



# Blaenau Gwent Local Development Plan

## ANNUAL MONITORING REPORT 2014



September 2014



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## Local Development Plan: Annual Monitoring Report 2014

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Blaenau Gwent Local Development Plan (LDP) was adopted on November 22<sup>nd</sup> 2012. As part of the statutory development plan process the Council is required to prepare an Annual Monitoring Report (AMR). The AMR will provide the basis for monitoring the effectiveness of the LDP core strategy and policies, the Plan's sustainability credentials and identify any significant contextual changes that might influence implementation.

This is the first AMR to be prepared since the adoption of the Blaenau Gwent LDP and provides an opportunity for the Council to assess the impact the LDP is having on the social, economic and environmental well-being of the County Borough.

## Key Findings of the Annual Monitoring Process

### Contextual Changes

This section looks at local, regional, national and international factors that have had an influence on land use development in Blaenau Gwent and subsequently on the implementation of the LDP. These include:

#### External Conditions

- At a UK level following the longest and deepest recession since the 1930s the economy showed signs of recovery during 2013 and 2014.
- Wales lags behind the UK across a range of key economic data.
- Blaenau Gwent is well below the general Wales average in almost all socio economic indicators.
- The Blaenau Gwent economy is shifting from manufacturing towards a service base.
- With 50% of the service jobs in Blaenau Gwent in the public sector the area is vulnerable to public sector spending cuts and economic contraction.
- The Blaenau Gwent business sector has been hit by a number of high profile closures.
- Whilst the UK housing market is improving the number of starts and completions in Wales is still well below the pre-recession figures (approx. 30% below).
- The housing completion rate in Blaenau Gwent is very low averaging 101 per annum rather than the 233 expected by the Plan.
- The proposed Circuit of Wales presents an opportunity to turn around the economy of Blaenau Gwent.

### Policy, Legislation and Statistical Changes

#### National

- Planning Policy Wales Edition 6 (February 2014)
- TAN 21 (February 2014)

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- Towards a Welsh Planning Act: Ensuring the Planning System Delivers
- Population Projections (2011 based)
- Mid-Year Estimate (2012, 2013)
- Household Projections (2011 based)

### Local

- Blaenau Gwent Joint Housing Land Availability Studies (2012 & 2013)
- Local Housing Market Assessment Update (ORS 2012)
- More Than Homes – A Local Housing Strategy for Blaenau Gwent (2013-2018)
- Single Integrated Plan (2013)
- Communities First Changes

## Local Development Plan Monitoring

The results of the monitoring exercise provide an interesting and varied picture of development in Blaenau Gwent. Some of the most notable results are:

- The delivery of the strategy for Growth and Regeneration is behind target;
- 888 new dwellings were built in the period 2006-2014, which is well below the expected figure of 1,480;
- In the period 2013-2014 (March to April) 81 new dwellings were built in the County Borough at an average density of 31 dph;
- No retail or employment allocations have been delivered;
- 6 transport schemes have been delivered;
- One education allocation has been delivered;
- One tourism allocation has been delivered;
- A significant part of MU2 – the mixed use site at 'The Works' has been delivered including: Ysbyty Aneurin Bevan Hospital; Regain Building; Energy Centre; Environmental Resource Centre; General Offices Refurbishment; Learning Zone; Multi Storey Car Park; 3-16 Ebbw Fawr Learning Community; Special Educations Needs Primary School; Children's Integrated Centre; Residential area J; Leisure Centre and Sports Pitches; Multi Storey Car Park; Central Valley Wetland Park; and the Peripheral Distributor Road;
- With the exception of Tredegar, the Primary Retail Areas have fared well retaining if not improving on the number of A1 uses;
- Retail vacancy rates across Blaenau Gwent average 17.5% which is 1.8% above the Welsh average;
- The population of Blaenau Gwent has increased from 69,610 in 2006 to 69,789 in 2013;
- The number of vacant dwellings has decreased from 5.7% in 2001 to 4.8% in 2011;
- The number of affordable dwellings built in 2013-14 was 41;
- The housing land supply for Blaenau Gwent in 2013 was 3.31 years;
- 37% of LDP allocations have been granted planning permission;
- Only 2.2% of development permitted in 2013-2014 was on brownfield land;

- The latest economic activity rate is 59.1% which is over 8% below the Wales average;
- The latest figure for the economically inactive wanting a job is 34.9% which is over 10% above the Welsh average;
- Between 2008 and 2013 Blaenau Gwent lost 1,100 jobs in manufacturing;
- Between 2008 and 2013 Blaenau Gwent gained 1,600 jobs in Services and Construction;
- The Fields in Trust (FiT) Standard for outdoor play space provision has decreased from 1.11 ha per 1000 population in 2012 to 1.05 ha in 2014;
- The net amount of Sites of Special Scientific Interest has increased;
- The number of Listed Buildings has remained the same with 3 benefitting from improvements;
- There is an 11.8 year supply of aggregates; and
- Blaenau Gwent is working towards and making good progress in meeting the Welsh Government Zero Waste Targets.

Detailed consideration of the results of the monitoring exercise has allowed the Council to make an informed judgement about the nature of the progress that has been made during 2013-14, in delivering the LDP targets and therefore its policies.

The result of the delivery of each of the monitoring aims is shown in the table below (along with an explanation of the colour coding):

LDP Monitoring		
Policy		Result
<b>THEME 1: CREATE A NETWORK OF SUSTAINABLE VIBRANT VALLEY COMMUNITIES</b>		
<b>SP1</b>	<b>Northern Strategy Area – Sustainable Growth and Regeneration</b>	
	To ensure sustainable growth and regeneration in the North of the Borough	
<b>SP2</b>	<b>Southern Strategy Area – Regeneration</b>	
	To ensure regeneration in the South of the Borough	
<b>SP3</b>	<b>The Retail Hierarchy and the Vitality and Viability of the Town Centres</b>	
	(a) To ensure town centres thrive through the implementation of the retail hierarchy	
	(b) To ensure the improvement of viability in town centres	
<b>SP4</b>	<b>Delivering Quality Housing</b>	
	(a) To secure the construction of 3,500 net additional dwellings and halt population decline	
	(b) To ensure the delivery of 1,000 affordable dwellings, 335 of which through planning obligations	
<b>SP5</b>	<b>Spatial Distribution of Housing Sites</b>	
	(a) To ensure that housing is delivered in all areas in accordance with the Strategy	
	(b) To ensure that housing is delivered in accordance with the strategy to increase build rates over the Plan period	
<b>SP6</b>	<b>Ensuring Accessibility</b>	

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To ensure improved connectivity within Blaenau Gwent and with the wider area		
<b>SP7</b>	<b>Climate Change</b>	
(a) To ensure that more of the County Borough's electricity and heat requirements are generated by renewable and low / zero carbon energy		
(b) To ensure the efficient use of land		
(c) To avoid development in areas at high risk of flooding		
<b>THEME 2: CREATE OPPORTUNITIES FOR SUSTAINABLE ECONOMIC GROWTH AND THE PROMOTION OF LEARNING AND SKILLS</b>		
<b>SP8</b>	<b>Sustainable Economic Growth</b>	
(a) To ensure sufficient employment land is provided to increase economic activity		
(b) To ensure the diversification of the economic base		
<b>THEME 3: CREATE SAFE, HEALTHY AND VIBRANT COMMUNITIES AND PROTECT AND ENHANCE THE UNIQUE NATURAL AND BUILT ENVIRONMENT</b>		
<b>SP9</b>	<b>Active and Healthy Communities</b>	
To increase opportunities for people to participate in active and healthy communities		
<b>SP10</b>	<b>Protection and Enhancement of the Natural Environment</b>	
To ensure the protection, preservation and enhancement of the natural environment		
<b>SP11</b>	<b>Protection and Enhancement of the Historic Environment</b>	
To ensure that listed buildings and archaeological sites are protected, preserved and where appropriate enhanced		
<b>THEME 4: CREATE OPPORTUNITIES TO SECURE AN ADEQUATE SUPPLY OF MINERALS AND REDUCE WASTE</b>		
<b>SP12</b>	<b>Securing an Adequate Supply of Minerals</b>	
To ensure a minimum 10 year land bank and provision of at least 3Mt of aggregates		
<b>SP13</b>	<b>Delivering Sustainable Waste Management</b>	
To ensure the delivery of sustainable waste management		

The results of the monitoring process for 2013-2014 indicate that the targets in respect of 9 out of 19 core monitoring aims are on-going, being met or exceeded (annotated in green) and 7 core monitoring aims are not currently being achieved but the situation can be overcome without immediate intervention or are sufficiently progressed not to require direct intervention (annotated in amber). The remaining 3 are currently falling short of the required pattern of delivery and actions have been identified (annotated in red).

Whilst development levels are far lower than planned this is as a result of external factors beyond the Council's control in relation to the economic recession and poorly performing housing market.

There are a number of actions identified for the Council in relation to assisting in the delivery of housing and employment and investigating issues around housing viability.

### Sustainability Appraisal (SA) Monitoring

The key findings of the SA Monitoring Process are outlined below:

- The average weekly earnings for full time workers in Blaenau Gwent is £404.50 which is over £70 less than the average figure for Wales;
- 4,129 of Blaenau Gwent Houses meet the Welsh Housing Quality Standard;
- 98% of the Rights of Way Network is accessible to the public;
- Blaenau Gwent is the second ranked most deprived area in Wales;
- According to Census figures less people are using sustainable transport modes in 2011 than in 2001;
- 4 historic assets have an approved monument management plan in place;
- Carbon Dioxide emission tonnes per Capita have decreased from 6.6 in 2007 to 5.2 in 2011;
- There has been no decrease in air quality; and
- 236 ha or 3% of Special Landscape Area has been lost to development.

The result of the delivery of each of the SA monitoring objectives is shown in the table below, along with an explanation of the colour coding.

Sustainability Monitoring		
	SA Objective	Result
1.	To promote economic growth and strengthen and diversify the 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 vitality and viability 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 skill 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 encourage modal shift from private transport to sustainable	

	transport	
13.	To protect and enhance biodiversity across Blaenau Gwent	
14.	To conserve and enhance the heritage assets of Blaenau Gwent and their settings	
15.	To make the best use of previously developed land and existing buildings to minimise pressure for greenfield development, where this will not result in damage or loss in biodiversity	
16.	To conserve soil resources and their quality	
17.	To reduce emissions of greenhouse gases, in particular carbon dioxide	
18.	To reduce waste generation and maximise reuse and recycling	
19.	To maintain current air quality	
20.	To maintain current low levels of vulnerability of all development to flooding	
21.	To promote the use of sustainably sourced products and resources	
22.	To increase energy efficiency and generation and use of renewable energy across the County Borough	
23.	To conserve and enhance surface and ground water quality	
24.	Protect the quality and character of the landscape and enhance where necessary	

The results of the monitoring process indicate that the targets in respect of the majority of the sustainability objectives are on-going, being met or exceeded (annotated in green), a minority of SA objectives are not currently being achieved but the situation can be overcome without immediate intervention or sufficiently progressed not to require direct intervention (annotated in amber).

Overall, the plan is travelling in a positive direction for many of the aspects of sustainability.

## Conclusions and Recommendations

Progress on delivering the Strategy of Growth and Regeneration is slower than expected due to the recession and problems in the housing market. Other aims of the Plan have also been impacted on by the economic recession such as employment and retail policies.

Nevertheless great progress has been made in terms of delivery at 'The Works' (Policy MU2). Significant infrastructure has been put in place and further schemes are in the pipeline including the extension of the rail link to the General Offices and a mechanical link to the Town Centre. The site provides prime residential and employment land ready for development when the market improves.

Blaenau Gwent's Enterprise Zone status and the proposed Circuit of Wales are added incentives to attract businesses and house builders to the area now that the economy is expected to improve.

There is therefore, no evidence to suggest that there is a need for a full or partial review of the LDP at this time.



## 1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 The Blaenau Gwent Local Development Plan (LDP) was adopted on 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2012. The LDP provides a land use framework which forms the basis on which decisions about future development in the County Borough are based.

1.2 As part of the statutory development plan process the Council is required to prepare an Annual Monitoring Report (AMR). The AMR will provide the basis for monitoring the effectiveness of the LDP strategy and policies, the Plan's sustainability credentials and identify any significant contextual changes that might influence its implementation. The results of the monitoring process will feed into the on-going adjustment of the LDP. It should be noted that the Council does not currently propose to undertake a review of the LDP until 2016, in accordance with the statutory LDP process.

1.3 This is the first AMR to be prepared since the adoption of the Blaenau Gwent LDP and therefore provides an important opportunity for the Council to assess the impact the LDP is having on the social, economic and environmental well-being of the County Borough. The AMR has not been subject to consultation.

### Format of the AMR

1.4 This Chapter has outlined the requirement for, the purpose and structure of the AMR.

**Chapter 2 – Monitoring Framework** explains the process of monitoring the LDP, how to quantify the resulting data and, if necessary, determine whether a review of the LDP and Sustainability Appraisal (SA) is required.

**Chapter 3 – Contextual Change** analyses the potential impact of factors such as economic climate, local issues and changes to national policy on implementation.

**Chapter 4 – Local Development Plan Monitoring** provides an analysis of the effectiveness of the LDP policy framework in delivering the plan's targets.

**Chapter 5 – Sustainability Appraisal Monitoring** analyses the impact the LDP is having on the social, economic and environmental well-being of Blaenau Gwent.

**Chapter 6 – Conclusions and Recommendations** provides an overview of the findings of the AMR and makes recommendations about issues that require further consideration.

1.5 The AMR has been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Town and Country Planning (Local Development Plan) (Wales) Regulations 2005; Strategic Environmental Assessment Regulations (2004); and the Habitats Assessment Regulations (2004).



## **2.0 MONITORING FRAMEWORK**

**2.1** The Monitoring Framework comprises 2 key elements. These are the monitoring of:

- The LDP strategy, policies and proposals; and
- The Sustainability Appraisal (SA) which includes the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA).

**2.2** The on-going success of these documents and the policies within them are to be measured against a set of targets identified as part of the LDP process. Indicators have been formulated to determine whether these targets have been met. Where their results conclude that the targets are not being met, and that the effectiveness of the LDP documents (or parts or policies of it), are falling significantly below the level required, then consideration will be given to the need for a review of the LDP.

### **LDP Monitoring Aims, Indicators, Targets, Triggers and Outcomes**

**2.3** The LDP monitoring framework identifies 19 monitoring aims based on the Strategic Policies which deliver the strategy of the Plan. These monitoring aims are assessed against 50 indicators (including WG national indicators – see Appendix 3: Mandatory Indicators for results) and are specifically designed to monitor the delivery of the LDP. It should be noted that whilst the targets and indicators relate to each Strategic Policy, the framework has been designed to ensure that linkages are made between the Strategic Policies, relevant objectives and Development Management and Allocation policies. Monitoring the delivery of the Strategic Policies therefore provides a mechanism for monitoring the LDP as a whole.

**2.4** Trigger levels have been set which identify where a policy has diverged from the monitoring target to such an extent that the policy is failing to be implemented or needs to be amended. Where this happens the analysis in the monitoring table identifies the issue and, where necessary, the actions required to address it.

**2.5** The Plan also identifies outcomes which are stepping stones identified for 2016 and the end of the Plan period to enable us to monitor progress of the Plan.

### **The Sustainability Appraisal Objectives and Indicators**

**2.6** The Sustainability Appraisal (SA) of the LDP identifies a set of objectives and significant effect indicators which are intended to measure the social, economic and environmental impact of the LDP. The SA identifies 24 objectives and 84 indicators specifically designed to monitor the environmental credentials of the LDP.

## Replacement Targets and Indicators

**2.7** Where the Council has been unable to monitor a target or indicator or the indicator has been superseded, an explanation will be provided in the relevant monitoring section and an alternative indicator will be identified.

**2.8** There may be occasions where it is necessary to amend a target or indicator. This may simply be to improve the clarity of the indicator to re-align it with the relevant data sets. Where this is necessary an explanation will be provided in the relevant monitoring section and an alternative target or indicator will be identified. Appendix 2: LDP and SA Monitoring Changes provides a complete list of proposed changes and deletions.

## Monitoring Progress

**2.9** The analysis of the monitoring process will be in the form of detailed written assessment of the indicator results and a subsequent view on the success of the targets and effectiveness of the policies. This will be provided in the respective monitoring sections of this report for the LDP and SA. As a visual aid in showing the monitoring outcomes, a simple colour coded system has been devised, and will be included in the individual tables of Strategic Policies and SA results, as shown below:

	The monitoring aim/ objective is on-going, being met or exceeded
	The monitoring aim /objective is not currently being achieved but the situation can be ameliorated without immediate intervention or sufficiently progressed not to require direct intervention.
	The monitoring aim/objective is not being achieved and it is unlikely that this will be addressed without specific intervention.

## Trigger for Review of the Plan

**2.10** A review of the LDP in advance of the formal 4-year review will only take place in exceptional circumstances. The monitoring framework for the LDP identifies specific trigger points where it was considered appropriate to highlight the need to consider the reasons why policies are failing to be delivered. However, these triggers are not in themselves sufficient to trigger a review of the Plan.

**2.11** The Council will make a judgement on the need for a full or partial review based on the following factors:

- A significant change in external conditions;
- A significant change in local context e.g. closure of major employment site;
- A significant change in development pressures or needs and investment strategies of major public and private investors;

- A significant change in national policy or legislation; and
- Significant concerns from the findings of the AMR in terms of policy effectiveness, site delivery, progress rates, and any problems with implementation.

## Local Development Plan Wales (2005)

2.12 In addition to the monitoring framework outlined in the Council's LDP, the Welsh Government sets out in LDP Wales paragraph 4.43 the following requirements:

*'the AMR to identify any policy that is not being implemented and to give the reasons, together with any steps the authority intends to take to secure the implementation of the policy and any intention to revise the LDP to replace or amend the policy. The AMR should include an assessment of:*

- *Whether the basic strategy remains sound (if not, a full plan review may be needed);*
- *What impact the policies are having globally, nationally, regionally and locally;*
- *Whether the policies need changing to reflect changes in national policy;*
- *Whether policies and related targets in LDPs have been met or progress is being made towards meeting them, including publication of relevant Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPG);*
- *Where progress has not been made, the reasons for this and what knock on effects it may have;*
- *What aspects, if any, of the LDP need adjusting or replacing because they are not working as intended or are not achieving the objectives of the strategy and/or sustainable development objectives; and*
- *If policies or proposals need changing, what suggested actions are required to achieve this.*

*The AMR must also specify the housing land supply (from the current Housing Land Availability Study) and the number of net additional affordable and general market dwellings built in the authority's area, and report on other LDP indicators.'*



### 3.0 CONTEXTUAL CHANGE

3.1 The findings of the AMR will be fundamental in determining whether a full or partial review of the LDP is required. It is important that the assessment of whether a review is required is fully informed by an understanding of how the implementation of the LDP has been influenced by local, regional, national and international factors. Blaenau Gwent does not exist in isolation and development at even the most local level can be affected by national and international economic trends.

3.2 By seeking to understand how different factors have affected the delivery of the LDP, the Council will gain a better understanding of what it can do to support the Plan's implementation. In focussing on those factors it can influence, and accepting that some factors are beyond its control, the Council will be able to better support delivery of its objectives and shape future strategies to respond to wider socio economic issues.

3.3 The following section looks specifically at those factors that influence development in Blaenau Gwent. These include changes in:

- External Conditions; and
- Policy, Legislation and Statistical Changes

#### External Conditions

##### Economy

3.4 The UK economy has experienced the longest and deepest recession since the Great Depression of the 1930s. However, after a period of generally disappointing growth in 2011 and 2012, the UK economy showed signs of recovery during 2013 and this is expected to continue in 2014-2015. All major industry sectors and regions are now showing positive growth trends (Source: Price Waterhouse Coopers (PWC)).

3.5 The services sector remains the main engine of UK growth for both output and employment, but both manufacturing and construction are also now showing positive growth trends.

3.6 London and the South East continue to lead the recovery, but all regions are expected to show relatively strong growth in 2014.

3.7 Whereas this sounds encouraging, the picture in Wales is not as positive with an element of catch up required to meet UK growth. The greater reliance on the public sector and there being quite some way to go with public sector cuts means that there could be a drag on growth in the next few years. Wales lags behind the UK across a range of key economic measures.

**3.8** Blaenau Gwent is well below the general Wales average in almost all socio-economic indicators – skills, economic activity, employment and business enterprise.

**3.9** In 2012 the employment rate in Blaenau Gwent was 59.0%. This was the lowest amongst the 22 Welsh local authorities. In 2013 the average annual earnings stood at £13,127 and was joint third lowest amongst the 22 Welsh local authorities.

**3.10** Blaenau Gwent has undergone major structural economic change away from manufacturing and towards a greater proportion of employment in the service sector. The economy has shifted from a manufacturing: services ratio of 35:65 in 2001 to a ratio of 23:77 by 2014, with over 50% of the services jobs in the public sector.

**3.11** A number of manufacturing firms have suffered job losses in the area due to the recession (for example Tata and Caparo) resulting in the loss of well paid jobs.

**3.12** Blaenau Gwent's exposure to public-sector service employment leaves it vulnerable to spending cuts and risks continued economic contraction.

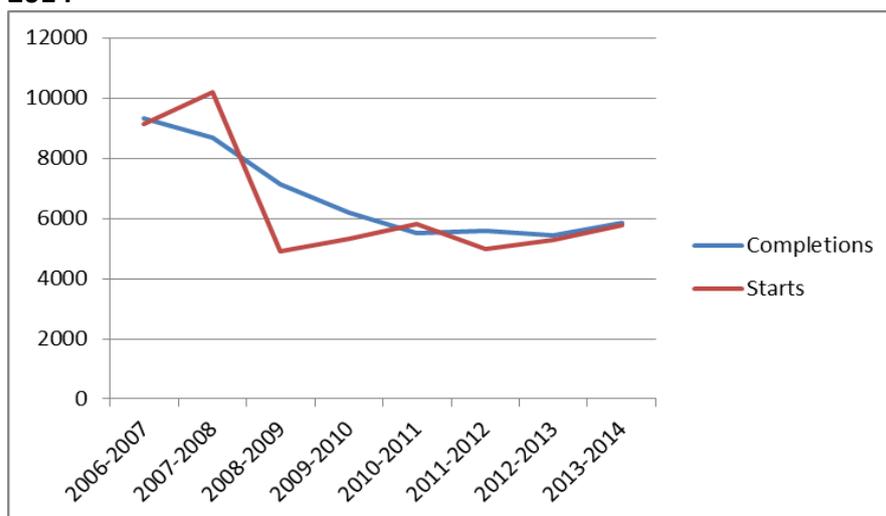
### **Housing Market**

**3.13** The UK housing market has leapt back into life (Source: PWC, 2014). Prices across all regions are accelerating, which is in stark contrast to the dramatic price falls and the generally weakened price rises experienced in the last two years everywhere outside of London.

**3.14** PWC project that average UK house prices could rise by around 8% this year, with prices increasing by around 13% in London. However, this growth is expected to moderate over the next three years.

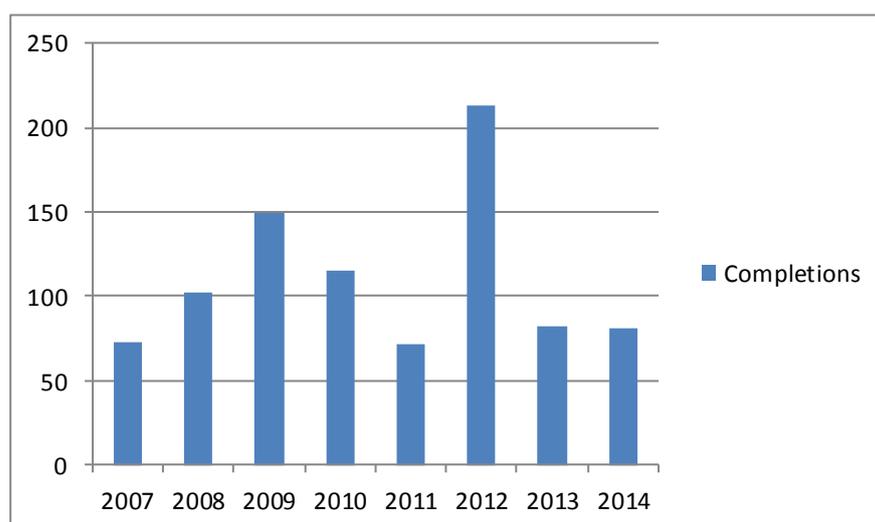
**3.15** At the national level the picture for house building is improving. However, the number of starts and completions in Wales still remain well below the levels seen before the economic downturn.

**Figure: 1 Number of new dwellings started and completed annually in Wales 2006-2014**



Source: Welsh Government

**Figure 2: Housing Completions for Blaenau Gwent 2006-2014**

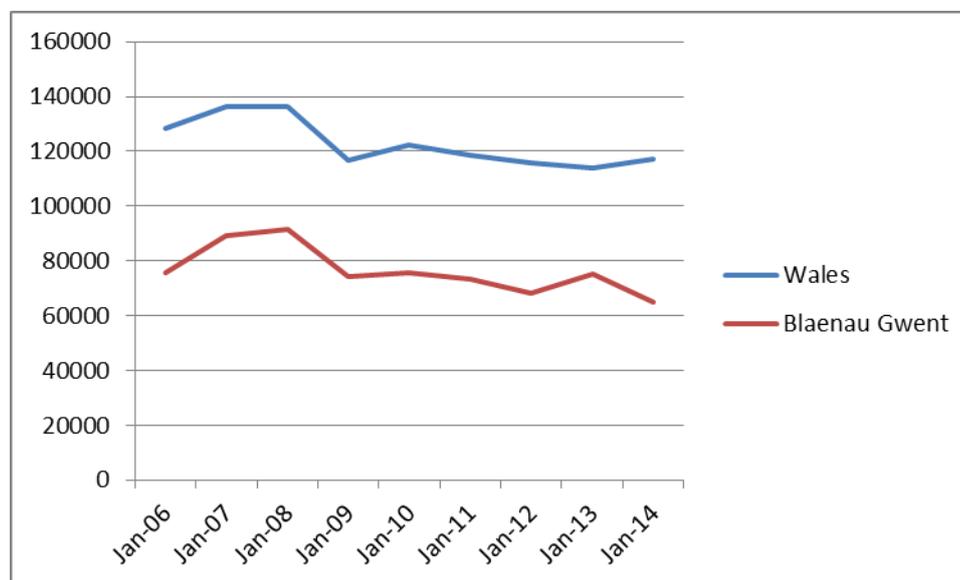


**3.16** Statistics in relation to house building in Blaenau Gwent have been erratic since 2006 due to a greater reliance on completions from the social sector where a number of the schemes are completed at one point (e.g. development of flats). There is a distinct shortage of National Builders operating in Blaenau Gwent at present with most completions coming from small sites or Registered Social Landlords. Completions are well below the 140 per annum expected between 2006-2011 and the 260 expected between 2011 and 2016.

**3.17** According to the Land Registry, in June 2014 the average house price in Wales was £117,440, whereas in England and Wales the average price was £172,011 – 32% lower. Figure 3 below shows a marked difference between the average house price in Wales and Blaenau Gwent. It also shows that whilst experiencing slight growth in the last year house prices are still well below those experienced in 2008.

More worryingly whilst Blaenau Gwent figures are well below the average figures for Wales they have up until recently followed the general trend for Wales. This latest dip is concerning as it shows that in Blaenau Gwent property prices are still continuing to fall.

**Figure 3: Average House Price in Wales and Blaenau Gwent 2006-2014**



Source: Land Registry

### Planning Applications with significant impacts

**3.18** There has been one major planning application in Blaenau Gwent which may have a significant impact on the economic future of the area. The proposed Circuit of Wales, which received outline planning permission in September 2013, could be a world-class automotive cluster, centred around a performance circuit designed to host international motor sport events such as MotoGP, World Superbikes, World Motorcross and World Touring Car and provide a major addition to the UK's portfolio of leading motor sports facilities.

**3.19** In addition to the main circuit there will also be:

- A low carbon technology park adjacent to the circuit to cater for higher specification research, development and support services in the automotive sector. This is expected to attract investment from all over the world and will have strong linkages to local universities;
- Commercial space for retail units;
- Hotel and facilities for leisure; and
- A leading motor sports race academy and training facility to develop young riders and drivers, host international race schools and provide wider safety and driver education and training.

Although the development could have positive impacts on the economy of Blaenau Gwent the granting of planning permission on an unallocated, greenfield site that is

a Special Landscape Area does have negative impacts on a number of monitoring indicators this year. Whilst the permission accords with the Plan's strategy of Growth and Regeneration it is considered prudent to monitor the impact of the Circuit of Wales in future annual monitoring reports.

## Policy, Legislation and Statistical Changes

**3.20** The Council needs to consider through its AMR whether changes to national planning policy have any implications for the LDP. If the implications are significant, the Council will need to determine how it addresses the issues.

### National Policy and Legislation

**3.21** Between adoption of the Plan (November 2012) and 31<sup>st</sup> March 2014, the following policy document has been issued by the Welsh Government:

#### Planning Policy Wales Edition 6

**3.22** The main changes contained in Edition 6 are to sections 12.5, 12.6 and 12.7 in Chapter 12 which have been revised to reflect new waste policy context set out in the Revised Waste Framework Directive (Directive 2008/98/EC on waste) and Welsh Government Policy Towards Zero Waste (TZW) and the Collection, Infrastructure and Markets Sector Plan (CIMS). These changes have been made to revise and update the way in which the planning process facilitates the delivery of sustainable waste management infrastructure.

**3.23** The new policy context can be taken into consideration without the need to review or amend the LDP at this time.

#### Technical Advice Note 21: Waste

**3.24** TAN 21 has undergone a significant re-write to reflect the new waste policy context. There is new guidance on what the Development Plan and Development Management need to address. The Blaenau Gwent Local Development Plan has, however, taken into account the specific actions in relation to recovery treatment for mixed municipal waste and has supported the local authority procurement programmes and made an appropriate allocation. The Plan also included a specific criteria based policy and included a policy to support co-location of heat networks. The AMR also reports on new waste provision.

**3.25** The only issue is that Policy DM20 refers to there being 'a proven local or regional need for the facility' and the proposed facility 'is the Best Practicable Option'. Both these requirements have been superseded by the TAN which now requests a Waste Planning Assessment.

**3.26** To overcome this issue decisions in relation to waste management facilities will be taken in accordance with the Plan and national waste policy.

### **Draft Planning Bill and Positive Planning - A consultation on proposals to transform the Planning System in Wales (2013)**

**3.27** This consultation document sets out proposals to reform the planning system in Wales. It contains proposals to modernise the planning system and includes changes to primary and secondary legislation, and policy guidance.

**3.28** The paper is based around four themes: Supporting Culture Change; Active Stewardship; Improving Collaboration and Improving Local Delivery.

#### **Supporting Culture Change**

**3.29** The Welsh Government has set out a number of proposals which they consider will help achieve the objective of an enabling planning system rather than a system that is seen as negative. The document stresses that a culture change is required by all those who have a stake in the planning system - LPAs, WG, developers, consultees, educational institutions and professional bodies.

**3.30** WG recognises that they cannot legislate for culture change. They see culture change as ensuring that the planning system as a whole is used in a proactive way. It is about changing a defensive negative approach to a positive one. The development plan should provide a positive framework for sustainable and quality development, enabling the provision of homes and economic investment, protecting all that is best in local environments. LPAs must ensure seamless integration between the development plan and development management functions. This requires co-location of teams and breaking down professional barriers that have emerged. This is considered by WG to deliver a responsive and transparent planning service that supports new and enhanced development projects to come forward.

#### **Active Stewardship**

**3.31** According to the WG there has been a growing expectation from stakeholders and the public that WG's passive approach should change and they should play a more active stewardship role. There is to be a step change in the delivery of planning services in Wales. The approach being adopted is based on the principle that planning services must be delivered by the level of government best placed to assess the benefits and impacts of development.

**3.32** The main proposals are for:

- National Development Framework (*National land use plan that identifies proposals of national significance. To cover a 20 year period and have development plan status*)
- National Planning Policy and Guidance (*Merger of Minerals into Planning Policy Wales, Reduction in number and scope of TANs, Core set of development management policies*)

- A new development management hierarchy (*National, Major, Local and Permitted Development with different requirements in terms of determination, process, targets for decision and appeal route*)

### **Improving Collaboration**

**3.33** WG's approach is to act now as there is no need to wait until implementation of the outcome of the Commission on Public Service Delivery and Governance. WG is putting in place legislation which supports improved local planning services which are capable of implementation regardless of future delivery arrangements.

**3.34** WG is suggesting that where LPAs are very small and there are strong relationships with neighbouring authorities, particularly in terms of housing markets and travel to work patterns, a powerful case can be made to formally merge local planning services.

**3.35** WG are proposing to update powers to enable them to reduce the number of LPA's to increase efficiency and sustainability of local planning services in the face of fresh demands and diminishing resources. WG welcome proposals to merge but do not rule out initiating this in the future.

**3.36** Other proposals are for:

- Better collaboration between national park (NP) authorities and local authorities (*no final view if NPs should retain a planning function*)
- Strategic Development Plans (SDPs) (*Strategic elements of LDPs such as housing, employment, transport, gypsy and traveller provision, minerals, waste and strategic allocations to be determined by SDPs in Cardiff, Swansea and A55 corridor. No set geographical boundary, lead local authority to identify in consultation with other LPAs – to be approved by Welsh Ministers. Governance to be a panel made up of local members and representatives of economic, social and environmental partners (third of group). Statutory status and subject to examination by independent planning inspector.*)

### **Improving Local Delivery**

**3.37** WG's approach is to provide the conditions necessary to allow LPAs to deliver effective local planning services. They want to drive greater consistency and efficiency with every customer receiving a good local planning service. This is to be achieved through the introduction of a common performance framework that sets out what a good local planning service should deliver, with each LPA being required to produce an annual report on service delivery. Changes are proposed to the LDP system and the Development Management System to improve efficiency and local delivery.

**3.38** The main proposals are for:

- Common Performance Framework with annual reporting and possibility of penalties for consistently poorly performing authorities (*Indicators covering Plan making, Decision taking; Efficiency; Quality; Engagement and*

*Enforcement. Penalties to include direct intervention taking control of services including the submission of planning applications direct to Welsh Ministers).*

- Local Development Plan Refinement (*More frontloading – Preferred Strategy stage to be more meaningful. Enable rolling forward of the plan period with the existing strategy to be confirmed avoiding preferred strategy stage. Soundness to be repackaged, reduced and simplified).*
- Joint Development Plans (*Ministers to have the power to direct LPAs to produce Joint LDPs. Joint LDPs cannot be produced through the revision of an individual LDP.*)
- Prior Notification of LDP Withdrawal (*LPAs to serve notice to Welsh Ministers who will then have 6 weeks to direct submission or call-in for examination – if do not exercise these powers then LPA can withdraw)*
- End Date of LDP (*LDP's to have an end date beyond which they cease to be the extant development plan)*
- Locally relevant SPG or Place Plans (*Town and Community Councils to work with LPA's to produce these – would have to be in conformity with and adopted as SPG alongside the LDP)*

**3.39** The proposals are far reaching and will impact on the delivery of the Planning service in Blaenau Gwent. The Planning Bill is timetabled to commence in 2015/16. As a small planning authority Blaenau Gwent needs to consider formal merger with neighbouring authorities.

## Statistics

### Local Authority Population Projections for Wales (2013)

**3.40** New population projections have been released by Welsh Government these 2011-based projections are based on 2011 Census figures.

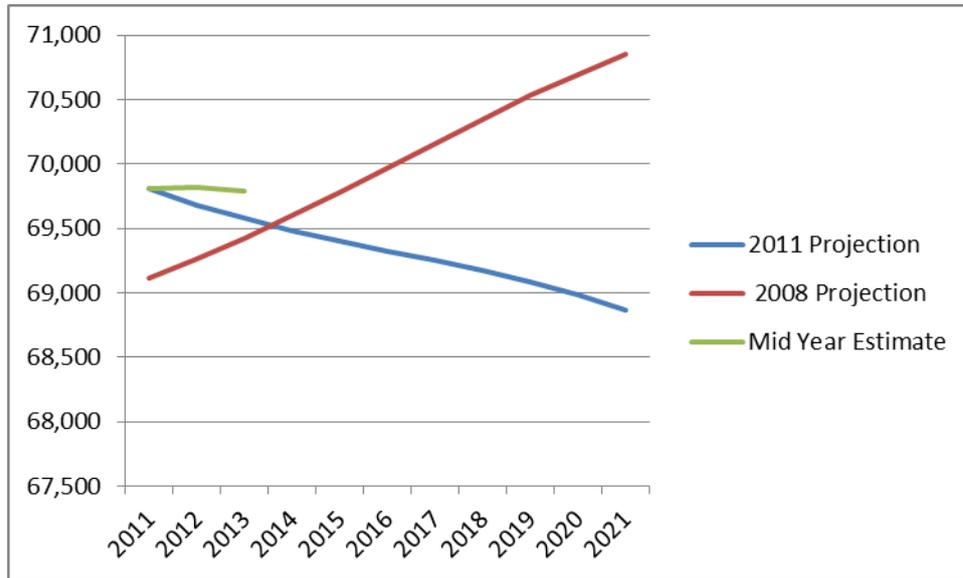
Key points:

- Total population is projected to increase for most authorities in Wales between 2011 and 2036.
- For a number of authorities total population is projected to increase by 2026 then decrease in the following decade, but remain higher than in 2011.
- For Anglesey, Monmouthshire and Blaenau Gwent total population is projected to be lower in 2036 than in 2011.
- In percentage terms population growth is projected to be highest in Cardiff, Wrexham, Newport and Swansea.

### Blaenau Gwent

**3.41** The 2011 projections suggest that the population of Blaenau Gwent will fall from a figure of 69,812 to 68,867 by 2021. This is in stark contrast to the 2008 projections that the Plan was based on which identified a growth from 69,114 to 70,849. The population loss identified in the 2011 based projection is contrary to what the Plan is hoping to achieve. It must be noted that these are trend figures based on a period of economic downturn.

**Figure 4: Comparison of 2008, 2011 based Population Projections and Mid-year Estimates for Blaenau Gwent**



### Mid-Year Estimates

**3.42** The Mid-year estimate for Blaenau Gwent for 2012 was 69,822 and for 2013 69,789. This identifies that the 2011 based projection for a decrease in population is not happening to the extent envisaged.

### Household Projections (2014)

**3.43** New Household projections have been released by Welsh Government based on the 2011 Census data.

For Wales:

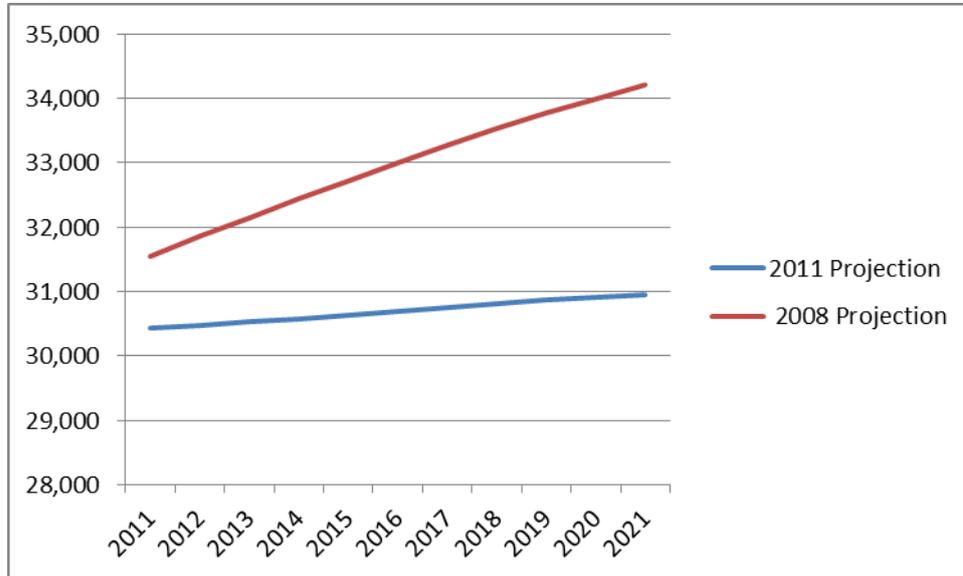
- The number of households is projected to increase by around 190,000 (15%).
- Most of the increase is expected to come from growth in the numbers of 1-person households, and households formed of 2 persons without children.
- Households containing 4 or 5 persons without children, and lone parent households with 1 child are projected to show large percentage increases.
- Lone parent households of all types are projected to increase by 20% whilst overall numbers of households containing 2 or more adults with children are expected to decrease by 4%.
- The average household size is higher than previously projected (2.31 compared with 2.23 at 2011, based on the 2008-based projections) and is not expected to decrease to the same extent.

### Blaenau Gwent

**3.44** The Household Projection identifies that for Blaenau Gwent there were 30,426 households in 2011 and there will be 30,943 in 2021 - a growth of 516 or 1.6% which is well below the average Welsh household increase. This suggests that Blaenau Gwent will be building approximately 52 dwellings a year rather than the 233 identified in the Plan.

3.45 Average household size is expected to decrease from 2.276 in 2011 to 2.205 in 2021. These figures are lower than the Welsh average but higher than the 2008 projection figures.

**Figure 5: Comparison of 2008 and 2011 Household Projections for Blaenau Gwent**



3.46 As identified in Figure 5 above, the 2008 Projection figures adopted by the LDP are much higher than the 2011 projections. This is because they are trend based projections which reflect the downturn in the economy and housing market in the last five years. The reality of what the Plan can achieve lies somewhere between these two projections.

3.47 The projections will be taken into consideration through the 4-year review.

### Local Policy Framework

3.48 There have been no significant changes in the local policy context since the adoption of the LDP. The following documents were, however, added to the LDP evidence base.

#### **Blaenau Gwent Joint Housing Land Availability Study 2012 (May 2013)**

3.49 The Joint Housing Land Availability Study (JHLAS) 2012 provides detailed information on the housing land supply in Blaenau Gwent – based on past build rates. The findings of the study indicated that there was a 7.6 years housing land supply.

#### **Blaenau Gwent Joint Housing Land Availability Study 2013 (March 2014)**

3.50 The Joint Housing Land Availability Study (JHLAS) 2013 provides detailed information on the housing land supply in Blaenau Gwent – based on LDP requirements. The findings of the study indicated that there was a 3.3 years housing

land supply. Whilst the housing supply is below the required level, the Council has outlined in the JHLAS a number of actions intended to improve this situation.

#### **Local Housing Market Assessment Update (ORS 2012)**

**3.51** The update relied on using the ORS Housing Market Model and moved the modelling from being a primary data based survey to a secondary data based model which ties housing requirements to household projections and long-term planning horizons. The assessment identifies that between 2011 and 2021 3,000 properties are required of which 2,300 (76.7%) are market housing and 700 are social rented (23.3%). These figures are comparable with the number of houses the LDP has left to build in this period and the social rented numbers anticipated. The study provides important data that will inform a future review of the LDP.

#### **More Than Homes – A Local Housing Strategy for Blaenau Gwent 2013-2018**

**3.52** The strategy sets out how the local authority, the community and all partners will work together to improve the quality, affordability and long term sustainability of housing in Blaenau Gwent. It also demonstrates how housing can and will significantly contribute towards sustainable and healthy communities through partnerships within and beyond our traditional local authority structures.

**3.53** Delivery of this strategy is underpinned by five main aims – each with a set of objectives identifying main areas of focus:

- To achieve a more balanced housing market
- To improve the condition and quality of homes
- To meet the needs of vulnerable households
- To prevent homelessness
- To improve the partnership framework

**3.54** The strategy provides important information which will inform future iterations of the LDP.

#### **Blaenau Gwent Single Integrated Plan (SIP) (2013)**

**3.55** This plan does not replace the Community Strategy, but is a shorter term four year “action plan” on how the long term vision for the County Borough will be worked towards and what will be prioritised between 2013 and 2017.

**3.56** Single integrated planning is about bringing partners from across public services and the voluntary sector together in partnership to plan, direct and deliver services, ensuring that they are effective and focused on meeting the needs and priorities of citizens.

**3.57** Local Service Boards (LSB) are the key vehicle for leading the single integrated planning process. The Blaenau Gwent LSB consists of leaders of key local public services and its role includes:

- Improving the quality of life and joined-up service delivery for citizens in their areas;
- Agree priorities based on clearly evidenced needs across the county borough;

- Provide leadership including dealing with difficult issues by removing bureaucracy or other obstacles and devising new and innovative ways of working;
- Work in partnership and encourage partnership working across and between organisations; and
- Review and report on LSB progress annually to citizens and partners.

**3.58** The purpose of the SIP is to set out the main priorities for partnership working, and what will need to be done to make Blaenau Gwent an even better place to live, work and visit.

**3.59** The Plan identifies five inter-related key themes and the priorities within them. The relationship between each theme means that work carried out for one will often have a positive impact on some, or all, of the other themes. The themes and associated priorities are identified below:



**Communities First**

**3.60** Communities First is the WG’s flagship programme to improve the living conditions and prospects of people in the most disadvantaged communities across Wales. The programme was launched in 2001 and initially worked with 142 communities comprising of the 100 most deprived wards.

**3.61** In 2013 Communities First moved forward into a new phase. The Programme is now based on fewer, larger areas than previously, each covering a population of, on average, some 10-15,000 people, known as Communities First Clusters. Each Cluster is focussed around areas which are among the 10% most deprived in Wales according to the Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation (WIMD) 2011. There are 52 Communities First Clusters, which between them include all of the communities which are eligible for inclusion in the programme.

**3.62** New structures for the management of the programme locally, regionally and nationally will provide more consistent governance and financial accountability, with clear and consistent demarcation of roles and responsibilities. Each Cluster is managed by a Lead Delivery Body (LDB) which is responsible for ensuring that the programme is well managed, that funding is used to deliver agreed outcomes and that communities are fully involved.

Each Cluster has;

- a Community Involvement Plan to ensure that local people and community organisations play a full part in the programme and are kept fully informed of its activities.
- a Delivery Plan to show how its work contributes to the three Strategic Outcomes:
  - Prosperous Communities
  - Learning Communities
  - Healthier Communities

**3.63** Following an evaluation and a consultation, the WG has committed to continued investment to fulfil its One Wales commitments. A new Communities First Outcomes Framework is being developed to provide a much clearer picture of what is being achieved by each Cluster and by the Programme overall and to understand the causes and effects of poverty. There is greater flexibility than in the past for each Cluster to develop the structures that suit the area, rather than following a single standard model for all.

**3.64** The Communities First Programme within Blaenau Gwent aims to contribute, alongside other programmes, to narrowing the education/skills, economic and health gaps between our most deprived and more affluent areas.

Three cluster areas have been announced for Blaenau Gwent, they are:-

- Ebbw Fawr Valley - with funding of £1,399,947
- Tredegar - with funding of £1,341,721.
- Ebbw Fach - with funding expected to be £1,388,711 for South Ebbw Fach and £1,382,255 for North Ebbw Fach.

**3.65** This new programme should assist in delivering a number of LDP objectives around health, skills and the economy.



## 4.0 LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN MONITORING

**4.1** The 2014 AMR is the first monitoring report to be prepared since the adoption of the Blaenau Gwent LDP and therefore provides an important opportunity for the Council to assess the impact the LDP is having on the social, economic and environmental well-being of the County Borough. The following section will provide analysis of the LDP monitoring process undertaken during 2013-14. For certain targets the base date for the information is the start of the Plan period that is 2006, for others such as policy outcomes these are based on information from adoption of the Plan to April 2014.

**4.2** This section outlines the results of the monitoring with respect to each of the monitoring aims set for the Strategic Policies (SP). In doing so it reports on each indicator identifying relevant triggers and where appropriate reporting on progress against outcomes.

### Monitoring Table: SP1

POLICY:	RELEVANT OBJECTIVES:	RELEVANT POLICIES:
<b>SP1 Northern Strategy Area – Sustainable Growth and Regeneration</b>	1 & 7	DM1, DM2, DM3, DM5 & DM6 MU1, MU2, MU3, AA1, R1, H1, HC1, T1, T2, T4, & T6
<b>MONITORING AIM:</b>	<b>To ensure sustainable growth and regeneration in the north of the Borough</b>	
<b>MONITORING INDICATOR:</b>	<b>MONITORING TARGET:</b>	
	<b>Outcome by End of 2016</b>	<b>Outcome by End of Plan (2021)</b>
Amount of new A1 development	A1 Development 9,100 sq m delivered	A1 Development 11,500 sq m delivered
Amount of new leisure development	Leisure Development Contracts on Bryn Serth site – start of construction	Leisure Development Project at MU1 complete
Amount of land B use class delivered	Land in B use class 22.3 ha delivered	Land in B use class 48.5 ha delivered
Amount of housing delivered	Housing development 1,635 homes delivered	Housing development 3,155 homes delivered
Transport projects delivered	Transport projects 9 projects delivered	Transport projects 6 projects delivered
<b>ANALYSIS OF RESULTS:</b>		
A key element of the Blaenau Gwent LDP Strategy is to deliver sustainable growth and regeneration in the Northern Strategy Area that benefits the whole of Blaenau Gwent. To fully understand the progress made in achieving this it is necessary to consider the findings of the monitoring exercise, as identified in the above indicators, in relation to the following interrelated factors:		
<b>A1 Development</b>		
The Retail Needs Assessment identifies that there is a need for 13,145 sq m of retail floorspace. The Plan allocates 11,500 sq m of land for new retail floorspace through		

commitments (sites with planning permission at April 2009) and proposals. To date, none of these retail allocations have been developed. Further information regarding proposals and planning permissions for these sites is contained in Appendix 1 – Status of Allocations.

The remaining 1,645 sq m is to be met through redevelopment proposals in the town centres. In January 2014, planning permission was granted for an extension to the existing Aldi Store in Ebbw Vale. The extended store will result in an additional 227 sq m of net sales area. No building work has commenced as of yet.

The Plan is therefore behind target.

**Tourism and Leisure developments**

Planning permission has been granted on land at Bryn Serth for mixed use development including the provision of a hotel. No development has commenced on site. There is no further progress on the remainder of the leisure hub on the Ebbw Vale Northern Corridor Site (Policy MU1).

The Plan is therefore behind target.

To date, 2 proposed tourism and leisure allocations have been completed with a further 3 partially completed and/or under construction.

**Schemes Completed**

<b>TM1.4</b>	<b>Bedwellty House and Park</b>
<b>MU2</b>	<b>The Works – Ebbw Vale Leisure Centre</b>

**Schemes Under Construction and/or Partially Completed**

<b>TM1.1</b>	<p><b>Eastern Valley Slopes</b></p> <p>To date, an extension to the car park at Silent Valley Nature Reserve has been completed. Tree growth and woodland development is being monitored. Drainage improvements have been carried out to the hydrological system. 300m access improvements to the site, repaired gate and improved access to common.</p>
<b>TM1.2</b>	<p><b>Garden Festival</b></p> <p>To date, a recreational play area including a castle and super tubing has been constructed. Planning permission was granted in 2011 for a vertigo hang loose zip wire attraction which has not yet been constructed. Work has also been undertaken to widen footpaths and create new sections for shared use.</p>
<b>TM1.5</b>	<p><b>Bryn Bach Park</b></p> <p>To date, a BMX track and mountain bike trail has been constructed. There is potential to further develop the tourism element of the park with opportunities for a hotel development and bunk house facilities.</p>

The LDP identifies a tourism and leisure project at Blue Lakes (Policy TM1.3) to create a new park and establish a new visitor’s centre with a café and restaurant. This project was being driven by Ebbw Vale Development Trust, however the trust has now disbanded and is therefore unlikely to be delivered.

**Land in B Use Class**

To date, there is no development permitted on allocated employment sites in the Northern Strategy Area. Further information is given regarding these issues in the relevant analysis of

results for Policy SP8 (Table SP8 (a)). Further information on any proposals for these sites is also detailed in Appendix 1 – Status of Allocations.

The Plan is therefore behind target.

**Housing Development**

To date, 811 dwellings have been completed in the Northern Strategy Area which falls short of the 2016 outcome of 1,635.

The Plan is therefore behind target.

**Transport Projects**

The LDP allocates land for the delivery of a number of transport projects. To date 5 schemes have been completed 2 are under construction and a further 2 are due to commence shortly in the Northern Strategy Area.

<b>Highway and public transport schemes implemented</b>	
<b>Cycle Routes</b>	
T1.3	HoV to Ebbw Vale and Cwm
T1.8	Brynmawr to Blaenavon
<b>Improvement to Bus Services</b>	
T4.2	Bus Interchange improvement at Brynmawr
<b>New Roads to Facilitate Development</b>	
T5.1	Construction of the Peripheral Distributor Road through 'The Works'
T5.2	Online improvements between the Peripheral Distributor Road and the A465

The following schemes are under construction:

<b>Highway and public transport schemes under construction</b>	
<b>Improvement to Bus Services</b>	
T4.3	Bus Interchange improvement at Ebbw Vale
<b>Regeneration Led Highway Schemes</b>	
T6.1	Dualling of the Heads of the Valleys Road

A planning application is currently being considered for the extension of the rail link to Ebbw Vale town centre (Policy T2.1) and the provision of the station and public transport interchange (Policy T2.2).

With 5 schemes completed, 2 under construction and a further 2 in the pipeline in the Northern Strategy Area, the Plan is on target to meet its outcome of 9 projects by 2016.

The Plan is on target for the delivery of 9 schemes by 2016.

Overall the Plan is behind target for 2016 but this is due to the recession – a factor which is beyond the Council's control.

**PERFORMANCE:**

**Monitoring Table: SP2**

<b>POLICY:</b>	<b>RELEVANT OBJECTIVES:</b>	<b>RELEVANT POLICIES:</b>
<b>SP2 Southern Strategy Area –Regeneration</b>	1, 6, 11 & 12	DM1, DM2, DM3, DM5, DM14, DM15, DM16, DM17 R1, H1, HC1, T1, T2, T4, T6, ENV2, ENV3, ENV4, TM1
<b>MONITORING AIM:</b>	<b>To ensure regeneration in the south of the Borough</b>	
<b>MONITORING INDICATOR:</b>	<b>MONITORING TARGET:</b>	
	<b>Outcome by End of 2016</b>	<b>Outcome by End of Plan (2021)</b>
Amount of land in B use class delivered	Land in B use class 1.5 ha delivered	Land in B use class 1.5 ha delivered
Amount of housing delivered	Housing development 265 homes delivered	Housing development 345 homes delivered
Tourism initiatives	Tourism initiatives 1 initiative delivered	
Environmental reclamation projects	Environmental reclamation 1 project delivered	
Transport projects	Transport projects 2 projects delivered	Transport projects 4 projects delivered
<b>ANALYSIS OF RESULTS:</b>		
<p>The objective of the Southern Strategy Area is to build on the strong sense of community pride and spectacular landscape to secure regeneration and create sustainable communities. To fully understand the progress made in achieving this objective it is necessary to consider the findings of the monitoring exercise in relation to the following interrelated factors.</p> <p><b><u>Land in B Use Class</u></b></p> <p>To date, no development has been permitted on allocated employment sites in the Southern Strategy Area. Further information is given regarding these issues in the relevant analysis of results for Policy SP8 (Table SP8 (a)). Further information on any proposals for these sites is also detailed in Appendix 1 – Status of Allocations.</p> <p>The Plan is therefore behind target.</p> <p><b><u>Housing Development</u></b></p> <p>To date, 77 homes have been delivered in the Southern Strategy Area which falls short of the 2016 outcome of 265.</p> <p>The Plan is therefore behind target.</p> <p><b><u>Tourism Initiatives</u></b></p> <p>The LDP identifies a tourism and leisure project at Cwmtillery Lakes for an Outdoor Gateway and Education Centre. The project was being driven by CALON through Communities First. Given the changes in Communities First, the scheme is no longer a priority although it remains an aspiration.</p> <p>The Plan is therefore behind target.</p>		

**Environmental Reclamation**

The LDP identifies a land reclamation scheme in the Southern Strategy Area to be delivered within the second phase of the plan by 2016. There is no progress to report in terms of its delivery.

The plan is therefore behind target.

**Transport Projects**

The LDP identifies a number of transport projects to be delivered in the Southern Strategy Area within two specific time frames; the first phase of the plan 2016; and the second phase of the plan 2021. To date one scheme has been completed.

**Highway and public transport schemes implemented**

**Cycle Routes**

T1.9	Extension to Ebbw Fach Trail from Abertillery to Aberbeeg and completion of missing section through Blaina
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The Plan is therefore on target for the delivery of two schemes by 2016.

Overall the Plan is behind target for 2016 but this is due to the recession – a factor which is beyond the Council’s control.

**PERFORMANCE:**

**Monitoring Table: SP3 (a)**

<b>POLICY:</b>	<b>RELEVANT OBJECTIVES:</b>	<b>RELEVANT POLICIES:</b>																					
SP3 The Retail Hierarchy and Vitality and Viability of the Town Centres	1	DM1, DM2, DM5 & DM6 AA1 & R1																					
<b>MONITORING AIM: SP3(a)</b>	<b>To ensure town centres thrive through the implementation of the retail hierarchy</b>																						
<b>MONITORING INDICATOR:</b>	<b>ANNUAL MONITORING TARGET:</b>																						
Number of A1 uses in primary retail areas as a percentage of all units in the primary retail area	Increase the % of A1 uses in Ebbw Vale's primary retail areas from a base level of 61% (2009)																						
	Increase the % of A1 uses in Abertillery's primary retail area from a base level of 45% (2009)																						
	Increase the percentage of A1 uses in Brynmawr's primary retail area from a base level of 61% (2009)																						
	Increase the % of A1 uses in Tredegar's primary retail area from a base level of 67% (2009)																						
<b>ANALYSIS OF RESULTS:</b>																							
<p>To deliver thriving town centres and protect local shopping facilities, Policy SP3 defines a retail hierarchy. The monitoring targets set to monitor its success are the percentage of A1 uses in the primary retail area of each of the town centres.</p> <p>The table below shows the % of A1 uses in the Principal and District Town Centres for 2014 compared to that in 2009:</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Town Centre</th> <th>% of A1 Uses in Primary Retail 2009</th> <th>% of A1 Uses in Primary Retail Area 2014</th> <th>% Change</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Ebbw Vale</td> <td>61%</td> <td>61%</td> <td>0%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Abertillery</td> <td>45%</td> <td>45%</td> <td>0%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Brynmawr</td> <td>61%</td> <td>62%</td> <td>+1%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Tredegar</td> <td>67%</td> <td>61%</td> <td>-6%</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Overall, the percentage change of A1 uses in Primary Retail Areas has remained neutral with the exception of Tredegar. Retail activity in Tredegar has been affected by the economic recession. The Shopping Centre area of the town centre (which forms part of the Primary Retail Area) formerly attracted a number of national A1 retailers such as Peacocks, Woolworths, Birthdays and Blockbuster Video. All of these national retailers have been affected by the economic recession with some closing smaller stores typical of those found in Valley towns whilst others have ceased trading completely. A combination of both has impacted on Tredegar.</p> <p>In terms of the overall monitoring aim the Plan is generally on target.</p>				Town Centre	% of A1 Uses in Primary Retail 2009	% of A1 Uses in Primary Retail Area 2014	% Change	Ebbw Vale	61%	61%	0%	Abertillery	45%	45%	0%	Brynmawr	61%	62%	+1%	Tredegar	67%	61%	-6%
Town Centre	% of A1 Uses in Primary Retail 2009	% of A1 Uses in Primary Retail Area 2014	% Change																				
Ebbw Vale	61%	61%	0%																				
Abertillery	45%	45%	0%																				
Brynmawr	61%	62%	+1%																				
Tredegar	67%	61%	-6%																				
<b>PERFORMANCE:</b>																							

**Monitoring Table: SP3 (b)**

POLICY:	RELEVANT OBJECTIVES:	RELEVANT POLICIES:																												
SP3 The Retail Hierarchy and Vitality and Viability of the Town Centres	1	DM1, DM2, DM5 & DM6 AA1 & R1																												
<b>MONITORING AIM: SP3(b)</b>	<b>To ensure the improvement of viability in the town centres</b>																													
<b>MONITORING INDICATOR:</b>	<b>ANNUAL MONITORING TARGET:</b>																													
Reduce vacancy rates from a 2009 base figure tracked against other Valley town centres	Reduce the vacancy rate in Ebbw Vale town centre from a base level of 11.5% (2009) tracked against other Valley towns																													
	Reduce the vacancy rate in Abertillery town centre from a base level of 20% (2009) tracked against other Valley towns																													
	Reduce the vacancy rate in Brynmawr town centre from a base level of 16% (2009) tracked against other Valley towns																													
	Reduce the vacancy rate in Tredegar town centre from a base level of 12% (2009) tracked against other Valley towns																													
	Reduce the vacancy rate in Blaina town centre from a base level of 25% (2009) tracked against other Valley towns																													
<b>ANALYSIS OF RESULTS:</b>																														
<p>The second part of Policy SP3 is to improve the vitality and viability of the town centres. In order to monitor this, the vacancy rate in the town centres needs to be tracked to ensure they are decreasing and are comparable with other Valley towns.</p> <p>The table below shows the vacancy rates for Blaenau Gwent's Town Centres for 2014 compared to that in 2009.</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Town Centre</th> <th>Vacancy Rate 2009</th> <th>Vacancy Rate 2014</th> <th>% Change</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Ebbw Vale</td> <td>11.5%</td> <td>11%</td> <td>-0.5%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Abertillery</td> <td>20%</td> <td>23%</td> <td>+3.0%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Brynmawr</td> <td>11.6%</td> <td>11.1%</td> <td>-0.5%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Tredegar</td> <td>12.4%</td> <td>16.7%</td> <td>+4.3%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Blaina</td> <td>25%</td> <td>27.3%</td> <td>+2.3%</td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>Overall Vacancy Rates</b></td> <td><b>15.0%</b></td> <td><b>17.5%</b></td> <td><b>+2.5%</b></td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>The overall vacancy rate for the Town Centres is 17.5% (2014) which is above the Welsh national average of 15.7% (February 2014).</p> <p>The individual vacancy rates for Ebbw Vale and Brynmawr are relatively low compared to the national average rate. Both town centres have seen a decrease in their vacancy rates since 2009. However, there are some notable exceptions with Blaina and Abertillery experiencing high levels of vacancy. Although not the highest vacancy rate, Tredegar's rate has seen the most significant increase during the period of 2009 – 2014. This can be explained by the loss of national retailers in the retail core area of the town.</p> <p>2 out of the 5 town centres have reduced their vacancy rates. Given the economic downturn and problems being experienced in town centres this is considered to be good progress.</p> <p><b>Other Valley Towns</b></p> <p>To meet the Monitoring Framework requirements of tracking the vacancy rates in Blaenau Gwent against other Valley town centres, the Welsh Government Heads of the Valleys area boundary has</p>			Town Centre	Vacancy Rate 2009	Vacancy Rate 2014	% Change	Ebbw Vale	11.5%	11%	-0.5%	Abertillery	20%	23%	+3.0%	Brynmawr	11.6%	11.1%	-0.5%	Tredegar	12.4%	16.7%	+4.3%	Blaina	25%	27.3%	+2.3%	<b>Overall Vacancy Rates</b>	<b>15.0%</b>	<b>17.5%</b>	<b>+2.5%</b>
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been used. Data has been compiled into the table below for town centres that fall within that boundary.

Town	Status	Total No. of Commercial Premises in 2009	% Vacant Units 2009	Total No. of Commercial Premises in 2014	% Vacant Units 2014	% Change
<b>Blaenau Gwent</b>						
Ebbw Vale	Principal Town Centre	139	11.5%	116	11%	-0.5%
Abertillery	District Local Town Centre	159	20%	130	23%	+3.0%
Brynmawr	District Local Town Centre	155	11.6%	107	11.1%	-0.5%
Tredegar	District Local Town Centre	170	12.4%	156	16.7%	+4.3%
Blaina	Local Town Centre	64	25%	55	27.3%	+2.3%
<b>Caerphilly (CCBC)</b>						
Bargoed	Principal Town	138	19%	132	19%	0%
Rhymney	Local Centre	31	6%	33	9%	+3%
<b>Merthyr Tydfil</b>						
Merthyr Town	Principal Town	No data available	13%	306	14.9% (2013 data)	+1.9%
<b>Rhondda Cynon Taf (RCT)</b>						
Aberdare	Principal Town	223	15%	220	12.7%	-2.3%
Ferndale	Key Settlement	46	13.0%	46	8.7%	-4.3%
Mountain Ash	Key Settlement	94	14.9%	93	20.4%	+5.5%
Treorchy	Key Settlement	114	6.1%	118	4.2%	-1.9%

Like other Heads of the Valley towns, the picture is mixed with some fairing well whilst others see vacancy rates increasing. Aberdare, Ferndale, Brynmawr and Ebbw Vale have all witnessed a decrease in vacancy rate change between 2009 and 2014. However, Mountain Ash has seen the biggest increase in vacancies (5.5%) followed by Tredegar (4.3%).

Overall, the Plan is slightly behind target.

**PERFORMANCE:**

## Monitoring Table: SP4 (a)

POLICY:	RELEVANT OBJECTIVES:	RELEVANT POLICIES:																								
SP4 Delivering Quality Housing	2 & 3	DM1, DM2, DM3, DM7, DM8, DM9 & DM12 MU1, MU2, MU3, H1, & HC1																								
MONITORING AIM:SP4 (a)	To secure construction of 3,500 net additional dwellings by 2021 and halt population decline																									
MONITORING INDICATOR :	MONITORING TARGET:																									
	Outcome by End of 2016	Outcome by End of Plan (2021)																								
Net number of additional affordable and general market dwellings built per annum	Completion of 1,900 homes	Completion of 3,500 homes																								
Population level of Blaenau Gwent	Increase population to 69,968	Increase population to 70,849																								
Percentage of vacant properties	Decrease vacancy rate of residential properties to 4.5%	Decrease vacancy rate of residential properties to 4%																								
<b>ANALYSIS OF RESULTS:</b>																										
<p>To stem out-migration and attract people to the area Policy SP4 makes provision for the delivery of 3,500 new dwellings and aims to increase the population of the Borough to 70,894 by 2021. The monitoring targets set to measure success are the completion of homes, population levels and the vacancy rate of residential properties.</p> <p><b>Net number of additional affordable and general market dwellings built</b> By the end of 2016 it is expected that 1,900 homes will be built. The actual total completions figure as of the end of March 2014 is 888 homes. This falls well short of the expected figure.</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th>Net number of additional affordable and general market dwellings built</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>2006 - 2013</td> <td>807</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2013-2014</td> <td>81</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>The Plan is therefore behind target.</p> <p><b>Population level of Blaenau Gwent</b> The policy aims to increase the population of the Borough from 68,914 in 2006 to 70,849 in 2021. However, the 2006 figure was based on a mid-year estimate which has since been revised to take account of the 2011 census results. The revised figure for 2006 is 69,610 and the latest mid-year estimate (2013) is 69,789. Although year on year the overall population has increased, slight decreases were experienced in 2010 and 2013.</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Year</th> <th>2006</th> <th>2007</th> <th>2008</th> <th>2009</th> <th>2010</th> <th>2011</th> <th>2012</th> <th>2013</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Population</td> <td>69,610</td> <td>69,685</td> <td>69,820</td> <td>69,850</td> <td>69,798</td> <td>69,812</td> <td>69,822</td> <td>69,789</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>The Plan is therefore on target.</p>				Net number of additional affordable and general market dwellings built	2006 - 2013	807	2013-2014	81	Year	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	Population	69,610	69,685	69,820	69,850	69,798	69,812	69,822	69,789
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**Percentage of Vacant Properties**

In order to identify the number of households required in the Plan period the Council was required to convert the dwelling requirement into a household requirement. Part of this equation relied on an estimate of the vacancy rate at the end of the Plan period. The Council used a figure of 4%. In order to ensure that the projection is based on sound information it was considered necessary to monitor this figure. The aim is to reduce the vacancy rate from 5.7% to 4% by 2021. The 2011 census figure identifies that the vacancy rate has reduced to 4.8%, a 0.9% decrease. If this rate of decrease continues the vacancy rate in 2021 would be 3.9%

Year	2001	2011
Vacancy Rate	5.7%	4.8%

The Plan is therefore on target.

The economic recession has had a significant impact on the housing market in Blaenau Gwent with housing completions far lower than expected. Nevertheless there are some positives as population decline appears to be halting and vacant properties are being re-used.

**PERFORMANCE:**

**Monitoring Table: SP4 (b)**

<b>POLICY:</b>	<b>RELEVANT OBJECTIVES:</b>	<b>RELEVANT POLICIES:</b>
SP4 Delivering Quality Housing	2 & 3	DM1, DM2, DM3, DM7, DM8, DM9 & DM12 MU1, MU2, MU3, H1, & HC1
<b>MONITORING AIM: SP4 (b)</b>	<b>To ensure the delivery of 1,000 affordable dwellings, 335 of which through planning obligations</b>	
<b>MONITORING INDICATOR :</b>	<b>MONITORING TARGET:</b>	
	<b>Outcome by End of 2016</b>	<b>Outcome by End of Plan (2021)</b>
Number of net additional affordable dwellings built per annum	224 affordable dwellings through S106 agreements	335 affordable dwellings through S106 agreements
<b>ANNUAL MONITORING TARGET:</b>		
Change in viability	Change in sales value per sq m	
	A change that would impact on viability of development - building regulations and code for sustainable homes	
<b>ANALYSIS OF RESULTS:</b>		
<b><u>Number of net additional affordable dwellings built per annum</u></b>		
Part of delivering quality housing is ensuring that local housing need is met. This involves the delivery of a mix of tenure including social rented, intermediate rent and low cost homes. Overall the Plan aims to deliver 1,000 affordable properties by 2021.		
	<b>Number of net additional affordable dwellings Completed</b>	
<b>2006- 2013</b>	317	
<b>2013-2014</b>	41	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>358</b>	
To date 358 affordable dwellings have been delivered. However, this figure is likely to increase significantly over the next two years due to the number of 100% affordable housing schemes currently under construction. If all the below schemes are delivered as planned this figure would increase to 526 by 2016.		
<b>Development</b>	<b>Number of affordable units in pipeline</b>	
Victoria, Ebbw Vale	15	
Gwaun Heulyg, Ebbw Vale	73	
Briery Hill, Ebbw Vale	32	
Sirhowy Infants School Tredegar	23	
Kings Hotel, Blaina	7	
Blaina District Hospital	18	
<b>Total</b>	<b>168</b>	
Of the 1,000 total affordable properties 335 are to be secured through S106 Agreements. To date a total of 86 units have been secured through S106 Agreements as identified in the table below:		

Development	No of units secured through S106 Agreements
BKF Plastics	2
Park Hill, Tredegar (Phase 2)	47
Park Hill, Tredegar (Phase 1)	29
Peacehaven	8
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>86</b>

This figure falls well short of the target of 224 by 2016 but reflects the lack of confidence in the private sector housing market in Blaenau Gwent and the wider problems in the housing market.

**Change in viability**

The Council set a 10% affordable housing requirement for developers and to ensure that this requirement is viable it was considered necessary to monitor changes in sales value per sq. m. and other changes that could impact on viability such as building regulations and the Code for Sustainable Homes.

The Affordable Housing Viability Assessment undertaken in 2010 was based on sales values of £1,700 per sq. m. If these figures increase or decrease by 10% the Council needs to review the viability assessment. Based on the one private site in Blaenau Gwent currently selling properties the average price per sq. m. is £1,262. This is a decrease of 25% and triggers the need to review the viability study. This is supported by Land Registry data figures which identifies that average house prices have reduced from £76,111 in 2010 (April) to £64,179 in 2014 a 15.6% decrease.

No change in Building Regulations or the Code for Sustainable Homes which impacts on viability have been introduced.

The Council is undertaking viability work to inform a decision on the introduction of the Community Infrastructure Levy. This work is currently underway and will be used to inform a revised Planning Obligations Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPG) document and future S106 negotiations.

In terms of the overall monitoring aim the Plan is behind target and has triggered a review of the Viability Study.

**PERFORMANCE:**

**ACTIONS:**

The influence of the current economic situation, the lack of confidence in the housing market and viability issues has undoubtedly had an impact on the delivery of housing. To address these issues:

- The Council's Regeneration, Planning and Estates Departments are working collaboratively to ensure and facilitate progress of sites through the provision of development briefs, site investigation work and active marketing.
- A housing delivery group has been set up which is tasked with bringing Council owned land forward for development. This group is also working with RSL partners through a special purpose vehicle to bring forward 250 units at Ebbw Vale North (Policy MU1) in an attempt to in still confidence in the housing market.
- A viability assessment is currently being undertaken to inform a revised Planning Obligations SPG and future S106 negotiation.

**Monitoring Table: SP5 (a)**

<b>POLICY:</b>	<b>RELEVANT OBJECTIVES:</b>	<b>RELEVANT POLICIES:</b>
<b>SP5 Spatial Distribution of Housing</b>	3	MU1, MU2, MU3, H1, & HC1
<b>MONITORING AIM: SP5 (a)</b>	<b>To ensure the delivery of housing in accordance with the strategy</b>	
<b>MONITORING INDICATOR:</b>	<b>ANNUAL MONITORING TARGET:</b>	
The housing land supply taken from the current Housing Land Availability Study	Less than a 5 year supply	
Land available for Gypsy and Traveller units	Land Available - loss of land to other uses	
<b>ANALYSIS OF RESULTS:</b>		
<p><b><u>The housing land supply taken from the current Housing Land Availability Study</u></b></p> <p>Local planning authorities are required by Welsh Government (PPW) to ensure that sufficient land is available, or will become available, for a five-year supply of land for housing. To demonstrate this, each local planning authority prepares a Joint Housing Land Availability Study each year. The current published study for Blaenau Gwent (2013) indicates that Blaenau Gwent has a 3.31 year land supply.</p> <p>Having less than a 5-years supply breaches the Annual Monitoring trigger point.</p> <p>However, the issue in Blaenau Gwent is not with the supply of land but the reluctance of developers to build due to concerns over viability and a lack of confidence in the market.</p> <p>Even where sites are identified as being available and viable relatively small numbers are identified as coming forward in the five year period. The remainder of the sites sit outside the 5 year period even though the land is available. This is due to slow build rates and as a result of the lack of confidence in the local housing market.</p> <p>Blaenau Gwent has set up a Housing Delivery Working Group to stimulate and assist the delivery of housing. As part of this work a joint venture has been set up between the Council and two Registered Social Landlords to bring forward a mix of private and social housing on the Ebbw Vale North (MU1) site.</p> <p>The Plan has breached a trigger.</p> <p><b><u>Land Available for Gypsy and Traveller units</u></b></p> <p>As part of policy SP4's aim of meeting local housing need a site was included in the Plan to accommodate unmet gypsy and traveller needs. The trigger point is the loss of the proposed site to other uses – the land is currently vacant and thus the trigger has not been broken. Indeed, Blaenau Gwent is in talks with WG for funding to deliver a scheme at this site. Preliminary planning discussions have been held regarding the design of the scheme and a planning application is being prepared.</p> <p>The Plan is therefore on target.</p> <p>The trigger for having less than a 5 year supply has been breached but the plan is on target with respect to the Gypsy and Traveller Site.</p>		

<b>PERFORMANCE:</b>	
<b>ACTIONS:</b>	
<p>The influence of the current economic situation, the lack of confidence in the housing market and viability issues has undoubtedly had an impact on the delivery of housing. To address these issues:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The Council's Regeneration, Planning and Estates Departments are working collaboratively to ensure and facilitate progress of sites through the provision of development briefs, site investigation work and active marketing.</li><li>• A housing delivery group has been set up which is tasked with bringing Council owned land forward for development. This group is also working with RSL partners through a special purpose vehicle to bring forward 250 units at Ebbw Vale North (Policy MU1) in an attempt to in still confidence in the housing market.</li><li>• A viability assessment is currently being undertaken to inform a revised Planning Obligations SPG and future S106 negotiation.</li></ul>	

**Monitoring Table: SP5 (b)**

<b>POLICY:</b>	<b>RELEVANT OBJECTIVES:</b>	<b>RELEVANT POLICIES:</b>	
SP5 Spatial Distribution of Housing	3	MU1, MU2, MU3, H1, & HC1	
<b>MONITORING AIM: SP5 (b)</b>	<b>To ensure the delivery of housing in accordance with the strategy and to increase build rates over the plan period</b>		
<b>MONITORING INDICATOR:</b>	<b>MONITORING TARGET:</b>		
	<b>Outcome by End of 2016</b>	<b>Outcome by End of Plan (2021)</b>	
Percentage of housing developments delivered in hub areas in accordance with the Plan's phasing	Ebbw Vale – 55%	Ebbw Vale – 60%	
	Tredegar – 25%	Tredegar – 20%	
	Upper Ebbw Fach – 10%	Upper Ebbw Fach – 15%	
	Lower Ebbw Fach – 10%	Lower Ebbw Fach – 5%	
<b>Percentage of housing developments delivered in hub areas in accordance with the Plan's phasing</b>			
<p>In order to create a network of sustainable hubs, provision for new housing was made in the four hub areas based on their capacity, with most of the growth being centred on the principal hub of Ebbw Vale.</p> <p>In order to monitor delivery of the housing strategy, progress needs to be monitored against the percentage of properties being delivered in each of the hub areas in accordance with the Plan's phasing. The table below identifies the number and percentage of properties delivered.</p>			
<b>Area</b>	<b>Number of Houses Delivered from April 2006 to April 2014</b>	<b>Percentage</b>	<b>Expected Outcome by 2016</b>
Ebbw Vale	340	38%	55%
Tredegar	275	31%	25%
Upper Ebbw Fach	196	22%	10%
Lower Ebbw Fach	77	9%	10%
	<b>888</b>		
<p>It is clear that Ebbw Vale is currently underperforming against the expected outcome for 2016. This is, however, likely to improve by 2016 with the two large mixed use sites of Ebbw Vale North (MU1) and 'The Works' (MU2) expected to start delivering soon. Planning permission for 250 homes on part of the Ebbw Vale North site is expected shortly and the Council is working in partnership with RSL's to bring another part of this site forward - a planning application for this is imminent. A Development Brief is being prepared for a site at 'The Works' (MU2) with a view to releasing this site to the market this year. It is also worth noting that a total of 120 RSL units are currently under construction or are due to be commenced in Ebbw Vale. This should mean that by 2016 the percentage figures should be more reflective of the targets.</p> <p>The Plan is currently behind target.</p>			
<b>PERFORMANCE:</b>			

**Monitoring Table: SP6**

<b>POLICY:</b>	<b>RELEVANT OBJECTIVES:</b>	<b>RELEVANT POLICIES:</b>
SP6 Ensuring Accessibility	4	DM1 T1, T2, T3, T4, T5 & T6
<b>MONITORING AIM:</b>	<b>To ensure improved connectivity within Blaenau Gwent and with the wider area</b>	
<b>MONITORING INDICATOR :</b>	<b>MONITORING TARGET:</b>	
	<b>Outcome by End of 2016</b>	<b>Outcome by End of Plan (2021)</b>
Number of highway and public transport schemes implemented	Transport projects 11 projects delivered	Transport projects 10 projects delivered
<b>ANALYSIS OF RESULTS:</b>		
Policy SP6 is aimed at ensuring accessibility, the monitoring aim is to ensure that connectivity within Blaenau Gwent is improved. This is to be measured through the delivery of schemes identified in the Plan.		
<b>Number of highway and public transport schemes implemented</b>		
To date 6 schemes have been completed 2 are under construction and a further 2 are due to commence shortly.		
<b>Highway and public transport schemes implemented</b>		
<b>Cycle Routes</b>		
T1.3	HoV to Ebbw Vale and Cwm	
T1.8	Brynmawr to Blaenavon	
T1.9	Extension to Ebbw Fach Trail from Abertillery to Aberbeeg and completion of missing section through Blaina	
<b>Improvement to Bus Services</b>		
T4.2	Bus Interchange improvement at Brynmawr	
<b>New Roads to Facilitate Development</b>		
T5.1	Construction of the Peripheral Distributor Road through 'The Works'	
T5.2	Online improvements between the Peripheral Distributor Road and the A465	
The following schemes are under construction:		
<b>Highway and public transport schemes under construction</b>		
<b>Improvement to Bus Services</b>		
T4.3	Bus Interchange improvement at Ebbw Vale	
<b>Regeneration Led Highway Schemes</b>		
T6.1	Dualling of the Heads of the Valleys Road	
A planning application is currently being considered for the extension of the rail link to Ebbw Vale town centre (T2.1) and the provision of the station and public transport interchange (T2.2).		
With 6 schemes completed, 2 under construction and a further 2 in the pipeline the Plan is on target to meet its outcome of 11 projects by 2016.		
<b>PERFORMANCE:</b>		

**Monitoring Table: SP7 (a)**

<b>POLICY:</b>	<b>RELEVANT OBJECTIVES:</b>	<b>RELEVANT POLICIES:</b>
SP7 Climate Change	6	DM1, DM2 & DM4
<b>MONITORING AIM: SP7 (a)</b>	<b>To ensure that more of the County Borough's electricity and heat requirements are generated by renewable and low zero carbon energy</b>	
<b>MONITORING INDICATOR:</b>	<b>MONITORING TARGET:</b>	
	<b>Outcome by End of 2016</b>	<b>Outcome by End of Plan (2021)</b>
The capacity of renewable energy developments installed per annum	The Energy Opportunities Plan will be adopted by the Council	
	<b>ANNUAL MONITORING TARGET:</b>	
Progress on the adoption of an Energy Opportunities Plan	All major applications provide evidence of consideration to the generation of renewable energy	
<b>ANALYSIS OF RESULTS:</b>		
<p>Policy SP7 seeks to address the causes of climate change. As part of this, the Policy aims to ensure that more of the County Borough's electricity and heat requirements are generated by renewable and low zero carbon energy.</p> <p><b><u>Energy Opportunities Plan</u></b></p> <p>As part of the LDP preparation, a renewable energy assessment was prepared which recommended that consideration be given to the formulation of an Energy Opportunities Plan as Supplementary Planning Guidance to the LDP. This would identify potential sources for renewable energy generation, and would also highlight possible receptors (particularly public sector buildings) of heat energy generation.</p> <p>Work has commenced on identifying Energy Opportunities as follows:</p> <p>The Council has been awarded funding through the Department of Energy and Climate Change through the Heat Networks Delivery Unit (HNDU) to carry out heat mapping, masterplanning and feasibility of heat networks in Blaenau Gwent. Four sites will be considered during the initial heat mapping and masterplanning exercise. Completion of the masterplanning will determine the sites suitable for further development towards a feasibility study and business case.</p> <p>The Council is also looking at opportunities for the installation of Solar photovoltaic (PV) panels on corporately owned buildings. Initial desktop research is being carried out within the team through confirming building retention status, orientation, potential for overshadowing and energy demand. It is intended to collate this information with a view towards developing the business case for delivering individual buildings or groups of buildings.</p> <p>It is intended to explore further potential renewable energy opportunities including wind and hydro power however no current projects are being progressed.</p> <p>Therefore the Plan is on target to meet the 2016 outcome.</p>		

**Generation of Renewable Energy in Major Applications**

Major applications are those defined as 100 or more flats or homes and/or provision of 1,000 sq m and over of floorspace. Since the adoption of the Plan, planning permission has been granted for one development that falls into this category that is the Circuit of Wales motorsports facility. The development comprises of the following land uses: High performance motor racing circuit; Pits building; Paddocks; Grandstands; Spectator berms; Medical centre; Rider Academy; Dirt Oval; Motocross Circuit; Karting Circuit; Off-road 4x4 Circuit and urban 4x4 circuit; Driver Training Centre; The Hollow (Visitor Destination); Innovation Centre; Industrial and Warehousing; Brand Centres and Showrooms; 2 Hotels; Headquarters; associated Leisure Retail; Motorsport Lodges; Clubhouse; Camping; Petrol Filling Station; Solar Park; and, Car, Motorcycle, and Bicycle Parking.

The main renewable energy generation will be delivered through a 12 ha photovoltaic farm. This will be supported by bespoke application of building integrated technologies such as heat pumps; micro combined heat and power technologies; and micro wind technology.

100% of major applications provided evidence of considerations to the generation of renewables, therefore the Plan is on target.

**PERFORMANCE:**

**Monitoring Table: SP7 (b)**

<b>POLICY:</b>	<b>RELEVANT OBJECTIVES:</b>	<b>RELEVANT POLICIES:</b>
SP7 Climate Change	6	DM1, DM2 & DM4
<b>MONITORING AIM: SP7 (b)</b>	<b>To ensure the efficient use of land</b>	
<b>MONITORING INDICATOR:</b>	<b>ANNUAL MONITORING TARGET:</b>	
Average density of housing development permitted on allocated sites	100% of mixed use sites to deliver 35 units and over per hectare	
Amount of development including housing, permitted on allocated sites in the development plan as a % of development plan allocations and as a % of total development permitted (ha and units)	70% of all development to be on allocated sites	
Amount of new development permitted on previously developed land (brownfield redevelopment and conversions) expressed as a percentage of all development permitted	80% of new development to be on brownfield land	
<b>MONITORING INDICATOR:</b>	<b>MONITORING TARGET:</b>	
	<b>Outcome by End of 2016</b>	<b>Outcome by End of Plan (2021)</b>
The number of land reclamation schemes completed per annum	Land Reclamation Schemes – 2 delivered	Land Reclamation Schemes – 2 delivered
<b>ANALYSIS OF RESULTS:</b>		
<b><u>Average Density of Housing Development permitted on allocated sites</u></b>		
	<b>Average Density</b>	
<b>2013-2014</b>	31.07	
<p>The average density of housing development permitted on allocated sites is 31.07 per ha which is below the Plan's 35 per hectare target.</p> <p>The annual monitoring target is to achieve 35 units and over per hectare on mixed use sites. However, no planning permissions have been granted on the Mixed Use Sites so this element cannot be assessed.</p>		
<b><u>Development on Allocated Sites</u></b>		
<b>Percentage of allocated sites with permission</b>		
	<b>Size (Ha) of development permitted on allocated land</b>	<b>% of all allocated land (379.75ha)</b>
2006-2013	139.091	36.6%
2013-2014	1.13	0.2%

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Total to date	140.221	36.9%
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(Note: Some allocations already had permission prior to 2006)

Permissions have been granted for over a third of developments where as we are now over half way through the Plan period. However, it was always recognised that build rates would need to increase through the latter stages of the Plan.

**Development permitted on allocated sites as a percentage of total development permitted**

	Size (Ha) on allocated land	Size (Ha) of Total Development permitted	% of allocated as a % of total development permitted
2006-2013	139.091	177.461	78%
2013-2014	1.13	241.42	0.4%

As 78% of all developments were on allocated sites between 2006 and 2013 the Plan exceeded its target of 70% of development on allocated sites. However, the 2013-2014 result is significantly different due to the planning permission granted for the Circuit of Wales which permitted the development of 236ha of land for development that was not allocated land. The figure for 2013-2014 identifies that only 0.4% of development granted was on allocated land.

The Plan failed to meet its target of 70% and by being 10% below this figure breached a trigger. In this case it is considered that this breach is an exception and extremely unlikely to occur again. The development is in accordance with the Plans Regeneration and Growth Strategy and therefore no amendment to the Plan is required.

**New Development on Brownfield land**

	Size (Ha) on brownfield	Size (Ha) of Total Development permitted	% on brownfield land
2006-2013	136.341	177.461	76.8%
2013-2014	5.42	241.42	2.2%

From 2006 to 2013 the Plan was only slightly behind the target of 80% of new development on brownfield land. The figure of 76.8% did not trigger a review as it was within 10% of the 80% target.

The 2013-2014 figure of 2.2% is well below that expected. This is due to the planning permission granted for the Circuit of Wales which was on greenfield land. This figure falls well below the 80% required but does not trigger a review as it has not been triggered for three consecutive years. Although this is considered to be an exception the figure needs to be monitored next year to ensure the Plan is on target.

**Land Reclamation Schemes**

The LDP identifies four land reclamation schemes; two of which are to be delivered in the second phase of the plan by 2016; and two in the third phase of the plan by 2021. There is no progress to report in terms of their delivery.

The Plan is therefore behind target.

**PERFORMANCE:**

**Monitoring Table: SP7 (c)**

<b>POLICY:</b>	<b>RELEVANT OBJECTIVES:</b>	<b>RELEVANT POLICIES:</b>						
SP7 Climate Change	6	DM1, DM2 & DM4						
<b>MONITORING AIM: SP7(c)</b>	<b>To avoid development in areas at high risk of flooding</b>							
<b>MONITORING INDICATOR:</b>	<b>ANNUAL MONITORING TARGET:</b>							
Amount of development (by TAN15 paragraph 5.1 development category) permitted in C1 and C2 floodplain areas not meeting all TAN 15 tests	No permissions for highly vulnerable or emergency services development within flood zone C2							
	100% of developments permitted in flood zone C1 to meet the justification test of TAN 15 and to have shown that the consequences of flooding can be managed to an acceptable level							
<b>ANALYSIS OF RESULTS:</b>								
<p>Policy SP7 seeks to address climate change and part of this involves ensuring that new developments adapt to climate change. This measuring aim seeks to ensure that new development is directed away from areas which are at risk of flooding.</p> <p><b><u>Amount of development (by TAN15 paragraph 5.1 development category) permitted in C1 and C2 floodplain areas not meeting all TAN 15 tests</u></b></p> <p>The monitoring indicator is the amount of development permitted in C1 and C2 areas not meeting all TAN 15 tests.</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="236 1025 1353 1137"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th><b>No. of Developments</b></th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>November 2012 -31<sup>st</sup> March 2013</td> <td>2</td> </tr> <tr> <td>April 1<sup>st</sup> 2013 – 31<sup>st</sup> March 2014</td> <td>1</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Therefore in 2013-2014 1 development was permitted in C1 and C2 floodplain not meeting all TAN 15 tests.</p> <p>The annual monitoring target is for no permissions for highly vulnerable or emergency services development within flood zone C2. Three permissions for highly vulnerable or emergency services were permitted within flood zone C2 since the adoption of the Plan. One of the permissions was for a new hospice on the Works site which NRW did not object to due to flood prevention measures already having been undertaken including increasing the height of the land. The application met the justification tests for a C2 area. The other 2 were individual infill plots for residential development.</p> <p>The trigger point of 1 or more per year was breached in November 12- March 13 but was not breached in 2013-14.</p> <p>The second part of the annual monitoring target is for 100% of development permitted in flood zone C1 to meet the justification test of TAN15. No developments were permitted in flood zone C1 therefore this target has been met.</p> <p>The plan was therefore on target in 2013-2014.</p>				<b>No. of Developments</b>	November 2012 -31 <sup>st</sup> March 2013	2	April 1 <sup>st</sup> 2013 – 31 <sup>st</sup> March 2014	1
	<b>No. of Developments</b>							
November 2012 -31 <sup>st</sup> March 2013	2							
April 1 <sup>st</sup> 2013 – 31 <sup>st</sup> March 2014	1							
<b>PERFORMANCE:</b>								

**Monitoring Table: SP8 (a)**

<b>POLICY:</b>	<b>RELEVANT OBJECTIVES:</b>	<b>RELEVANT POLICIES:</b>
<b>SP8 Sustainable Economic Growth</b>	8 & 9	DM1, DM2, DM3 & DM10 MU1, MU2, EMP1, EMP2, ED2 & TM1
<b>MONITORING AIM: SP8(a)</b>	To ensure sufficient employment land is provided to increase employment activity	
<b>MONITORING INDICATOR:</b>	<b>MONITORING TARGET:</b>	
	<b>Outcome by End of 2016</b>	<b>Outcome by End of Plan (2021)</b>
Net Employment Land	Employment land – 23.8 ha delivered	Employment land – 26.2 ha delivered
Employment rate for Blaenau Gwent	Increase employment rate from 61.7% (2009) to 65.6% (2016) tracked against the HoV average	Increase employment rate from 61.7% (2009) to 69.4% (2021) tracked against the HoV average
Percentage of economic inactivity wanting a job	Reduce percentage of economic inactive wanting a job from 8.4% (2009) to 7.35% (2016) tracked against the HoV average	Reduce percentage of economic inactive wanting a job from 8.4% (2009) to 6.3% (2021) tracked against the HoV average
<b>ANALYSIS OF RESULTS:</b>		
<p>To meet economic and employment development needs and ensure that Blaenau Gwent achieves its economic potential, Policy SP8 allocates 50 ha of land for employment use. The monitoring targets set to measure success are the development of employment land, employment and economic inactivity levels.</p> <p><b>Employment Land</b></p> <p>By the end of 2016, it was expected that 23.8 ha of employment land would be developed. None of these employment allocations were developed during the period 2013-2014.</p> <p>In addition to the allocated sites, the Council monitors annually the existing 21 employment areas across the County Borough, which consist of approximately 248 primarily B1, B2 and B8 employment units. As well as ensuring the ability of new sites to come forward, the LDP also plays a key role in protecting and managing these sites.</p> <p>Since 2006, 28,846.5 sq m (2.88 ha) of land for employment use, in the form of extensions and new industrial units has been approved and constructed within existing employment areas. Extant planning permission for a further 100,000.27 sq m (10.27 ha) employment related land use development has been approved but not yet started.</p> <p>In August 2013, planning permission was granted for an access road and associated engineering works to provide the infrastructure for the Rhyd y Blew redevelopment site (Policy MU1). This indicates that the site is being prepared for development.</p> <p>As part of the Welsh Government economic policy agenda, Ebbw Vale was designated as an Enterprise Zone in 2011. The designation of Ebbw Vale as an Enterprise zone is based on four sites adjacent to the Heads of the Valleys road and that are allocated in the Plan: - Tredegar Business Park (EMP1.2), 'The Works' (MU2), Rhyd y Blew and Bryn Serth (MU1) and</p>		

Rassau (EMP1.4 and EMP1.5). The sites are designed to house manufacturing companies specialising in the automobile sector.

The Enterprise Zone will assist with the transformation of the local economy in Blaenau Gwent and attract major inward investment focussing on the manufacturing sector. It will expand the industrial base and attract major companies to the area with the aim of creating jobs for local people.

The Enterprise Zone designation will offer a combination of measures and funding which will prove attractive to businesses in the form of tax relief, capital grants, super fast broadband and a simplified planning regime.

The Plan is therefore behind target.

#### **Employment Rate and Economic Inactivity**

By the end of 2016, it was expected that the employment rate would increase from 61.7% (2009) to 65.6% and that the economic inactivity rate would decrease from 8.4% (2009) to 7.35% tracked against the Heads of the Valleys average. It is important to point out at this stage that the economic inactivity rate figure of 8.4% is a typographical error and should read 28.4%.

The 61.7% employment rate and 28.4% economic inactivity rate were derived from the Office for National Statistics and were quoted in the LDP Employment Background Paper. However in May 2011, the Office for National Statistics reweighted unemployment estimates in line with population estimates published in the Summer of 2010. Therefore the tables below show the latest figures from the ONS based on the reweighting exercise. It is therefore proposed to amend the monitoring targets to reflect these figures to read:

#### **Employment Rate**

Outcomes by the end of 2016

Increase employment rate from 59.2% (2009) to 66.05% (2016) tracked against Merthyr Tydfil

Trigger point – 3% decrease against Merthyr Tydfil

Outcomes by the end of 2021

Increase employment rate from 59.2% (2009) to 72.9% (2021) tracked against Merthyr Tydfil

Trigger point – 1% decrease tracked against Merthyr Tydfil

#### **Economically Inactive**

Outcome by end of 2016

Reduce percentage of economically inactive wanting a job from 25.2% (2009) to 23.95% tracked against Merthyr Tydfil

Trigger point 1% increase against Merthyr Tydfil

Outcome by end of 2021

Reduce percentage of economically inactive wanting a job from 25.2% to 22.7% tracked against Merthyr Tydfil

Trigger point – 1% decrease against Merthyr Tydfil

## Employment Rate

### All People – Economically Active – In Employment

Date	Blaenau Gwent	Merthyr Tydfil	Wales
2008 – 2009	59.2%	65.0%	67.2%
2009 - 2010	58.4%	64.3%	66.7%
2010 – 2011	58.1%	62.6%	66.2%
2011 - 2012	58.7%	61.6%	67.0%
2012 - 2013	59.1%	63.8%	67.7%

Source: Nomis

The monitoring outcome to increase the employment rate to 66.05% by 2016 is not being achieved.

Tracked against another area of similar characteristics to Blaenau Gwent, namely Merthyr Tydfil, the rate of change in the employment rate is not significant. Blaenau Gwent's employment rate has stayed at generally the same rate with a slight decline of 0.1%, Merthyr Tydfil over the same period of 2008 – 2013 has seen a decline of 1.2%.

Although the Merthyr Tydfil figure is above Blaenau Gwent, the difference in change experienced between 2008 and 2013 is 1.3% which is below the 3% trigger point.

The Plan is therefore behind target.

### Economic Inactivity

#### Economically Inactive – Wants a Job

Date	Blaenau Gwent	Merthyr Tydfil	Wales
2008 – 2009	25.2%	31.4%	22.7
2009 - 2010	32.9%	33.0%	24.2
2010 – 2011	27.6%	30.0%	24.6
2011 - 2012	29.3%	27.0%	22.8
2012 - 2013	34.9%	35.1%	24.7

Source: Nomis

The monitoring outcome to reduce the percentage of economically inactive wanting a job from 25.2% to 23.95% has not been achieved. The number of people economically inactive who want a job has increased significantly from 25.2% to 34.9%. However the biggest increase was between 2008 and 2010 which can only be attributed to the changes in the welfare system i.e. those no longer classified as sick.

In comparison with Wales the difference has increased from 2.5% in 2008-2009 to 10.2% in 2012 – 2013, that is the economic inactivity rate who wants a job has increased instead of decreasing.

Merthyr Tydfil has a higher economically inactivity rate who wants a job than that of Blaenau Gwent, a difference of 0.2%, although the difference in change is considerably higher for Blaenau Gwent than for Merthyr Tydfil. In Blaenau Gwent the rate increased by 9.7% with only a 3.7% increase for Merthyr Tydfil.

The Plan is therefore behind target.

**PERFORMANCE:**

**ACTION:**

Whilst it is expected that the delivery of new employment land will be challenging, the Council is confident that as the economy recovers and opportunities to secure employment related investment increase, it will have both suitable allocated sites and existing sites to meet this need.

The designation of an Enterprise Zone will assist with the transformation of the local economy in Blaenau Gwent and attract major inward investment focussing on the manufacturing sector. The marketing that is taking place, the funding and other benefits should prove attractive to prospective inward investors.

The ability of the LDP to directly affect the number of net additional jobs delivered is limited. However, it is considered that the delivery of employment floor space provision will improve the number of jobs created throughout the County Borough.

The Council will continue to monitor progress towards the monitoring targets and assess any opportunities that arise to intervene in the delivery of new employment land.

**Monitoring Table: SP8 (b)**

<b>POLICY:</b>	<b>RELEVANT OBJECTIVES:</b>	<b>RELEVANT POLICIES:</b>		
SP8 Sustainable Economic Growth	8 & 9	DM1, DM2, DM3 & DM10		
<b>MONITORING AIM: SP8(b)</b>	<b>To ensure the diversification of the economic base</b>			
<b>MONITORING INDICATOR :</b>	<b>ANNUAL MONITORING TARGET:</b>			
Official labour market statistics for Blaenau Gwent identifying the number of employees in different sectors	Maintain the number of employee jobs in manufacturing at 5,300 (2008) tracked against the HoV average			
	Increase the number of employee jobs in construction industry from 800 (Blaenau Gwent, 2008) to 1,000 (Wales, 2008) tracked against the HoV average			
	Increase the number of employee jobs in the service industry from 12,700 (Blaenau Gwent, 2008) to 13,797 tracked against the HoV average			
	Increase the number of employee jobs in tourism related industry from 1,100 (Blaenau Gwent, 2008) to 1,625 tracked against the HoV average			
	<b>MONITORING TARGET:</b>			
	<b>Outcome by End of 2016</b>	<b>Outcome by End of Plan (2021)</b>		
Delivery of Learning Infrastructure	Completion of the Learning Zone	Completion of the new primary school on the Six Bells Colliery Site		
Delivery of Health Infrastructure		Completion of primary care resource centres		
<b>ANALYSIS OF RESULTS:</b>				
<b>Employment Diversification</b>				
<p>Part of delivering opportunities for sustainable economic growth is through the diversification of the economy. The monitoring targets set to measure success are the number of employee jobs in the construction, service and tourism related sectors increasing and the number of employee jobs in manufacturing being maintained tracked against the Heads of the Valleys average.</p> <p>The Heads of the Valleys area boundary includes the whole of Blaenau Gwent and Merthyr Tydfil, the other Local Authorities are only partly within. Therefore it is proposed to compare Blaenau Gwent's data to Merthyr Tydfil rather than the Heads of the Valleys average.</p> <p>The tables below set out the number of employee jobs in the Manufacturing, Construction and Service sectors for Blaenau Gwent and Merthyr Tydfil. The monitoring target gives a 2008 base figure which is based on information from the Office of National Statistics (ONS). However, the latest data available from ONS is for the period 2009-2012 therefore for Blaenau Gwent the data for 2008, 2009 and 2012 has been provided. For Merthyr Tydfil, the data for 2009 and 2012 has been provided.</p>				
<b>The Number of Employee Jobs in Blaenau Gwent</b>				
<b>Sector</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>2009</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>Change (2008 – 2012)</b>
Manufacturing	5,300	4,000	4,200	-1,100
Construction	800	900	1,000	+200
Services	12,700	13,100	14,100	+1,400

Source: Office for National Statistics

**The Change in Employee Jobs in Blaenau Gwent between 2009-2012**

Sector	No. Change 2009-2012	% Change 2009-2012
Manufacturing	+200	+5%
Construction	+100	+11%
Services	+1,000	+7%

**The Number of Employee Jobs in Merthyr Tydfil**

Sector	2009	2012	Change (2009-2012)
Manufacturing	3,100	2,700	-400
Construction	600	600	0
Services	18,200	18,100	-100

Source: Office for National Statistics

**The Change in Employee Jobs in Merthyr Tydfil between 2009-2012**

Sector	No. Change 2009-2012	% Change 2009-2012
Manufacturing	-400	-13%
Construction	0	+0%
Services	-100	+0.05%

**Manufacturing**

Overall, the number of employee jobs in manufacturing has fallen from a base level of 5,300 in 2008 to 4,200 in 2012 meaning a loss of 1,100 employee jobs during this time period. The sharpest decrease was between the period 2008 and 2009 with a loss of 1,300 jobs which can be attributed to the economic recession. However, between 2009 and 2012, there has been a slight increase of 200 jobs in this sector. During the same time period, Merthyr Tydfil has witnessed a loss of 400 employee jobs in this sector.

The annual monitoring target to maintain the number of employee jobs in manufacturing has not been met, with an overall loss of 1,100 since 2009. When comparing 2009-2012 figures against Merthyr Tydfil, Blaenau Gwent has fared well with an increase of 5% rather than a decrease of 13%.

**Construction Industry**

Since 2008, the construction industry has seen a slight increase in the number of people employed in this sector. In 2008, 800 people were employed in construction however this figure had risen to 1,000 in 2012. In comparison to Blaenau Gwent, Merthyr Tydfil has seen no change in this sector.

The monitoring framework sets a target figure of increasing the number employed to 1,000 by the end of the Plan period. This target has therefore been achieved.

**Service Industry**

In 2008, the number of people employed in the service industry was 12,700, however in 2012 this figure had risen to 14,100 an increase of 1,400. During the period 2009 – 2012 this sector has increased by 1,000 jobs whereas in Merthyr Tydfil there has been a loss of 100 jobs in this sector. The monitoring indicator set a target of reaching 13,797 by the end of the Plan period, therefore in the first year of the Plan this target has been met.

### **Tourism Related Industries**

Since the adoption of the Plan, Nomis no longer specifically record the number of employee jobs in tourism related industries. Instead the category has been subsumed within other categories. Therefore as this indicator can no longer be monitored and no other data source provides this information it is proposed to delete this monitoring target from the monitoring framework.

The economic recession has inevitably had a significant impact on the manufacturing sector in Blaenau Gwent. Nevertheless, there are some positives as the number of people employed in the service and construction sectors has increased to a rate exceeded or at the level set out in the monitoring target.

### **Learning and Health Infrastructure**

Another element of Policy SP8 is maximising the potential of the health and social sector and the promotion of learning and skills. This is to be measured through the delivery of schemes identified in the Plan.

#### **Learning Infrastructure**

An outcome of the Monitoring Framework by the end of 2016 is the completion of the Learning Zone on 'The Works' site, Ebbw Vale. The Learning Zone has been fully operational since September 2012 providing post 16 education to the County Borough.

The Ebbw Fawr 3-16 Learning Community opened in September 2012 providing early years, primary and secondary education for 420 pupils. Pen y Cwm special educational needs school which accommodates facilities for 150 children and the Children's Integrated Centre also both opened in September 2012.

In 2009, a new welsh medium primary school Ysgol Gymraeg, Brynmawr opened.

As part of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Schools Programme, the Council are currently consulting on the primary school provision in the Six Bells area to the south of Abertillery. The consultation outlines 3 options; one of which is the preferred option to build a new primary school on the Six Bells Colliery Site (Policy ED1.2).

The Plan is therefore on target.

#### **Health Infrastructure**

Funding has been secured from Welsh Government for the development of a primary care resource centre on land adjacent to Blaen y Cwm School in Brynmawr. The new facility will cover a catchment area from North Tredegar to Llanelly Hill and Gilwern, including Ebbw Vale, Brynmawr, Rassau, Nantyglo, Blaina, Abertillery, Six Bells and Llanhilleth,

The construction of the development is estimated to take approximately twelve months and the Primary Care Centre could be operational by the summer of 2015.

The new Primary Care Resource Centre will also house secondary care community services such as: District Nursing, Community Dental Service, Podiatry, Patient Education Programmes and Public Health Awareness sessions.

Schemes for Ebbw Vale and Tredegar form part of the Aneurin Bevan Health Board's medium term plans and if successful in securing funding could be operational by 2019.

The Plan is therefore on target.

**PERFORMANCE:**



**Monitoring Table: SP9**

<b>POLICY:</b>	<b>RELEVANT OBJECTIVES:</b>	<b>RELEVANT POLICIES:</b>	
<b>SP9 Active and Healthy Communities</b>	11 & 12	DM3, DM11, DM12, DM13, DM14, DM15 & DM16 MU1, MU2, CF1, TM1 & L1	
<b>MONITORING AIM:</b>	<b>To increase opportunities for people to participate in active and healthy communities</b>		
<b>MONITORING INDICATOR:</b>	<b>ANNUAL MONITORING TARGET:</b>		
Amount of greenfield and open space lost to development (ha) which is not allocated in the Plan	No net loss of greenfield land and open space to development which is not allocated in the Plan		
Hectares of recreational open space per 1,000 population (FIT standard)	Working towards FIT standards of 2.4 hectares of recreational open space per 1000 projected population (current standard 1.11 ha)		
	<b>Outcome by End of 2016</b>	<b>Outcome by End of Plan (2021)</b>	
Number of tourism/leisure facilities completed per annum	Completion of 5 tourism/leisure facilities projects	Completion of 1 tourism / leisure projects and community cycle routes	
Number of people with access to natural greenspace within 400m of their home as a percentage of all people	Increase the number of people with access to natural greenspace within 400m of their home from the current level of 65% (2007) to 77% (2016)	Increase the number of people with access to natural greenspace within 400m of their home from the current level of 65% (2007) to 80% (2021)	
<b>ANALYSIS OF RESULTS:</b>			
<b><u>Loss of greenfield and open space to development not allocated in the Plan</u></b>			
The Circuit of Wales project has resulted in a loss of 236 ha of open space to development.			
This breaches the Plans target of a significant loss for 1 year. However, this is considered to be an exceptional circumstance and extremely unlikely to happen again.			
<b><u>FIT Standards</u></b>			
The 2009 standard of 1.11 ha per 1,000 population has decreased to 1.05 ha per 1,000 population by 2014, a decrease of 0.06 ha. This has been due to the loss of the playing fields associated with the closure of 2 schools, the loss of 2 play grounds and 2 informal play areas.			
<b>Outdoor Space Lost</b>			
Glyncod Comprehensive	Playing Field and Astro Turf	School Closure	Area: 2.02ha
Nantyglo Comprehensive	Playing Field and Astro Turf	School Closure	Area: 3.72ha
Upper Areal View	Play Area	Playground Closure	Area: 0.01 ha
Dale View	Play Area	Playground	Area: 0.03 ha

		Closure	
Intermediate Road	Informal Play Area	Lost due to Planning Consent	Area: 0.50 ha
Pant View	Informal Play Area	Lost due to Planning Consent	Area: 0.10 ha
			<b>Total: 6.38ha</b>

**Outdoor Space Gained**

Bournville	Play Area	Area: 0.036 ha
Waunheulog	Play Area and Ball Court	Area: 0.035 ha
Ebbw Vale Sports Centre	Playing Field, Ball Court	Area: 1.65 ha
		<b>Total: 1.72ha</b>

The Plan is therefore behind target.

**Tourism and Leisure developments completed**

To date, 2 proposed tourism and leisure allocations have been completed with a further 3 partially completed and/or under construction.

**Schemes Completed**

<b>TM1.4</b>	<b>Bedwellty House and Park</b>
<b>MU2</b>	<b>The Works – Ebbw Vale Leisure Centre</b>

**Schemes Under Construction and/or Partially Completed**

<b>TM1.1</b>	<p><b>Eastern Valley Slopes</b></p> <p>To date, an extension to the car park at Silent Valley Nature Reserve has been completed. Tree growth and woodland development is being monitored. Drainage improvements have been carried out to the hydrological system. 300m access improvements to the site, repaired gate and improved access to common.</p>
<b>TM1.2</b>	<p><b>Garden Festival</b></p> <p>To date, a recreational play area including a castle and super tubing has been constructed. Planning permission was granted in 2011 for a vertigo hang loose zip wire attraction which has not yet been constructed. Work has also been undertaken to widen footpaths and create new sections for shared use.</p>
<b>TM1.5</b>	<p><b>Bryn Bach Park</b></p> <p>To date, a BMX track and mountain bike trail has been constructed. There is potential to further develop the tourism element of the park with opportunities for a hotel development and bunk house facilities.</p>

The Plan is therefore on target to achieve the completion of 5 projects by the end of 2016.

**Access to Natural Greenspace**

Information on access to greenspace was undertaken through a study carried out by Exogesis in 2007. Whilst it isn't possible to update the study and thus percentages, it is possible to report on projects undertaken to increase access to natural greenspace.

The following projects to improve access to open space/greenspace have been undertaken:

<b>Cycle Routes Completed</b>		
<b>T1.3</b>	HoV to Ebbw Vale and Cwm	3,385.77m
<b>T1.8</b>	Brynmawr to Blaenavon	1,484.76m
<b>T1.9</b>	Extension of Ebbw Fach Trail from Abertillery to Aberbeeg and completion of missing section through Blaina which links T1.9 and T1.11	2,929.73m

A total of 3 cycle routes have been completed with a combined length of approximately 5 miles or 7,800 metres.

**Projects to improve access to greenspace**

300m access improvement to Silent Valley Nature Reserve
Cleared 15,876 kilometres of footpaths
Removed 8 stiles and replaced with gates

Actions are being taken to increase the number of people with access to open space/greenspace.

Overall there is a mix of results with some areas on target and others falling behind.



**Monitoring Table: SP10**

<b>POLICY:</b>	<b>RELEVANT OBJECTIVES:</b>	<b>RELEVANT POLICIES:</b>	
<b>SP10 Protection and Enhancement of the Natural Environment</b>	13	DM1, DM14, DM15 & DM16 ENV1, ENV2 & ENV3	
<b>MONITORING AIM:</b>	<b>To ensure the protection, preservation and enhancement of the natural environment</b>		
<b>MONITORING INDICATOR :</b>	<b>ANNUAL MONITORING TARGET:</b>		
The amount of SSSI, lost to development per annum	No net loss of area of SSSI		
The amount of SINCs and LNRs lost to development per annum	No net loss of SINCs / LNRs lost to development without mitigation		
Number of developments which have an adverse effect on European sites	Where required, all sites to have a project HRA		
Provision of environmental enhancements	Major applications produce a net gain in biodiversity and / or enhancements to the green infrastructure network		
Percentage of water bodies of good status	No permissions granted where there is a known risk of deterioration in the status of water bodies		
	Permissions incorporate measures designed to improve water quality where appropriate		
Background air pollution	No decrease in air quality within the County Borough		
<b>ANALYSIS OF RESULTS:</b>			
<b>Loss of SSSI</b>			
There has been no net loss of SSSI as a result of development.			
Blaenau Gwent Local Authority has seen a significant increase in net SSSI area in 2013 due to the identification of Mynydd Llangynidr as a geological SSSI. The SSSI net area in Blaenau Gwent has increased from 24 ha to 152 ha due to the inclusion of the Mynydd Llangynidr site (128 ha).			
The Plan is therefore on target.			
<b>Loss of SINC and LNRs</b>			
<b>Loss of LNRs</b>			
There has been no net loss of LNR as a result of development.			
Blaenau Gwent Local Authority has seen an increase in net LNR area in 2013 due to the designation of Roseheyworth, Trevor Rowson, Cwmcelyn Pond and Six Bells Colliery Site as Local Nature Reserves. The LNR net area in Blaenau Gwent has increased from 357.96 ha to 396.09 ha due to the inclusion of the 4 new designated sites (38.13ha).			
<b>Loss of SINCs</b>			
<b>Permission</b>	<b>SINC Policy Ref</b>	<b>Total SINC Area</b>	<b>Developed Area</b>
Circuit of Wales	ENV3.72	4.6 ha	0.31 ha

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Rhyd y Blew	ENV3.27	26 ha	0.64 ha
Penrhiwgwaith Farm	ENV3.50	416 ha	0.28 ha
<b>Total</b>			<b>1.23 ha</b>

There is a total of 446.6 ha of SINC's within Blaenau Gwent. As a result of the 3 planning permissions being granted within a SINC area boundary there has been a loss of 1.23 ha or 0.2%. This represents a very small loss to development. Each SINC loss was mitigated; therefore the target has been met.

There has been no net loss of SINC's and LNRs without mitigation.

Year	Loss of LNR (ha)	Loss of SINC
November 2012 - March 2013	0 ha	0 ha
2013 - 2014	0 ha	1.23 ha

Out of 137 SINC's within Blaenau Gwent, there has been no total loss of a SINC to development. Three SINC's have lost some area to development but all of these were subject to agreed mitigation schemes.

The Plan is therefore on target.

### **Development with an adverse impact on European Sites**

The following 3 planning applications were received which were considered to have a possible adverse effect on European Sites.

November 2012 - 2013	Rassau Wind Turbine	A screening of the project was undertaken by the Local Authority in consultation with NRW who concluded that a full HRA would not be required. This application was refused.
2013 - 2014	Tafarnaubach Wind Turbine	A screening of the project was undertaken by the Local Authority in consultation with NRW who concluded that a full HRA would not be required.
	Circuit of Wales	A screening of the project was undertaken by the Local Authority in consultation with NRW who concluded that a full HRA would not be required.

All 3 underwent screening for a project level HRA. In all 3 cases it was considered that no project level HRA was necessary.

Therefore no development was undertaken that would have an adverse effect on European sites.

### **Provision of Environmental Enhancements**

Major applications are those defined as 100 or more flats or homes and/or provision of 1,000 sq m and over of floorspace. Since the adoption of the Plan, planning permission has been granted for one development that falls into this category that is the Circuit of Wales motorsports facility. The development comprises of the following land uses: High performance motor racing circuit; Pits building; Paddocks; Grandstands; Spectator berms; Medical centre; Rider Academy; Dirt Oval; Motocross Circuit; Karting Circuit; Off-road 4x4 Circuit and urban 4x4 circuit; Driver Training Centre; The Hollow (Visitor Destination); Innovation Centre; Industrial and Warehousing; Brand Centres and Showrooms; 2 Hotels; Headquarters; associated leisure retail; Motorsport lodges; Clubhouse; Camping; Petrol filling station; Solar Park; and, Car, motorcycle, and bicycle parking.

Approximately 236 ha of common land is to be developed. A section 106 agreement secures:

- Submission of an ecology management plan prior to commencement of the development;
- Implementation of Ecology Management Plan upon commencement; and
- Submission of mitigation strategy (for improvement of grazing and habitats on additional 600 - 800ha)

**Water bodies of good status**

There were no permissions granted where there is a known risk of deterioration in the status of water bodies.

There were no permissions which incorporated measures designed to improve water quality where appropriate.

The Plan is therefore on target.

**Background air pollution**

Blaenau Gwent CBC currently carries out air quality monitoring for nitrogen dioxide at 19 locations within the borough. The monitoring results from all of the sites are significantly below the air quality objective for nitrogen dioxide in the UK. As a result there are no air quality management areas within Blaenau Gwent.

The Plan is therefore on target.

**PERFORMANCE:**

**Monitoring Table: SP11**

<b>POLICY:</b>	<b>RELEVANT OBJECTIVES:</b>	<b>RELEVANT POLICIES:</b>
<b>SP11 Protection and Enhancement of the Historic Environment</b>	14	DM17 TM1
<b>MONITORING AIM:</b>	<b>To ensure that listed buildings and archaeological sites are protected, preserved and where appropriate enhanced</b>	
<b>MONITORING INDICATOR :</b>	<b>MONITORING TARGET:</b>	
Number of listed buildings and historic sites	No applications to result in the loss of listed buildings and historic sites	
Number of listed buildings or archaeological sites enhanced	All applications to preserve or enhance a listed building or archaeological site	
	<b>Outcome by End of 2016</b>	<b>Outcome by End of Plan (2021)</b>
Number of listed or local buildings of historical value brought into use for tourism	Prepare a list of locally listed buildings of historic value	Adopt as Supplementary Planning Guidance
<b>ANALYSIS OF RESULTS:</b>		
<p><b><u>Loss of Listed Buildings and Historic Sites</u></b>                      There are currently 53 listed buildings within Blaenau Gwent. To date, there has been no loss of listed buildings to development.</p> <p>There are currently 13 Scheduled Ancient Monuments (SAMs) within Blaenau Gwent. To date, there has been no loss of any SAMs to development.</p> <p>1 application (Circuit of Wales 2013/0062) will affect 2 Scheduled Ancient Monuments: Twyn Bryn Cairn and Trefil Tramroad. However, mitigation measures have been put in place to enhance and protect these sites.</p>		
<p><b><u>Preservation and Enhancement of Listed Buildings and Archaeological Sites</u></b>                      Enhancement work has been undertaken on three sites: Ebbw Vale Institute, Saron Church, and Bedwellty House and Park Tredegar.</p>		
<b>Year</b>	<b>No. of Buildings Improved</b>	
November 2012- March 2013	1	
2013-2014	2	
<p><b><u>Listed Buildings Bought into Use for Tourism</u></b>                      2 listed buildings have been brought into use for Tourism: Salem Chapel, Blaina and Bedwellty House, Tredegar.</p>		
<b>Year</b>	<b>No of Buildings bought back into use for Tourism</b>	
November 2012- March 2013	2	
2013-2014	0	

**List of Locally Listed Buildings of Historic Value**

A local list has been prepared but needs to be subjected to an assessment process.

The Plan is therefore on target.

**PERFORMANCE:**

**Monitoring Table: SP12**

<b>POLICY:</b>	<b>RELEVANT OBJECTIVES:</b>	<b>RELEVANT POLICIES:</b>
<b>SP12 Securing an Adequate Supply of Minerals</b>	15	DM3, DM18 & DM19 M1, M2, M3 & M4
<b>MONITORING AIM:</b>	To ensure a minimum 10-year land bank and provision of at least 3Mt of aggregates	
<b>MONITORING INDICATOR:</b>	<b>ANNUAL MONITORING TARGET:</b>	
Number of years land bank of permitted aggregate reserves	100% provision of a 10 year landbank (measured annually) through the plan period	
	<b>Outcome by End of 2016</b>	<b>Outcome by End of Plan (2021)</b>
The extent of primary land-won aggregates permitted expressed as a percentage of the total capacity required, as identified in the Regional Technical Statement	Planning application received by 2016	Consent granted for at least 3Mt
<b>ANALYSIS OF RESULTS:</b>		
<p><b><u>Number of years land bank of permitted aggregate reserves</u></b> At the end of 2013 Blaenau Gwent had an 11.18 years supply of permitted aggregate exceeding the 10 year requirement.</p> <p><b><u>The extent of primary land-won aggregates permitted expressed as a percentage of the total capacity required, as identified in the Regional Technical Statement</u></b> The latest RTS for South Wales identifies that Blaenau Gwent needs 4.25 million tonnes from 2011 to 2036 and had 3 million tonnes consented at the base date. This equates to 71% of the total capacity required.</p> <p>The Plan identifies three preferred areas for mineral extraction to accommodate this requirement: Adjacent Trefil Quarry, Tredegar; Tir Pentwys Tip, Llanhilleth; and Land South East of Cwm, Ebbw Vale .</p> <p>Progress is being made at the Trefil Quarry extension with an application having been approved to allow boreholes to be drilled to monitor background water.</p> <p>The Plan is therefore on target.</p>		
<b>PERFORMANCE:</b>		

## Monitoring Table: SP13

POLICY:	RELEVANT OBJECTIVES:	RELEVANT POLICIES:
SP13 Delivering Sustainable Waste Management	16	DM1, DM2, DM3 & DM20 W1
MONITORING AIM:	To ensure the delivery of sustainable waste management	
MONITORING INDICATOR:	Outcome by End of 2016	Outcome by End of Plan (2021)
Amount of waste management capacity permitted expressed as a percentage of the total capacity required, as identified in the Regional Waste Plan	Completion of waste facilities	
Delivery of regional waste facilities	Residual project contract awarded	
	Organic projects contract awarded	
Amount of waste arising, and managed by management type	Meet Wise about Waste targets for reuse and recycling / composting for municipal waste to 58%	Meet Wise about Waste targets for re-use and recycling / composting for municipal waste to 64%
<b>ANALYSIS OF RESULTS:</b>		
<p>Policy SP13 is about the delivery of sustainable waste management in Blaenau Gwent. The outcomes being monitored are in relation to awarding contracts, completion of waste facilities and meeting recycling targets.</p> <p><b><u>Amount of waste management capacity permitted expressed as a percentage of the total capacity required, as identified in the Regional Waste Plan</u></b></p> <p>The Regional Waste Plan required the provision of between 1 and 4 ha of land for regional waste facilities within Blaenau Gwent. To date permission has been granted for a waste transfer station at Silent Valley, Cwm (Policy W1.2) therefore the percentage is 7% of the lowest range and 1.75% of the highest.</p> <p>This monitoring indicator needs to be amended as the Regional Waste Plan figures are no longer relevant. The Waste capacity is to be recorded at a regional level through a lead local planning authority and published in an annual Waste Monitoring Report. It is proposed that this indicator is deleted.</p> <p><b><u>Delivery of regional waste facilities</u></b></p> <p><b>The Organics Project</b></p> <p>The Heads of the Valleys Organics Project were informed earlier this year by the bidders selected to take part in the Invitation to Submit Final Tenders (ISFT) of the procurement process that they no longer wished to proceed with offering solutions to the project. This has resulted in the Project Team having to review the options to end the current procurement and the options to commence a new procurement. It is unlikely that this project will be awarded by 2016.</p> <p><b>The Residual Project</b></p> <p>Blaenau Gwent and Torfaen jointly procured an interim residual waste treatment and disposal contract. This contract is secured until 31<sup>st</sup> January 2016 with the option to extend for a further two years. The authorities are currently considering their options for a long term</p>		

procurement process. The amount of residual waste generated by the Authorities is diminishing over time and as a result we do not anticipate a facility being built on the security of the tonnages. It is likely that spare capacity within an existing facility will be utilised. The consideration of options is being undertaken in discussion and support from Welsh Government. It is possible that this contract will be awarded by 2016.

**Amount of waste arising, and managed by management type**

The description of the indicator does not accord with the outcome. It is therefore suggested that the outcome is amended to read: Amount of re-use and recycling/ composting of municipal waste.

The targets identified in the Plan are referenced incorrectly they should refer to 'Towards Zero Waste One Wales': One Planet, the Overarching Waste Strategy Document for Wales' (adopted in 2010).

Our performance in relation to the outcome for 2016 in terms of recycling targets are as follows:

**Towards Zero Waste Targets**

Year	Target Reuse, Recycling & composting	BG Reuse, Recycling & composting
2012/13	52%	51.2%
2013/14		54.75%

We are working towards and making good progress in meeting the 58% target for recycling which has been set for 2015/16.

Overall, whilst sites are not being permitted and there have been delays in awarding contracts, Blaenau Gwent is moving positively towards the 58% recycling target for 2016.

**PERFORMANCE:**

## 5.0 SUSTAINABILITY APPRAISAL MONITORING

5.1 The Sustainability Appraisal of the LDP identified 24 objectives and 84 indicators which are intended to measure the social, economic and environmental impact of the LDP.

5.2 A key issue in determining the Plan’s sustainability progress is in ensuring the proposed indicators are providing the necessary information to allow prediction of the effects of the plan. The monitoring programme contained within the Sustainability Appraisal Report is preliminary and only identified potential indicators. The monitoring process has found that there is opportunity to improve the SA monitoring to ensure that appropriate data is collected. A number of recommendations have therefore been made to improve the indicators for future monitoring. Appendix 2: LDP and SA Monitoring Changes identifies the recommended deletions and changes.

SA Objective	SA Indicators	
1. To promote economic growth and strengthen and diversify the local economy	Employment by Sector	
	Accessibility between hubs – Number of highway and public transport schemes implemented	X
	Amount of major retail, office and leisure development	
<b>Monitoring Results</b>		
<p><b>Employment by Sector</b> Refer to LDP Monitoring Framework Table SP8 (b).</p> <p><b>Accessibility between Hubs – Number of Highway and Public Transport Schemes Implemented</b> This indicator does not only relate to economic services but also other services such as homes, community, education, leisure and health. It is proposed to move this indicator under SA objective 9. The monitoring results are therefore reported in the results table for SA objective 9.</p> <p><b>Amount of major Retail, Office and Leisure Development</b></p> <p><b>Retail</b> The Retail Needs Assessment identifies that there is a need for 13,145 sq m of retail floorspace. The Plan allocates 11,500 sq m of land for new retail floorspace through commitments (sites with planning permission at 2009) and proposals. To date none of these retail allocations have been developed. Further information regarding proposals and planning permissions for these sites is contained in Appendix 1 – Status of Allocations.</p> <p>The remaining 1,645 sq m is to be met through redevelopment proposals in the town centres. In January 2014, planning permission was granted for an extension to the existing Aldi Store in Ebbw Vale. The extended store will result in an additional 227 sq m of net sales area. No building work has commenced as of yet.</p> <p>Therefore 11,127 sq m of retail floorspace has been permitted since 2009, however no building work has commenced on site. Therefore the Plan is behind target.</p> <p><b>Office</b> Since 2009, four changes of use permissions have been granted to convert existing buildings</p>		

to an A2/B1 office. There has also been an office building extension at a MOT Centre in Abertillery.

'The Works,' Ebbw Vale gained planning permission for a mixed use development scheme in 2007. An element of the scheme was employment use of which 10,413 sq m is to be B1 office use. 500 sq m has been constructed known as the REGAIN building on the site. The General Offices has also undergone major refurbishment to provide office and conference accommodation.

The iLAP Planning Database does not record office development as a separate category but amalgamates all B use class development of which includes B1 office development. Therefore, a figure has not been provided.

#### Tourism and Leisure

To date, 2 proposed tourism and leisure allocations have been completed with a further 3 partially completed and/or under construction.

#### Schemes Completed

<b>TM1.4</b>	<b>Bedwellty House and Park</b>
<b>MU2</b>	<b>The Works – Ebbw Vale Leisure Centre</b>

#### Schemes Under Construction and/or Partially Completed

<b>TM1.1</b>	<p><b>Eastern Valley Slopes</b></p> <p>To date, an extension to the car park at Silent Valley Nature Reserve has been completed. Tree growth and woodland development is being monitored. Drainage improvements have been carried out to the hydrological system. 300m access improvements to the site, repaired gate and improved access to common.</p>
<b>TM1.2</b>	<p><b>Garden Festival</b></p> <p>To date, a recreational play area including a castle and super tubing has been constructed. Planning permission was granted in 2011 for a vertigo hang loose zip wire attraction which has not yet been constructed. Work has also been undertaken to widen footpaths and create new sections for shared use.</p>
<b>TM1.5</b>	<p><b>Bryn Bach Park</b></p> <p>To date, a BMX track and mountain bike trail has been constructed. There is potential to further develop the tourism element of the park with opportunities for a hotel development and bunk house facilities.</p>

The LDP identifies a tourism and leisure project at Blue Lakes (Policy TM1.3) to create a new park and establish a new visitor's centre with a café and restaurant. This project was being driven by Ebbw Vale Development Trust, however the trust has now disbanded and therefore is unlikely to be delivered.

The LDP also identifies a tourism and leisure project at Cwmtillery Lakes for an Outdoor Gateway and Education Centre (Policy TM1.7). The project was being driven by CALON through Communities First. Given the changes in Communities First, the scheme is no longer a priority although it remains an aspiration.

Given the complexity of the projects and the iLAP Planning Database, it is difficult to provide a figure for the amount of development therefore it is proposed to provide an update on progress of allocations and record any new developments.

SA Objective	SA Indicators																
2. To increase levels of local employment and ensure distribution of employment	% of working age population that are economically active																
	Earnings by residence																
Monitoring Results																	
<p><b>% of Working Age Population that are Economically Active</b> Refer to the LDP Monitoring Framework – Table SP8 (a).</p> <p><b>Earnings by Residence</b></p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th>Blaenau Gwent (£'s)</th> <th>Wales (£'s)</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td colspan="3"><b>Gross Weekly Pay</b></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Full-time workers</td> <td>404.50</td> <td>476.90</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="3"><b>Hourly pay – excluding overtime</b></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Full-time workers</td> <td>10.13</td> <td>12.00</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Source: Nomis, 2013</p> <p>In 2009, the average gross weekly earnings of full time workers from Blaenau Gwent was £361. The table above clearly illustrates that there has been an increase in earnings to £404.50. The average earnings for Wales are considerably higher than that of Blaenau Gwent.</p>				Blaenau Gwent (£'s)	Wales (£'s)	<b>Gross Weekly Pay</b>			Full-time workers	404.50	476.90	<b>Hourly pay – excluding overtime</b>			Full-time workers	10.13	12.00
	Blaenau Gwent (£'s)	Wales (£'s)															
<b>Gross Weekly Pay</b>																	
Full-time workers	404.50	476.90															
<b>Hourly pay – excluding overtime</b>																	
Full-time workers	10.13	12.00															

SA Objective	SA Indicators	
3. To enable the development of a strong tourism economy in Blaenau Gwent, complementary to the regional offer	Total number of visitors	
	Number of tourism facilities completed per annum	
	Proportion of people visiting the County Borough for activity tourism	X
Monitoring Results		
<p><b>Total Number of Visitors</b> The data available for the total number of visitors relates to the number of day visitors and the number of stay visitors. To provide clarity it is proposed to amend the wording of the indicator with the Total Number of Day and Stay Visitors.</p> <p>For 2012, the number of day visitors is 504,500 and for stay visitors is 125,900. It is not possible to make comparative comments on this indicator, although it is anticipated that this data source will be updated for next year's AMR.</p> <p><b>Number of Tourism Facilities Completed per Annum</b> Refer to the LDP Monitoring Framework – Table SP9.</p> <p><b>Proportion of People Visiting the County Borough for Activity Tourism</b> The data for the proportion of the people visiting the County Borough for Activity Tourism is not available. It is therefore proposed to delete this indicator.</p> <p>In the forthcoming Annual Monitoring Reports, it is proposed to include an indicator on the amount of revenue generated from the tourism industry. This data was not available at the</p>		

time of publication of the Annual Monitoring Report.

SA Objective	SA Indicators	
4. To enhance the vitality and viability of town centres	Annual vacancy rate in town centres	
Monitoring Results		
<b>Annual vacancy rate in town centres</b>		
Refer to the LDP Monitoring Framework Table SP3 (b).		

SA Objective	SA Indicators		
5. To meet identified housing needs	Number of net additional affordable and general market dwellings built per annum		
	Percentage of vacant residential properties		
	Net additional Gypsy and Traveller units		
Monitoring Results			
<b>Number of Net Additional Affordable and General Market Dwellings Built per Annum</b>			
	<b>Year</b>	<b>General Market Housing</b>	<b>Affordable Housing</b>
	2007	73	0
	2008	102	0
	2009	112	38
	2010	43	72
	2011	46	26
	2012	65	148
	2013	49	33
	2014	40	41
Refer to LDP Monitoring Framework Table SP4 (a).			
<b>Percentage of Vacant Residential Properties</b>			
Refer to LDP Monitoring Framework Table SP4 (a).			
<b>Net Additional Gypsy and Traveller Units</b>			
Refer to LDP Monitoring Framework Table SP5 (a).			

SA Objective	SA Indicators	
6. To improve the quality of housing stock	Number of houses meeting Welsh Housing Quality Standard	
Monitoring Results		
<p><b><u>Number of houses meeting Welsh Housing Quality Standard</u></b></p> <p>United Welsh have 965 properties in Blaenau Gwent – all of which are WHQS compliant.                      Melin have 312 properties in Blaenau Gwent – all of which are WHQS compliant                      Linc have 585 properties in Blaenau Gwent – all of which are WHQS compliant.                      Tai Calon have 6,176 properties in Blaenau Gwent – 36.7% of which are WHQS compliant.</p> <p>Therefore a total of 4,129 houses meet the Welsh Housing Quality Standard.</p>		

SA Objective	SA Indicators	
7. To secure the delivery and maintenance of quality affordable housing	% Affordable housing in mixed type schemes	X
	% of eligible residential planning permissions where affordable housing has been negotiated	
	Average house price to income ratio	
Monitoring Results		
<p><b><u>% Affordable Housing in Mixed Type Schemes</u></b></p> <p>It is proposed to delete this indicator as it does not add value to the monitoring framework.</p> <p><b><u>% of Eligible Residential Planning Permissions where Affordable Housing has been Negotiated</u></b></p> <p>100% of eligible planning permissions have been granted between 2013 and 2014.</p> <p><b><u>Average House Price to Income Ratio</u></b></p> <p>In April 2014 the average house price was £61,860 (Land Registry) whereas the average earnings were £21,034 (Nomis). This gives a ratio of 2.94:1.</p> <p>The affordability of owner occupation in Blaenau Gwent remains positive. The majority of homes for sale are affordable to households with incomes of £30,000; further, much is available for those with incomes over £15,000.</p> <p>However, over half (53%) of all non-homeowners in Blaenau Gwent have annual incomes of under £10,000 while more than three-quarters (78%) have annual incomes under £20,000.                      Source: Local Housing Market Assessment 2012.</p>		

## Local Development Plan: Annual Monitoring Report 2014

SA Objective	SA Indicators	
8. To improve educational attainment and increase skills levels	Delivery of learning infrastructure	
	Proportion of new employment opportunities that offer training schemes	
Monitoring Results		
<p><b><u>Delivery of Learning Infrastructure</u></b> Refer to LDP Monitoring Framework Table SP8 (b).</p> <p><b><u>Proportion of new employment opportunities that offer training schemes</u></b> To provide clarity and ensure data availability, it is proposed to amend this indicator to monitor the number of training schemes secured through S106 agreements on major schemes.</p> <p>The only major scheme granted permission was the Circuit of Wales, a S106 agreement secured 1,650 training places and youth engagement and training. Therefore 100% of developments secured training schemes.</p>		

SA Objective	SA Indicators	
9. To improve accessibility to education, leisure, employment, health, homes and community services for all sectors of the community	Number of Community Facilities per 1,000 population	x
	The percentage of the total length of rights of way in the local authority area, that are easy to use by the general public	
	Accessibility by hubs – Number of highway and public transport schemes implemented	
Monitoring Results		
<p><b><u>Number of Community Facilities per 1,000 Population</u></b> It is proposed to delete this indicator from the monitoring framework. No definitive list of community facilities exists within the Council, therefore the results would not provide a clear representation.</p> <p><b><u>The percentage of the total length of rights of way in the local authority area, that are easy to use by the general public</u></b> The total length of the right of way network in Blaenau Gwent is 300,894 metres of which 295,086 metres are accessible by the general public. Therefore the percentage of the total length of rights of way in the local authority area that is accessible by the general public is 98.07%. The 5,808 metres that are not accessible to the public are either overgrown with vegetation or have some health and safety issue that can't be resolved due to lack of funding.</p> <p><b><u>Accessibility by Hubs – Number of Highway and Public Transport Schemes Implemented</u></b> Refer to LDP Monitoring Framework Table SP6.</p>		

SA Objective	SA Indicators	
10.To promote community health, social care and well-being	Community satisfaction / perceptions	
	Overall index of multiple deprivation	
	Hectares of recreational open space per 1,000 population	
	Number of leisure facilities completed per annum	
	Delivery of health infrastructure	
	Number of people with access to natural greenspace within 400m of their home as a percentage of all people	
	Percentage of population within 1 km of National Cycle Network	
	Adult participation in sport in the previous four weeks	
	Any participation in sport in any setting (curricular, extracurricular, club or other setting) in the last year (primary school years 3-6)	
	Any participation in sport at a club outside of school in the last year (secondary school years 7-11)	
<b>Monitoring Results</b>		
<p><b><u>Community Satisfaction / Perceptions</u></b>            In 2012 Blaenau Gwent undertook market research to recruit a Citizen Panel. This involved surveys of 1,000 residents. When respondents were asked what they thought about Blaenau Gwent as a place to live only 27% felt that it was a very good place or a fairly good place to live. A further 41% thought it was average and 29% stated it was poor or very poor.</p> <p>Welsh Government undertook a national survey in 2012/13 when asked about satisfaction with the local area Blaenau Gwent participants scored the area a mean score of 7.7 out of 10, whereas the Wales average was 8.1.</p> <p><b><u>Overall Index of Multiple Deprivation</u></b>            In 2011, Blaenau Gwent is the second ranked most deprived areas in Wales behind that of Merthyr Tydfil. The highest percentage of areas in the most deprived 10% in Wales is Merthyr Tydfil (25%) followed by Blaenau Gwent (23.4%).</p> <p>In 2014, the Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation will be updated.</p> <p><b><u>Hectares of Recreational Open Space per 1,000 Population</u></b>            It is proposed to amend the indicator to reflect what is included in the LDP which relates to the FIT Standard. The indicator should be amended to read:            Hectares of recreational open space per 1000 population (FIT standard)</p> <p>Refer to the LDP Monitoring Framework Table SP9.</p> <p><b><u>Number of Leisure Facilities Completed per Annum</u></b>            Policy L1 allocates land at Chartist Way, Tredegar for a kick about area adjacent to an existing play area. No development has taken place on this land, it is anticipated that the site</p>		

would be completed in the second phase of the plan, by 2016. The Ebbw Vale Leisure Centre along with 2 playing pitches was completed in 2013-2014. Therefore one facility has been completed.

**Delivery of Health Infrastructure**

Refer to LDP Monitoring Framework Table SP8 (b).

**Number of people with access to natural greenspace within 400m of their home as a percentage of all people**

Refer to LDP Monitoring Framework Table SP9.

**Percentage of Population within 1km of National Cycle Network**

This indicator should be amended to refer to the cycle network rather than the national cycle network. This would be more reflective of the monitoring aim.

91% of the population are within 1km of the cycle network.

**Adult participation in sport in the previous four weeks**

33% adults stated they are 'hooked on sport' (participate 3 times or more per week) compared to 39% across Wales.

**Any participation in sport in any setting (curricular, extracurricular, club or other setting) in the last year (primary school years 3-6)**

93.1% of children participate in sport in any setting compared to 93.3% in South east Wales and 94.6% in Wales.

**Any participation in sport at a club outside of school in the last year (secondary school years 7-11)**

83% of 7- 11 year olds participate in sport at a club outside of school in the last year compared to 83.1% in South East Wales and 83.8% in Wales.

SA Objective	SA Indicators
11.To reduce crime, social disorder and fear of crime	Percentage of large new housing sites that meets the 'secured by design' certification criteria
Monitoring Results	
<b><u>Percentage of new housing sites that meets the 'secured by design certification criteria'</u></b> All three planning permissions granted for large housing schemes have met the 'secured by design' certification. This equates to 100%.	

SA Objective	SA Indicators
12.To encourage modal shift from private transport to sustainable transport	Frequency of buses between hubs
	Frequency of public transport to Cardiff or Newport
	No. and value of planning contributions secured for improvements in public transport,

	walking and cycling	
	Modal split - % of population travelling to work by sustainable modes	
<b>Monitoring Results</b>		

**Frequency of buses between hubs**

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

SERVICE	ROUTE AND TIMINGS	OPERATOR
X4	Cardiff-Merthyr-Tredegarr-Ebbw Vale-Brynmawr-Abergavenny (every 30mins throughout the day)	Stagecoach
X15	Brynmawr-Abertillery-Newport (every 30mins)	Stagecoach
X18	Ebbw Vale-Newbridge-Risca-Newport (hourly service)	Stagecoach
X74	Crosskeys-Abertillery-Abergavenny (Tuesdays only 1 service)	Stagecoach
E2	Ebbw Vale-Hilltop (circular every 30mins)	Stagecoach
E3	Brynmawr-Abertillery-Ebbw Vale-Brynmawr (hourly service)	Stagecoach
E4	Brynmawr-Ebbw Vale-Abertillery- Brynmawr (hourly service)	Stagecoach
E8	Ebbw Vale-Rassau-Garnlydan (every 30 mins)	Stagecoach
E11	Ebbw Vale-Tredegarr via Ysguborwen (hourly service)	Clarke's Coaches
E12	Ebbw Vale - Tredegarr / Tredegarr – Peacehaven (hourly Service)	Clarke's Coaches
E13	Tredegarr-Ebbw Vale via Peacehaven (hourly service)	Clarke's Coaches
4	Tredegarr – Rhymney – Pontllytyn (hourly service)	Stagecoach
20	Cefn Golau – Tredegarr – Rhymney Station (hourly service)	Stagecoach
21	Cwmbran-Pontypool-Blackwood (hourly service)	Stagecoach
22	Ebbw Vale-Pontypool-Newport (hourly service)	Stagecoach
30	Brynmawr-Blaenavon-Pontypool-Newport (hourly service)	Stagecoach
48/49	Tredegarr-Troedrihwair (taxi 3 services per day Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday)	Met Taxis
52	Cwmtillery-Abertillery-Trinant-Newbridge-Blackwood (every 30 mins)	Stagecoach
56	Tredegarr-Blackwood-Newport (30 mins at busy times otherwise hourly)	Stagecoach
C20	Rhymney Station - Tredegarr (hourly)	Clarke's
3/S	Abergavenny-Gilwern-Brynmawr (hourly service)	Clarke's
1	Abertillery-Cwmtillery-Brynithel-Hillcrest-Tesco (hourly service)	Henleys Bus Service
1/S	Abertillery-Gelli Crug (1 service per day)	Henleys Bus Services
3	Abertillery-Arael View (every 30 mins)	Henleys Bus Service

Coverage of services within Blaenau Gwent and from Blaenau Gwent to other key

settlements is good, with links across the Heads of the Valleys and to strategic destinations such as Cardiff. However there is a major gap in service provision on a Sunday.

**Frequency of public transport to Cardiff or Newport**

In 2008 a new rail link to the Ebbw Valley was opened, providing rail stations at Ebbw Vale Parkway and Llanhilleth in Blaenau Gwent. The current frequency of services between Ebbw Vale and Cardiff Central are as follows:

Monday-Saturday: 1 train per hour (First train, 06.40, last train, 22:40);

Sunday: 1 train every 2 hours (First train, 8.40, last train, 20:40)

There is no direct line to Newport.

**No. and value of planning contributions secured for improvements in public transport, walking and cycling**

Planning contributions have been secured for improvements in public transport, walking and cycling from 5 sites. Some of these improvements have secured actual improvements whilst others have secured improvements and contributions. The contributions totalled £50,000.

**Modal split - % of population travelling to work by sustainable modes**

The table below sets out the method of travel to work of residents aged between 16 and 64 in 2001 and 2011. The data indicates that 49.2% of this age group were out of work in 2001 and 45.4% in 2011.

In 2011, the percentage of the population travelling to work by sustainable modes was 14.7% whereas in 2001, 18.5% travelled using sustainable modes. Therefore there are less people using sustainable transport than 10 years ago. It is evident that people are still dependent on driving a car or van to work.

These figures do not reflect the difference the opening of the train to Cardiff, therefore, the weight given to these figures should be tempered to reflect this.

Method of Travel to Work	2001	2011
Work mainly at or from home	2.9%	1.1%
Underground, metro, light rail, tram	0%	0%
Train	0.2%	0.4%
Bus, minibus or coach	2.0%	1.7%
Taxi	0.4%	0.3%
Motorcycle, scooter or moped	0.3%	0.3%
Driving a car or van	31.3%	39.4%
Passenger in a car or van	6.8%	5.8%
Bicycle	0.3%	0.3%
On foot	6.3%	5.4%
Other method of travel to work	0.2%	0.3%
Not in employment	49.2%	45.4%

Source: Census 2011

SA Objective	SA Indicators	
13.To protect and enhance biodiversity across Blaenau Gwent	Number of developments which have an adverse effect on European sites	
	Area of SSSI lost to development per annum	
	Amount of protected woodland and trees lost to development per annum	
	Area of SINC lost to development per annum	
	Area of LNR lost to development per annum	
	Number of new development delivering habitat creation	
	% of greenspace important for wildlife corridors identified and safeguarded from or enhanced as part of development	X
	% of planning permissions incorporating a condition which is to establish a buffer zone (relating to development adjacent to a watercourse)	X
	% of LBAP species that are stable or increasing	X
Unavoidable loss of biodiversity compensated for	X	
<b>Monitoring Results</b>		
<p><b><u>Number of developments which have an adverse effect on European sites</u></b> Refer to LDP Monitoring Framework Table SP10.</p> <p><b><u>Area of SSSI lost to development per annum</u></b> Refer to LDP Monitoring Framework Table SP10.</p> <p><b><u>Amount of protected woodland and trees lost to development per annum</u></b> No protected woodland or trees have been lost to development.</p> <p><b><u>Area of SINC lost to development per annum</u></b> Refer to LDP Monitoring Framework Table SP10.</p> <p><b><u>Area of LNR lost to development per annum</u></b> Refer to LDP Monitoring Framework Table SP10.</p> <p><b><u>Number of new development delivering habitat creation</u></b> It is proposed to amend this indicator to better reflect the LDP Monitoring Framework to ensure the indicator is measurable and the data is available. The indicator should be amended to read: Provision of environmental enhancements.  Refer to LDP Monitoring Framework Table SP10.</p> <p><b><u>% of greenspace important for wildlife corridors identified and safeguarded from or enhanced as part of development</u></b></p>		

This indicator is considered too onerous and the data is not easily available. It is therefore proposed to delete this indicator from the SA Monitoring Framework.

**% of planning permissions incorporating a condition which is to establish a buffer zone (relating to development adjacent to a watercourse)**

This indicator is considered too onerous and the data is not easily available. It is therefore proposed to delete this indicator from the SA Monitoring Framework.

**% of LBAP species that are stable or increasing**

This indicator is considered too onerous and the data is not easily available. It is therefore proposed to delete this indicator from the SA Monitoring Framework.

**Unavoidable loss of biodiversity compensated for**

It is proposed to delete this indicator as this issue is already covered by SP10 through the provision of environmental enhancements. Reference is already made to this indicator above therefore it is no considered necessary to refer to it again.

SA Objective	SA Indicators
14.To conserve and enhance the heritage assets of Blaenau Gwent and their settings	Number of conservation area appraisals and conservation area management plans undertaken / implemented
	Number of listed buildings and historic sites
	Number of listed buildings or archaeological sites enhanced
	Number of listed or local buildings of historical value brought into use for tourism
	The number of scheduled ancient monuments having undergone positive management works
	Number of historic assets that have an approved monument management in place
	Condition of registered parks and gardens of historic interest
<b>Monitoring Results</b>	
<p><b><u>Number of conservation area appraisals and conservation area management plans undertaken / implemented</u></b></p> <p>The Council prepared a Conservation Area Management Plan for Tredegar. This document was approved as a technical document in 2013. The Council also commissioned consultants to prepare a Tredegar Conservation Area Design Guide in 2013 which would be adopted as Supplementary Planning Guidance. This document is still draft.</p> <p><b><u>Number of listed buildings and historic sites</u></b></p> <p>Refer to LDP Monitoring Framework Table SP11.</p> <p><b><u>Number of listed buildings or archaeological sites enhanced</u></b></p>	

Refer to LDP Monitoring Framework Table SP11.

**Number of listed or local buildings of historical value brought into use for tourism**

Refer to LDP Monitoring Framework Table SP11.

**The number of scheduled ancient monuments having undergone positive management works**

Two scheduled ancient monuments have undergone positive management works, they are:

- Conservation of Bedwellty Pits Incline Engine
- Interpretation works at Sirhowy Ironworks

**Number of historic assets that have an approved monument management in place**

There are four historic assets that have an approved monument management in place, namely:

- Bedwellty House and Park Conservation Area
- Tredegar South Conservation Area
- Bedwellty Pits Scheduled Ancient Monument
- St. Illtyds Church Listed Building

**Condition of registered parks and gardens of historic interest**

Blaenau Gwent has one registered park and garden of historic interest, namely Bedwellty Park. This has recently been restored and is of good condition.

SA Objective	SA Indicators	
15. To make the best use of previously developed land and existing buildings to minimise pressure for greenfield development, where this will not result in damage or loss to biodiversity	Amount of new development permitted on previously developed land (brownfield development and conversions) expressed as a percentage of all development permitted	
	Average density of housing development permitted on allocated sites	
	Number of land reclamation schemes completed per annum	
Monitoring Results		
<b><u>Amount of new development permitted on previously developed land (brownfield development and conversions) expressed as a percentage of all development permitted</u></b>		
Refer to LDP Monitoring Framework Table SP7 (b).		
<b><u>Average density of housing development permitted on allocated sites</u></b>		
Refer to LDP Monitoring Framework Table SP7 (b).		
<b><u>Number of land reclamation schemes completed per annum</u></b>		
Refer to LDP Monitoring Framework Table SP7 (b).		

SA Objective	SA Indicators	
16.To conserve soil resources and their quality	No. and area of contaminated land site remediated through new development	
	Area of greenfield land lost to development (ha) which is not allocated in the plan	
	Number of development projects implementing soil creation and conservation techniques	X
Monitoring Results		
<p><b><u>No. and area of contaminated land site remediated through new development</u></b> 5 sites totalling an area of 2.93 ha have been permitted where land remediation is required.</p> <p><b><u>Area of greenfield land lost to development (ha) which is not allocated in the plan</u></b> Refer to LDP Monitoring Framework Table SP9.</p> <p><b><u>Number of development projects implementing soil creation and conservation techniques</u></b> This indicator is considered too onerous and the data is not easily available. It is therefore proposed to delete this indicator from the monitoring framework.</p>		

SA Objective	SA Indicators																			
17.To reduce emissions of greenhouse gases, in particular carbon dioxide	Greenhouse gas emissions (CO <sub>2</sub> equivalent) by sector and per capita (tonnes per year)																			
Monitoring Results																				
<p><b><u>Carbon Dioxide Emissions per Capita, by sector in Blaenau Gwent, 2011 (tonnes per capita)</u></b></p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Year</th> <th>Industry &amp; Commercial</th> <th>Domestic</th> <th>Transport</th> <th>Land Use, Land Use Change and Forestry</th> <th>Total</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>2007</td> <td>3.0</td> <td>2.5</td> <td>1.2</td> <td>0.1</td> <td>6.6</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2011</td> <td>1.9</td> <td>2.1</td> <td>1.1</td> <td>0.1</td> <td>5.2</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Source: Research Service Calculations from DECC</p> <p>Since 2007, according to the data available from DECC, the CO<sub>2</sub> emissions in Blaenau Gwent has decreased in every sector, apart from land use, land use change and forestry which has stayed at the same level. Whilst this is a positive sign, and reflects overall CO<sub>2</sub> reductions across the United Kingdom, it may be considered to be a response to the economic recession and reduced industrial activity. Domestic use may also have reduced due to the economic recession. Overall, a positive result for the County Borough, but one that requires on-going monitoring to ensure that improved economic conditions in the future don't lead to an increase in CO<sub>2</sub> emissions.</p>			Year	Industry & Commercial	Domestic	Transport	Land Use, Land Use Change and Forestry	Total	2007	3.0	2.5	1.2	0.1	6.6	2011	1.9	2.1	1.1	0.1	5.2
Year	Industry & Commercial	Domestic	Transport	Land Use, Land Use Change and Forestry	Total															
2007	3.0	2.5	1.2	0.1	6.6															
2011	1.9	2.1	1.1	0.1	5.2															

SA Objective	SA Indicators	
18.To reduce waste generation and maximise reuse and recycling	No. of sustainable waste management facilities per 1,000 households	X
	Amount of waste arising and managed by management type	
Monitoring Results		
<p><b><u>No. of sustainable waste management facilities per 1,000 households</u></b> This indicator is considered too onerous and the data is not easily available. It is therefore proposed to delete this indicator from the monitoring framework.</p> <p><b><u>Amount of waste arising and managed by management type</u></b> This indicator needs to be amended to accord with changes made to the LDP Monitoring Framework. It should read: Amount of re-use and recycling/composting of municipal waste. Refer to LDP Monitoring Table SP13.</p>		

SA Objective	SA Indicators	
19.To maintain current air quality	Estimated background air quality	
Monitoring Results		
<p><b><u>Background air pollution</u></b> There has been no decrease in air quality in Blaenau Gwent.</p>		

SA Objective	SA Indicators	
20.To maintain current low levels of vulnerability of all development to flooding	Amount of development (by TAN 15 paragraph 5.1 development category) permitted in C1 and C2 floodplain areas not meeting all TAN 15 tests	
Monitoring Results		
<p><b><u>Amount of development permitted in C1 and C2 floodplain areas not meeting all TAN 15 tests</u></b> Refer to LDP Monitoring Table SP7 (c).</p>		

SA Objective	SA Indicators	
21.To promote the use of sustainably sourced products and resources	Use of reclaimed and sustainably sourced materials for construction	
	Greywater recycling systems and water savings devices installed in new developments	X
Monitoring Results		
<p><b><u>Use of reclaimed and sustainability sourced materials for construction</u></b> The collection of this data is too onerous it is therefore suggested that the information is</p>		

only collected for major schemes.

Only one major scheme has been determined in 2013-14 and this was an outline planning permission for the Circuit of Wales. Information on the use of reclaimed and sustainably sourced materials will be available at Reserved Matters stage and will therefore be reported in future AMRs.

**Greywater recycling systems and water savings devices installed in new developments**

The collection of this data is too onerous and it is therefore suggested that it is deleted.

SA Objective	SA Indicators													
22.To increase energy efficiency and generation and use of renewable energy across the County Borough	% of new homes meeting Code for Sustainable Homes Code Level 4 or above													
	% of non-residential buildings meeting BREEAM Excellent standard or above													
	Capacity of renewable energy developments installed per annum													
	Capacity of low carbon energy developments installed per annum													
Monitoring Results														
<p><b><u>% of new homes meeting Code for Sustainable Homes Code Level 4 or above</u></b>                      From the adoption of the Plan to end of March 2013 100% of all large (10+) sites met Code for Sustainable Homes Level 4 or above.</p> <p>In 2013/14 0% of large development met the Code for Sustainable Homes Level 4.</p> <p>In total 36% of homes granted planning permission on large sites have reached code for sustainable homes level 4.</p>														
<p><b><u>% of non-residential buildings meeting BREEAM Excellent standard or above</u></b>                      Since the adoption of the Plan, 6 non-residential developments have been permitted which were required to meet BREEAM standards, four of which have achieved Excellent Standard or above. This equates to a percentage of 66.7%.</p>														
<p><b><u>Capacity of renewable energy developments installed per annum</u></b></p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Scheme</th> <th>Location</th> <th>Capacity</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Wind Turbine</td> <td>Unit 15 Rassau Industrial Estate</td> <td>0.75MW</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Wind Turbine</td> <td>Penrhiwgwaith Farm Hollybush</td> <td>0.5MW</td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>Total</b></td> <td></td> <td><b>1.25 MW</b></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>			Scheme	Location	Capacity	Wind Turbine	Unit 15 Rassau Industrial Estate	0.75MW	Wind Turbine	Penrhiwgwaith Farm Hollybush	0.5MW	<b>Total</b>		<b>1.25 MW</b>
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Scheme	Location	Capacity												
Combined heat Power	The Works Energy Centre	0.39MW												
<b>Total</b>		<b>0.39 MW</b>												

SA Objective	SA Indicators	
23.To conserve and enhance surface and ground water quality	Percentage surface water (natural water bodies) of Good Ecological Status	Red
	Percentage of surface water of Good Ecological Potential (heavily modified water bodies)	Yellow
	Percentage surface water of Good Chemical Status	Light Green
	Percentage groundwater of Good Status (quality and levels)	Light Green
	% of planning applications granted in sewerred areas where there is no capacity and no planned upgrades	Light Green
<b>Monitoring Results</b>		
<p><b><u>Percentage surface water (natural water bodies) of Good Ecological Status</u></b>                      0% of surface water is of good ecological status. The majority in Blaenau Gwent’s surface water is moderate.</p> <p><b><u>Percentage of surface water of Good Ecological Potential (heavily modified water bodies)</u></b>                      10% have the potential to be of good ecological quality.</p> <p><b><u>Percentage surface water of Good Chemical Status</u></b>                      100% of surface water is of good chemical status as none of the area in Blaenau Gwent requires an assessment.</p> <p><b><u>Percentage groundwater of Good Status (quality and levels)</u></b>                      100% of groundwater is of good status.</p> <p><b><u>% of planning applications granted in sewerred areas where there is no capacity and no planned upgrades</u></b>                      0% of planning applications granted in sewerred areas where there is no capacity and no planned upgrades.</p>		

SA Objective	SA Indicators	
24.Protect the quality and character of the landscape and enhance where necessary	Proportion of valued landscape lost to development	Red
	Number of new developments exceeding TAN 11 or BS4142 Noise Requirements	Yellow
	Number of planning permissions granted that include conditions relating to light pollution	Yellow
	Effect of development which negatively affects the Brecon Beacons National Park (visual and physical effects)	Yellow

	Amount or proportion of landscape subject to enhancement associated with development	X
	Proportion of landscape characterised and managed	
<b>Monitoring Results</b>		
<p><b><u>Proportion of valued landscape lost to development</u></b>                  There has been one major planning application in Blaenau Gwent which is proposed outside the settlement boundary and within a Special Landscape Area; that is the Circuit of Wales development. The proposed development will result in the loss of 236 ha of Special Landscape Area.</p> <p>The total area of the Blaenau Gwent Special Landscape Area designation is 7,614 ha therefore meaning that the amount of SLA lost to development in percentage terms is 3% which is relatively small.</p> <p><b><u>Number of new developments exceeding TAN 11 or BS4142 Noise Requirements</u></b>                  1 development has exceeded TAN 11 or BS4142 Noise Requirements.</p> <p><b><u>Number of planning permissions granted that include conditions relating to light pollution</u></b>                  1 development has exceeded TAN 11 or BS4142 Noise Requirements.</p> <p><b><u>Effect of development which negatively affects the Brecon Beacons National Park (visual and physical effects)</u></b>                  1 development was considered to have had a negative effect on the Brecon Beacons.</p> <p><b><u>Amount or proportion of landscape subject to enhancement associated with development</u></b>                  This information is gathered as part of the LDP Monitoring Framework for Policy SP10. It is also being reported as part of SA objective 13. It is therefore suggested that it is deleted from this section.</p> <p><b><u>Proportion of landscape characterised and managed</u></b>                  100% of the landscape has been characterised through the LANDMAP process and as a result extensive areas of land has been designated as Special Landscape Areas (7,614 ha).</p> <p>10 Local Nature Reserves (LNRs) sites with a total area of 396 ha are subject to management plans.</p> <p>3 Strategic Sites of Scientific Interest (SSSI) with a total area of 152 ha are subject to management plans.</p>		

## 6.0 CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

6.1 The 2014 AMR is the first monitoring report to be prepared since the adoption of the LDP in November 2012. The findings of the AMR provide an important opportunity for the Council to assess the effectiveness of the Plan and to determine whether or not it needs to be reviewed.

6.2 LDP Wales (2005) asks for seven factors to be considered when monitoring LDP's. The following section provides a conclusion of findings of the monitoring process, specifically addressing the requirements of LDP Wales (2005).

### 1. Does the basic strategy remain sound (if not, a full plan review may be needed)?

6.3 In the Council's opinion the evidence collated as part of the monitoring process for 2013-2014 indicates that the LDP strategy remains sound. Whilst the impact of the global recession has meant that progress is slower than envisaged, it is clear that the LDP will provide a robust platform for sustainable growth and regeneration as we come out of recession.

### 2. What impact are the policies having globally, nationally, regionally and locally?

6.4 Globally the SEA Monitoring framework identifies that there is a general positive change in the environment.

6.5 Nationally the LDP policy framework is delivering development to meet national projections particularly in respect of housing.

6.6 From a regional perspective the LDP is assisting in meeting transport, waste and mineral requirements.

6.7 Locally the LDP interventions and allocation delivery assist with regeneration and meeting Community Plan objectives.

### 3. Do the policies need changing to reflect changes in national policy?

6.8 As section 3 indicates there were no significant changes in national policy or legislation during 2012-13 that directly affect the effectiveness or implementation of the LDP. Changes to Planning Policy Wales means that Waste Policy DM20 criteria 1 and 2 in relation to a proven regional and local need and being the Best Practicable Environment Option are no longer relevant. To address this, future decisions on planning applications will take national policy into consideration with regard to the waste hierarchy forming the starting point and the principle of the 'Nearest Appropriate Installation' concept and the principle of 'self-sufficiency' in relation to waste covered by Article 16 of the revised Waste Framework Directive. The current

monitoring indicator is to be deleted to take account of the new arrangements for waste planning monitoring reports.

**6.9** The proposed new Planning Bill will make significant changes to the format of local development plans. However, before new style development plans are introduced the most pressing issue is WG's views on small local planning authorities needing to merge. As a small local planning authority Blaenau Gwent is being encouraged to consider formal merger with neighbouring authorities. A decision is required on this before a decision to review the Plan would be appropriate.

**3. Are policies and related targets in LDPs being met or progress being made towards meeting them, including publication of relevant supplementary Planning guidance (SPG)?**

**6.10** The findings of the LDP and SA monitoring exercise are outlined in Sections 4 and 5 of the AMR.

**6.11** The results of the monitoring process for 2013-2014 indicate that the targets in respect of 9 out of 19 monitoring aims are on-going, being met or exceeded and 7 monitoring aims are not currently being achieved but the situation can be overcome without immediate intervention or sufficiently progressed not to require direct intervention. The remaining 3 are currently falling short of the required pattern of delivery and intervention may be required.

**6.12** Whilst development levels are far lower than planned this is as a result of external factors particularly in relation to the economic recession and poorly performing housing market.

**6.13** Poor performance in other areas is due to the permission granted for the Circuit of Wales which had a negative impact on brownfield figures; percentage of development on allocated sites; and loss of open space.

**6.14** The results of the SA monitoring process indicate that the targets in respect of the majority of the sustainability objectives are on-going, being met or exceeded, a minority of SA objectives are not currently being achieved but the situation can be overcome without immediate intervention or sufficiently progressed not to require direct intervention. Areas of concern are with economic growth, increased employment, housing delivery and again are attributable to the economic recession and poorly performing housing market. Other areas are the use of previously developed land and conservation of soil resources both these are due to the planning consent for the Circuit of Wales.

**4. Where progress has not been made, what are the reasons for this and what knock on effects it may have?**

**6.15** The primary reason for the slow delivery of some aspects of the LDP is directly attributable to the impact of the global economic recession on the

operations of the housing and commercial markets. Whilst, a prolonged reduction in new investment in housing and commercial development will inevitably have an adverse impact on the delivery of some elements of the LDP the Council does not consider it necessary to amend or review the LDP at this time.

**6. What aspects, if any, of the LDP need adjusting or replacing because they are not working as intended or are not achieving the objectives of the strategy and/or sustainable development objectives.**

**6.16** A number of actions have been identified in terms of delivering policies SP4 (b), SP5 (a), and SP8 (a). These are based around investigating viability issues, assisting in bringing sites forward and looking to instil confidence in the housing market. In terms of the economy actions are based around the enterprise zone designation and the incentives and benefits that this offers in terms of bringing land forward.

**6.17** A number of trigger points were broken due to the planning consent granted for the Circuit of Wales. This was a unique circumstance and is extremely unlikely to arise again. Nevertheless the impact of the scheme as it begins to be delivered will need to be monitored through future AMRs to ensure that it does not raise issues for the LDP.

**7. If policies or proposals need changing, what suggested actions are required to achieve this?**

**6.18** The Council does not consider that any aspects of the plan need adjusting or replacing at this time.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

**6.19** In the Council's opinion there is no evidence to suggest there is a need for a full or partial review of the LDP at this time. Progress on delivering the Strategy of Growth and Regeneration is slower than expected due to the recession and problems in the housing market. Other aims of the Plan with respect to employment levels and retail vacancy rates have also been affected by the recession. The recession and problems in the housing market are beyond the control of the Council.

**6.20** The Council believes that great progress has been made in terms of delivery at 'The Works' (Policy MU2) with significant infrastructure being put in place and with further schemes in the pipeline. The remaining land available forms a prime site ready for delivery of residential and employment land when the market improves.

**6.21** Blaenau Gwent's Enterprise Zone status and the proposed Circuit of Wales are added incentives to attract businesses and house builders to the area when the market improves.

6.22 There is, therefore, no evidence to suggest there is a need for a full or partial review of the LDP at this time.

## Appendix 1: Status of Allocations

Policy Ref.	Site Name	Description	Progress
<b>Mixed Use Sites</b>			
MU1	Ebbw Vale Northern Corridor	<p><b>Strategic mixed-use employment site</b> – on land at Rhyd-y-Blew (29.8 ha of which 13.2 ha is the indicative developable area)</p> <p><b>Employment and road side services</b> - at Bryn Serth (22.8 ha of which 10.5 ha is the indicative developable area)</p> <p><b>Commercial leisure hub</b> – commercial leisure and associated A3 uses (4 ha)</p> <p><b>Residential</b> - 805 homes including 10% affordable housing on three parcels of land (23 ha) <i>(It should be noted that not all of the existing facilities are required to relocate to enable the provision of 805 homes)</i></p> <p><b>A network of green links</b> – to allow the effective integration of the SINCs and other key habitat areas</p>	<p>Part of Enterprise Zone Full application approved (2013/0199) in February 2014 for access and engineering works to include drainage</p> <p>Part of Enterprise Zone Outline planning (2002/0061 &amp; 2010/0269) permission for mixed-use development including employment and road side services (A3, C1, B2 &amp; B8 uses)</p> <p>Partly covered by mixed use application at Bryn Serth No progress on remainder of leisure hub</p> <p>Decision pending on outline planning application (2013/0170) for 250 housing units on the former reservoir site Former Comprehensive site demolished and scheme being prepared for a further 250 houses as a joint venture between the Council and RSL partners</p> <p>These are being secured through S106 contributions or on site works No progress to date</p>
MU2	'The Works', Ebbw Vale	<p><b>Aneurin Bevan Hospital</b> – a 96 bed Local General Hospital;</p> <p><b>The Central Valley &amp; Wetlands Park</b> – a green corridor running through the site</p> <p><b>Environmental Resource Centre</b> – Provides an education facility for local children and the community to explore the heritage and ecology of the site</p> <p><b>Employment</b> – 5 ha of</p>	<p>The development is complete</p> <p>The development is complete</p> <p>The development is complete</p> <p>Part of Enterprise Zone</p>

Policy Ref.	Site Name	Description	Progress
		<p>commercial and business space primarily located adjacent to the hospital site</p> <p><b>Residential</b> – Approximately 520 homes at varying densities across the site built to higher than nationally required standards and including 20% affordable housing</p> <p><b>Learning Zone</b> – The Learning Zone includes the provision of education and training for 14-19 year olds. The Works site will also include a 21<sup>st</sup> Century 3-16 School over two sites that will provide; primary education; an integrated children’s centre, secondary education and the relocated Pen y Cwm Special School</p> <p><b>Leisure Centre and Sports Fields</b> – A new leisure centre and sports pitches will be developed to provide new leisure amenities for the community</p> <p><b>Arts Centre</b> – A new arts centre will be developed to provide a community and professional arts/cultural event programme</p> <p><b>Basement Strategy</b> – A range of uses are being considered for the basements including sports and leisure, exhibition space, summer markets for food &amp; craft including a café, education and recreation facilities</p> <p><b>Retail</b> – The retail element will only consist of local convenience facilities, including local shops and smaller commercial units;</p> <p><b>Energy Centre</b> – A centralised energy hub.</p> <p><b>Family History &amp; Genealogy Visitor Centre</b> – The Former General Offices (Grade II* Listed</p>	<p>The REGAIN building is complete</p> <p>5 sustainable houses have been complete on the site A Design and Masterplan for the site was adopted in October 2013 A Development Brief for 2 further residential areas is being prepared</p> <p>The development is complete</p> <p>The development is complete</p> <p>Exploring funding opportunities</p> <p>On-going</p> <p>The development has not started</p> <p>The development is complete</p> <p>The development is complete</p>

Policy Ref.	Site Name	Description	Progress
		Building) is to become a visitor centre bringing industrial heritage to life and showcasing one of the largest archives in Wales.  <b>Public Realm</b> – Focus on a sequence of public squares running through the site.	The development is complete
MU3	NMC Factory and Bus Depot, Brynmawr	<b>Residential</b> – maximum of 60 homes including 10% affordable housing; and  <b>Commercial / Leisure/ Community Facility opportunity</b> to act as an active link between Brynmawr District Town Centre and Lakeside Retail Park	Pre applications discussion held with owners of part of the site
<b>Action Areas</b>			
AA1.1	Southern Gateway, Ebbw Vale	<b>Mechanical Link</b> - Planning permission was granted in December 2013 for an outdoor inclined mechanical link, which will provide a pedestrian connection between the town centre and 'The Works' site  <b>Proposed office and retail development</b>	Work is well underway and is likely to be completed in December 2014  Discussions have taken place between planning and regeneration regarding the preparation of a development brief for this element of the site
AA1.2	Market Square, Ebbw Vale	<b>Provision of a key link</b> with Ebbw Vale Northern Corridor site  <b>Mixed-use development</b>	No progress to date  No progress to date
<b>Retail</b>			
R1.1	Rhyd y Blew Retail Park, Ebbw Vale	6,000 sq m of non-food retail comprises of 13 retail units of varying sizes	Ground works have commenced on site, however no building work has taken place The land is being actively marketed
R1.2	Extension to Festival Shopping Outlet Centre, Ebbw Vale	1,400 sq m of comparison floorspace	Since the adoption of the Plan, planning permission has been granted (2012/0243 November 2012) to allow an extension of the statutory time period for commencement of works on land to the north of Festival

Policy Ref.	Site Name	Description	Progress
			Shopping Development has not started on site
R1.3	Extension to Tesco Stores, North West Approach, Ebbw Vale	1,700 sq m of convenience and comparison	Since the adoption of the Plan, planning permission has been granted (2011/0154 February 2013) for a 1,704 sq m (net sales area) extension to the existing Tesco food store. This permission supersedes the permission that was granted in 2008 for an extension to the store. Development has not started on site
R1.4	Market Street, Ebbw Vale	600 sq m of comparison floorspace	The site is currently being used as a car park No progress to date
<b>Housing</b>			
H1.1	Willowtown School, Ebbw Vale	Allocation for 22 units Planning Permission has not been granted.	The school building has been demolished No progress to date
HC1.1	North of Cwmyrdderch Court Flats, Ebbw Vale	Committed housing site for 16 units The site is a self-build site	1 unit built and foundations started for another unit The site is under construction
HC1.2	Letchworth Road, Ebbw Vale	Committed housing site for 16 units The site is a self-build site	5 units built on site The site is under construction
HC1.3	Old 45 Yard, Steelworks Road, Ebbw Vale	Committed housing site for 82 units	The development is complete
HC1.4	Adjacent Pant-y-Fforest, Ebbw Vale	Committed housing site for 21 units Outline planning (2009/0394) granted in 2011	A planning application is currently being considered (2014/0077) to vary a condition to extend the time period for the submission of a reserved matters planning application Development has not started on site
HC1.5	Heol Elan, Ebbw Vale	Committed housing site for 43 units	The development is completed
HC1.6	Land at College Road, Ebbw Vale	Committed housing site for 41 units	The development is completed
HC1.7	Adj Sports Ground, Gwaun Helyg, Ebbw Vale	Committed housing site for 69 units	Since the base date of the Plan, full permission (2009/0266) was granted in 2010 for 73 units Development has not started on site
HC1.8	Higgs Yard,	Committed housing site for 29	Vacant site that is being promoted

Policy Ref.	Site Name	Description	Progress
	Ebbw Vale	units Full permission (2007/0658) was granted in 2009	Development has not started on site
HC1.9	Mountain Road, Ebbw Vale	Committed housing site for 22 units	Since the base date of the Plan reserved matters were approved (2011/0357) in 2011 for 33 units at this site.  The development is completed
HC1.10	Briery Hill, Ebbw Vale	Committed housing site for 33 units	Since the base date of the Plan full permission has been granted for 32 affordable housing units (2013/0250) Work is expected to start shortly on site
H1.2	Cartref Aneurin Bevan, Tredegar	Housing allocation for 13 units No planning applications received	Site cleared ready for development  No further progress to date
H1.3	Greenacres, Tredegar	Housing allocation for 18 units No planning applications received	Scheme being prepared by Melin Homes  No further progress to date
H1.4	Land adjacent to Chartist Way, Tredegar	Housing allocation for 101 units No planning applications received	No further progress to date
HC1.11	Derelict Bus Garage, Woodfield Road, Tredegar	Committed housing site for 11 units	The development is completed
HC1.12	Former LCR Factory, Charles Street, Tredegar	Committed housing site for 14 units The site is a self-build site	2 units completed  The site is under construction
HC1.13	Former Factory Site, Pochin, Tredegar	Committed housing site for 28 units Planning permission for reserved matters was granted (2008/0360) in 2008	The factory has been demolished and some ground work undertaken  Development has not started on site
HC1.14	Land at Poultry Farm, Queen Victoria Street, Tredegar	Committed housing site for 3 units Site of 22 units mostly developed prior to base date of Plan there are 3 plots remaining	19 units complete on site  3 units not started
HC1.15	Upper Ty Gwyn Farm, Nantybwich, Tredegar	Committed housing site for 38 units The site is a self-build site	13 units complete on site  The site is under construction
HC1.16	Former LCR Factory, opposite Tredegar Comprehensive School, Tredegar	Committed housing site for 47 units	The development is complete

Policy Ref.	Site Name	Description	Progress
HC1.17	Peacehaven, Tredegar	Committed housing site for 147 units	21 units complete and 3 under construction  The site is under construction
HC1.18	The Goldmine, Sirhowy, Tredegar	Committed housing site for 16 units Planning consent expired	The building has been demolished  Development has not started on site
HC1.19	BKF Plastics, Ashvale, Tredegar	Committed housing site for 54 units	The building has been demolished  Development has not started on site
HC1.20	Sirhowy Infants School Site, Tredegar	Committed housing site for 23 units	Since the adoption of the Plan full permission has been granted (2013/0257) subject to the signing of a S106 agreement  Development has not started on site
HC1.21	Corporation Yard, Tredegar	Committed housing site for 23 units Outline planning permission was granted (2007/0418) in 2008	The site is being promoted  The development has not been started
HC1.22	Park Hill, Tredegar	Committed housing site for 160 units Outline permission (2003/0322) was granted in 2005 for 160 dwellings	Since the base date of the Plan full permission was granted on part of the site (2009/0329) and outline permission was granted on the remainder of the site (2009/0328) in 2010. In total planning permission has been granted for 293 units.  The development has not been started
H1.5	Garnfach School, Nantyglo	Housing allocation for 28 units No planning applications received	The school buildings have been demolished  No further progress to date
H1.6	Crawshay House, Brynmawr	Housing allocation for 25 units No planning applications received	The buildings are vacant but are yet to be demolished  No further progress to date
H1.7	Infants School & Old Griffin Yard, Brynmawr	Housing allocation for 36 units Planning permission granted for the demolition of buildings No further planning applications received	The school buildings have been demolished  No further progress to date
H1.8	Hafod Dawel Site, Nantyglo	Housing allocation for 44 units	The development is complete
H1.9	West of the Recreation Ground, Nantyglo	Housing allocation for 15 units No planning applications received	No further progress to date
H1.10	Land to the East	Housing allocation for 25 units.	No further progress to date

Policy Ref.	Site Name	Description	Progress
	of Blaina Road, Brynmawr	No planning applications received	
H1.11	Land to the North of Winchestown, Nantyglo	Housing allocation for 15 units. No planning applications received	No further progress to date
HC1.23	Recticel and Gwalia Former Factory Site, Brynmawr	Committed housing site for 45 units	The development is complete
HC1.24	Land at Clydach Street, Brynmawr	Committed housing site for 12 units The site is a self-build site.	7 units have been completed on site The site is under construction
HC1.25	TSA Woodcraft, Noble Square Industrial Estate, Brynmawr	Committed housing site for 25 units Full planning permission (2006/0619) granted in 2007 for 37 units	12 units have been completed and 25 remain to be built The site is on hold due to the downturn in the housing market
HC1.26	Roberto Neckwear, Limestone Road, Nantyglo	Committed housing site for 19 units Outline planning permission (2005/0602) was granted in 2006. - this has now expired	No further progress to date
HC1.27	Cwm Farm, Blaina	Committed housing site for 78 units Outline planning was granted for phase 4 (2004/0608) in 2005 The site is part self-build and part developer led	The site is under construction
HC1.28	Salem Chapel, Waun Ebbw Road and Pond Road Junction, Nantyglo	Housing commitment for 11 units Full permission was granted in 2008 for 11 units	The development has not been started
H1.12	Six Bells Colliery Site, Six Bells	Housing allocation for 40 units No planning applications received	No further progress to date
H1.13	Warm Turn, Six Bells	Housing allocation for 32 units No planning applications received	No further progress to date
H1.14	Roseheyworth Comprehensive, Abertillery	Housing allocation for 33 units No planning applications received	No further progress to date
H1.15	Former Mount Pleasant Court, Brynithel	Housing allocation for 18 units No planning applications received	No further progress to date
H1.16	Hillcrest View, Cwmtillery	Housing allocation for 22 units Full planning permission granted (2008/0383) in 2010	The development has not been started
H1.17	Quarry Adj to Cwm Farm	Housing allocation for 22 units No planning applications received	No further progress to date

Policy Ref.	Site Name	Description	Progress
	Road, Six Bells		
HC1.29	At Cwm Farm Road, Abertillery	Committed housing site for 20 units	Since the base date of the plan outline planning permission (2012/0005 renewal of 2008/0207) was renewed in 2012  The development has not started
HC1.30	Former Swffryd Junior School, Swffryd	Committed housing site for 18 units	The development is complete
HC1.31	Land at Penrhiw Estate, Brynithel	Committed housing site for 23 units Outline planning permission granted in (2005/0578) in 2006 A renewal of this planning permission was granted in 2009 (2009/0151)	The development has not been started
<b>Gypsy Traveller</b>			
GT1	Land South of Cwmcrachen Gypsy Site, Nantyglo	Accommodation for 6 pitches	Pre-application discussions have taken place, a planning application is being prepared and funding is being sought  The development has not been started
<b>Transport</b>			
<b>Cycle Routes</b>			
T1.1	HoV Route linking Nine Arches Tredegar to Brynmawr		The development has not started
T1.2	Link from HoV to Rassau Industrial Estate		The development has not started
T1.3	HoV to Ebbw Vale and Cwm	Full consent granted (2011/0248) for route through the garden festival site	The development is complete
T1.4	Cwm to Aberbeeg		Pre-applications discussions have been held and an application is expected  The development has not started
T1.5	Link from HOV to Trefil		The development has not started
T1.6	Links from HoV to Tafarnaubach Industrial Estate		The development has not started
T1.7	Hilltop to Ebbw Vale to Manmoel		The development has not started
T1.8	Brynmawr to Blaenavon	2 planning applications have been approved (2011/0213) at A465 Ben Wards Field/Noble Square	The development is complete

Policy Ref.	Site Name	Description	Progress
		and (2012/ 0002) links T1.8 to Blaenavon	
T1.9	Extension of Ebbw Fach Trail from Abertillery to Aberbeeg and completion of missing section through Blaina	3 planning applications have been approved for this cycle route (2009/0275, 2011/0077, 2011/0287)	The development is complete
T1.10	Link to Cwmtillery Lakes		The development has not started
T1.11	Aberbeeg to Royal Oak		The development has not started
T1.12	Royal Oak to Swffryd		The development has not started
<b>Rail Network and Station Improvements</b>			
T2.1	Extension of rail link from Parkway to Ebbw Vale Town	An application has been received (2014/0060) for the extension of the railway line from Ebbw Vale Parkway to Ebbw Vale Town. A decision is pending.	The development has not started
T2.2	Provision of new station and public transport interchange at Ebbw Vale	An application has been received (2014/0060) for the provision of a station at Ebbw Vale Town. A decision is pending.	The development has not started
T2.3	Extension of rail link to Abertillery		No further progress has been made
T2.4	Provision of new station and Park and Ride at Abertillery		No further progress has been made
T2.5	Rail freight provision at Marine Colliery		No further progress has been made
<b>Safeguarding of Disused Railway Infrastructure</b>			
T3	Rail track east of Brynmawr	This is a safeguarding policy	Safeguarding in place
<b>Improvements to Bus Services</b>			
T4.1	Bus Priority Scheme along the Brynmawr to Newport Bus Corridor		The development has not started
T4.2	Bus Interchange improvement at Brynmawr		The development is complete
T4.3	Bus Interchange improvement at		The site is under construction

Policy Ref.	Site Name	Description	Progress
	Ebbw Vale		
<b>New Roads to Facilitate Development</b>			
T5.1	Construction of a Peripheral Distributor Road through 'The Works'		The development is complete
T5.2	Online improvements between the Peripheral Distributor Road and the A465		The development is complete
<b>Regeneration led Highway Improvements</b>			
T6.1	Dualling of the A465 Heads of the Valleys Road (Tredegar to Brynmawr)		The site is under construction
T6.2	Online improvements to the A4046 south of Cwm		The development has not started
T6.3	Online improvements to the A4048 south of Tredegar		The development has not started
T6.4	Online improvements to the A467 south of Abertillery		The development has not started
<b>Employment</b>			
EMP 1.1	Land at Festival Park, Ebbw Vale		The development has not started
EMP1.2	Land at Tredegar Business Park, Tredegar	Part of Enterprise Zone	The development has not started
EMP1.3	Land at Rising Sun Industrial Estate, Nantyglo		The development has not started
EMP 1.4	Rassau Platform A, Ebbw Vale	Part of Enterprise Zone	The development has not started
EMP 1.5	Rassau Platform B, Ebbw Vale	Part of Enterprise Zone	The development has not started
EMP 1.6	Land at Waun-y-Pound, Tredegar		The development has not started
EMP 1.7	Marine Colliery, Ebbw Vale		The development has not started

Policy Ref.	Site Name	Description	Progress
EMP 1.8	Crown Business Park Platform A, Tredegar		The development has not started
EMP1.9	Crown Business Park Platform B, Tredegar		The development has not started
EMP1.10	Land at Roseheyworth Business Park, Cwmtillery		The development has not started
<b>Education</b>			
ED1.1	Ysgol Gymraeg, Brynmawr	New primary school The new school opened in 2009	The development is completed
ED1.2	Lower Plateau Six Bells Colliery Site	New primary school As part of the 21 <sup>st</sup> Century Schools Programme, the Council are currently consulting on the primary school provision in the Six Bells area. The consultation outlines 3 options; one of which is the preferred option to build a new primary school on this site	The development has not started
<b>Community Facilities</b>			
CF1.1	Sirhowy Infants School, Tredegar	Community Centre	Since the adoption of the Plan full planning permission has been granted (2013/0257) subject to the signing of a S106 agreement for housing on adjacent land. This secures the delivery of the community centre.  The development has not started
<b>Tourism and Leisure</b>			
TM1.1	Eastern Valley Slopes, Ebbw Vale	Potential for tourism, leisure and education via promotion of access to the countryside and improvement to the natural environment.	Works to date include: Extension to car park at Silent Valley Nature Reserve Monitored tree growth and woodland development Drainage improvements carried out to hydrological system 300m access improvements to site/repaired gate/improved access to common  The development is on-going
TM1.2	Garden Festival, Ebbw Vale	Proposal to develop Festival Park into a major tourist destination. 3 applications have been granted: 2010/0132 for Castle, super tubing 2011/0109 for Vertigo hang loose zip-wire attraction 2011/0248 for widening of	The development is complete  The development has not started  The development is complete

Policy Ref.	Site Name	Description	Progress
		footpaths and creation of new sections for shared use.	
TM1.3	Blue Lakes, Tredegar	Ebbw Vale and District Development Trust (EVAD) proposal to create a new park, visitor centre and café	EVAD have been disbanded and it is unlikely that this scheme will proceed.  The development has not started
TM1.4	Bedwellty House and Park, Tredegar	Restoration of Bedwellty House to create a visitor experience, restaurant, gardens and function area	The development is complete
TM1.5	Parc Bryn Bach (including a hotel), Tredegar	Potential to further develop the tourism offer of the park with opportunities for a hotel and bunk-house facility	The development has not started
TM1.6	Nantyglo Roundhouse Towers, Nantyglo	Potential for heritage centre and educational resource	The development has not started
TM1.7	Cwmtillery Lakes, Cwmtillery	Outdoor Gateway and Education facility as a base for outdoor activities.	Community led project which is unlikely to be taken forward  The development has not Started
<b>Formal Leisure</b>			
L1.1	Chartist Way, Tredegar	Informal play space provision.	Not started
<b>Land Reclamation</b>			
ENV4.1	Pennant Street phase 2, Ebbw Vale		No further progress to date
ENV4.2	Parc Bryn Bach, Tredegar		No further progress to date
ENV4.3	Cwmcraehen, Brynmawr		No further progress to date
ENV4.4	Llanhilleth Pithead Baths, Llanhilleth		No further progress to date
<b>ENV5</b>			
ENV5.1	Cefn Golau Cemetery, Tredegar		No further progress to date
ENV5.2	Dukestown Cemetery, Tredegar		No further progress to date
ENV5.3	Blaina Cemetery, Blaina		No further progress to date
<b>Waste</b>			
W1.1	Land south of Waun-y-Pound, Tredegar		This site was offered up as part of the Heads of the Valleys Organics project. None of the bidders selected chose to use the site. However, the selected bidder no longer wishes to proceed.

Policy Ref.	Site Name	Description	Progress
			A new procurement is to be commenced and the site may be offered as part of this.
W1.2	Silent Valley, Ebbw Vale	New bulking / waste transfer facility. Permission granted (2013/0105) in 2013.	The development is complete



## Appendix 2: Changes to LDP and SA Monitoring Framework

Policy Ref.	Indicator	Change	Reason
<b>Local Development Plan Monitoring Framework</b>			
SP8	Employment Rate for Blaenau Gwent.	Outcome by the end of 2016 Increase employment rate from <b>59.2%</b> (2009) to <b>66.05%</b> (2016) tracked against Merthyr Tydfil Outcome by the end of 2021 Increase employment rate from <b>59.2%</b> (2009) to 72.9% (2021) tracked against Merthyr Tydfil.	To address an issue with the reweighting of figures by the Office of National Statistics.
SP8	Percentage of economic inactive wanting a job.	Outcome by end of 2016 Reduce percentage of economically inactive wanting a job from <b>25.2%</b> (2009) to <b>23.95%</b> tracked against Merthyr Tydfil Outcome by end of 2021 Reduce percentage of economically inactive wanting a job from <b>25.2%</b> to <b>22.7%</b> tracked against Merthyr Tydfil.	To address an issue with the reweighting of figures by the Office of National Statistics.
SP13	Amount of waste management capacity permitted expressed as a percentage of the total capacity required, as identified in the Regional Waste Plan.	Delete indicator from monitoring framework.	Figure to be recorded at a regional level through a lead local planning authority and published in an annual Waste Monitoring Report.
SP13	Amount of waste arising and managed by waste type.	Amount of re-use and recycling/composting of municipal waste.	The indicator needs to be amended to accord with the outcomes set.
SP13	Amount of waste arising and managed by waste type.	Outcome by End of 2016 Meet ' <b>Towards Zero Waste</b> ' targets for reuse and recycling / composting for municipal waste to 58% Outcome by End of 2021 Meet ' <b>Towards Zero Waste</b> ' targets for re-use and recycling / composting for municipal waste to 64%.	To correct an error in referencing of the targets.
<b>Sustainability Monitoring Framework</b>			
SA1	Accessibility between hubs – Number of highway and public transport schemes implemented.	It is proposed to move this indicator under SA Objective 9.	This indicator does not only relate to economic services but also other services such as homes, community, education, leisure and health.
SA3	Total number of	Total number of Day and Stay Visitors	To provide clarity.

Policy Ref.	Indicator	Change	Reason
	visitors		
SA3	Proportion of people visiting the County Borough for activity tourism.	It is proposed to delete this indicator from the monitoring framework.	The data for the proportion of the people visiting the County Borough for Activity Tourism is not available.
SA7	% Affordable housing in mixed type schemes.	It is proposed to delete this indicator from the monitoring framework.	It does not add value to the monitoring framework.
SA8	Proportion of new employment opportunities that offer training schemes	Proportion of new major employment opportunities that offer training schemes	To provide clarity.
SA9	Number of Community Facilities per 1,000 population.	It is proposed to delete this indicator from the monitoring framework.	No definitive list of community facilities exists within the Council, therefore the results would not provide a clear representation.
SA10	Percentage of population within 1km of National Cycle Network.	Amend to read: Percentage of population within 1km of the Cycle Network.	The proposed change to this indicator makes it more relevant to the objective – the key being to get people cycling.
SA10	Hectares of Recreational Open Space per 1,000 Population.	Amend to read: Hectares of recreational open space per 1000 population (FIT standard).	It is proposed to amend the indicator to reflect what is included in the LDP which relates to the FIT Standard.
SA13	Number of new developments delivering habitat creation.	Amend to read: Provision of environmental enhancements.	It is proposed to amend this indicator to better reflect the LDP Monitoring Framework.
SA13	% of greenspace important for wildlife corridors identified and safeguarded from or enhanced as part of development.	It is proposed to delete this indicator from the monitoring framework.	This indicator is considered too onerous and the data is not easily available.
SA13	% of planning permissions incorporating a condition which is to establish a buffer zone (relating to development adjacent to a watercourse).	It is proposed to delete this indicator from the monitoring framework.	This indicator is considered too onerous and the data is not easily available.

<b>Policy Ref.</b>	<b>Indicator</b>	<b>Change</b>	<b>Reason</b>
SA13	Unavoidable loss of biodiversity compensated for.	It is proposed to delete this indicator from the monitoring framework.	This information is already covered by a LDP monitoring indicator identified from elsewhere within SA13 (see above).
SA13	% of LBAP species that are stable or increasing.	It is proposed to delete this indicator from the monitoring framework.	This indicator is considered too onerous and the data is not easily available.
SA16	Number of development projects implementing soil creation and conservation techniques.	It is proposed to delete this indicator from the monitoring framework.	This indicator is considered too onerous and the data is not easily available.
SA18	No. of sustainable waste management facilities per 1,000 households.	It is proposed to delete this indicator from the monitoring framework.	This indicator is considered too onerous and the data is not easily available.
SA18	Amount of waste arising and managed by management type.	Amount of re-use and recycling/composting of municipal waste.	This change will ensure that the indicator accords with an LDP monitoring indicator.
SA21	Use of reclaimed and sustainability sourced materials for construction.	Information is only collected for major schemes.	The collection of this data is too onerous.
SA21	Greywater recycling systems and water savings devices installed in new developments.	It is proposed to delete this indicator from the monitoring framework.	This indicator is considered too onerous and the data is not easily available.
SA24	Amount or proportion of landscape subject to enhancement associated with development.	It is proposed to delete this indicator from the monitoring framework.	The information is being reported as part of the LDP Monitoring Framework for SP10 and is also reported through the SA Framework under SA13.



### Appendix 3: Mandatory Indicators

Mandatory Indicators	Monitoring Results
The housing land supply taken from the current Housing Land Availability Study	The current published Joint Housing Study for Blaenau Gwent (2013) indicates that there is a 3.31 year land supply.
Number of net additional affordable and general market dwellings built per annum	A total of 40 general market units and 41 affordable units were built in 2013-14.
Net employment land supply / development per annum	None of the 50 ha net employment land supply has been developed in 2013-2014.
Amount of development, including housing, permitted on allocated sites in the development plan as a % of development plan allocations and as a % of total development permitted (ha and units)	From a total 379.75 ha of allocated land 1.13 ha was permitted in 2013-2014 which is equivalent to 0.2%.  Out of a total of 241.42 ha of land permitted 1.13 ha was on allocated sites, which is equivalent to 0.4%.
Average density of housing development permitted on allocated development plan sites	The average density of housing development permitted on allocated sites is 31.07 per ha for the period 2013-14.
Amount of new development permitted on previously developed land (brownfield redevelopment and conversions) expressed as a percentage of all development permitted (BGCBC Planning Applications)	During 2013-2014, 2.2% or 5.42 ha of a total of 241.42ha permitted was on previously developed land.
Amount of major retail, office and leisure development (sq m) permitted in town centres expressed as a percentage of all major development permitted (TAN 4);	No major retail, office and leisure developments have been permitted in Blaenau Gwent's town centres.
Amount of development (by TAN 15 paragraph 5.1 development category) permitted in C1 and C2 floodplain areas not meeting all TAN 15 tests	During 2013-2014, one permission for highly vulnerable or emergency services was permitted within flood zone C2 not meeting all TAN 15 tests.
Amount of greenfield and open space lost to development (ha) which is not allocated in the Plan	During 2013-2014 236 ha of open space has been lost to development.
Amount of waste management capacity permitted expressed as a percentage of the total capacity required, as identified in the regional waste plan	To date permission has been granted for a waste transfer station at Silent Valley, Cwm (Policy W1.2). This equates to 7% of the lowest capacity requirements and 1.75% of the highest.  <i>This indicator has been deleted.</i>
The extent of primary land-won aggregates permitted expressed as a	71% of the total capacity required has been permitted. No further capacity has been permitted in 2013-2014.

percentage of the total capacity required, as identified in the regional waste Plan	
The capacity of renewable energy developments installed per annum	1.64MW of renewable /low carbon energy was installed in 2013-2014.