrelationship between the policy and the objective.	

6	To improve the quality of Blaenau Gwent's housing stock	Poor	Med	Stable	Stable		-	Local	ST-LT	Perm	High		0	0	0	0	There is no clear interrelationship between the policy and the objective.	
7	To secure the delivery and maintenance of quality affordable housing	Mod	Med	Stable	Stable		-	Local	ST-LT	Perm	High		0	0	0	0	There is no clear interrelationship between the policy and the objective.	
8	To improve educational attainment and increase skills levels	Poor	Med	Impr	Impr		✓	Local	MT-LT	Perm	Low		0	+	+	+	There is the potential that development of the tourism economy may offer some localised opportunities for upskilling and vocational training.	
9	To improve accessibility to education, leisure, employment, health, homes and community services for all sectors of the community	Mod	Med	Stable	Stable		✓	Local	MT-LT	Perm	Low		0	+	+	+	Development in the tourism industry should deliver benefits in terms of increased accessibility of leisure provision, which could deliver localised benefits against the objective.	
10	To promote community health, social care and well-being	Poor	Med	Stable	Stable		✓	Local	MT-LT	Perm	Med		+	+	++	++	There is evidence to suggest causality between health and well-being and the environment - by improving the tourism and leisure opportunities, there is potential for the policy to deliver beneficial effects.	
11	To reduce crime, social disorder and fear of crime	Mod	Low	Impr	Impr		✓	Local	MT-LT	Perm	Low		0	+	+	+	Crime levels are sometimes attributed in part to a 'lack of things to do'. The policy, through delivering additional activities and recreational opportunities, may have a positive effect against the objective in some locations.	
12	To protect and enhance the Welsh culture	Mod	Low	Stable	Stable		✓	Sub-Reg	MT-LT	Perm	Low		0	+	+	+	Tourism activities often serve to generate a greater sense of identity and foster increased levels of cultural engagement, which could deliver beneficial effects against the objective.	
13	To encourage modal shift from private transport to sustainable transport	Mod	Med	Stable	Stable		-	Local	ST-LT	Perm	Med		0	0	0	0	There is unlikely to be an inter-relationship between the policy and the objective.	

14	To protect and enhance biodiversity across Blaenau Gwent	Mod	High	Stable	Impr		✓	Local	MT-LT	Perm	Low		0	+	+	+	In promoting sustainable tourism and leisure, the policy offers opportunities to boost biodiversity, which could have localised benefits against the objective.	
15	To conserve and enhance the heritage assets of Blaenau Gwent and their settings	Poor	High	Decl	Decl		✓	Local	MT-LT	Perm	Med		+	+	++	++	The policy seeks to re-engage the local community with the historic environment and draw on heritage assets as a means of developing tourism - this should assist in delivering benefits against the objective.	
16	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 to biodiversity.	Mod	Med	Stable	Stable		?	Local	MT-LT	Perm	Med		+/-	+/-	+/-	+/-	There is insufficient detail to accurately predict effects against the objective - there is the potential for them to be mixed dependent upon the precise actions supported by the policy.	
17	To conserve soil resources and their quality	Poor	Med	Stable	Impr		?	Local	MT-LT	Perm	Med		+/-	+/-	+/-	+/-	There is insufficient detail to accurately predict effects against the objective - there is the potential for them to be mixed dependent upon the precise actions supported by the policy.	
18	To reduce emissions of greenhouse gases, in particular carbon dioxide	Mod	High	Stable	Impr		×	Reg/Nat	ST-LT	Perm	High		-	-	--	-	Development of the tourism economy is likely to involve some built development and increased trip generation, both of which are likely to result in an increase in the sources of GHG emissions in the County Borough, with potentially adverse effects against the objective.	
19	To reduce waste generation and maximise reuse and recycling	Poor	Med	Decl	Decl		×	Local	MT-LT	Perm	Med		-	-	-	-	It is likely that the development of the tourism economy will result in an increase in waste generation both during construction and operation.	Development should be subject to the application of a sustainable waste management system.

20	To maintain current air quality	Good	Low	Stable	Stable		**?**	Local	ST-LT	Perm	Med		+/-	+/-	+/-	+/-	There is insufficient detail to accurately predict effects against the objective - there is the potential for them to be mixed dependent upon the precise actions supported by the policy.	
21	To maintain current low levels of vulnerability of all development to flooding	Good	High	Stable	Stable		**?**	Local	ST-LT	Perm	Med		+/-	+/-	+/-	+/-	There is insufficient detail to accurately predict effects against the objective - there is the potential for them to be mixed dependent upon the precise actions supported by the policy.	
22	To promote the use of sustainably sourced products and resources	?	?	?	?		✓	Sub-Reg	ST-MT	Temp	Med		++	++	+	++	The policy promotes sustainable tourism development, which is assumed to include an emphasis on delivering sustainability through both design and construction. This has the potential to deliver benefits against the objective, which are likely to be more marked in the short to medium term when construction activities will be more prevalent.	
23	To increase energy efficiency and generation and use of renewable energy across the County Borough	?	?	?	?		✓	Sub-Reg	ST-LT	Perm	Low		+	+	+	+	There is no specific reference made to this in the policy; however, the reference to sustainability suggests that there is the potential for the policy to be beneficial.	
24	To conserve and enhance surface and ground water quality	Mod	Med	Impr	Impr		**?**	Local	MT-LT	Perm	Med		+/-	+/-	+/-	+/-	There is insufficient detail to accurately predict effects against the objective - there is the potential for them to be mixed dependent upon the precise actions supported by the policy.	
25	To protect the quality and character of the landscape and enhance where necessary	Mod	Med	Stable	Decl		✓	Sub-Reg	ST-LT	Perm	Med		+	+	+	+	The policy supports the development of sustainable tourism focused on the natural and historic environment, which is likely to convey	

																	some benefits against the objective.	

Table F.7 – SA Assessment of SP7

SP7 - Housing Provision

Provision will be made for the development of 3,000 dwellings during the plan period; broken into the following Housing Market Areas
Sirhowy Valley 800
Ebbw Fawr 1,500
Ebbw Fach Upper 400
Ebbw Fach Lower 300
The Delivery of the houses will be back loaded recognising the step change required to reach the higher figures.
2006-2011 500-750
20011-2016 750-1,000
2016-2021 1,000-1,250

SA Objective		*Baseline*		*Trends*			*Effects*						*Assessment*				Commentary	Mitigation/ enhancement
		Cond	Sens	Curr	Ftre		Mag	Scale	Dur	T/P	Cert		ST	MT	LT	Sm		
1	To promote economic growth and strengthen and diversify the local economy	Poor	Med	Stable	Stable		-	Local	ST-LT	Perm	Med		0	0	0	0	There is no clear interrelationship between the policy and the objective.	
2	To increase levels of local employment and ensure distribution of opportunities	Poor	Med	Impr	Stable		-	Local	ST-LT	Perm	Med		0	0	0	0	There is no clear interrelationship between the policy and the objective.	
3	To enable the development of a strong tourism economy in Blaenau Gwent, complementary to the regional offer	Mod	Med	Stable	Stable		-	Local	ST-LT	Perm	Med		0	0	0	0	There is no clear interrelationship between the policy and the objective.	
4	To enhance the viability and vitality of town centres	Poor	Med	Impr	Impr		✓	Local	MT-LT	Perm	Med		+	+	++	++	There is the potential for the delivery of additional residential development to support a greater catchment, which in turn could support increased town centre vitality and viability, particularly for Ebbw Vale and Tredegar. Effects likely to increase over time as more development comes forward.	
5	To meet identified housing needs	Poor	Med	Stable	Stable		✓	Sub-Reg	ST-LT	Temp	Med		+	++	++	++	The policy will ensure the delivery of additional housing, which should have benefits, although there is no specific reference made to the types of residential development that the policy is seeking to deliver.	There is a need to provide greater clarity regarding the range and variety of units to be delivered.

6	To improve the quality of Blaenau Gwent's housing stock	Poor	Med	Stable	Stable		?	Sub-Reg	ST-LT	Temp	Med		+/-	+/-	+/-	+/-	The policy is concerned solely with increasing the amount of housing and includes no details regarding refurbishment or tenure - there is insufficient detail to make an accurate assessment.	
7	To secure the delivery and maintenance of quality affordable housing	Mod	Med	Stable	Stable		?	Sub-Reg	ST-LT	Temp	Med		+/-	+/-	+/-	+/-	The policy is concerned solely with increasing the amount of housing and includes no details regarding refurbishment or tenure - there is insufficient detail to make an accurate assessment.	
8	To improve educational attainment and increase skills levels	Poor	Med	Impr	Impr		-	Local	ST-LT	Perm	Med		0	0	0	0	There is no clear direct interrelationship between the policy and the objective.	
9	To improve accessibility to education, leisure, employment, health, homes and community services for all sectors of the community	Mod	Med	Stable	Stable		✓	Local	ST-LT	Perm	Low		+	+	+	+	Insofar as the policy seeks to direct new residential development to existing centres, there are likely to be some localised benefits in terms of improved co-locating of residential development and key services and facilities.	
10	To promote community health, social care and well-being	Poor	Med	Stable	Stable		-	Local	ST-LT	Perm	Low		0	0	0	0	There is no clear direct interrelationship between the policy and the objective.	
11	To reduce crime, social disorder and fear of crime	Mod	Low	Impr	Impr		-	Local	ST-LT	Perm	Low		0	0	0	0	There is no clear direct interrelationship between the policy and the objective.	
12	To protect and enhance the Welsh culture	Mod	Low	Stable	Stable		-	Local	ST-LT	Perm	Low		0	0	0	0	There is no clear direct interrelationship between the policy and the objective.	
13	To encourage modal shift from private transport to sustainable transport	Mod	Med	Stable	Stable		?	Local	ST-LT	Temp	Med		+/-	+/-	+/-	+/-	There is the potential for the location of residential development to assist in encouraging the use of public transport; however, there is insufficient detail to be able to accurately predict effects.	

14	To protect and enhance biodiversity across Blaenau Gwent	Mod	High	Stable	Impr		?	Sub-Reg	ST-LT	Temp	Med		+/-	+/-	+/-	+/-	There is the potential for residential development to result in a range of biodiversity effects - there is insufficient detail in the policy to accurately predict effects.	
15	To conserve and enhance the heritage assets of Blaenau Gwent and their settings	Poor	High	Decl	Decl		?	Local	ST-LT	Temp	Med		+/-	+/-	+/-	+/-	Dependent upon the precise location and form of development proposed, there is the potential for a range of effects to ensue - there is insufficient detail in the policy to accurately predict effects.	
16	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 to biodiversity.	Mod	Med	Stable	Stable		?	Local	ST-LT	Temp	Med		+/-	+/-	+/-	+/-	Dependent upon the precise location and form of development proposed, there is the potential for a range of effects to ensue - there is insufficient detail in the policy to accurately predict effects.	
17	To conserve soil resources and their quality	Poor	Med	Stable	Impr		?	Local	ST-LT	Perm	Med		+/-	+/-	+/-	+/-	Dependent upon the precise location and form of development proposed, there is the potential for a range of effects to ensue - there is insufficient detail in the policy to accurately predict effects.	
18	To reduce emissions of greenhouse gases, in particular carbon dioxide	Mod	High	Stable	Impr		××	Reg/Nat	ST-LT	Perm	High		-	--	---	--	The policy will result in the delivery of 3000 new dwellings, which will also result in considerable trip generation, all of which will add to the sources of GHG emissions in the County Borough.	
19	To reduce waste generation and maximise reuse and recycling	Poor	Med	Decl	Decl		×	Sub-Reg	ST-LT	Perm	High		--	--	--	--	The construction of new dwellings will result in considerable waste generation during and post-construction. There is no reference made to a sustainable approach to waste management.	There is a need to ensure that new development is supported by a requirement to adopt a sustainable approach to waste management.

20	To maintain current air quality	Good	Low	Stable	Stable		××	Local	MT-LT	Perm	Med		-	--	--	-	In areas of considerable increases in residential development densities, there is a risk that local air quality will be degraded considerably.	
21	To maintain current low levels of vulnerability of all development to flooding	Good	High	Stable	Stable		×	Local	ST-LT	Perm	Low		-	--	--	-	In areas of considerable increases in residential development densities, there is the potential for flood risk from run off to be elevated considerably.	
22	To promote the use of sustainably sourced products and resources	?	?	?	?		**?**	Sub-Reg	ST-LT	Perm	Low		+/-	+/-	+/-	+/-	There is the potential for residential development to make use of sustainably sourced products; however, this is not referenced in the policy and therefore it is not possible to accurately predict effects.	
23	To increase energy efficiency and generation and use of renewable energy across the County Borough	?	?	?	?		**?**	Sub-Reg	ST-LT	Perm	Med		+/-	+/-	+/-	+/-	There is the potential for residential development to make a considerable contribution to the objective; however, this is not referenced in the policy and therefore it is not possible to accurately predict effects.	
24	To conserve and enhance surface and ground water quality	Mod	Med	Impr	Impr		×	Sub-Reg	ST-LT	Perm	Med		-	-	-	-	The policy involves the delivery of 3000 new homes, which will introduce a substantial increase in impermeable surfacing across the county borough - this presents an increase risk of pollutants entering the watercourse.	There is a need to ensure that new development is supported by drainage systems that incorporate appropriate filtration.
25	To protect the quality and character of the landscape and enhance where necessary	Mod	Med	Stable	Decl		**?**	Sub-Reg	ST-LT	Perm	Med		+/-	+/-	+/-	+/-	Dependent upon the precise location and form of development proposed, there is the potential for a range of effects to ensue - there is insufficient detail in the policy to accurately predict effects.	

Table F.8 – SA Assessment of SP8

SP8 - Affordable Housing

Between 600 and 800 affordable new homes will be provided between 2006 and 2021.

SA Objective		*Baseline*		*Trends*			*Effects*						*Assessment*				Commentary	Mitigation/ enhancement
		Cond	Sens	Curr	Ftre		Mag	Scale	Dur	T/P	Cert		ST	MT	LT	Sm		
1	To promote economic growth and strengthen and diversify the local economy	Poor	Med	Stable	Stable		?	Local	MT-LT	Temp	Low		+	+	++	++	The provision of affordable housing may help to improve economic growth and diversity through attracting a mix of people from different socio-economic groups to live and work in the area.	
2	To increase levels of local employment and ensure distribution of opportunities	Poor	Med	Impr	Stable		✓	Local	MT-LT	Temp	Low		+	+	+	+	The provision of affordable housing may help to improve employment opportunities through attracting a mix of people from different socio-economic groups to live and work in the area, and subsequently, employers.	
3	To enable the development of a strong tourism economy in Blaenau Gwent, complementary to the regional offer	Mod	Med	Stable	Stable		-	Local	ST-LT	Perm	Low		0	0	0	0	There is no clear interrelationship between the policy and the objective	
4	To enhance the viability and vitality of town centres	Poor	Med	Impr	Impr		✓	Local	MT-LT	Temp	Low		+	+	+	+	The provision of affordable housing may contribute to the vitality and viability of town centres, dependent on its location.	The policy should ensure that a mix of housing, to include a proportion of affordable housing, is provided in the town centres as a wider mix of uses, to improve the vitality and viability of these areas.
5	To meet identified housing needs	Poor	Med	Stable	Stable		×	Local	ST-LT	Perm	Low		+	--	--	-	The supporting text to the policy suggests that some affordable housing will be provided through sites that are 100% affordable housing. Although this may meet short term housing needs, the sites which are	Gypsy accommodation is dealt with under policy SP9.

																	entirely affordable will not lead to the creation of a mixed community, and thus are not considered to be sustainable.	
6	To improve the quality of Blaenau Gwent's housing stock	Poor	Med	Stable	Stable		?	Local	ST-LT	Temp	Med		++	+/-	+/-	+	The policy's supporting text indicates that investment will be made in the Council's housing stock to meet the Welsh Housing Quality Standard. This only applies, however, to council housing stock which may mean that a large proportion of housing remains of a low quality.	Suggest that the improvements to council housing stock are included within the policy wording. The strategy should seek to ensure that refurbishments are undertaken using low carbon technologies. The policy should be widened to include requirements to improve existing non-council stock, especially rental properties and for those on low incomes.
7	To secure the delivery and maintenance of quality affordable housing	Mod	Med	Stable	Stable		✓✓	Local	ST-LT	Perm	Med		++	++	++	++	The policy will likely lead to the provision of affordable housing. The range is provided in order to provide flexibility in delivery.	
8	To improve educational attainment and increase skills levels	Poor	Med	Impr	Impr		-	Local	ST-LT	Perm	Low		0	0	0	0	There is no clear interrelationship between the policy and the objective	
9	To improve accessibility to education, leisure, employment, health, homes and community services for all sectors of the community	Mod	Med	Stable	Stable		✓✓	Local	ST-LT	Perm	Med		++	++	++	++	The policy will likely lead to the improvement in accessibility to homes for more sectors of the community.	The policy should seek to specify locations in order to ensure that affordable housing is located close to community facilities.
10	To promote community health, social care and well-being	Poor	Med	Stable	Stable		✓	Local	ST-LT	Perm	Med		++	+/-	--	+/-	An improvement in the provision of affordable housing will likely improve community well-being. However, in the longer term, sites that are allocated for 100% affordable housing may suffer from social	The policy should ensure that a mix of housing, to include a proportion of affordable housing, is provided in the town centres as a wider mix of uses, to

																	problems due to a lack of social mix.	improve the vitality and viability of these areas.
11	To reduce crime, social disorder and fear of crime	Mod	Low	Impr	Impr		×	Local	MT-LT	Perm	Med		-	--	--	-	In the longer term, sites that are allocated for 100% affordable housing may suffer from social problems due to a lack of social mix.	The policy should ensure that a mix of housing, to include a proportion of affordable housing, is provided in the town centres as a wider mix of uses, to improve the vitality and viability of these areas.
12	To protect and enhance the Welsh culture	Mod	Low	Stable	Stable		-	Local	ST-LT	Perm	Low		0	0	0	0	There is no clear interrelationship between the policy and the objective	
13	To encourage modal shift from private transport to sustainable transport	Mod	Med	Stable	Stable		?	Local	ST-LT	Temp	Med		+/-	+/-	+/-	+/-	There is the potential for the location of residential development to assist in encouraging the use of public transport; however, there is insufficient detail to be able to accurately predict effects.	
14	To protect and enhance biodiversity across Blaenau Gwent	Mod	High	Stable	Impr		?	Sub-Reg	ST-LT	Temp	Med		+/-	+/-	+/-	+/-	There is the potential for residential development to result in a range of biodiversity effects - there is insufficient detail in the policy to accurately predict effects.	
15	To conserve and enhance the heritage assets of Blaenau Gwent and their settings	Poor	High	Decl	Decl		?	Local	ST-LT	Temp	Med		+/-	+/-	+/-	+/-	Dependent upon the precise location and form of development proposed, there is the potential for a range of effects to ensue - there is insufficient detail in the policy to accurately predict effects.	
16	To make the best use of previously developed land and existing buildings to minimise pressure for greenfield development, where this will not result in	Mod	Med	Stable	Stable		?	Local	ST-LT	Perm	Med		+/-	+/-	+/-	+/-	Dependent upon the precise location and form of development proposed, there is the potential for a range of effects to ensue - there is insufficient detail in the policy to accurately predict effects.	

	damage or loss to biodiversity.																	
17	To conserve soil resources and their quality	Poor	Med	Stable	Impr		?	Local	ST-LT	Perm	Med		+/-	+/-	+/-	+/-	Dependent upon the precise location and form of development proposed, there is the potential for a range of effects to ensue - there is insufficient detail in the policy to accurately predict effects.	
18	To reduce emissions of greenhouse gases, in particular carbon dioxide	Mod	High	Stable	Impr		××	Reg/Nat	ST-LT	Perm	High		-	--	--	-	The policy will result in the delivery of new dwellings, which will also result in increased trip generation, all of which will add to the sources of GHG emissions in the County Borough.	
19	To reduce waste generation and maximise reuse and recycling	Poor	Med	Decl	Decl		×	Sub-Reg	ST-LT	Perm	High		--	--	--	--	The construction of new dwellings will result in considerable waste generation during and post-construction. There is no reference made to a sustainable approach to waste management.	There is a need to ensure that new development is supported by a requirement to adopt a sustainable approach to waste management.
20	To maintain current air quality	Good	Low	Stable	Stable		××	Local	MT-LT	Perm	Med		-	--	--	-	In areas of considerable increases in residential development densities, there is a risk that local air quality will be degraded.	
21	To maintain current low levels of vulnerability of all development to flooding	Good	High	Stable	Stable		×	Local	ST-LT	Perm	Low		-	--	--	-	In areas of considerable increases in residential development densities, there is the potential for flood risk from run off to be elevated considerably.	
22	To promote the use of sustainably sourced products and resources	?	?	?	?		?	Sub-Reg	ST-LT	Perm	Low		+/-	+/-	+/-	+/-	There is the potential for residential development to make use of sustainably sourced products; however, this is not referenced in the policy and therefore it is not possible to accurately predict effects.	

23	To increase energy efficiency and generation and use of renewable energy across the County Borough	?	?	?	?		**?**	Sub-Reg	ST-LT	Perm	Med		+/-	+/-	+/-	+/-	There is the potential for residential development to make a considerable contribution to the objective; however, this is not referenced in the policy and therefore it is not possible to accurately predict effects.	
24	To conserve and enhance surface and ground water quality	Mod	Med	Impr	Impr		×	Sub-Reg	ST-LT	Perm	Med		-	-	-	-	The policy involves the delivery of new homes, which will introduce an increase in impermeable surfacing across the county borough - this presents an increased risk of pollutants entering the watercourse.	There is a need to ensure that new development is supported by drainage systems that incorporate appropriate filtration.
25	To protect the quality and character of the landscape and enhance where necessary	Mod	Med	Stable	Decl		**?**	Sub-Reg	ST-LT	Perm	Med		+/-	+/-	+/-	+/-	Dependent upon the precise location and form of development proposed, there is the potential for a range of effects to ensue - there is insufficient detail in the policy to accurately predict effects.	

Table F.9 – SA Assessment of SP9

SP9 - Gypsy Accommodation

6 pitches for unmet gypsy and traveller housing will be provided between 2006-2021

SA Objective		*Baseline*		*Trends*			*Effects*						*Assessment*				Commentary	Mitigation/ enhancement
		Cond	Sens	Curr	Ftre		Mag	Scale	Dur	T/P	Cert		ST	MT	LT	Sm		
1	To promote economic growth and strengthen and diversify the local economy	Poor	Med	Stable	Stable		✓	Local	MT-LT	Perm	Med		0	+	+	+	The provision of a permanent base for travelling communities offers the opportunity to foster integration with the local community and associated infrastructure, which could bring economic benefits through local use of services and facilities.	
2	To increase levels of local employment and ensure distribution of opportunities	Poor	Med	Impr	Stable		-						0	0	0	0	There is no clear interrelationship between the policy and the objective.	
3	To enable the development of a strong tourism economy in Blaenau Gwent, complementary to the regional offer	Mod	Med	Stable	Stable		-	Local	ST-LT	Perm	High		0	0	+	+	There is the potential for a slight benefit in the longer term insofar as the identification of permanent sites could help to ensure that unregulated encampments do not adversely affect tourism aspirations.	
4	To enhance the viability and vitality of town centres	Poor	Med	Impr	Impr		-	Local	ST-LT	Perm	High		0	0	+	+	There is the potential for a slight benefit in the longer term depending upon the location of permanent sites, as communities may be encouraged to rely on town centre services and facilities.	
5	To meet identified housing needs	Poor	Med	Stable	Stable		✓✓	Local	MT-LT	Perm	Med		+	++	++	++	The provision of a permanent base for travelling communities is in direct response to an identified housing need - it is specialist in focus, but should deliver benefits in combination with other housing policies.	
6	To improve the quality of Blaenau Gwent's housing stock	Poor	Med	Stable	Stable		-						0	0	0	0	There is no clear interrelationship between the policy and the objective.	
7	To secure the delivery and maintenance of quality affordable housing	Mod	Med	Stable	Stable		-						0	0	0	0	There is no clear interrelationship between the policy and the objective.	

8	To improve educational attainment and increase skills levels	Poor	Med	Impr	Impr		-						0	0	0	0	There is no clear interrelationship between the policy and the objective.	
9	To improve accessibility to education, leisure, employment, health, homes and community services for all sectors of the community	Mod	Med	Stable	Stable		✓	Local	MT-LT	Perm	Med		0	+	++	+	The provision of a permanent base for travelling communities will enable children within such communities to access mainstream permanent education, which could help to deliver benefits for this sector of the population.	
10	To promote community health, social care and well-being	Poor	Med	Stable	Stable		✓	Local	MT-LT	Perm	Med		+	+	++	++	The provision of a permanent base for travelling communities will afford this sector of the population the opportunity to benefit from established community facilities. There may also be benefits in terms of well-being arising from the ability to make a permanent home.	
11	To reduce crime, social disorder and fear of crime	Mod	Low	Impr	Impr		✓	Sub-Reg	MT-LT	Perm	Med		+	++	++	++	Insofar as providing a permanent base for travelling communities will eliminate the need for travelling communities to source their own locations, which may result in trespassing and criminal damage, the policy has the potential to contribute to a reduction in this type of crime across the County Borough.	
12	To protect and enhance the Welsh culture	Mod	Low	Stable	Stable		-						0	0	0	0	There is no clear interrelationship between the policy and the objective.	
13	To encourage modal shift from private transport to sustainable transport	Mod	Med	Stable	Stable		✓	Local	MT-LT	Perm	Low		0	+	+	+	There may be some minor benefits insofar as the establishment of permanent sites for travelling communities offers the potential for encouraging the use of public transport and ensuring that accessibility is a factor in determining the location of sites to be allocated for this use.	
14	To protect and enhance biodiversity across Blaenau Gwent	Mod	High	Stable	Impr		-						0	0	0	0	Although there is the potential for unauthorised sites to damage biodiversity, this has not been identified as a key cause of concern in respect of biodiversity. Consequently, effects of formalising site	

																	locations are considered likely to be too minor to merit reflection against the objective.	
15	To conserve and enhance the heritage assets of Blaenau Gwent and their settings	Poor	High	Decl	Decl		-						0	0	0	0	Although there is the potential for unauthorised sites to damage heritage assets dependent upon location, this has not been identified as a key cause of concern in respect of biodiversity. Consequently, effects of formalising site locations are considered likely to be too minor to merit reflection against the objective.	
16	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 to biodiversity.	Mod	Med	Stable	Stable		-						0	0	0	0	There is no clear interrelationship between the policy and the objective.	
17	To conserve soil resources and their quality	Poor	Med	Stable	Impr		-						0	0	0	0	Although there is the potential for unauthorised sites to damage soil resources, this has not been identified as a key cause of concern in respect of biodiversity. Consequently, effects of formalising site locations are considered likely to be too minor to merit reflection against the objective.	
18	To reduce emissions of greenhouse gases, in particular carbon dioxide	Mod	High	Stable	Impr		-						0	0	0	0	There is no clear interrelationship between the policy and the objective.	
19	To reduce waste generation and maximise reuse and recycling	Poor	Med	Decl	Decl		✓	Local	MT-LT	Perm	Low		0	+	+	+	The provision of a permanent base for travelling communities will afford this sector of the population the opportunity to benefit from established community facilities. There may also be opportunities to ensure that formalised sites are served by mainstream waste management provision.	
20	To maintain current air quality	Good	Low	Stable	Stable		-	Local	ST-LT	Perm	Med		0	0	0	0	There is no clear interrelationship between the policy and the objective.	

21	To maintain current low levels of vulnerability of all development to flooding	Good	High	Stable	Stable		✓	Sub-Reg	ST-LT	Perm	High		0	+	+	+	The formalisation of sites offers the opportunity to ensure that flood risk and resilience to flooding form a consideration in determining the location of sites to be allocated for this use.	
22	To promote the use of sustainably sourced products and resources	?	?	?	?		-	Local	ST-LT	Perm	Med		0	0	0	0	There is no clear interrelationship between the policy and the objective.	
23	To increase energy efficiency and generation and use of renewable energy across the County Borough	?	?	?	?		-						0	0	0	0	There is no clear interrelationship between the policy and the objective.	
24	To conserve and enhance surface and ground water quality	Mod	Med	Impr	Impr		✓	Sub-Reg	MT-LT	Perm	Med		+	+	++	++	The formalisation of sites offers the opportunity to ensure that sites are served by appropriate water supply and drainage facilities, which can deliver benefits against this objective.	
25	To protect the quality and character of the landscape and enhance where necessary	Mod	Med	Stable	Decl		✓	Sub-Reg	MT-LT	Perm	High		+	+	++	++	There is the potential for a slight benefit in the longer term insofar as the identification of permanent sites could help to ensure that unregulated encampments do not adversely affect the quality and character of the landscape where openness is considered to be of particular importance.	

Table F.10 – SA Assessment of SP10

SP10 - Transport Infrastructure Improvements

The Council will support improvements to the existing transport infrastructure where they achieve at least one of the following criteria:
• Increase accessibility between the sub-regional and district/local hubs
• Increase accessibility of the strategic transport network
• Increase accessibility of services and facilities
• Reinforce the role and function of the hubs
• Reduce the need to travel by car

SA Objective		*Baseline*		*Trends*			*Effects*						*Assessment*				Commentary	Mitigation/ enhancement
		Cond	Sens	Curr	Ftre		Mag	Scale	Dur	T/P	Cert		ST	MT	LT	Sm		
1	To promote economic growth and strengthen and diversify the local economy	Poor	Med	Stable	Stable		✓	Sub-Reg	MT-LT	Perm	Med		+	++	++	++	The availability of effective transport links is key to underpinning economic growth - delivery of infrastructure improvements should convey some benefits.	
2	To increase levels of local employment and ensure distribution of opportunities	Poor	Med	Impr	Stable		-						0	0	0	0	There is no clear interrelationship between the policy and the objective.	
3	To enable the development of a strong tourism economy in Blaenau Gwent, complementary to the regional offer	Mod	Med	Stable	Stable		✓	Sub-Reg	MT-LT	Perm	Med		+	++	++	++	Tourism development is heavily reliant upon an effective transportation network - improvements arising from the policy implementation should therefore convey some benefits.	
4	To enhance the viability and vitality of town centres	Poor	Med	Impr	Impr		✓	Sub-Reg	MT-LT	Perm	Med		+	+	++	++	In order to ensure that towns are vital and viable, there is a need to have good accessibility - improvements to the latter should therefore convey benefits in response of the objective.	
5	To meet identified housing needs	Poor	Med	Stable	Stable		-	Local	ST-LT	Perm	High		0	0	0	0	There is no clear interrelationship between the policy and the objective.	

6	To improve the quality of Blaenau Gwent's housing stock	Poor	Med	Stable	Stable		-	Local	ST-LT	Perm	High		0	0	0	0	There is no clear interrelationship between the policy and the objective.	
7	To secure the delivery and maintenance of quality affordable housing	Mod	Med	Stable	Stable		-	Local	ST-LT	Perm	High		0	0	0	0	There is no clear interrelationship between the policy and the objective.	
8	To improve educational attainment and increase skills levels	Poor	Med	Impr	Impr		-	Local	ST-LT	Perm	Med		0	0	0	0	There is no clear interrelationship between the policy and the objective.	
9	To improve accessibility to education, leisure, employment, health, homes and community services for all sectors of the community	Mod	Med	Stable	Stable		✓✓	Sub-Reg	ST-LT	Perm	High		++	+++	+++	+++	The policy seeks to achieve improved accessibility across Blaenau Gwent and is therefore directly aligned with the objective. Benefits should increase over time.	
10	To promote community health, social care and well-being	Poor	Med	Stable	Stable		✓	Local	MT-LT	Perm	Med		+	+	+	+	Insofar as the policy may help to deliver improved accessibility to services and facilities, there is the potential for some localised benefits against the objective.	
11	To reduce crime, social disorder and fear of crime	Mod	Low	Impr	Impr		-	Local	ST-LT	Perm	Med		0	0	0	0	There is no clear interrelationship between the policy and the objective.	
12	To protect and enhance the Welsh culture	Mod	Low	Stable	Stable		-	Local	ST-LT	Perm	Med		0	0	0	0	There is no clear interrelationship between the policy and the objective.	
13	To encourage modal shift from private transport to sustainable transport	Mod	Med	Stable	Stable		?	Sub-Reg	ST-LT	Perm	Med		+/-	+/-	+/-	+/-	The policy addresses transport in a general sense and does not make a distinction between public and private transport modes - as such, there is the potential for the policy to support either, with the resultant effects potentially being mixed in respect of the objective.	
14	To protect and enhance biodiversity across Blaenau Gwent	Mod	High	Stable	Impr		×	Sub-Reg	MT-LT	Perm	Low		+/-	+/-	-	+/-	Theoretically the policy in its current form would support significant new infrastructure development, which could have considerable adverse	

																	effects against the objective. However, there is insufficient detail to be accurate in such a prediction.	
15	To conserve and enhance the heritage assets of Blaenau Gwent and their settings	Poor	High	Decl	Decl		?	Sub-Reg	ST-LT	Temp	Low		+/-	+/-	+/-	+/-	Dependent upon the precise location and form of development supported by the policy, there is the potential for a range of effects to ensue - there is insufficient detail in the policy to accurately predict effects.	
16	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 to biodiversity.	Mod	Med	Stable	Stable		?	Sub-Reg	ST-LT	Temp	Low		+/-	+/-	+/-	+/-	Insofar as improvements to transport infrastructure may assist in unlocking the development potential of sites, the policy has the potential to deliver a range of positive and negative effects, dependent upon location. There is insufficient detail in the policy to accurately predict effects.	
17	To conserve soil resources and their quality	Poor	Med	Stable	Impr		?	Local	ST-LT	Perm	Med		+/-	+/-	+/-	+/-	The policy in its current form could support considerable new infrastructure development projects and, as such, could have considerable adverse effects against the objective; however, there is insufficient detail in the policy to accurately predict such effects.	
18	To reduce emissions of greenhouse gases, in particular carbon dioxide	Mod	High	Stable	Impr		×	Reg/Nat	ST-LT	Perm	High		-	--	--	-	The policy supports all types of transportation infrastructure development, which is likely to support increased transport movements and therefore, GHG emissions.	

19	To reduce waste generation and maximise reuse and recycling	Poor	Med	Decl	Decl		×	Sub-Reg	MT-LT	Perm	Med		-	--	--	-	The policy is considered likely to support sizeable new infrastructure projects, which will result in considerable waste generation. No reference is made to how such wastes might be treated.	There is a need for policies involving substantial construction works to be supported by sustainable waste management systems.
20	To maintain current air quality	Good	Low	Stable	Stable		×	Local	ST-LT	Perm	Med		+/-	+/-	+/-	+/-	The policy addresses transport in a general sense and does not make a distinction between public and private transport modes - as such, there is the potential for the policy to support either, with the resultant effects potentially being mixed in respect of the objective.	
21	To maintain current low levels of vulnerability of all development to flooding	Good	High	Stable	Stable		**?**	Sub-Reg	ST-LT	Perm	Low		+/-	+/-	+/-	+/-	The policy in its current form could support considerable new infrastructure development projects and, as such, could have considerable adverse effects against the objective; however, there is insufficient detail in the policy to accurately predict such effects.	
22	To promote the use of sustainably sourced products and resources	?	?	?	?		**-**	Local	ST-LT	Perm	Med		0	0	0	0	There is no clear interrelationship between the policy and the objective.	
23	To increase energy efficiency and generation and use of renewable energy across the County Borough	?	?	?	?		**-**	Local	ST-LT	Perm	Med		0	0	0	0	There is no clear interrelationship between the policy and the objective.	
24	To conserve and enhance surface and ground water quality	Mod	Med	Impr	Impr		**?**	Local	ST-LT	Perm	Low		+/-	+/-	+/-	+/-	The policy in its current form could support considerable new infrastructure development projects and, as such, could have considerable adverse effects against the objective; however, there is insufficient detail in the policy to accurately predict such effects.	

25	To protect the quality and character of the landscape and enhance where necessary	Mod	Med	Stable	Decl		**?**	Sub-Reg	MT-LT	Perm	Med		+/-	+/-	+/-	+/-	The policy in its current form could support considerable new infrastructure development projects and, as such, could have considerable adverse effects against the objective; however, there is insufficient detail in the policy to accurately predict such effects.	

Table F.11 – SA Assessment of SP11

SP11 - Transport Requirements for new Development

Development proposals will be assessed in relation to:
• Car parking standards set out in the Council's Car Parking Strategy
• Promotion of public transport, walking and cycling
• Protection of the safety of the highway network
• Accessibility to all users
• Pedestrian safety

SA Objective		*Baseline*		*Trends*			*Effects*						*Assessment*				Commentary	Mitigation/ enhancement
		Cond	Sens	Curr	Ftre		Mag	Scale	Dur	T/P	Cert		ST	MT	LT	Sm		
1	To promote economic growth and strengthen and diversify the local economy	Poor	Med	Stable	Stable		✓	Local	MT-LT	Perm	Med		++	++	++	++	Locating development in areas accessible by a range of transport modes is likely to attract more investors, services and visitors, thus helping to stimulate economic activity.	
2	To increase levels of local employment and ensure distribution of opportunities	Poor	Med	Impr	Stable		✓	Local	MT-LT	Perm	Med		+	+	+	+	Some indirect positive effects on employment levels are likely, insofar as the policy aims to enhance accessibility for all.	
3	To enable the development of a strong tourism economy in Blaenau Gwent, complementary to the regional offer	Mod	Med	Stable	Stable		✓✓	Sub-Reg	MT-LT	Perm	Med		+	+	+	+	Tourism development may benefit from the improved accessibility by sustainable transport modes.	
4	To enhance the viability and vitality of town centres	Poor	Med	Impr	Impr		✓✓	Sub-Reg	MT-LT	Perm	Med		++	++	++	++	In order to enhance town centres' vitality and viability, it is important to ensure good accessibility for all users and pedestrian safety. Therefore, this policy should deliver significant benefits against this objective.	
5	To meet identified housing needs	Poor	Med	Stable	Stable		-						0	0	0	0	There is no clear interrelationship between the policy and the objective.	
6	To improve the quality of Blaenau Gwent's housing stock	Poor	Med	Stable	Stable		-						0	0	0	0	There is no clear interrelationship between the policy and the objective.	

7	To secure the delivery and maintenance of quality affordable housing	Mod	Med	Stable	Stable		-						0	0	0	0	There is no clear interrelationship between the policy and the objective.	
8	To improve educational attainment and increase skills levels	Poor	Med	Impr	Impr		-						0	0	0	0	There is no clear interrelationship between the policy and the objective.	
9	To improve accessibility to education, leisure, employment, health, homes and community services for all sectors of the community	Mod	Med	Stable	Stable		✓✓	Sub-Reg	ST-LT	Perm	High		++	+++	+++	+++	The policy is directly concerned with improving accessibility for all users as part of new development. Benefits should increase over time.	
10	To promote community health, social care and well-being	Poor	Med	Stable	Stable		✓	Local	ST-LT	Perm	Med		++	++	++	++	Insofar as the policy aims to protect the safety of the highway network, improve accessibility for all users and pedestrian safety, it should have positive effects on community health and social well-being and encourage social integration.	
11	To reduce crime, social disorder and fear of crime	Mod	Low	Impr	Impr		-						0	0	0	0	There is no clear interrelationship between the policy and the objective.	
12	To protect and enhance the Welsh culture	Mod	Low	Stable	Stable		-						0	0	0	0	There is no clear interrelationship between the policy and the objective.	
13	To encourage modal shift from private transport to sustainable transport	Mod	Med	Stable	Stable		✓✓	Sub-Reg	ST-LT	Perm	High		++	++	+++	+++	The policy is directly concerned with promoting public transport, walking and cycling as part of new development. Benefits should increase over time.	
14	To protect and enhance biodiversity across Blaenau Gwent	Mod	High	Stable	Impr		-						0	0	0	0	There is no clear interrelationship between the policy and the objective.	
15	To conserve and enhance the heritage assets of Blaenau Gwent and their settings	Poor	High	Decl	Decl		-						0	0	0	0	There is no clear interrelationship between the policy and the objective.	

16	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 to biodiversity.	Mod	Med	Stable	Stable		-						0	0	0	0	There is no clear interrelationship between the policy and the objective.	
17	To conserve soil resources and their quality	Poor	Med	Stable	Impr		✓	Local	MT-LT	Perm	Med		0	+	+	+	The policy should help in decoupling transport growth from economic growth and reduce the levels of road transport, which may lead to some reduction in a polluted run off in the longer term. Therefore, there is the potential for some indirect positive effects.	
18	To reduce emissions of greenhouse gases, in particular carbon dioxide	Mod	High	Stable	Impr		✓✓	Reg/Nat	ST-LT	Perm	Med		+	++	++	++	The policy supports more sustainable transport modes, including public transport and non-motorised modes, which should help reduce transport related emissions, including GHG emissions.	
19	To reduce waste generation and maximise reuse and recycling	Poor	Med	Decl	Decl		-	Local	ST-LT	Perm	Med		0	0	0	0	There is no clear interrelationship between the policy and the objective.	
20	To maintain current air quality	Good	Low	Stable	Stable		✓✓	Reg/Nat	ST-LT	Perm	Med		+	++	++	++	The policy supports more sustainable transport modes, including public transport and non-motorised modes, which should help reduce transport related emissions with benefits for local air quality.	
21	To maintain current low levels of vulnerability of all development to flooding	Good	High	Stable	Stable		✓	Local	ST-LT	Perm	Low		+	+	+	+	The policy promotes more sustainable transport modes, which is not likely to require large-scale new infrastructure development projects and, as such, may have some positive effects against this objective.	
22	To promote the use of sustainably sourced products and resources	?	?	?	?		-	Local	ST-LT	Perm	Med		0	0	0	0	There is no clear interrelationship between the policy and the objective.	

23	To increase energy efficiency and generation and use of renewable energy across the County Borough	?	?	?	?		✓✓	Reg/Nat	ST-LT	Perm	Med		+	++	++	++	Insofar as the policy promotes the use of sustainable transport modes, this will improve transport energy efficiency in the area and thus will deliver positive effects against this objective.	
24	To conserve and enhance surface and ground water quality	Mod	Med	Impr	Impr		✓	Local	MT-LT	Perm	Med		0	+	+	+	The policy should help in decoupling transport growth from economic growth and reduce the levels of road transport, which may lead to some reduction in a polluted run off in the longer term. Therefore, there is the potential for some indirect positive effects against this objective.	
25	To protect the quality and character of the landscape and enhance where necessary	Mod	Med	Stable	Decl		✓	Local	ST-LT	Perm	Low		+	+	+	+	The policy promotes more sustainable transport modes, which is not likely to require large-scale new infrastructure development projects and, as such, may have some positive effects against this objective.	

Table F.12 – SA Assessment of SP12

SP12 - Planning Obligations

The Council will negotiate planning obligations where appropriate to secure improvements in infrastructure, facilities and services appropriate to the scale, type and location of the proposed development. These obligations may include the provision or improvement of the following:

- Affordable Housing
- Traffic, Transport and Highway Initiatives
- Education Facilities
- Community Development and Recreational Facilities
- Public Open Space
- Biodiversity and Geodiversity
- Skills and Labour Market
- Community Safety
- Public Art

SA Objective		*Baseline*		*Trends*			*Effects*						*Assessment*				Commentary	Mitigation/ enhancement
		Cond	Sens	Curr	Ftre		Mag	Scale	Dur	T/P	Cert		ST	MT	LT	Sm		
1	To promote economic growth and strengthen and diversify the local economy	Poor	Med	Stable	Stable		✓✓	Local	ST-LT	Perm	Med		+	++	++	++	Inclusion of provisions for skills and labour market in planning obligations for new developments should strengthen local economy by securing employment and training and developing new infrastructure to support new developments.	
2	To increase levels of local employment and ensure distribution of opportunities	Poor	Med	Impr	Stable		✓	Local	ST-LT	Perm	Med		+	++	++	++	Insofar as planning obligations may include, where appropriate, provisions for skills and labour market, this may create local businesses opportunities and improve local employment levels.	
3	To enable the development of a strong tourism economy in Blaenau Gwent, complementary to the regional offer	Mod	Med	Stable	Stable		✓	Local	ST-LT	Perm	Med		+	++	++	++	Although this policy is not directly linked with tourism economy, the area's prospects of developing a strong tourism sector will depend on the quality of its environment and infrastructure provision, which should be enhanced by the provisions of this policy.	
4	To enhance the viability and vitality of town centres	Poor	Med	Impr	Impr		✓✓	Local	ST-LT	Perm	Med		++	++	++	++	Provision of supplementary facilities should make new developments more attractive, increasing their as well as town centres' viability and vitality.	
5	To meet identified housing needs	Poor	Med	Stable	Stable		-	Local	ST-LT	Perm	Med		0	0	0	0	There is no clear interrelationship between the policy and the objective.	
6	To improve the quality of Blaenau	Poor	Med	Stable	Stable		-	Local	ST-LT	Perm	Med		0	0	0	0	There is no clear interrelationship between the policy and the	

	Gwent's housing stock																objective.	
7	To secure the delivery and maintenance of quality affordable housing	Mod	Med	Stable	Stable		✓✓	Local	ST-MT	Perm	Med		++	++	+	++	As the policy will require the provision of affordable housing for appropriate size and type of the development, this will deliver positive effects against this objective.	
8	To improve educational attainment and increase skills levels	Poor	Med	Impr	Impr		✓✓	Local	ST-LT	Perm	Med		++	++	++	++	As the policy will require the provision of education facilities and public art for appropriate size, location and type of the development, this should have positive effects on education and skills levels.	
9	To improve accessibility to education, leisure, employment, health, homes and community services for all sectors of the community	Mod	Med	Stable	Stable		✓	Local	ST-LT	Perm	Med		++	++	+	++	As the policy requires the provision of education, recreation and other community facilities to be part of appropriate new developments it should help improve accessibility to the key services.	
10	To promote community health, social care and well-being	Poor	Med	Stable	Stable		✓✓	Local	ST-LT	Perm	Med		++	++	++	++	As the policy will require the provision of community development and recreation facilities and public open space for appropriate size, location and type of the development, this should have positive effects on community health and well-being and encouraging cohesion and a sense of belonging.	
11	To reduce crime, social disorder and fear of crime	Mod	Low	Impr	Impr		✓	Local	MT-LT	Perm	Low		+	+	+	+	Insofar as the policy involves improvements of community safety, it should help promote interaction between residential and community cohesion by stipulating the provision for various facilities for different age groups. This should have positive effects on social behaviour, crime levels and fear of crime.	
12	To protect and enhance the Welsh culture	Mod	Low	Stable	Stable		✓	Sub-Reg	MT-LT	Perm	Med		+	+	+	+	As the policy stipulates the provision for educational and other facilities, this could complement other policies to support and enhance cultural identity.	

13	To encourage modal shift from private transport to sustainable transport	Mod	Med	Stable	Stable		?	Sub-Reg	ST-LT	Perm	Med		+/-	+/-	+/-	+/-	The policy includes the provision for transport initiatives in a general sense but it does not make a distinction between public and private transport modes - as such, there is the potential for the policy to support either. This may lead to a range of both positive and negative effects.	The policy wording could be strengthened by putting a stronger emphasis on the provision of sustainable transport infrastructure and services.
14	To protect and enhance biodiversity across Blaenau Gwent	Mod	High	Stable	Impr		✓	Sub-Reg	MT-LT	Perm	Med		+	+	+	+	As the policy will require biodiversity and geodiversity improvement schemes to be part of an appropriate development, this should have positive effects against this objective.	
15	To conserve and enhance the heritage assets of Blaenau Gwent and their settings	Poor	High	Decl	Decl		✓	Local	ST-LT	Perm	Med		+	++	++	++	Provision of public art as part of new development schemes has the potential to enhance the character and visual qualities of the area and improve the settings of heritage assets.	
16	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 to biodiversity.	Mod	Med	Stable	Stable		✓	Sub-Reg	MT-LT	Perm	Med		+	+	+	+	As the policy will require biodiversity improvement schemes and the provision of public open space to be part of an appropriate development, this should ensure the efficient use of land and have positive effects against this objective.	
17	To conserve soil resources and their quality	Poor	Med	Stable	Impr		✓	Sub-Reg	MT-LT	Perm	Med		+	+	+	+	As the policy will require biodiversity improvement schemes and the provision of public open space to be part of an appropriate development, this should ensure the efficient use of land and have positive effects against this objective.	
18	To reduce emissions of greenhouse gases, in particular carbon dioxide	Mod	High	Stable	Impr		?	Sub-Reg	ST-LT	Perm	Med		+/-	+/-	+/-	+/-	The policy includes the provision for transport initiatives in a general sense but it does not make a distinction between public and private transport modes - as such, there is the potential for the policy to support either. This may result in both increases and relative decreases in transport related emissions, and in particular GHG	The policy wording could be strengthened by putting a stronger emphasis on the provision of sustainable transport infrastructure

																emissions, from different developments.	and services.
19	To reduce waste generation and maximise reuse and recycling	Poor	Med	Decl	Decl		-	Local	ST-LT	Perm	Med		0	0	0	0	There is no clear interrelationship between the policy and the objective, as planning obligations do not include the provision for recycling infrastructure.	
20	To maintain current air quality	Good	Low	Stable	Stable		?	Sub-Reg	ST-LT	Perm	Med		+/-	+/-	+/-	+/-	The policy includes the provision for transport initiatives in a general sense but it does not make a distinction between public and private transport modes - as such, there is the potential for the policy to support either. This may result in both increases and relative decreases in transport related emissions, affecting local air quality.	The policy wording could be strengthened by putting a stronger emphasis on the provision of sustainable transport infrastructure and services.
21	To maintain current low levels of vulnerability of all development to flooding	Good	High	Stable	Stable		-	Local	ST-LT	Perm	Med		0	0	0	0	There is no clear interrelationship between the policy and the objective.	
22	To promote the use of sustainably sourced products and resources	?	?	?	?		-	Local	ST-LT	Perm	Med		0	0	0	0	There is no clear interrelationship between the policy and the objective.	
23	To increase energy efficiency and generation and use of renewable energy across the County Borough	?	?	?	?		?	Sub-Reg	ST-LT	Perm	Med		+/-	+/-	+/-	+/-	It is not possible to accurately predict the policy effects on transport efficiency, as the support may be given to both public and private transport. Therefore, the potential effects are mixed in respect of the objective.	
24	To conserve and enhance surface and ground water quality	Mod	Med	Impr	Impr		-	Local	ST-LT	Perm	Med		0	0	0	0	There is no clear interrelationship between the policy and the objective.	
25	To protect the quality and character of the landscape and enhance where necessary	Mod	Med	Stable	Decl		✓	Sub-Reg	MT-LT	Perm	Med		+	++	+	++	Positive effects on the quality of the local landscape and townscape are likely due to the requirements of biodiversity improvement schemes and the provision for public open space as well as public art to be part of appropriate new developments.	

Table F.13 – SA Assessment of SP13

SP13 - Built and Natural Environment

The distinctive natural environment of the County Borough will be protected and enhanced. Appropriate development proposals should promote:
• High quality design that reinforces local character, enhances landscape settings, and respects the cultural and historic qualities of individual buildings, landscapes or Conservation Areas;
• Opportunities for the creation, conservation or restoration of designated sites of national and local nature conservation interests.

SA Objective		*Baseline*		*Trends*			*Effects*						*Assessment*				Commentary	Mitigation/ enhancement
		Cond	Sens	Curr	Ftre		Mag	Scale	Dur	T/P	Cert		ST	MT	LT	Sm		
1	To promote economic growth and strengthen and diversify the local economy	Poor	Med	Stable	Stable		✓	Local	ST-LT	Perm	Med		+	+	+	+	The enhancement of the natural and built environment is likely to improve the attractiveness of the area, thus potentially attracting inward investment.	
2	To increase levels of local employment and ensure distribution of opportunities	Poor	Med	Impr	Stable		✓	Local	ST-LT	Perm	Med		+	+	+	+	The enhancement of the natural and built environment is likely to improve the attractiveness of the area, thus potentially attracting inward investment and subsequent employment opportunities.	
3	To enable the development of a strong tourism economy in Blaenau Gwent, complementary to the regional offer	Mod	Med	Stable	Stable		✓	Local	ST-LT	Perm	Med		++	++	++	++	High quality built design and the protection of the natural environment may help to improve the attractiveness of the area, thus increasing the potential for visitors to the area.	
4	To enhance the viability and vitality of town centres	Poor	Med	Impr	Impr		✓	Local	ST-LT	Perm	Med		++	++	++	++	High quality built design and the protection of the natural environment may help to improve the attractiveness of the area, thus increasing the potential for visitors to the area as well as potential inward investment, which may enhance the vitality and viability of the town centres.	
5	To meet identified housing needs	Poor	Med	Stable	Stable		-						0	0	0	0	There is no clear interrelationship between the policy and the objective.	

6	To improve the quality of Blaenau Gwent's housing stock	Poor	Med	Stable	Stable		✓	Local	ST-LT	Perm	Med		+	+	+	+	The policy may lead to an improvement in the housing stock of the County Borough.	The policy should specify what it considers to be 'appropriate' development proposals, including new development as well as changes to existing buildings, especially housing.
7	To secure the delivery and maintenance of quality affordable housing	Mod	Med	Stable	Stable		-						0	0	0	0	There is no clear interrelationship between the policy and the objective.	
8	To improve educational attainment and increase skills levels	Poor	Med	Impr	Impr		-						0	0	0	0	There is no clear interrelationship between the policy and the objective.	
9	To improve accessibility to education, leisure, employment, health, homes and community services for all sectors of the community	Mod	Med	Stable	Stable		-						0	0	0	0	There is no clear interrelationship between the policy and the objective.	
10	To promote community health, social care and well-being	Poor	Med	Stable	Stable		✓	Sub-Reg	MT-LT	Perm	Med		+	+	+	+	Indirect positive effects on public health and well being insofar as the policy should help enhance the quality of the environment and engender a greater sense of local identity.	
11	To reduce crime, social disorder and fear of crime	Mod	Low	Impr	Impr		✓	Local	MT-LT	Perm	Low		+	+	+	+	Indirect positive effects on crime levels and fear of crime are likely as application of high quality design principles may include designing out crime measures. Engendering a greater sense of local identity and belonging to the local community associated with this policy should also help deliver positive effects against this objective.	The policy should include the need to incorporate methods to design out crime, for example using Secured by Design principles.
12	To protect and enhance the Welsh culture	Mod	Low	Stable	Stable		✓	Sub-Reg	MT-LT	Perm	Low		+	+	+	+	Design that reinforces local character and respects cultural and historic qualities of individual buildings and Conservation Areas has the	

																potential to deliver a greater sense of identity.	
13	To encourage modal shift from private transport to sustainable transport	Mod	Med	Stable	Stable		-					0	0	0	0	There is no clear interrelationship between the policy and the objective.	
14	To protect and enhance biodiversity across Blaenau Gwent	Mod	High	Stable	Impr		✓✓	Sub-Reg	ST-LT	Perm	High	++	++	++	++	Significant beneficial effects, as the policy supports development proposals that promote opportunities for the creation, conservation or restoration of designated sites of national and local nature conservation interests.	The policy should also seek to protect sites of nature conservation interest that aren't protected by legislation.
15	To conserve and enhance the heritage assets of Blaenau Gwent and their settings	Poor	High	Decl	Decl		✓✓	Sub-Reg	ST-LT	Perm	High	++	++	++	++	Significant beneficial effects, as the policy supports development proposals that respect the cultural and historic qualities of individual buildings, enhance landscape settings and local distinctiveness.	The policy should include the need to protect the built environment as well as the natural environment as part of its intention in the first line.
16	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 to biodiversity.	Mod	Med	Stable	Stable		✓	Local	MT-LT	Perm	Low	+	+	+	+	High quality design that respects landscape settings and takes account of environmental constraints should help ensure that the best solutions are identified in order to maximise development potential, which should be beneficial against the objective. The enhancement of character may also encourage the re-use of existing buildings.	The re-use of existing buildings to enhance local character should be specified as a priority.
17	To conserve soil resources and their quality	Poor	Med	Stable	Impr		✓	Local	MT-LT	Perm	Low	+	+	+	+	High quality design that respects landscape settings and takes account of environmental constraints should help ensure that the best solutions are identified (in particular, brownfield sites potential is explored) in order to maximise development potential, which should be beneficial against the objective.	.

18	To reduce emissions of greenhouse gases, in particular carbon dioxide	Mod	High	Stable	Impr		-						0	0	0	0	There is no clear direct interrelationship between the policy and the objective.	
19	To reduce waste generation and maximise reuse and recycling	Poor	Med	Decl	Decl		-						0	0	0	0	There is no clear direct interrelationship between the policy and the objective.	
20	To maintain current air quality	Good	Low	Stable	Stable		-						0	0	0	0	There is no clear direct interrelationship between the policy and the objective.	
21	To maintain current low levels of vulnerability of all development to flooding	Good	High	Stable	Stable		×	Sub-Reg	ST-LT	Perm	Med		-	-	-	-	The policy does not include a requirement that new development should be designed in a way to minimise the increased risk of and from flooding.	The policy should include the need for high quality design to incorporate measure to minimise its effects on the natural environment, including SUDs.
22	To promote the use of sustainably sourced products and resources	?	?	?	?		✓	Local	ST-LT	Perm	Med		+	+	+	+	Assuming that enhancing of local character and, in particular, the appearance of individual historic buildings, may require the use of locally sourced materials, this policy should deliver positive effects against this objective.	The re-use of existing buildings to enhance local character should be specified as a priority as well as the use of locally sourced materials in new and existing development.
23	To increase energy efficiency and generation and use of renewable energy across the County Borough	?	?	?	?		-	Local	ST-LT	Perm	Med		0	0	0	0		The policy should include a requirement for development to adhere to sustainable design principles, such as the Code for Sustainable Homes or BREEAM, in order to maximise energy efficiency in the built environment.
24	To conserve and enhance surface and ground water quality	Mod	Med	Impr	Impr		×	Local	ST-LT	Perm	Med		-	-	-	-	The policy does not include a requirement that new development should be designed in a way to minimise increased surface water run off from new development, which can lead to contamination of surface and groundwater.	The policy should include the need for high quality design to incorporate measure to minimise its affects on the natural environment, including SUDs.
25	To protect the quality and character of the landscape and	Mod	Med	Stable	Decl		✓✓	Sub-Reg	ST-LT	Perm	Med		++	++	++	++	High quality design that enhances landscape settings and Conservation Areas should result in significant	

	enhance where necessary															beneficial effects against this objective.	

Table F.14 – SA Assessment of SP14

SP14- Minerals

The Council will contribute to the regional demand for a continuous supply of minerals by:
• Safeguarding known reserves of coal, sand and gravel, limestone, high quality hard rock taking into account relevant environmental, planning and transportation considerations; and
• Maintaining a 10-year land-bank of permitted aggregate reserves in line with national guidance.

SA Objective		*Baseline*		*Trends*			*Effects*						*Assessment*				Commentary	Mitigation/ enhancement
		Cond	Sens	Curr	Ftre		Mag	Scale	Dur	T/P	Cert		ST	MT	LT	Sm		
1	To promote economic growth and strengthen and diversify the local economy	Poor	Med	Stable	Stable		✓	Reg/Nat	MT-LT	Perm	Med		+	+	+	+	The policy may help to maintain the minerals sector of the economy through the preservation of resources.	
2	To increase levels of local employment and ensure distribution of opportunities	Poor	Med	Impr	Stable		✓	Sub-Reg	ST-LT	Perm	High		+	+	+	+	Safeguarding mineral resources and maintaining appropriate land banks should support existing and new minerals and minerals-related operations.	
3	To enable the development of a strong tourism economy in Blaenau Gwent, complementary to the regional offer	Mod	Med	Stable	Stable		-						0	0	0	0	There is no clear interrelationship between the policy and the objective.	
4	To enhance the viability and vitality of town centres	Poor	Med	Impr	Impr		-						0	0	0	0	There is no clear interrelationship between the policy and the objective.	
5	To meet identified housing needs	Poor	Med	Stable	Stable		-						0	0	0	0	There is no clear interrelationship between the policy and the objective.	
6	To improve the quality of Blaenau Gwent's housing stock	Poor	Med	Stable	Stable		-						0	0	0	0	There is no clear interrelationship between the policy and the objective.	
7	To secure the delivery and maintenance of quality affordable housing	Mod	Med	Stable	Stable		-						0	0	0	0	There is no clear interrelationship between the policy and the objective.	
8	To improve educational attainment and	Poor	Med	Impr	Impr		-						0	0	0	0	The maintenance of mineral supplies is not likely to improve skills	

	increase skills levels																levels.	
9	To improve accessibility to education, leisure, employment, health, homes and community services for all sectors of the community	Mod	Med	Stable	Stable		-						0	0	0	0	There is no clear interrelationship between the policy and the objective.	
10	To promote community health, social care and well-being	Poor	Med	Stable	Stable		×	Local	ST-LT	Temp	Med		-	-	-	-	Negative effects may occur due to mineral operations' potential impacts on amenity.	
11	To reduce crime, social disorder and fear of crime	Mod	Low	Impr	Impr		-						0	0	0	0	There is no clear interrelationship between the policy and the objective.	
12	To protect and enhance the Welsh culture	Mod	Low	Stable	Stable		✓	Local	MT-LT	Perm	Med		+	+	+	+	There is the potential for some indirect benefits insofar as safeguarding local mineral resources could help maintain local character and distinctiveness of the built environment if the materials are used for this purpose.	
13	To encourage modal shift from private transport to sustainable transport	Mod	Med	Stable	Stable		?	Local	ST-LT	Temp	Low		+/-	+/-	+/-	+/-	The policy may deliver some positive effects against this objective, as transportation considerations will inform safeguarding of mineral resources. However, the continued supply of mineral resources may lead to an overall increase in traffic.	The LDP should stipulate for the provision of a more detailed transport policy, supporting sustainable transport such as rail, as part of the Minerals policy.
14	To protect and enhance biodiversity across Blaenau Gwent	Mod	High	Stable	Impr		×	Local	ST-LT	Temp	Med		-	-	-	-	The Policy may result in some indirect negative effects against this objective, as minerals' operations indirectly supported by this policy may impact on the local biodiversity. These effects may be minimised or mitigated by taking environmental considerations into	The LDP should stipulate for the provision of more detailed policies to protect sites of ecological value and to explore opportunities for biodiversity enhancement during restoration and aftercare, as part of

																	account.	the Minerals policy.
15	To conserve and enhance the heritage assets of Blaenau Gwent and their settings	Poor	High	Decl	Decl		×	Local	ST-LT	Temp	Med		-	-	-	-	The Policy may result in some indirect negative effects against this objective, as minerals' operations indirectly supported by this Policy may impact on the settings of local heritage assets.	The LDP should stipulate for the provision of a more detailed policy, protecting heritage assets and their settings.
16	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 to biodiversity.	Mod	Med	Stable	Stable		-						0	0	0	0	There is no clear interrelationship between the policy and the objective.	
17	To conserve soil resources and their quality	Poor	Med	Stable	Impr		?	Local	ST-LT	Temp	Low		-	-	-	-	The extraction of minerals may lead to a loss of high quality soils.	The policy should ensure that soil resources are preserved wherever possible.
18	To reduce emissions of greenhouse gases, in particular carbon dioxide	Mod	High	Stable	Impr		-						0	0	0	0	There is no clear interrelationship between the policy and the objective.	
19	To reduce waste generation and maximise reuse and recycling	Poor	Med	Decl	Decl		-						0	0	0	0	There is no clear interrelationship between the policy and the objective.	
20	To maintain current air quality	Good	Low	Stable	Stable		-						0	0	0	0	There is no clear interrelationship between the policy and the objective.	
21	To maintain current low levels of vulnerability of all development to flooding	Good	High	Stable	Stable		-						0	0	0	0	There is no clear interrelationship between the policy and the objective.	
22	To promote the use of sustainably sourced products and	?	?	?	?		-						0	0	0	0	There is no clear interrelationship between the policy and the	

	resources																objective.	
23	To increase energy efficiency and generation and use of renewable energy across the County Borough	?	?	?	?		-						0	0	0	0	There is no clear interrelationship between the policy and the objective.	
24	To conserve and enhance surface and ground water quality	Mod	Med	Impr	Impr		×	Local	ST-LT	Temp	Med		-	-	-	-	The Policy may have indirect negative effects against this objective, as mineral operations may affect the quality of local surface and groundwater.	The LDP should stipulate for the provision of a more detailed policy to control effects on water quality.
25	To protect the quality and character of the landscape and enhance where necessary	Mod	Med	Stable	Decl		××	Local	ST-LT	Perm	Med		--	--	--	--	The Policy may have indirect negative effects against this objective, as it supports mineral operations, which may impact on the quality of local landscape.	The LDP should stipulate for the provision of a more detailed policy to control landscape effects.

Table F.15 – SA Assessment of SP15

SP15 - Waste

The Council will implement a sustainable, integrated approach to waste management, which minimises the production of waste and its impact on the environment, and maximises the use of unavoidable waste as a resource. To assist this aim the following land-use commitments are made:
• All allocated and protected class B2 industrial sites and existing waste management sites are designated as potentially suitable locations for new waste management facilities, which provides substantial choice in meeting the estimated land requirement of between 1.4 and 4 ha.

SA Objective		*Baseline*		*Trends*			*Effects*						*Assessment*				Commentary	Mitigation/ enhancement
		Cond	Sens	Curr	Ftre		Mag	Scale	Dur	T/P	Cert		ST	MT	LT	Sm		
1	To promote economic growth and strengthen and diversify the local economy	Poor	Med	Stable	Stable		-						0	0	0	0	There is no clear interrelationship between the policy and the objective.	
2	To increase levels of local employment and ensure distribution of opportunities	Poor	Med	Impr	Stable		-						0	0	0	0	There is no clear interrelationship between the policy and the objective.	
3	To enable the development of a strong tourism economy in Blaenau Gwent, complementary to the regional offer	Mod	Med	Stable	Stable		-						0	0	0	0	There is no clear interrelationship between the policy and the objective.	
4	To enhance the viability and vitality of town centres	Poor	Med	Impr	Impr		-						0	0	0	0	There is no clear interrelationship between the policy and the objective.	
5	To meet identified housing needs	Poor	Med	Stable	Stable		-						0	0	0	0	There is no clear interrelationship between the policy and the objective.	
6	To improve the quality of Blaenau Gwent's housing stock	Poor	Med	Stable	Stable		-						0	0	0	0	There is no clear interrelationship between the policy and the objective.	
7	To secure the delivery and maintenance of quality affordable housing	Mod	Med	Stable	Stable		-						0	0	0	0	There is no clear interrelationship between the policy and the objective.	
8	To improve educational attainment and increase skills levels	Poor	Med	Impr	Impr		-						0	0	0	0	There is no clear interrelationship between the policy and the objective.	

9	To improve accessibility to education, leisure, employment, health, homes and community services for all sectors of the community	Mod	Med	Stable	Stable		✓	Local	ST-LT	Perm	Med		+	+	+	+	Adequate provision of sustainable waste management facilities may improve accessibility for the local community for household waste recycling.	The policy should ensure that waste management facilities, such as those for recycling, are accessible to all members of the public, to enable the increased recycling of waste.
10	To promote community health, social care and well-being	Poor	Med	Stable	Stable		×	Local	ST-LT	Temp	Low		-	-	-	-	The location of waste management facilities close to residential areas may affect residential amenity and the quality of the environment and may have potential to affect human health. Potential effects will be dependent on the nature of the facilities.	The policy should ensure that facilities that may generate harmful emissions are located at an appropriate distance from residential properties and their potential effects are carefully assessed and mitigated. On the other hand, facilities for the collection of materials for recycling should be located within accessible distances to enable their increased use.
11	To reduce crime, social disorder and fear of crime	Mod	Low	Impr	Impr		-						0	0	0	0	There is no clear interrelationship between the policy and the objective.	
12	To protect and enhance the Welsh culture	Mod	Low	Stable	Stable		-						0	0	0	0	There is no clear interrelationship between the policy and the objective.	
13	To encourage modal shift from private transport to sustainable transport	Mod	Med	Stable	Stable		-						0	0	0	0	There is no clear interrelationship between the policy and the objective.	
14	To protect and enhance biodiversity across Blaenau Gwent	Mod	High	Stable	Impr		✓	Local	ST-LT	Perm	Low		+/-	+/-	+/-	+/-	Securing of allocations for new waste management facilities at B2 industrial sites and existing waste management sites should help avoid additional land take and negative effects on the local biodiversity in some cases. However, brownfield sites may provide valuable biodiversity habitat, and should be surveyed before use, with mitigation implemented	

																	where necessary.	
15	To conserve and enhance the heritage assets of Blaenau Gwent and their settings	Poor	High	Decl	Decl		✓	Local	ST-LT	Perm	Low		+	+	+	+	Securing of allocations for new waste management facilities at B2 industrial sites and existing waste management sites should help avoid additional land take and potential negative effects on the settings of the local heritage assets.	
16	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 to biodiversity.	Mod	Med	Stable	Stable		✓	Sub-Reg	ST-LT	Perm	Med		+/-	+/-	+/-	+/-	Securing of allocations for new waste management facilities at protected B2 industrial sites and existing waste management sites will ensure the best use of previously developed land and will help avoid additional land take. Brownfield sites may provide valuable biodiversity habitat, and should be surveyed before use, with mitigation implemented where necessary.	
17	To conserve soil resources and their quality	Poor	Med	Stable	Impr		✓	Local	ST-LT	Perm	Med		+	+	+	+	Securing of allocations for new waste management facilities at protected B2 industrial sites and existing waste management sites may ensure the best use of brownfield sites and protection of land of high agricultural value.	

18	To reduce emissions of greenhouse gases, in particular carbon dioxide	Mod	High	Stable	Impr		✓	Sub-Reg	ST-LT	Perm	Med		+	+	+	+	Adequate provision of sustainable waste management facilities may help to rationalise waste transportation and reduce associated transport emissions. Minimisation of waste production should also help minimise landfill GHGs, i.e. emissions of methane, which have high global warming potential.	
19	To reduce waste generation and maximise reuse and recycling	Poor	Med	Decl	Decl		✓✓	Sub-Reg	ST-LT	Perm	Med		++	++	+	++	The policy may further the implementation of waste hierarchy principles through adequate provision of sustainable waste management facilities. However, the success of the policy may depend on the location of the waste management facilities as well as their nature.	The policy should specify the types and locations of waste management facilities to be provided. The policy should also specify that all new development should implement measures to ensure that the waste management hierarchy is implemented.
20	To maintain current air quality	Good	Low	Stable	Stable		✓	Local	ST-LT	Perm	Med		+/-	+/-	+/-	+/-	Expected rationalisation of waste transportation should have positive effects on the local air quality. Incineration facilities may have negative effects on the local air quality but these are not likely to be significant due to the existing strict regulations.	The policy should ensure that potential effects of facilities that may generate harmful emissions are carefully assessed and mitigated.
21	To maintain current low levels of vulnerability of all development to flooding	Good	High	Stable	Stable		✓	Local	ST-LT	Perm	Med		-	-	-	-	An increase in the development of land may lead to an increase in hard surfacing and thus increase the risk of flooding.	
22	To promote the use of sustainably sourced products and resources	?	?	?	?		✓✓	Sub-Reg	ST-LT	Perm	Med		++	++	++	++	The policy promotes the use of unavoidable waste as a secondary resource which should deliver benefits against this objective.	

23	To increase energy efficiency and generation and use of renewable energy across the County Borough	?	?	?	?		-						0	0	0	0	There is no clear interrelationship between the policy and the objective.	
24	To conserve and enhance surface and ground water quality	Mod	Med	Impr	Impr		×	Sub-Reg	ST-MT	Temp	Med		-	-	-	-	Increase in numbers of waste management facilities may have potential for ground water pollution.	The policy should ensure that potential effects of facilities on ground water quality are carefully assessed and mitigated and that there is a provision for monitoring of soil and groundwater quality at waste management sites.
25	To protect the quality and character of the landscape and enhance where necessary	Mod	Med	Stable	Decl		×	Local	ST-MT	Perm	Med		-	-	-	-	Landscape effects are likely to be minimal, as new waste management facilities will be located at B2 industrial sites and existing waste management facilities.	The policy should ensure that potential effects of landscape quality are carefully assessed and mitigated.

For further information please contact :

Planning Policy Team
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