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Date: 9th January 2019

Dear Sir/Madam,

A meeting of the **Cabinet** will be held in the **Sirhowy Room, Penallta House, Tredomen, Ystrad Mynach** on **Wednesday, 16th January, 2019** at **10.30 am** to consider the matters contained in the following agenda. You are welcome to use Welsh at the meeting, a minimum notice period of 3 working days is required should you wish to do so. A simultaneous translation will be provided if requested.

All Committee meetings are open to the Press and Public, observers and participants are asked to conduct themselves with respect and consideration for others. Please note that failure to do so will result in you being asked to leave the meeting and you may be escorted from the premises.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'CHARRY'.

Christina HARRY
INTERIM CHIEF EXECUTIVE

A G E N D A

- 1 To receive apologies for absence.
- 2 Declarations of Interest.

Pages

Councillors and Officers are reminded of their personal responsibility to declare any personal and/or prejudicial interest(s) in respect of any item of business on the agenda in accordance with the Local Government Act 2000, the Council's Constitution and the Code of Conduct for both Councillors and Officers.

A greener place Man gwyrddach



To approve and sign the following minutes: -

- | | | |
|---|---|-------|
| 3 | Cabinet held on the 12th December 2018. | 1 - 8 |
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To receive and consider the following reports on which executive decisions are required: -

- | | | |
|---|---|-----------|
| 4 | Draft Ystrad Mynach Master Plan. | 9 - 112 |
| 5 | Welsh Government Flexible Funding. | 113 - 130 |
| 6 | Self-Evaluation Process and its impact on the Education Directorate's Service Improvement Plan. | 131 - 146 |
| 7 | Brexit. | 147 - 178 |
| 8 | Write-Off of Debts over £20,000 - Business Rate arrears for Ltd Companies. | 179 - 182 |

Circulation:

Councillors C.J. Cuss, N. George, C.J. Gordon, Mrs B. A. Jones, P.A. Marsden, S. Morgan, L. Phipps, D.V. Poole and Mrs E. Stenner.

And Appropriate Officers.

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Agenda Item 3



CABINET

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD AT PENALLTA HOUSE, TREDOMEN ON WEDNESDAY, 12TH DECEMBER 2018 AT 10.30 A.M.

PRESENT:

Councillor D. Poole – Chair

Councillors:

C. Cuss (Social Care and Wellbeing), N. George (Neighbourhood Services), C.J. Gordon (Corporate Services), Mrs B.A. Jones (Finance, Performance and Governance), P. Marsden (Education and Achievement), S. Morgan (Economy, Infrastructure and Sustainability), L. Phipps (Homes and Places) and E. Stenner (Environment and Public Protection).

Together with:

C. Harrhy (Interim Chief Executive), D. Street (Corporate Director - Social Services and Housing), M. S. Williams (Interim Corporate Director - Communities) and R. Edmunds (Corporate Director – Education and Corporate Services).

Also in Attendance:

S. Couzens (Chief Housing Officer), R. Kyte (Head of Regeneration and Planning), K. Peters (Corporate Policy Manager), S. Wolfe-Williams (Health Challenge Wales Co-ordinator), J. Carpenter (Finance Manager (Revenues), S. O'Donnell (Principal Council Tax and Non-Domestic Rate Officer), C. Adams (Acting Highway Operations Group Manager), H. Jones (Waste Strategy and Operations Manager) and A. Dredge (Committee Services Officer).

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were no apologies for absence received.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest received at the commencement or during the course of the meeting.

3. CABINET - 28TH NOVEMBER 2018

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 28th November 2018 (minute nos. 1 - 6) be approved and signed as a correct record.

MATTERS ON WHICH EXECUTIVE DECISIONS WERE REQUIRED

4. COUNCIL TAX BASE 2019/20.

The report sought Cabinet approval for the calculation of the Council Tax Base for 2019/20 for tax setting purposes and the collection percentage to be applied.

Cabinet were advised that the Local Government Finance Act 1992 and the Local Authorities (Calculation of Council Tax Base) (Wales) Regulations 1995 as amended set out the rules for the calculation of the Council Tax base. This is the amount required by the Local Government Finance Act 1992 to be used in the calculation of the Council Tax. The Council Tax base for discounted chargeable dwellings expressed as Band D equivalents has been calculated at 61,727.14 for 2019/20. This figure is used by Welsh Government in calculating the Revenue Support Grant. The in-year collection rate for Council Tax has been maintained around 97% over the past few years, with 97.1% in 2016/17 being the best ever performance for Caerphilly CBC. This has been achieved against the backdrop of reducing budgets and staffing levels. The Authority actively pursues all Council Tax arrears which results in the collection rate of 97% being regularly exceeded over time. This generates a Council Tax surplus at the end of the financial year; for 2017/18 the Council Tax surplus was £1.61m. It was noted that the surplus is used to support the Authority's base budget.

Officers explained that the collection rate is regularly exceeded over time and it is proposed that the budgeted collection rate be increased for 2019/20 from 97% to 97.50%. The increase will be offset by a corresponding reduction in the Council Tax surplus generated. This means that there will be no change in the overall level of budgeted Council Tax income. The Council Tax base for 2019/20 is 61,727.14 x 97.50%, which equates to 60,183.96. Members were referred to paragraph 4.5. in the report that lists the Community Council areas within the Borough with the associated figures for Band B properties. Officers advised that increases in Band D equivalents can result in a reduced Revenue Support Grant when the final settlement announcement is made later this financial year.

Members thanked the Officers for the report and noted the excellent current collection rate of 97% to date and were pleased to support the recommendations that would determine the Council Tax base for 2019/20.

Following consideration and discussion, it was moved and seconded that the recommendation in the report be approved. By a show of hands this was unanimously agreed.

RESOLVED that for the reasons contained in the Officer's report: -

- (i) the Council Tax collection rate is increased to 97.50% for 2019/20;
- (ii) the Council Tax Base for the year 2019/20 be 60,183.96, with the Council Tax Base for each Community Council area as outlined in Paragraph 4.5.

5. HOMELESSNESS STRATEGY AND ACTION PLAN 2018-2022.

The report sought Cabinet approval of the Gwent Regional Homelessness Strategy 2018-2022.

Cabinet were advised that the Housing (Wales) Act 2014 requires all Welsh local authorities to undertake a review of their homelessness services and produce a four year homelessness strategy to address the issues identified. The five local authorities in Gwent have responded to the requirement by working together to produce a regional strategy, delivered through local and regional action plans. A regional approach was approved by Welsh Government and this takes into account the need to consider more partnership and cross boundary working. The strategy has been developed from the findings of an extensive regional consultation and

review. Local Authorities across Wales are required to implement their homelessness strategies by 31st December 2018. A copy of the Strategy and supporting documentation was appended to the report for Members' information.

Officers explained that the Gwent Homelessness Review 2018 (an extract of which was appended to the report) that defines the scale of the issue across the region and within Caerphilly, and analyses the nature and extent of homelessness in Gwent. The strategy document (attached at Appendix 2) contains four key priorities and ten strategic objectives. A regional action plan has been developed which in Caerphilly's case, also contains the local actions that the Council intend to deliver through the term of the strategy period (attached at Appendix 3). Cabinet were reassured that the strategy and action plan is the result of a thorough review of homelessness in Gwent to establish the scale, trends, causes, availability of accommodation, support and practice. This review has resulted in a 160 page document which will be made available in the Members' library. Included in the strategy is a commitment to working with social and private rented landlords to sustain tenancies and increase access to housing to prevent incidents of homelessness occurring. It also includes actions aimed at reducing the number of rough sleepers, including a regional review of accommodation. The Equalities Impact Assessment for the Strategy (at Appendix 4) outlined the extensive consultation that has been undertaken with relevant Council Officers and online surveys with service users who have experienced homelessness.

Officers advised that the Strategy had been presented to the Policy and Resources Scrutiny Committee on the 13th November 2018 and the Caerphilly Homes Task Group on the 6th December 2018. Whilst the strategy was recommended to Cabinet for approval at each of those meetings, Members raised queries in relation to how Caerphilly assess and allocate properties to homeless persons. In response, it was suggested that a Members' Seminar be arranged in the new year to explain the process and combine this with an update on the roll out of Universal Credit.

Cabinet thanked the Officer and his Team for the work undertaken in developing the strategy and action plan that will allow Caerphilly County Borough Council to work collaboratively with the neighbouring authorities across the Gwent area in moving forward.

Following consideration and discussion, it was moved and seconded that the recommendation in the report be approved. By a show of hands this was unanimously agreed.

RESOLVED that for the reasons contained in the Officer's report, the Gwent Regional Homelessness Strategy 2018-2022, be approved.

6. UNIT 21 LAWN INDUSTRIAL ESTATE RHYMNEY - LEASE RENEWAL TO GROUNDWORK CAERPHILLY T/A THE FURNITURE REVIVAL.

The report sought Cabinet approval for the Council to enter into a new 10 year lease with Groundwork Caerphilly (trading as The Furniture Revival) for Unit 21 Lawn Industrial Estate. The unit comprises 13,103 sq. ft and attracts a peppercorn annual rental of £1 per annum. The report had originally been considered and endorsed by Cabinet on 7th June 2017. Since then, there has been a change of legal entity from GC Enterprises (Wales) Ltd to Groundwork Caerphilly in order to achieve the tax benefits afforded to a charity.

The Officer explained that Groundwork Caerphilly trading as The Furniture Revival and predecessor organisations has been in occupation of Unit 21 Lawn Industrial Estate since May 2001 when a 10 year lease was granted and subsequently the company has held over on the existing agreement by virtue of the Landlord and Tenant Act 1954. The lease is on fully repairing and insuring terms at an annual rental of £1 per annum. The Furniture Revival is a social enterprise which, through minimising waste for disposal by reuse and recycling supports the community and alleviates poverty by providing access to household furniture, electrical items and household paint whilst providing a hub for volunteers and facilitating

training to enhance employability and skills. The report sets out how the request for a new lease meets the requirements of the Council's Protocol for the Disposal of Property and details the financial implications if the new lease is agreed and how the Council would comply with the EC regulations on State Aid. It was noted that by entering into a new 10 year lease with Groundwork Caerphilly trading as The Furniture Revival at less than the best price that could potentially otherwise be achieved will maintain the best service interests of the Authority.

Cabinet thanked the Officers for the excellent report and discussed the positive impact this facility provides within Rhymney and the surrounding areas.

Following consideration and discussion, it was moved and seconded that the recommendation in the report be approved. By a show of hands this was unanimously agreed.

RESOLVED that for the reasons contained in the Officer's report, the Council enter into a new 10-year lease, at a rental of £1 per annum and on the same terms, with Groundwork Caerphilly trading as The Furniture Revival for Unit 21 Lawn Industrial Estate.

7. INDUSTRIAL AND OFFICE PROPERTY PORTFOLIO - PROPOSED CHANGES TO LETTINGS CRITERIA AND PROCEDURES.

The report sought Cabinet approval for proposed changes to the lettings procedure for the Council's industrial and office property portfolio. The portfolio comprises 235 industrial units, 15 office buildings and two individual small units mainly located in 13 industrial estates and business parks across the County Borough.

Cabinet were advised that the existing lettings process includes procedures that can take some months to conclude, resulting in periods of time when units are unoccupied, which have an adverse effect on income generation and can result in reduced customer satisfaction with the service provided. The report sets out the existing processes and procedures and suggests two key improvements that would reduce the time involved in processing new applications for tenancy. Members were referred to paragraphs 4.8 to 4.10 in the report that sets out the proposed revisions to the procedures. The benefits of the proposed changes were discussed that will improve income generation capacity of the Council's industrial office portfolio and ensure that a better service is provided to persons and businesses requiring industrial and office premises. In addition, the changes will continue to comply with the Council's Protocol for Disposal of Property and Officers will monitor the effectiveness and impact of the proposed new procedure in respect of jobs growth within the local economy.

Following consideration and discussion, it was moved and seconded that the recommendation in the report be approved. By a show of hands this was unanimously agreed.

RESOLVED that for the reasons contained in the Officer's report: -

- (i) the proposed changes to the lettings process set out in paragraphs 4.8 - 4.10, be approved;
- (ii) further to its implementation, this new process will be monitored to ensure that it remains effective, and adjustments be made as and when appropriate, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Economy, Infrastructure, Sustainability and Well Being of Future Generations;
- (iii) all future leases prepared under the proposed new procedure include a requirement for information to be provided annually to the Council in respect of the job created/accommodated.

8. SUDS APPROVAL BODY (SAB) SERVICE LEVEL AGREEMENT WITH LOCAL AUTHORITIES

The report sought Cabinet approval to deliver Sustainable Drainage Approval Body (SAB) technical services and functions for other neighbouring local authorities by establishing Service Level Agreements (SLA's). Cabinet approved the Implementation of the Sustainable Drainage Systems Approval Body (SAB) on 25th April 2018.

Members were reminded that Schedule 3 of the Flood and Water Management Act (FWMA) 2010 requires surface water drainage for new developments to comply with mandatory National Standards for Sustainable Drainage systems (SuDs). It also requires surface water drainage systems to be approved by a SuDs Approving Body (SAB) before construction work with drainage implications may begin. The responsibility for delivery of the SAB functions rests with the 22 local authorities in Wales alongside their duties as Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA); the SAB function will commence on 7th January 2019.

Members were pleased to note that Caerphilly County Borough Council is seen as a lead authority across Wales and England with regard to SAB implementation and operation and working collaboratively with a regional approach to SAB delivery. Officers have recently been invited to a seminar in London to share the Team's experience and expertise with other organisations. The Officer explained that the income generation from the SAB is predicted to cover all salary costs and overheads associated with supplying this statutory function for Caerphilly CBC. Any income generation from other authorities will produce efficiencies within the service which can further reduce the risk in supplying these self-funded services; however, additional resources may also be procured to meet service demands if the income generation and business case require.

Following consideration and discussion, it was moved and seconded that the recommendation in the report be approved. By a show of hands this was unanimously agreed.

RESOLVED that for the reasons contained in the Officer's report: -

- (i) the Head of Infrastructure be authorised to enter into discussions with other Local Authorities with a view to Caerphilly CBC delivering technical SAB services and functions in accordance with service level agreement(s);
- (ii) the approval of formal terms and Implementation of each SLA be delegated to the Head of Infrastructure in consultation with the relevant Cabinet Member and Head of Legal Services.

9. PROOF OF RESIDENCY AT HOUSEHOLD WASTE RECYCLING CENTRES

The report sought Cabinet approval to restrict the use of the Council's Household Waste Recycling Centres (HWRCs) to Caerphilly County Borough residents only and for the introduction of arrangements to require proof of residency.

Cabinet were advised that a considerable number of residents living outside the County Borough are using Caerphilly's (HWRCs). A recent survey undertaken at the HWRCs indicated that non-resident usage accounts for between 15 – 50% of all site traffic. This is largely dependent on the location of the site and the time of day. It is evident that since the implementation of strict user rules at some neighbouring Authority's disposal facilities there has been a significant influx of cross border traffic into Caerphilly sites. The additional traffic has put a considerable burden on resources and disposal costs have increased significantly.

The Officer advised that by implementing a 'proof of residence' check system will effectively control the matter and ensure that material received and disposed of arises from residents of the County Borough. This situation cannot be sustained by current operational budgets and it

threatens to compromise statutory recycling performance. Following a review of options, it was proposed that users of Caerphilly Council HWRCs will be required to prove that they are a resident of the county borough by production of a valid driving licence (that includes address details and a photograph) before being allowed to use the HWRC. Other local authorities that have adopted this approach have seen significant reductions in disposal costs. A communication plan will be developed and implemented in order to minimise disruption to residents in advance of the proposed changes. This will include website updates and signage and leaflets on sites. Technical Assistants will assist site operatives for the first 2 weeks following implementation to engage with users and answer any queries that may arise. Neighbouring local authorities will also be notified. It is proposed that this approach will be implemented on the 1st April 2019.

Cabinet supported the proof of residence proposal, however expressed concerns that by limiting identification to a valid driving licence may exclude other individuals from accessing the service. It was therefore suggested that an additional recommendation be included that would extend to Caerphilly CBC issued bus passes incorporating the Caerphilly CBC logo and photographic ID also being included as valid proof of residence. Clarification was sought in relation to the proposals and queried if Officers were concerned that there may be an increase in fly-tipping incidents as a consequence. The Officer confirmed that other Local Authorities had not experienced any increases following the implementation of the strict user requirements. Officers also clarified that the cross-border visits are largely due to the fact that 4 of the Caerphilly sites are located on the boundaries of the borough. Members of the Regeneration and Environment Scrutiny Committee are currently undertaking a Scrutiny Waste Management Review that will consider the approach and strict guidelines undertaken by other Authorities.

Following consideration and discussion, it was moved and seconded that the recommendation in the report be approved. By a show of hands this was unanimously agreed.

RESOLVED that subject to an additional recommendation that *Caerphilly CBC issued bus passes incorporating the Caerphilly CBC logo and photographic ID will also be included as valid proof of residency*, and for the reasons contained in the Officer's report:

- (i) the implementation of the proof of residency requirement for users at all of the Council's Household Waste Recycling Centres as set out in Paragraph 4, be approved;
- (ii) Caerphilly CBC issued bus passes incorporating the Caerphilly CBC logo and photographic ID, will also be included as valid proof of residency.

10. THE NATIONAL TRAINING FRAMEWORK ON VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN, DOMESTIC ABUSE AND SEXUAL VIOLENCE

The report provided Cabinet with an update on the progress made on the training programme for Violence Against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence (VAWDASV). The report also sought Cabinet approval to communicate a policy with Welsh Ministers that sets out how Caerphilly intends to deliver the elements of the statutory National Training Framework. Any deviation from the National Training Framework requires that a policy statement is communicated.

Cabinet were advised that the training covers six levels of knowledge ranging from Level 1 (Basic Awareness) to Level 6 (Leaders). The legislation and Welsh Government direction expected that all responsible authorities would train 100% of their staff to Level 1 by the 1st of April 2018. This will equate to just under 8000 staff for Caerphilly, including school staff, with over 2000 of those unable to access the Level 1 e-learning package, not being computer users. Officers advised that none of the local authority's in the Gwent area met the target. At

the end of Sept 2018 37% of all staff had completed Level 1 (2,382 electronically and 550 in taught face-to-face sessions), totalling 2932 staff. The Gwent regional arrangements determined that no more than 12 participants could be trained in a classroom session. This is an unsustainable model for such large numbers of staff, some of whom do not work a 9-5 pattern. However, since this report was drafted there has been some movement on this regional requirement.

Members noted that the Gwent area is a pilot for Level 2 training, those staff that require enhanced knowledge and the ability to 'Ask and Act' if they notice the signs and indicators of violence and abuse. That is, all staff with a front-facing role. The National Training Framework requires specialist sector trainers to be present when this form of face-to-face training is delivered to answer questions if necessary. This is also unsustainable model due to financial and availability barriers in the specialist sector hampering arranging training sessions for the numbers of staff concerned. It is estimated that 1700 staff in teams such as housing, social services and education will require enhanced knowledge. The Caerphilly CBC and Blaenau Gwent Social Services Workforce Development Team have the capacity and knowledge to deliver Level 2 without specialist sector support in the room. Officers explained that staff within the teams have received the train the trainer input and are able to implement the training programme. In respect of Level 2, with Level 3 to follow, Caerphilly CBC would wish to notify Welsh Ministers that the authority intends to use to Workforce Development Team to deliver training in house. Where there is available specialist sector capacity they will be included in training sessions. The training, even when provided in house, is at cost.

Members were advised that since the report was drafted, the Gwent Regional Team have recognised that the limit on the number of Level 1 staff at face-to-face sessions is untenable and have agreed that larger cohorts of staff can be trained. It was proposed that the draft policy statement (appended to the report) is amended prior to communication with Welsh Ministers to remove the elements that relate to restricting the numbers at Level 1 sessions. The report also recognised that appropriate governance arrangements are required to deliver the National Training Framework in the authority and that these should be aligned to the wider safeguarding agenda. The report proposed that the Corporate Safeguarding Policy is amended to align with the VAWDASV agenda.

Following consideration and discussion, it was moved and seconded that the recommendation in the report be approved. By a show of hands this was unanimously agreed.

RESOLVED that subject to an amendment to paragraph 10.1 (b) *that the elements that relate to Level 1 training being removed*, and for the reasons contained in the Officer's report: -

- (i) the progress made against the Council's Training Plan, be noted;
- (ii) the draft Policy Statement for submission to Welsh Government (subject to the elements that relate to Level 1 training being removed), be approved;
- (iii) the alignment of VAWDASV Safeguarding Board for internal Governance, be approved.

11. EXEMPT MATTER

Members considered the public interest test certificate from the Proper Officer and concluded that on balance the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighed the public interest in disclosing the information. By show of hands it was unanimously agreed.

RESOLVED that in accordance with Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 the public be excluded from the remainder of the meeting because of the likely disclosure to them of exempt information as identified in paragraph 14 of Part 4 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.

12. BRYN BRITHDIR, OAKDALE BUSINESS PARK - RENEWAL OF CCBC AND WG JOINT VENTURE AGREEMENT

The report sought Cabinet approval to renew the joint venture agreement for Units 1-4 Bryn Brithdir, Oakdale Business Park with Welsh Government (WG) for 10 years under revised terms.

Following consideration and discussion it was moved and seconded that the recommendations in the report be approved. By a show of hands this was unanimously agreed.

RESOLVED that for the reasons contained in the Officer's report, the recommendations at paragraph 10.1 to 10.4, be endorsed.

The meeting closed at 11.40 a.m.

Approved and signed as a correct record subject to any corrections made at the meeting held on 16th January 2019.

CHAIR



CABINET – 16TH JANUARY 2019

SUBJECT: DRAFT YSTRAD MYNACH MASTERPLAN

REPORT BY: CORPORATE DIRECTOR FOR EDUCATION AND CORPORATE SERVICES

- 1.1 The attached report, which was presented to the Regeneration and Environment Scrutiny Committee on 11th December 2018, sought the views of Members on the contents of the Draft Ystrad Mynach Masterplan, prior to presentation to Cabinet to seek endorsement of the Masterplan as the basis for a public consultation exercise commencing 28th January 2019 to 8th March 2019.
- 1.2 Officers explained that in order to benefit from the transformative change in the wider Cardiff Capital Region with the investment of City Deal, the Valleys Taskforce and further funding streams, it is necessary to set out the strategic priorities for the regeneration and enhancement of Caerphilly County Borough. The Valleys Task Force Initiative (VTF) has identified Caerphilly / Ystrad Mynach as one of seven Strategic Hubs in the South Wales Valleys, with £25m of Welsh Government funding being made available to create these seven Hubs. The Hubs will act as a focus for public money and provide opportunities for the private sector to invest and create new jobs through existing business growth and the promotion of new business start-ups.
- 1.3 The Draft Ystrad Mynach Masterplan is the next of the suite of Masterplans to be prepared under the overarching regeneration strategy for the county borough 'A Foundation for Success', following on from the Caerphilly Basin Masterplan approved by Council in July 2018. The Masterplan forms part of the implementation plan for 'A Foundation for Success' and will be reviewed every five years. The Masterplan identifies investment and development opportunities within the Ystrad Mynach part of the Strategic Hub and seeks to build on the existing strengths of Ystrad Mynach to ensure that the area enhances its role as a business, employment, service, retail and sporting centre. In line with the agreed governance arrangements, the Regeneration Project Board will prioritise projects and proposals for consideration by Cabinet and therefore delivery will be dependent on decisions made by Cabinet.
- 1.4 It was noted that subject to Cabinet endorsement, a public consultation exercise on the Draft Ystrad Mynach Masterplan is proposed to take place between 28th January and 8th March 2019. Once the consultation period has concluded, all comments will be considered and changes will be made to the Masterplan where appropriate, and the revised Masterplan will subsequently be reported to Full Council for formal approval.
- 1.5 Discussion took place regarding the potential development of a rail service from Ystrad Mynach to Merthyr as part of the City Deal Metro project. Officers confirmed that the former regional transport body SEWTA, had carried out a review of its rail strategy and that commuter demand has been identified for this particular route. Bringing back passenger services on this line would involve reinstating stations along the route and potentially extending the line up to Dowlais Top in Merthyr Tydfil.

- 1.6 In response to a query on the provision of new housing developments identified in the Masterplan and if this would include adapted housing for elderly people, Officers explained that the Council undertakes Local Housing Market Assessments which will examine the housing provision for elderly people and where need is identified. In response to Members' queries, it was confirmed that the Masterplan is initially set for 5 years and the funding will run for that period. After that time, a review will be carried out to identify the long term schemes and short term aspirations that need to be brought forward. In response to Members' queries and comments, Officers also outlined how the Council will work with the Valleys Taskforce to maximise the funding that is available to them and how this will be applied to the areas in greatest need.
- 1.7 A Member suggested that the proposal to expand upon the programme of events within the area (as part of the strategic objective to create a vibrant and accessible visitor destination) could be viewed as contradictory to the proposed rationalisation of the Council's Events programme. Officers explained that this objective relates to supporting a range of other partners in addition to the Council and that the Masterplan contains a number of long-term aspirations. It was also queried whether there are plans to develop a resort hotel in the area to accommodate visitors and Officers explained that they are working with partners in this regard to identify a suitable site.
- 1.8 Following consideration of the report the Regeneration and Environment Scrutiny Committee unanimously recommended to Cabinet that the Draft Ystrad Mynach Masterplan as appended to the report be endorsed as the basis for a public consultation exercise commencing 28th January 2019 until 8th March 2019.
- 1.9 Cabinet are asked to consider the attached report and the above recommendation from the Scrutiny Committee.

Author: R. Barrett, Committee Services Officer, Ext. 4245

Appendices:

Appendix Report to Regeneration and Environment Scrutiny Committee on 11th December 2018
– Agenda Item 9

REGENERATION AND ENVIRONMENT SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – 11TH DECEMBER 2018

SUBJECT: DRAFT YSTRAD MYNACH MASTERPLAN

REPORT BY: INTERIM CORPORATE DIRECTOR - COMMUNITIES

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 For Members to consider the Draft Ystrad Mynach Masterplan. The report is seeking the view of members prior to its presentation to Cabinet, where Cabinet will be asked to endorse the Draft Ystrad Mynach Masterplan as the basis for a public consultation exercise commencing 28 January until 8 March 2019.

2. SUMMARY

- 2.1 Caerphilly County Borough and the wider Cardiff Capital Region is entering a period of transformative change, the need for a strategy to coordinate regeneration initiatives and capitalise upon funding streams is urgent in order to maximise the potential benefits to the county borough.
- 2.2 The signing of City Deal and the Cardiff Capital Region Investment Fund signals an unprecedented investment of £1.2 billion, to support the region's economic growth. The investment fund will be used to take forward a wide range of projects and schemes that contribute toward economic growth. Allied to this is the commitment from the Ministerial Taskforce for the South Wales Valleys, detailed in the publication of 'Our Valleys, Our Future', a high level plan that sets out strategic priorities for the region and which is supported by £100 million of Welsh Government investment over 10 years.
- 2.3 In order to benefit from the transformative change in the wider Cardiff Capital Region with the investment of City Deal, the Valleys Taskforce and further funding streams, it is necessary to set out the strategic priorities for the regeneration and enhancement of Caerphilly County Borough. This involves identifying opportunities that will make it more prosperous, healthier, resilient and equal, setting priorities that align and enhance regional work and are readily capable of being realised.

3. LINKS TO STRATEGY

- 3.1 The Ystrad Mynach Masterplan contributes to the well-being goals within the Well-being of Future Generations Act (Wales) 2015 including:
- A prosperous Wales
 - A resilient Wales
 - A healthier Wales
 - A more equal Wales
 - A Wales of cohesive communities
 - A Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language
 - A globally responsible Wales.

- 3.2 The Ystrad Mynach Masterplan complements 'A Foundation for Success' which is the Council's Regeneration Strategy which will assist in delivering the regeneration priorities of the county borough; making it more prosperous, resilient, healthier, more equal, cohesive and vibrant, whilst enabling the county borough to benefit from transformative change that is in the interests of all.

4. THE REPORT

Background

- 4.1 The signing of the Cardiff Capital Region City Deal, signals the intention of the 10 South East Wales local authorities to increasingly work together through joint enterprise, on issues of long term development, infrastructure, land use, economic development and employment. It marks an unprecedented investment from the UK, Welsh Government and Local Authorities and offers the possibility of an integrated long term approach to the region, rather than a multiple and fragmented approach to initiatives as seen in the past. The City Deal Agreement sets out a series of priorities and recommendations for the future growth and investment within the Cardiff Capital Region of which Caerphilly County Borough is part.
- 4.2 'A Foundation for Success', the over-arching regeneration strategy for the county borough, was approved in July 2018 and it provides the strategic framework for regeneration activity over the next five years. In addition to this the Caerphilly Basin Masterplan, the first in a suite of complementary masterplans to 'A Foundation for Success', was also approved by the Council in July 2018 and provides more detailed proposals for the regeneration and revitalisation of the Caerphilly Basin.
- 4.3 The Valleys Task Force Initiative (VTF) identifies Caerphilly / Ystrad Mynach as one of seven Strategic Hubs in the South Wales Valleys. The VTF indicates that these seven Strategic Hubs will act as a focus for public money and provide opportunities for the private sector to invest and create new jobs through existing business growth and the promotion of new business start-ups.
- 4.4 On the 2 October 2018, the Cabinet Secretary for Finance presented his draft Budget to the National Assembly, and announced £25m to create seven strategic hubs across the South Wales Valleys, Caerphilly and Ystrad Mynach being one of those hubs.
- 4.5 The Draft Ystrad Mynach Masterplan is the next of the suite of Masterplans to be prepared under 'A Foundation for Success' and provides more detailed proposals for the regeneration of the Ystrad Mynach area, which is part of the VTF Strategic Hub.
- 4.6 The Masterplan forms part of the implementation plan for 'A Foundation for Success' and 'A Foundation for Success' will be reviewed every five years. The Masterplan identifies investment and development opportunities within the Ystrad Mynach part of the Strategic Hub and in line with the agreed governance arrangements the Regeneration Project Board will prioritise projects and proposals for consideration by Cabinet and therefore delivery will be dependent on decisions made by Cabinet.
- 4.7 Hard copies of the Draft Ystrad Mynach Masterplan will be made available in the Members' Library and on the Members' Portal.

Evidence Base

Draft Ystrad Mynach Masterplan

- 4.8 Central to the Vision for Ystrad Mynach is the ability to enhance its primary role as a strategic economic hub that is capable of supporting local communities. The future role for the town should maximise regeneration, employment, retail, sport and recreational opportunities. The Vision for Ystrad Mynach and the wider area is also linked to the Vision for the county borough as a whole, as set out within 'A Foundation for Success'.

4.9 The Draft Ystrad Mynach Masterplan has been developed with the following Vision:

“To develop and enhance Ystrad Mynach as a significant business, service and employment area and as a Strategic Economic Hub within the Cardiff Capital Region.

It will be a thriving business, retail, leisure and tourism destination with exemplary sporting facilities, an exceptional learning area and incredible green spaces.

It will be an exciting, vibrant place where businesses will want to locate, develop and grow and where people will desire to live, work and visit.

Its communities will be attractive and sustainable with excellent links to the Metro and the residents will feel safe, aspire to succeed and live active and healthy lives.”

Consultation to date

4.10 The Draft Ystrad Mynach Masterplan has been the subject of extensive engagement in its development. Working groups were established to utilise the expertise of officers from service areas across the council, whilst workshops have been held with elected members, businesses, and local interest groups. However, this is only the start of the process and the intention is now to publish this draft document to enable any interested residents / groups / businesses to contribute to its further development.

4.11 The Consultation is proposed to take place between 28 January and 8 March 2019. Once the consultation has been concluded, all comments will be considered and changes will be made to the Masterplan where appropriate. The revised Masterplan will subsequently be reported to Full Council for formal approval.

5. WELL-BEING OF FUTURE GENERATIONS

5.1 The aim of the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act is to improve the social, economic, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales by changing the way local authorities and public bodies think, act and make decisions with the overall objective being to create a Wales where we want to live both now and in the future. The Act also sets a duty on public bodies to ensure that everything that they do is in accordance with the sustainable development principle (the needs of the present are met without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs). The Draft Ystrad Mynach Masterplan aims to contribute to the Well-being Goals, these are set out in Appendix 2 of the document.

6. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

6.1 Consultation with the public on this document will be undertaken in line with the standards set out in the Public Service Board Communications and Consultation Strategy, ensuring that all minority groups in the community have the opportunity to take part in the consultation exercise.

7. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

7.1 The Draft Ystrad Mynach Masterplan provides an indication of regeneration schemes that could be pursued in partnership with others. Any financial implications for the Council arising from future actions/schemes will be subject to detailed reports as and when necessary.

8. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

8.1 There are no direct personnel implications associated with this report.

9. CONSULTATIONS

9.1 All responses from consultations have been incorporated in the report.

10. RECOMMENDATIONS

10.1 To consider the Draft Ystrad Mynach Masterplan and to provide any recommendations on the document to Cabinet. Cabinet will be asked to endorse the Draft Ystrad Mynach Masterplan as the basis for a public consultation exercise commencing 28 January until 8 March 2019.

11. REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS

11.1 To provide a Masterplan for Ystrad Mynach and the wider area in order to prioritise regeneration activity.

12. STATUTORY POWER

12.1 Local Government Act 2000.

Author: Lisa James, Senior Planner, Strategic & Development Plans
Consultees: Cllr Sean Morgan, Cabinet Member for Economy, Infrastructure, Sustainability & Wellbeing
Cllr. Eluned Stenner, Cabinet Member for Environment & Public Protection
Christina Harrhy, Interim Chief Executive
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Sue Richards, Head of Education Planning & Strategy
Marcus Lloyd, Head of Infrastructure
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Appendices:
Appendix 1 Draft Ystrad Mynach Masterplan

Ystrad Mynach *Masterplan*

Consultation Draft (November 2018)



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Section 1: Introduction

1.1

This Masterplan sets out the future development and regeneration opportunities proposed for Ystrad Mynach and the wider area. It seeks to build on the existing strengths of Ystrad Mynach to ensure that the area enhances its role as a business, employment, service, retail and sporting centre.

1.2

There is an exciting opportunity to facilitate significant change through the Cardiff Capital Region City Deal, which will provide resources to unlock significant economic growth in the region, delivering jobs and private sector investment. This Masterplan sets out a number of projects within Ystrad Mynach and the wider area that could benefit from City Deal or other potential funding mechanisms to deliver substantial economic benefits.

1.3

The City Deal Investment Fund will also facilitate delivery of the South East Wales

Metro¹, which will make substantial improvements to connectivity by public transport across the region. Ystrad Mynach has the potential to become a key metro hub due to its central location in the region and the Masterplan sets out how this opportunity can be maximised.

1.4

Furthermore, the area of Caerphilly and Ystrad Mynach has been identified as a Strategic Hub by the Valleys Task Force as an area where public money is focused to provide opportunities for the private sector to invest and create new jobs.

1.5

The key aim of this Masterplan is therefore to harness these exciting opportunities and provide a framework for taking Ystrad Mynach and the wider area forward into the future. This Masterplan is flexible and has the ability to adapt to changing economic and market conditions and meet the

requirements and aspirations of both the private and public sector over this period through regular review. It is recognised that there are some projects that can be delivered within the short to medium term. However, in order to deliver long term regeneration goals, there is an aspiration to redevelop a number of key sites within the Masterplan area.

1.6

The Masterplan has been prepared within the context of the adopted Caerphilly County Borough Local Development Plan (LDP), which sets out the Council's land use objectives for the county borough for the period up to 2021, but it also sets longer term goals to ensure that the momentum of change extends into the next decade.

1.7

Many of the projects identified in the Masterplan are aligned to proposals within the adopted LDP. It should be noted that

¹ <https://tfw.gov.wales/>



the Adopted LDP plan period ends in 2021 and the plan will need to be reviewed to provide the policy framework for the period beyond 2021. Furthermore, relevant proposals may also be included within a Strategic Development Plan for the Cardiff Capital Region. The Masterplan will need to be reviewed to take into account relevant policies and proposals in future development plans at the appropriate time.

1.8

'A Foundation for Success', the over-arching regeneration strategy for the county borough, was approved in July 2018. It provides the strategic framework for regeneration activity over the next five years. It concentrates on four key themes that set out the broad principles for regeneration:

- Supporting People
- Supporting Business
- Supporting Quality of Life
- Connecting People and Places

1.9

Appendix 1 lists the regeneration and strategic objectives to be tackled under each theme.

1.10

The Caerphilly Basin Masterplan, the first in a suite of complementary masterplans to 'A Foundation for Success', was also approved by the Council in July 2018 and this provides more detailed proposals for the regeneration and revitalisation of the Caerphilly Basin.

1.11

The Ystrad Mynach Masterplan is the second area-specific strategy which identifies projects that will help address key issues and objectives set out within the wider Regeneration Strategy. It forms part of the implementation plan for 'A Foundation for Success' which will be reviewed every five years. The Masterplan identifies investment and development opportunities within the Ystrad Mynach part of the Strategic Hub.

1.12

To capture regeneration opportunities throughout the whole of the county borough, further strategies and masterplans will be produced (Heads of the Valleys, Greater Blackwood and Sirhowy and Ebbw Valley).

Section 2: The Vision for Ystrad Mynach and the Wider Area

2.1

Central to the Vision for Ystrad Mynach is the ability to enhance its primary role as a strategic economic hub that is capable of supporting local communities. The future role for the town should maximise regeneration, employment, retail and sport and recreation opportunities. The Vision for Ystrad Mynach and the wider area is also linked to the Vision for the county borough as a whole, as set out within the Council's Regeneration Strategy 'A Foundation for Success'

2.2

The Vision is as follows:

“To develop and enhance Ystrad Mynach as a significant business, service and employment area and as a Strategic Economic Hub within the Cardiff Capital Region.

It will be a thriving business, retail, leisure and tourism destination with exemplary sporting facilities, an exceptional learning area and incredible green spaces.

It will be an exciting, vibrant place where businesses will want to locate, develop and grow and where people will desire to live, work and visit.

Its communities will be attractive and sustainable with excellent links to the Metro and the residents will feel safe, aspire to succeed and live active and healthy lives.”

2.3

The Vision has been prepared having regard for the seven well-being goals set out within the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015.

2.4

The Vision for the town will be supported by a series of Strategic Objectives which will drive its delivery and translate directly into a series of projects and actions that

- A. Provide the conditions to strengthen business growth and capitalise on employment opportunities** – *Identify opportunities to support businesses and organisations within the local economy to expand and provide a range of jobs and build capacity to enhance the contribution of the foundational economy;*
- B. Create the conditions for the area to become a thriving Metro Hub** – *Optimise the area around Ystrad Mynach Station to create a well-designed arrival point for residents and visitors to the*

town. Develop the Metro rail spur between Ystrad Mynach and Dowlais Top with new metro halts at Tredomen and Nelson, expand the Park and Ride facilities along the core rail network and provide cross valley rapid bus transport;

- C. Modernise and develop Ystrad Mynach into a thriving business and commercial centre** – *Exploit the presence of major services and facilities located in Ystrad Mynach and build on its position as the County Borough's administrative centre;*
- D. Create an exemplary Sport, Leisure and Education Cluster** – *Expand the flagship Centre for Sporting Excellence and further develop cultural, educational and sporting opportunities;*
- E. Create a vibrant and accessible visitor destination** – *Identify opportunities to broaden the tourism offer within the area;*
- F. Maximise enjoyment of the many green assets within and**

surrounding the Masterplan Area

– Encourage the use of green spaces, including the Country Parks, to enhance quality of life and promote well-being;

- G. Complete the regeneration of the former Penallta Colliery site** – *Exploit a significant housing and employment led regeneration opportunity that will see the conservation and preservation of this important and exceptionally fine former colliery;*
- H. Support the development of housing, including affordable housing, on both greenfield and brownfield sites in sustainable locations** – *Identify key residential opportunities that can be unlocked on sites that accord with planning policy, including innovative housing and housing as part of mixed use developments;*
- I. Provide a suitable level of community leisure and education facilities to support the potential**

level of population and housing growth within the Ystrad Mynach Strategic Hub – Acknowledge that such facilities are important to the population and ensure that these facilities meet future needs;

such facilities are important to the population and ensure that these facilities meet future needs;

J. Ensure that accessibility for all is embedded in all improvement schemes – A cross-cutting objective that recognises that people are disabled more by poor design, inaccessible services and other people’s attitudes than by their own impairment;

A cross-cutting objective that recognises that people are disabled more by poor design, inaccessible services and other people’s attitudes than by their own impairment;

K. Ensure all communities are able to engage and benefit from the proposals in the Masterplan – ensure that the proposals identified in the Masterplan have positive outputs for those that are living in the most deprived communities.

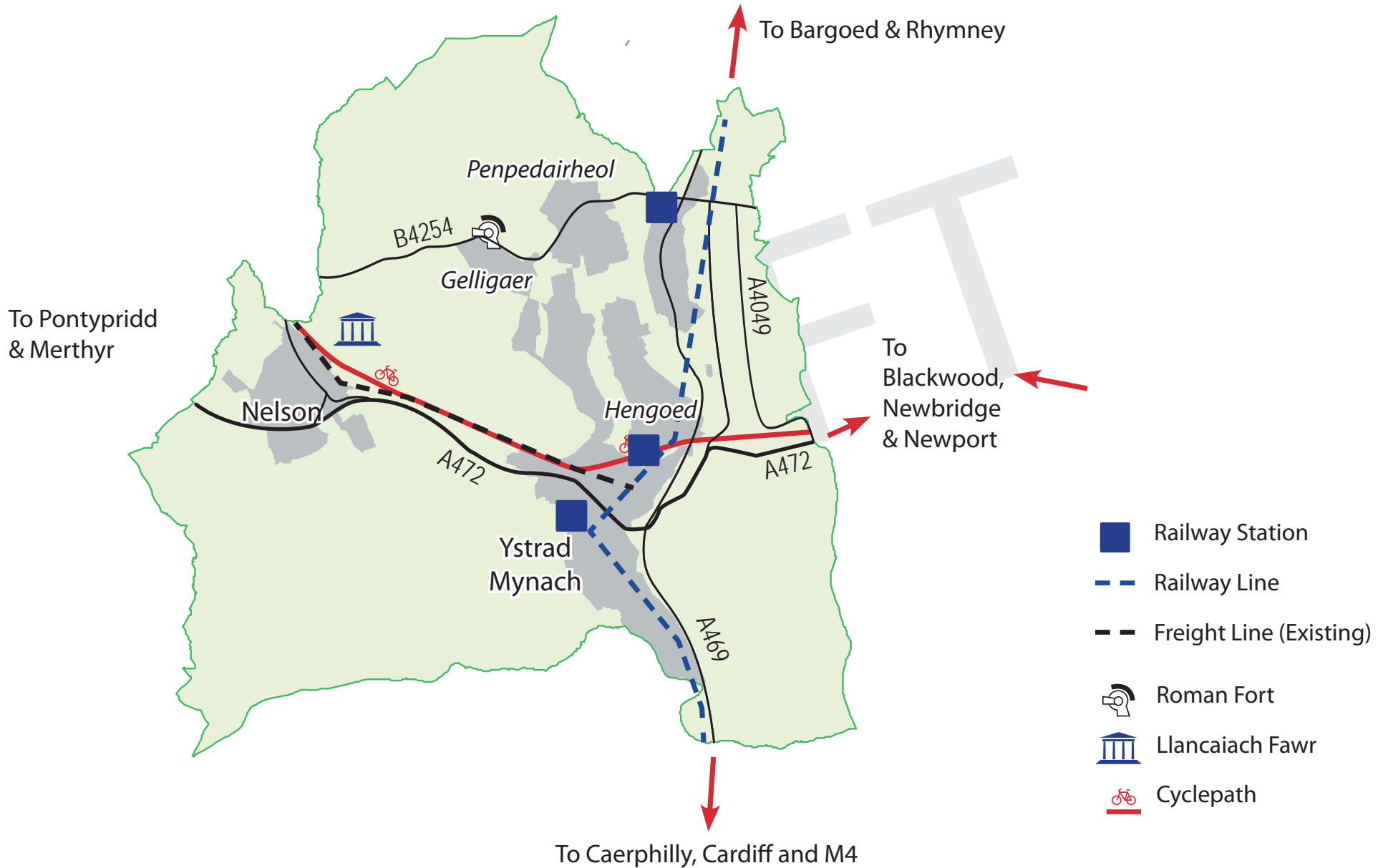
ensure that the proposals identified in the Masterplan have positive outputs for those that are living in the most deprived communities.

2.5

Appendix 2 sets out how each of the Strategic Objectives relate to the well-being goals set out within the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015.



Figure 1: Ystrad Mynach Masterplan Area



Section 3: The Study Area

3.1

Ystrad Mynach Strategic Hub is located at the centre of the Rhymney Valley, comprising the Principal Town of Ystrad Mynach and the Local Centre of Nelson, together with the residential areas of Penallta, Gelligaer/ Penybryn, Penpedairheol, Cascade, Hengoed /Cefn Hengoed and Tiryberth, all of which have associations and in most cases roots in the mining industry.

3.2

It incorporates the electoral wards of Ystrad Mynach, Nelson, St Cattwg and Hengoed. A small part of the area at the south of Ystrad Mynach, comprising Dyffryn Business Park, falls within the Maesycwmmmer ward. Figure 1 indicates the extent of Masterplan area.

3.3

The area is strategically well positioned with good connectivity to Cardiff and the M4 by road via the A469 and A470. Ystrad Mynach

and Nelson are located on the main east to west A472, which allows easy access by road to the A470 to the west and Pontypool and Cwmbran to the east.

3.4

There are three railway stations within the area – Ystrad Mynach, Hengoed and Pengam. The stations are on the Rhymney Valley line and all have park and ride facilities. A frequent rail service runs every 15 minutes from Ystrad Mynach to Cardiff. Phase 2 of the Metro project will see trains increased to four per hour from Hengoed and Pengam also. Phase 3 of the Metro project will see the introduction of a passenger rail on the Cwmbargoed line.

3.5

The 2016 Mid-Year Population Estimates indicated that the area has a total population of 23,696 people.



Section 4: The Context

4.1

In providing the context to the masterplan it is important to understand the key opportunities that currently exist within the Masterplan area.

Opportunities

- **Cardiff Capital Region City Deal:**

The City Deal for the region will provide an unprecedented level of funding for projects with the aim of promoting economic growth and job creation throughout the region. Whilst the overall aim is to generate economic growth, and a significant part of the £1.25 billion funding will be utilised to realise this aim, the largest proportion of the funding will be used to deliver the Capital Region Metro. The Metro concept is for a regional transport system that provides a high-quality, reliable, efficient and economically sustainable transport network to support the proposed economic growth within

the region. Ystrad Mynach's location in the heart of the county borough along with its economic and transport opportunities places it in a strong position to contribute to the delivery of the aims and objectives of both City Deal and the Metro which would deliver significant benefits from this funding.

- **Our Valleys, Our Future:** The Ministerial Taskforce for the South Wales Valleys identifies Ystrad Mynach, together with Caerphilly, as a Strategic Hub focusing on new business and employment opportunities. This will be an area where public money is focused to provide opportunities for the private sector to invest and create new jobs.
- **Valleys Regional Park (VRP):** The VRP is an exciting, dynamic initiative to co-ordinate, drive and promote activities related to the environment and heritage and associated tourism activities across

the valleys of South Wales, working to change the reality and perceptions of the Valleys as a highly-desirable place to live, work and visit. The Masterplan includes parks and green areas that can be enhanced and promoted as outstanding environmental and cultural assets thereby helping to regenerate the area.

- **Home to Vital Public Services:** The Principal Town of Ystrad Mynach has in recent years attracted significant investment from both the public and private sectors. The town is now home to Caerphilly County Borough Council's Headquarters, Ystrad Mynach Police Station, Ystrad Fawr Hospital and Coleg Y Cymoedd. The Centre for Sporting Excellence is also located in the town.
- **Existing Business Parks:** The main industrial estates are located south of Ystrad Mynach at Dyffryn Business Park, and to the north of the town at Penallta.

There are smaller mixed developments lining the A469 through Tiryberth and the prestigious Tredomen Business Park is located along the A472 at Tredomen.

- **Ty Du:** The site represents a major regional development opportunity to create an attractive residential development along with employment units, comprising a sustainable form of development with considerable potential economic and social benefits.
- **Retail Offer:** The main shopping provision in Ystrad Mynach comprises two national supermarkets, namely Lidl and Tesco and over 80 other commercial units containing a good mix of independent retailers. Nelson is a smaller Local Centre which has a supermarket, Co-Op, and a range of small independent retailers.
- **Tourism:** Llancaiach Fawr Manor is an early 16th Century Grade I listed building

and one of the finest examples of a semi-fortified manor in Wales today. It is also one of the three main tourist attractions in the county borough. The property includes interpretive and educational facilities for visitors as well as hosting many events and functions. However, there is no accommodation provision either on site or in the immediate vicinity. Such provision would increase the attractiveness of the venue, increase overnight stays and encourage greater tourism related activity.

The Centre for Sporting Excellence, the county borough's flagship sporting facility, is a major attraction, located within the Masterplan Area. There is potential to further expand the facility to create an inspirational venue which will attract and facilitate local, regional, national and international sport, attracting many visitors to Ystrad Mynach.

- **Regeneration:** Penallta Colliery Regeneration Scheme is one of the most exciting regeneration projects in the county borough. On land reclaimed since the pit's closure in 1991 historic colliery buildings have been partially restored and converted. Opportunities exist for further conversion of all remaining listed buildings including the prominent Power Hall and the striking 1930's Bath House, potentially for mixed uses. Also, a new development comprising a Welsh medium primary school, formal and informal areas of open space is nearing completion, with only an area allocated for commercial units yet to be developed.
- **Night Time Economy:** Improvements to accommodation and the leisure and night time economy (including pubs, restaurants and accommodation) remain essential to increase the dwell time within the Masterplan Area.

- **Active Travel:** Walking and cycling are good for physical and mental health. Switching more journeys to active travel, walking or cycling, will improve health, quality of life and the environment. Opportunity exists to promote active travel throughout the Masterplan Area for everyday journeys.

4.2

In order to promote change, it is important to recognise the challenges that the Masterplan area faces in achieving the Vision. These challenges have been identified through consultation with stakeholders.

Challenges

- **Raising the profile:** Ystrad Mynach needs to further promote its identity to a wider audience as an administrative and service centre. Creating a more identifiable centre requires an enhanced retail, night time and visitor accommodation offer, increased promotional activities and improved bus and rail links.
- **Retail:** The current vogue for experiential shopping and the growth in online shopping are a challenge for the town centres. Furthermore, the rationalisation of property portfolios by national banks is also of concern as the number of banks within the town centres reduces.
- **Connectivity:** Many visitors travelling by train to Ystrad Mynach will arrive at the station without a sense of arrival as the relationship between the rail station and the town centre, and many local services such as the college and hospital is poor. Ystrad Mynach would benefit from a bus/train interchange, however there is limited scope in and around Ystrad Mynach Train Station to make new provision. Whilst Nelson has a bus interchange, there is currently no passenger rail service to Nelson.
- **Funding:** Many regeneration schemes will need to be supported by grant funding, which is limited. The loss of EU funding as a result of Brexit will reduce the opportunities for funding bids. It is unclear at this stage how this will be offset by the UK Government.
- **Night Time Economy:** The current night time economy in Ystrad Mynach is poor, comprising mostly take-aways and a few pub/restaurants. Whilst there is a bingo hall, there is no regular evening entertainment within the area such as a cinema or bowling complex and only a limited number of restaurants. Nelson, however, has a better family offer of restaurants.
- **Parking:** There are car parks serving both Ystrad Mynach and Nelson. At Ystrad Mynach Town Centre there is a pay-and-display car park situated at the rear of Bedwlwyn Road. In addition to the pay-and-display car parks there is limited on-street free parking in the Bedwlwyn Road/Penallta Road area, and parking in surrounding side streets is often in conflict with residents parking. At Nelson, there are three car-parks, all of which are free. In addition there is limited on-street free

parking in the Commercial Road area. Again, parking in surrounding side streets is in conflict with residents parking. The lack of available parking within the centres is considered to have a significant impact upon potential footfall. There is insufficient car parking at both Hengoed and Ystrad Mynach Park and Ride facilities.

- **Housing:** Demand for housing is high within the Masterplan Area. Due to the lack of a 5 year supply of land for housing (as required by national planning policy) the area is currently vulnerable to applications for housing on sites that are not allocated in the LDP.
- **Flood Risk:** A number of watercourses, including the River Rhymney, flow through the Masterplan Area and there are parts of the urban area that are at risk of flooding. National planning guidance promotes a precautionary approach when considering development proposals within areas at risk of flooding and this may constrain the development of some sites within the area.



Section 5: The Development Strategy

What should the Ystrad Mynach Masterplan be aiming for?

5.1

In order to deliver the Vision and Strategic Objectives, it is important to set out the development strategy in relation to the key land uses within the Masterplan area, having regard for the strategy of the adopted LDP, regional aspirations and the opportunities and challenges that form the context. The site specific delivery of the Masterplan is set out in Section 6.

Employment

5.2

The employment sites identified in the adopted LDP within the Masterplan area (Dyffryn, Tredomen and the Dwr Cymru Welsh Water Business Parks, and Penallta and Tiryberth Industrial Estates) should continue to be protected. Further allocated sites exist at Ty Du and Dyffryn Business Park North and

South and these continue to be key sites for employment opportunities. Land north of Cwm Calon was originally put forward as a mixed-use site, residential and employment, however the site has since been developed for residential development.

5.3

The Masterplan seeks to build on the area as a Business District. It seeks to allocate additional land for employment at Tredomen to allow for expansion of the successful prestige business park, and to maximise employment opportunities at new and existing Metro hubs at Nelson, Tredomen and Ystrad Mynach. It is envisaged this will be through the provision of new office and commercial development that meet the needs of modern businesses.

5.4

There is also opportunity to maximise the full development potential of the lower part of

Ystrad Mynach by the redevelopment of units on Caerphilly Road Industrial Estate. New fit for purpose units will create business and employment opportunities in this prominent location at the southern gateway to the town.

Leisure

5.5

There are a number of key formal and informal open spaces and facilities protected for leisure uses, and opportunities should be explored to maximise the potential of these areas for recreation and community benefit.

5.6

Within Ystrad Mynach, the Centre for Sporting Excellence complex is a state of the art sporting facility. There is opportunity to expand the existing facility to create a 'Sport Village' incorporating Ystrad Mynach Park, a new indoor sports building, a tennis arena and an additional large spectator stand to improve capacity at the existing facility.

5.7

The Adopted LDP seeks to protect Country Parks and the Masterplan identifies opportunities to expand facilities at Parc Penallta and Nelson Wern Woodland Park.

Transport

5.8

Opportunities to encourage active travel through improved pedestrian and cycle routes are important and the Masterplan will consider the improvements identified as part of the Active Travel Integrated Network Map. In addition to this, the inability of the rail services to carry bicycles, particularly at peak times, means that cycling to work using rail is generally not a viable option. The masterplan will need to consider improving provision for secure cycle parking and possibly the introduction of an on-street/at station bike hire facility to allow cyclists to leave bikes and use hire bikes to facilitate their movement by rail.

5.9

The South East Wales Metro is fundamental to the improvement of public transport and the Masterplan will look to exploit opportunities to create jobs and improve the facilities at the town's primary metro hub at Ystrad Mynach. It would also look to provide new metro hubs at Nelson and Tredomen and to maximise park and ride opportunities at existing and proposed new stations.

5.10

There is a need for a parking strategy within the town centre to ensure that there is sufficient parking in the right locations to support the Vision for the area.

Retailing

5.11

Retailing is fundamental to the role and function of town centres, and a major source of employment. The Masterplan area comprises the Principal Town of Ystrad

Mynach and the Local Centre of Nelson along with the residential areas of Hengoed, Gelligaer and Penpedairheol.

- **Ystrad Mynach** – The main shopping provision comprises two national supermarkets and over 80 other commercial units.
- **Nelson** – Comprises a small supermarket and a range of small shops.
- **Neighbourhood retailing** - in accordance with national and local planning policy, the strategy does not promote the provision of major retail development outside of designated retail areas, but the development of smaller retail units to support local needs is a key part of promoting sustainable development.

5.12

Both Ystrad Mynach and Nelson have potential to expand the retail offer.

Tourism

5.13

Within the Masterplan area there is a mix of 'heritage' and 'rural' attractions. Llancaiach Fawr Manor is one of the three main tourist attractions in the County Borough. Other attractions include Parc Penallta and the Centre for Sporting Excellence. Increasing the sport and leisure offer at the Centre for Sporting Excellence to allow for a larger range of representative fixtures to be hosted could have significant tourism benefits for the area.

5.14

The Masterplan seeks to expand the tourism offer to encourage day visitors to stay longer and spend more in businesses within Ystrad Mynach and the wider area. It also seeks to explore new opportunities for additional accommodation within the area so that visitors have options to stay for short breaks.

5.15

There is also the potential to exploit the

strong activity tourism market in South Wales through the provision of appropriate accommodation and facilities within the Masterplan area.

Residential

5.16

The adopted LDP strategy for the Northern Connections Corridor promotes sustainable development that focuses development on both brownfield and greenfield sites that take account of the social and economic functions of the area.

5.17

This strategy has proved successful within the wider Ystrad Mynach area, particularly the former Penallta Colliery site which has seen the reclamation of a significant brownfield site and the provision of a prestige residential development. Some of the listed buildings associated with the former colliery site have been partially converted for housing, but further opportunities exist for the conservation-led and sensitive conversion of

these protected buildings as well as for new development opportunities within the site.

5.18

The dwellings approved on the former Greenhill Primary School site are currently under construction. Further brownfield sites remain, including the Partmart site at Tir-y-berth, land east of the Handball Court in Nelson and land at New Road, Ystrad Mynach.

5.19

Planning permission has recently been granted for approximately 200 dwellings along with 3.8ha of employment units on land at Ty Du, Nelson. This hugely significant development is identified in the Masterplan.

5.20

The Masterplan acknowledges that there is development pressure on land outside the settlement boundaries of the Masterplan Area. The suitability of any site will need to be considered on its merits, having regard

to all planning considerations including the sustainability of the location and the need for additional housing.

Natural Environment

5.21

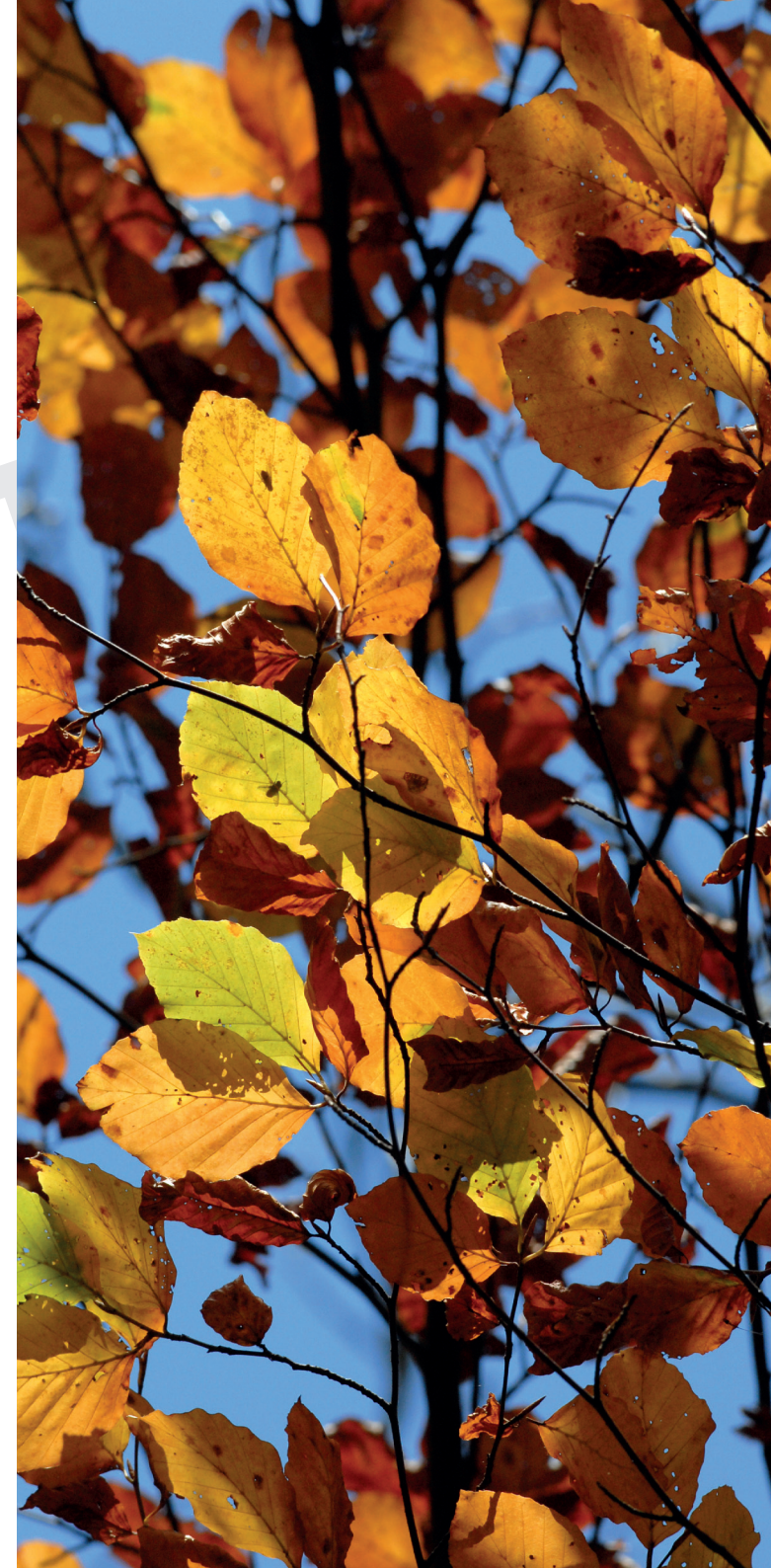
It is recognised that the Masterplan Area comprises a unique and diverse landscape with a rich natural heritage. There is also a network of important open spaces within the urban areas. The natural setting of Ystrad Mynach and the other communities, and the proximity to both Parc Penallta and Nelson Wern Woodland Park, is a positive asset that can provide tourism opportunities and is highly valued by its residents. The Local Authority has a duty under the Environment (Wales) Act to maintain and enhance biodiversity and promote the resilience of ecosystems and this will be a key consideration in the preparation of detailed proposals. There are policies within the LDP that seek to protect the important features of the natural environment and maintain key open spaces, as well as protecting the water

environment. These policies do not preclude development, but ensure that appropriate development is allowed where there will not be an unacceptable impact.

Renewable Energy

5.22

The opportunities to incorporate renewable technologies within development proposals will be encouraged where appropriate. The development of electric charging points for vehicles within the Masterplan Area will be explored.





Section 6: The Masterplan Framework

This section sets out the site specific projects and proposals that will collectively deliver the Vision and Objectives. Many of the projects are inter-related, and therefore implementation of some projects may be reliant on other proposals progressing sequentially or concurrently.

A - PROVIDE THE CONDITIONS TO STRENGTHEN BUSINESS GROWTH AND CAPITALISE ON EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

6.1

There are excellent opportunities to transform Ystrad Mynach into a key sub-regional economic hub that is capable of supporting local communities within the Masterplan Area. The potential exists to capitalise on the presence of major services and facilities as well as exploiting Ystrad Mynach's position as the county borough's administrative centre.

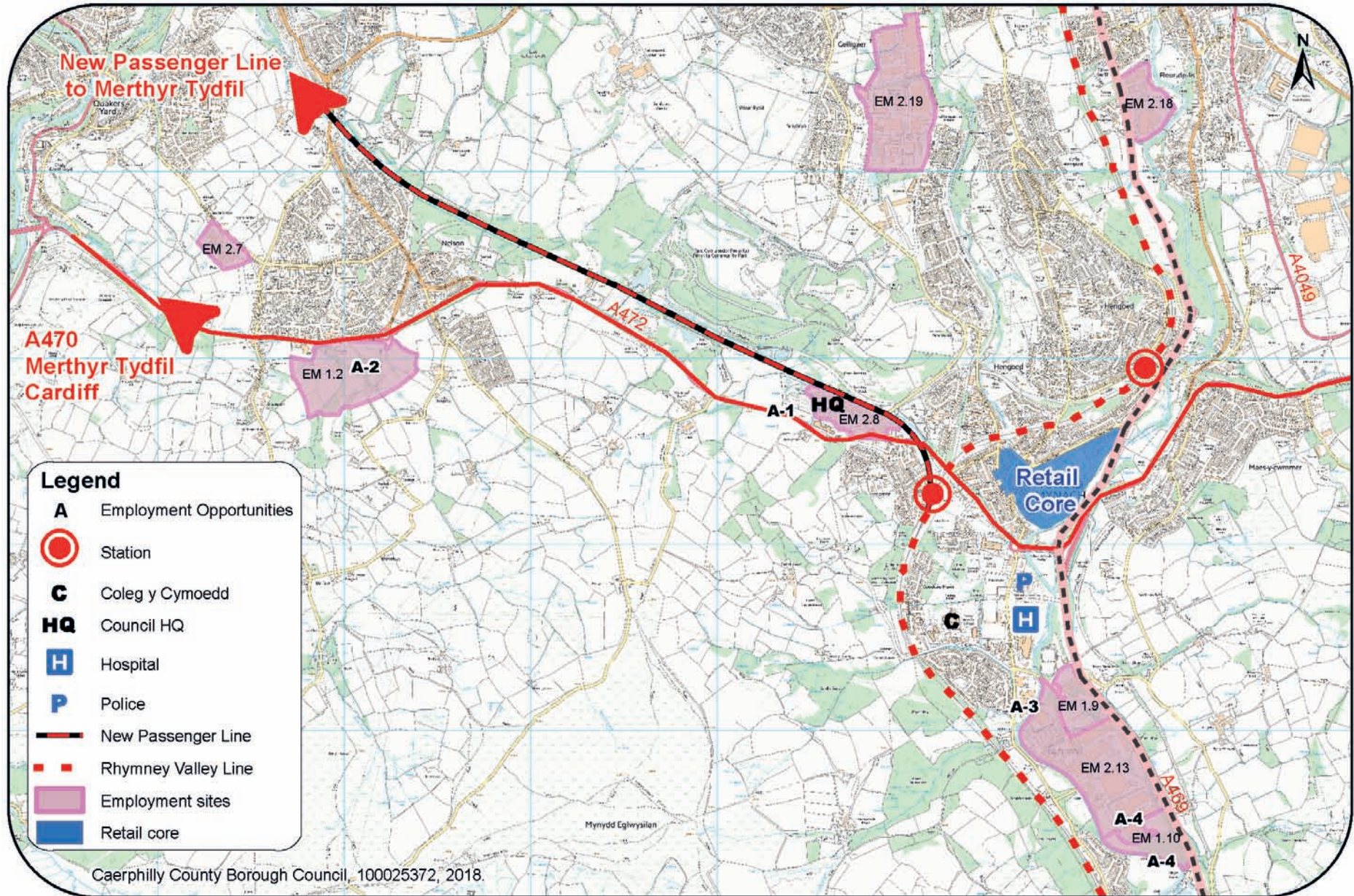
6.2

There is huge potential to expand and enhance the role of Ystrad Mynach as a key business district, maximising existing and future employment opportunities.

6.3

Figure 2 identifies the employment opportunities in the Masterplan area. In addition to the jobs created on these sites, the development of new housing, retail, offices and other infrastructure across the Masterplan area will create jobs in the construction industry and support the local supply chain. Many of these jobs will be within the foundational economy, which will support the objectives set out within the Regeneration Strategy.

Figure 2: Employment Opportunities



A-1 Tredomen Business Park

6.4

Tredomen Business Park is located on the eastern edge of Ystrad Mynach. It is a prestige office/business park complex comprising a modern, multi-storey office complex for the Council, and three high quality business centres for private sector use. Tredomen Business and Technology Centre, Tredomen Gateway and Tredomen Innovation and Technology Centre offer some 4,300m² of serviced business space, a scale and quality of accommodation, which has no equivalent elsewhere in Caerphilly. In particular it offers small business offices that are not readily available elsewhere in the Mid Valleys Corridor.

6.5

The site's location just off the strategic highway network along the A472 links it directly to the A470, thereby giving it a strategic advantage. It is also in close proximity to the existing public transport

network, specifically the Ystrad Mynach Station and Park and Ride facility. In the longer term, it is located directly adjacent to the Cwmbargoed rail line between Ystrad Mynach and Dowlais Top which could be reinstated to a passenger line as part of the Metro and which has been highlighted as an area that would benefit from a dedicated Metro halt.

6.6

There is an opportunity to expand on the success of the business park by developing privately owned agricultural land to the north west for employment use. A future phase on land on the edge of the settlement boundary to provide an area measuring 4.3 Ha in total, should be considered through review of the LDP, see Figure 3.

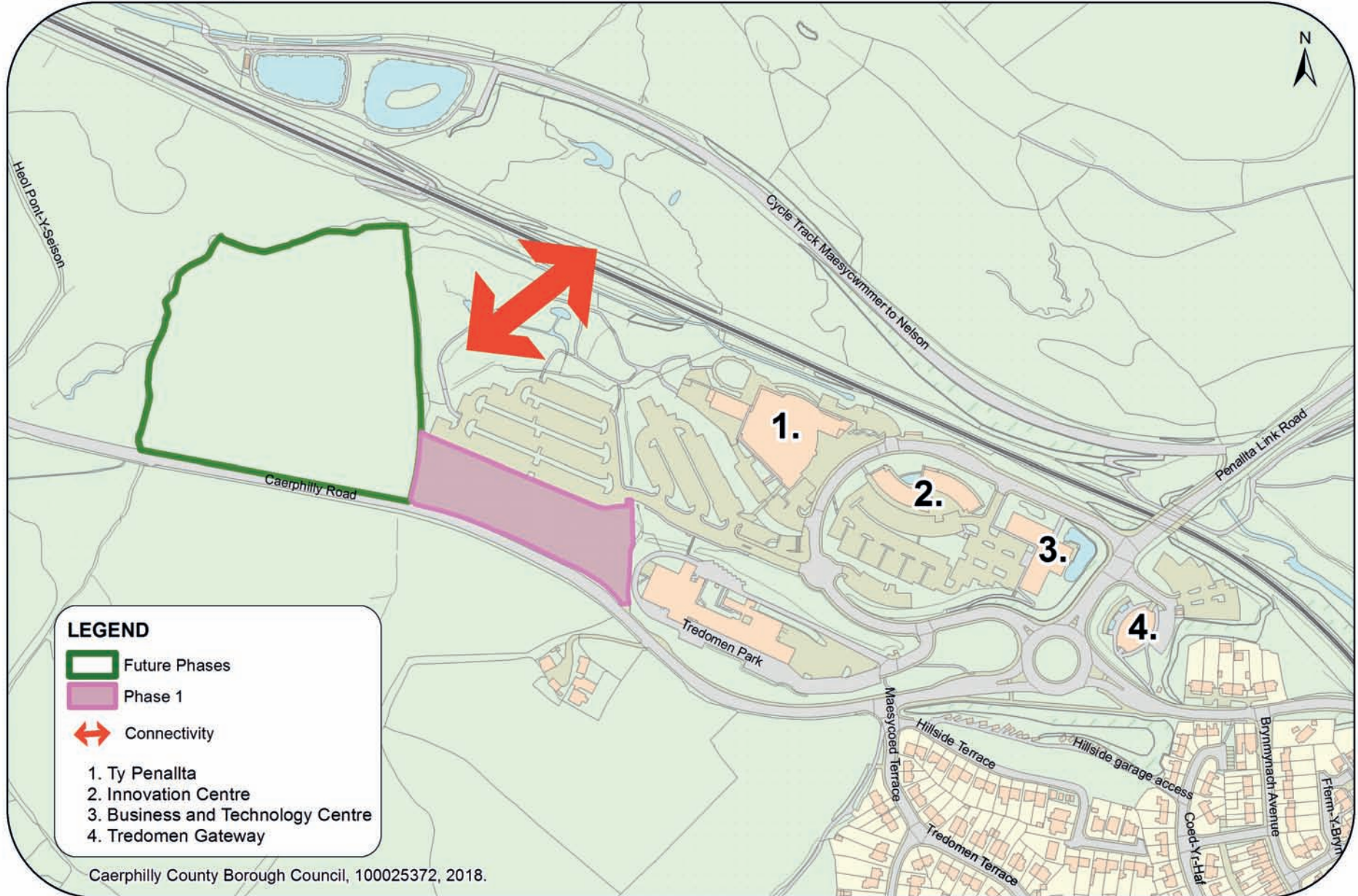
Development Principles

- Construction of affordable, sustainable, low carbon office development.
- Develop serviced and managed office space in units of between 100-200 sq ft for

new start ups and 300-500 sq ft for growth businesses, with the latest broadband connections.

- Support and develop new enterprises by expanding the ICE model throughout the county borough, promoting and encouraging start up businesses and growing local business.
- Explore provision of support services such as crèche facilities and food and beverage outlets.
- Attract commuters to new modes of transport via the provision of a new Metro Halt.
- Create pedestrian links between Tredomen Business Park and Parc Penallta.

Figure 3: Expansion of Tredomen Business Park





A-2 Ty Du, Nelson

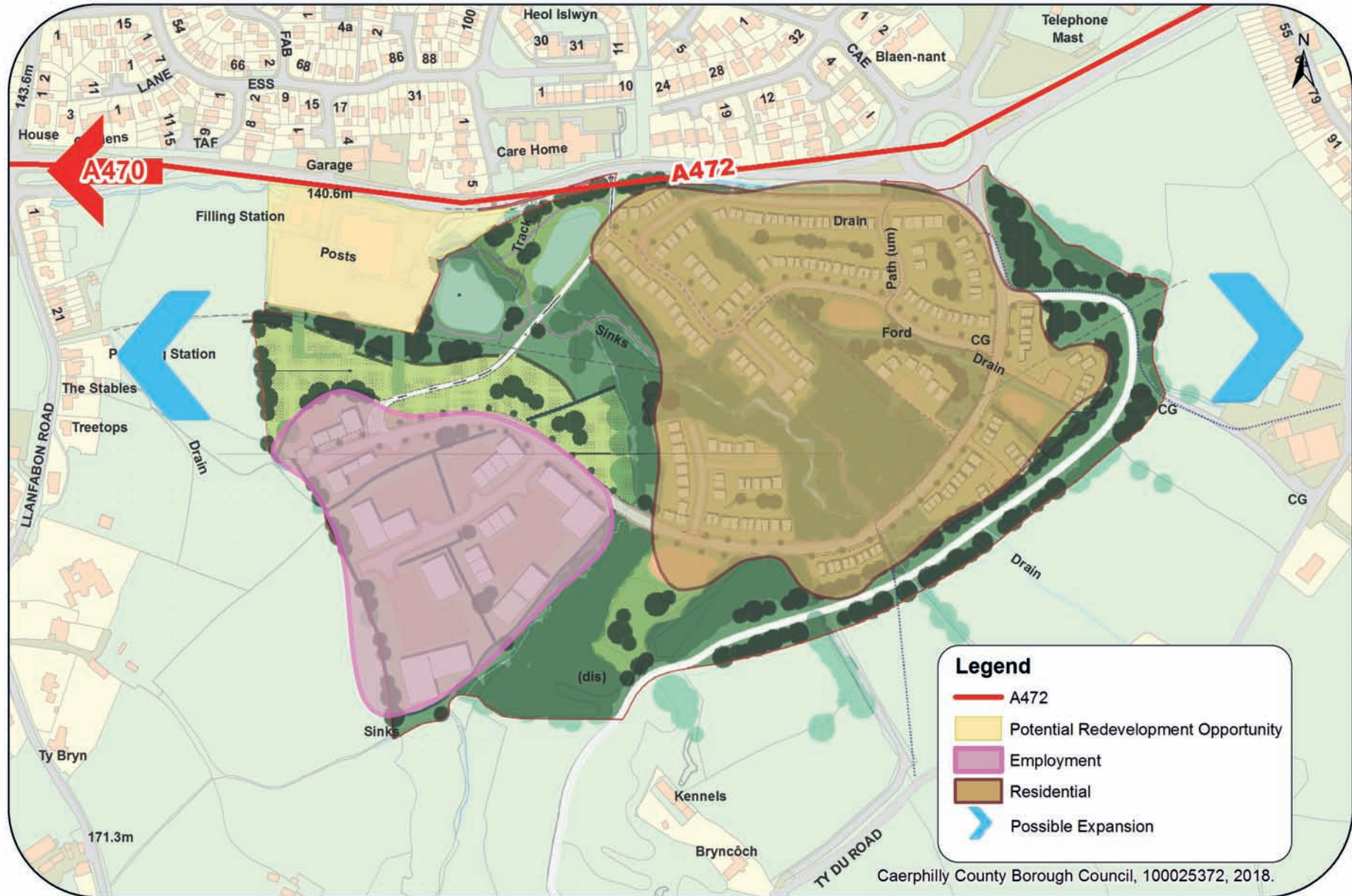
6.7

Nelson is a key settlement within the Masterplan area strategically located on the A472 corridor, close to the A470. The Ty Du site represents a significant regional development opportunity with considerable potential economic and social benefits.

Development Principles

- Provision of a mixed use, sustainable development.
 - Development of 3.8 Ha of employment land.
 - Construction of 200 new homes (including affordable housing) within a landscaped environment.
 - Opportunity to provide improvements to the road layout.
 - Opportunity to provide for Green Infrastructure within the site.
 - Explore potential for redevelopment of Co-Op Store and the filling station as part of the scheme.
- Longer term there is potential to further expand the site to include additional land to the east and/or west for development to include hotel and leisure provision, subject to a future review of the LDP.
 - Given the excellent location, close to the A470, a budget hotel chain should be encouraged to the area to capitalise on the many attractions and employment sites.

Figure 4: Ty Du



A-4 Dyffryn Business Park

6.9

The 40 Ha Dyffryn Business Park is allocated/protected for employment use. It is situated at a prime location adjacent to the A469 and is within close proximity of Ystrad Mynach Station. The Park comprises a number of units of various age, size and condition operating predominantly B Class uses. Opportunities exist to refocus attention on the current infrastructure on the estate to create an attractive environment for further investment.

6.10

There are two areas of undeveloped land within the estate

6.11

Figure 6 identifies both areas within Dyffryn Business Park.

Development Principles

- Develop land to accommodate either expansion by an existing employer or cater for a new large employer.

- Provide infrastructure and environmental enhancements.
- Establish linkages between Business Park and Ystrad Mynach Station.



Figure 6: Duffryn Business Park



Caerphilly County Borough Council, 100025372, 2018.

B - CREATE THE CONDITIONS FOR THE AREA TO BECOME A THRIVING METRO HUB

6.12

There is an excellent opportunity to transform Ystrad Mynach Station to create an exceptional area that welcomes visitors, business people and residents alike, providing a high quality experience that conveys the character of this strategic hub. It is important that stations within the area are attractive, accessible and offer a real alternative to private transport for residents.

6.13

Ystrad Mynach has become a strategic location for investment and growth. There are proposals to build on the area as a Business District and to maximise employment opportunities. As a result of this there is likely to be a significant increase in the demand for travel to, and within, Ystrad Mynach and the wider area. Therefore the availability of active travel and an accessible public transport network is critical to service this important centre.

6.14

Policy TR5.3 of the adopted LDP acknowledges that the A472 between Ystrad Mynach and Nelson will see significant levels of economic and residential development. The route is constrained by alignment and constriction problems and therefore improvement options for maintaining the efficiency of the route should be considered. New facilities that reduce the level of traffic along the A472 corridor would have significant benefits, primarily by reducing journey times and reducing congestion.

6.15

The opportunity exists to deliver public transport improvements that are in accordance with, and supplement the delivery of the Metro. Active travel improvements can further enhance and widen the scope of the Metro by providing local links to the strategic transport network, all of which can assist in delivering the Metro objectives.

6.16

The Caerphilly Basin Masterplan includes

a proposal for a large park and ride facility at Llanbradach, which has the potential to capture a significant amount of commuter traffic. Whilst outside of the Masterplan Area, such a facility offers an alternative to the park and ride facilities at Ystrad Mynach or Hengoed.

B-1 Ystrad Mynach Station

6.17

Ystrad Mynach Station is located in the centre of Ystrad Mynach within close proximity of many services. There are two platforms, one to the west of the railway line for passengers travelling north and one to the east of the railway line for passengers travelling south. A recent station improvement programme has greatly improved the station waiting and ticket office facilities and provided lift access between the platforms. However, the opportunity exists to transform the current Ystrad Mynach Station into an accessible, inviting and welcoming space.

6.18

Physical and visual connectivity to and from

the station requires significant improvement. The main entrance to the station, off Nelson Road, is poor for pedestrians. The footpaths are not full width, and are particularly narrow in parts, and they do not run the whole length of the route leading to vehicular/pedestrian conflict.

6.19

At the junction with Nelson Road, there is a vacant building in a prominent location. Regeneration of this area would provide a more inviting gateway to Ystrad Mynach station and provide a better first impression for the many visitors arriving there, as well as improving the visual amenity of the area. The passenger rail bridge on Nelson Road would benefit from some up-lighting to improve its visual impact.

6.20

Whilst there is some signage on Nelson Road at the junction with the station, there is no signage on the platforms to direct visitors from the station to the many major services and facilities within the town.

6.21

Similarly, there is no signage on Caerphilly Road to direct visitors from the hospital, police station or Centre of Sporting Excellence to the train station. In fact, connectivity between the station and residential properties and services located to the east is very poor and greatly underused. There are informal paths that lead into Ystrad Mynach Park and around to the Centre for Sporting Excellence and Coleg Y Cymoedd. There is need for signage and for these to become a more formalised routes.

6.22

There is a significant opportunity to redefine the urban fabric, aligned to the Metro place-making programme, to create a high quality area that provides positive experiences and improves the image of Ystrad Mynach as a place to visit and work.

Development Principles

- Redevelopment of the entrance to the station, off Nelson Road, designed in accordance with the Metro Place Making Programme Principles.

- To improve legibility between the station and Caerphilly Road, opportunities to improve and enhance existing pathways should be considered together with new intuitive signage.
- It is essential that direct active travel linkages between the metro hub and the town centre, services on Caerphilly Road and Tredomen Business Park should be incorporated or enhanced as part of any station redevelopment.

B-2 Ystrad Mynach Extended Park and Ride facility

6.23

There is a major opportunity to provide an additional large park & ride facility on land to the east of the existing station. This has the potential to capture a significant proportion of commuter traffic, and could reduce the level of traffic travelling south to Cardiff. Land east of the station can accommodate an additional park and ride facility that could provide capacity for an additional 120 vehicles.

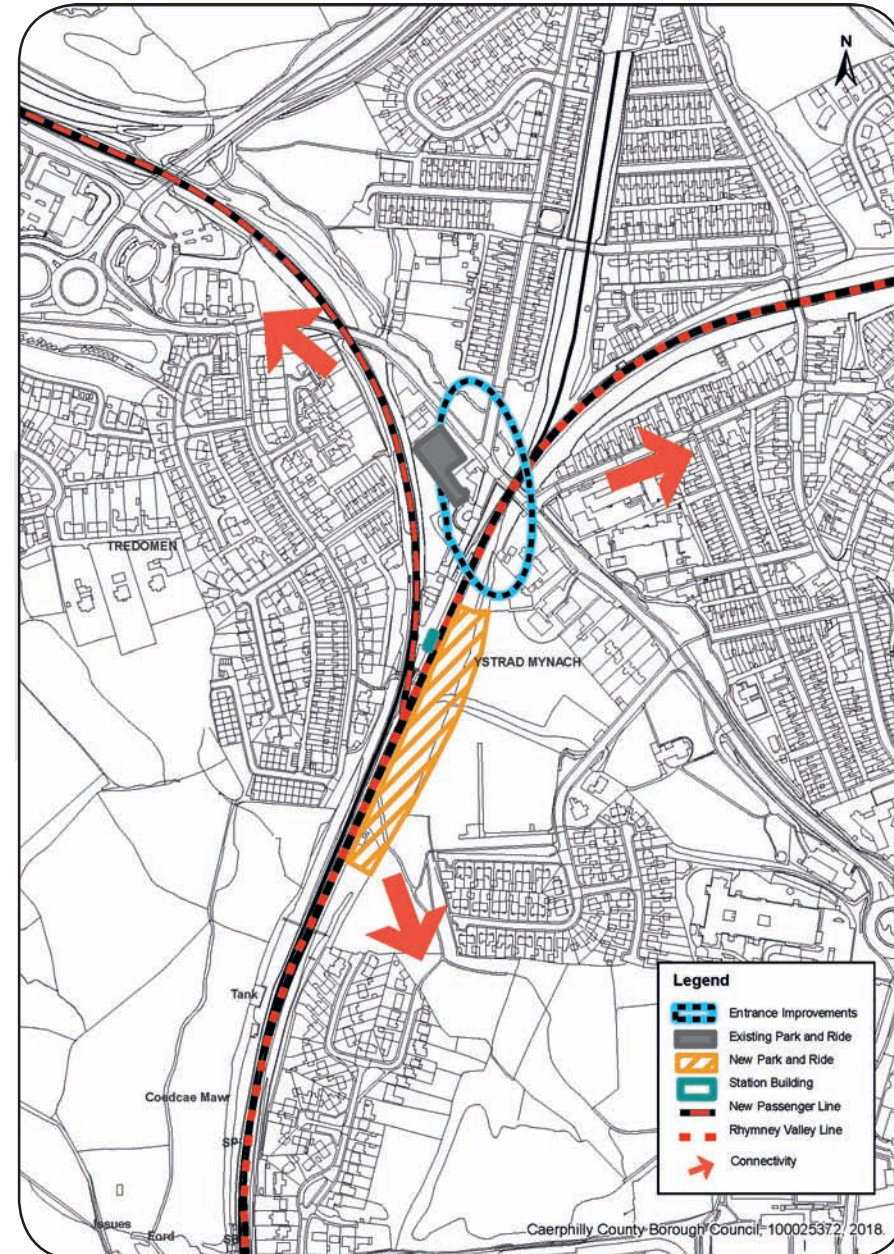
Development Principles

- Provision of 120 car parking spaces.
- Additional parking to serve north-south and west-east public transport routes benefitting fully from Metro proposals for improvements to the Rhymney/Cardiff line and also any associated cross valley transport proposals, along the A472 highway network.
- Repositioning of the school playing fields may be required to provide access to the proposed park and ride facility. This affords the opportunity to deliver enhanced playing field provision.
- The new park and ride facility should be carefully designed in accordance with the Metro Place Making Programme principles.
- The park and ride provision and associated access should be designed with integral, high-quality landscaping to soften the street scene and make provision for pedestrians and cyclists.

6.24

Figure 7 identifies potential opportunities at Ystrad Mynach Station

Figure 7: Ystrad Mynach Station



B-3 Hengoed Extended Park & Ride Facility

6.25

There is insufficient Park and Ride provision at Hengoed Station. Opportunities should be explored to provide additional car parking spaces to capture a larger proportion of commuter traffic, and reduce the level of traffic travelling south to Cardiff.

B-4 Reinstatement of the Cwmbargoed Line for Passenger Services

6.26

A major opportunity exists to reopen the Cwmbargoed Line for passenger transport. This will provide a direct, dedicated transport link through Ystrad Mynach and Nelson, providing enhanced access from the west to Ystrad Mynach. The line, if reopened, could serve the major residential area of Nelson as well as the business area at Tredomen. Whilst outside the Masterplan area, the opportunity also exists to extend the line to Dowlais Top in Merthyr, providing a direct link from Ystrad Mynach to Merthyr.

Development Principles

- Reinstatement of the Cwmbargoed Line for passenger transport to improve connectivity and increase accessibility between Nelson, Ystrad Mynach and the wider county borough as well as the South East region. This will facilitate further development opportunities and drive economic growth within the area.
- New halts should be considered at Nelson and Tredomen.
- The Tredomen Halt would be located adjacent to Tredomen Business Park, providing direct access to significant employment opportunities.
- Added impetus is now in place to introduce a rail halt at Nelson. The proposed development at Ty Du and the potential for passenger rail service between Ystrad Mynach and Dowlais Top both help identify and promote Nelson as a perfect location for a new halt. A new station would be located to the east

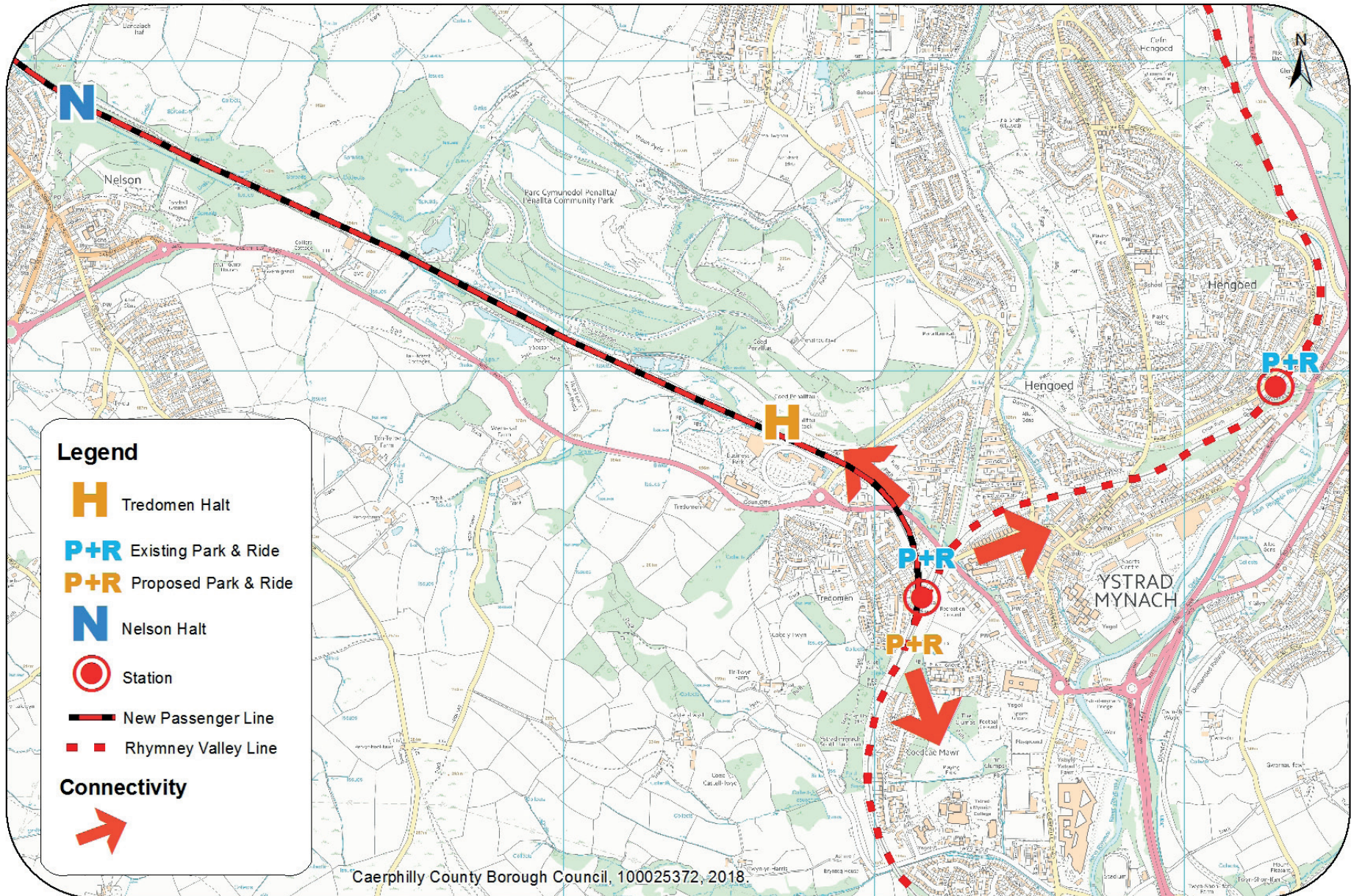
of Nelson Local Centre, adjacent to the existing freight line.

- Consideration should be given to providing a meaningful level of park and ride car parking spaces at Nelson. The opportunity also exists for wider redevelopment of land at the new Nelson station to accommodate an element of retail and residential units.
- All stations and halts will need to be designed in accordance with the Metro Place Making Programme.
- In the interests of the visual amenity of the area, the existing bridge at Nelson Road should be enhanced with uplighting and new paintwork.

6.27

Figure 8 identifies potential rail improvements.

Figure 8: Rail Opportunities



B-5 Regional Bus Network

6.28

As part of the Metro improvements, the potential for Regional Bus Rapid Transport would improve connectivity between all urban areas, particularly east to west along the A472 corridor, and increase access to employment opportunities in the local and wider region.

B-6 Cycle Parking Facilities

6.29

The strategy seeks to ensure that the town and local centres, employment and business centres and transport hubs are accessible by sustainable forms of transport. Whilst the Metro caters for strategic travel, a significant amount of journeys will require additional travel to reach their final destination. The strategy seeks that movement from Metro hubs and within the Masterplan area is undertaken through active travel measures and this is most likely to be done through cycle travel. Given this, there is a need to

deliver safe, secure and convenient cycle parking facilities at all transport hubs, within the town centre and employment and business centres in order to facilitate this movement. This should be coordinated on a regional basis so that the offer is coordinated.

Development Principles

- New developments should ensure that they provide appropriate cycle parking facilities that can meet both current and future demand.
- Provision should be made at all transport hubs, particularly at Ystrad Mynach where provision will serve multiple uses.
- Provision should be easily accessible, easy to locate and conveniently located to the destination to encourage use.
- It should also be safe, secure and be visible to ensure surveillance.
- Provision should be connected to existing active travel routes wherever possible.
- For short duration parking (town centres etc.) sufficient parking should be provided

to ensure that space is consistently available.

- For long duration parking (employment centres, commuting etc.) provision should be covered to provide protection from the elements.
- Provision should be regularly monitored, maintained and managed to ensure its attractiveness is retained.
- The design and location of the provision should ensure compatibility with other users and uses.
- Consideration should also be given to providing facilities for safely storing ancillary accessories, such as helmets and lights.

B-7 Cycle Hire Scheme

6.30

Whilst the Metro will address longer distance travel, there is a need to ensure that, once off the principal Metro routes, people can continue journeys within the Masterplan Area by sustainable means. A key issue for

this travel is that it is currently difficult to carry bikes on trains at peak hours and there is limited, if any, potential for bus services to carry bikes.

6.31

Cycling, however, has a hugely important role to play in tackling issues such as congestion and pollution and therefore ways of exploiting this mode of transport need to be considered. Whilst the improved Metro rail service will accommodate some cycle storage, this will need to be supplemented to provide an efficient and effective transport system.

One option for this is the provision of a bike-sharing/hire scheme. This would require an integrated system of hire points at key destinations, such as major employment areas as well as at the transport hubs (Caerphilly County Borough Council's version of the Boris Bikes scheme in London²).

Development Principles

- Consideration should be given to the setting up of a bike-sharing/hire

scheme throughout the Masterplan area, with facilities provided at significant destinations, transport hubs and the town centre. This should also include electric bikes.

- Consideration be given to linking the bike hire facilities to existing cycle related uses, e.g. cycle hire at cycle parking facilities.
- The scheme should ensure that there are appropriate facilities located at destinations, including employment sites, to encourage use and reduce cost.

Other Active Travel Measures

6.32

The adopted LDP identifies a number of improvements to radial routes within the Masterplan area that will improve community access and provide walking and cycling links to public transport, tourism, locations, employment areas and other key attractors.

6.33

Many of the LDP proposals are also identified

as part of the Caerphilly Active Travel Integrated Network Map, which includes 21 schemes designed to increase connectivity and accessibility throughout Ystrad Mynach and the wider area. These measures seek to address active travel issues in the short term. However, an ongoing programme of improvements will be required to address future issues as they arise from the redevelopment and growth of the strategic hub.

6.34

It is recognised that the increased use of electric bikes offers a realistic alternative mode of travel over longer distances for a wider section of the population. The extension of, and linkages to, the National Cycle Network and routes suitable for electric bikes will be encouraged.

6.35

There is a need to encourage users of the Taff Trail to travel to Ystrad Mynach and the wider

² <https://tfl.gov.uk/modes/cycling/santander-cycles>



area via National Cycle Network Route 47 which meets the Taff Trail at Quakers Yard.

New Links

6.36

This strategy identifies a number of significant development opportunities that will require links to ensure that the need to travel generated from growth can be accommodated sustainably.

Development Principles

- Areas of significant new growth should include active travel proposals that would ensure that sites are linked, as directly and efficiently as possible, to both Ystrad Mynach Town centre and Nelson Local Centre, Ystrad Mynach station and all local Metro hubs.
- Active travel measures should complement and enhance existing routes.

C - MODERNISE AND DEVELOP YSTRAD MYNACH INTO A THRIVING BUSINESS AND COMMERCIAL CENTRE

6.37

The Principal Town of Ystrad Mynach has become a strategic location for investment and growth. It has increased in importance in recent years as a key business district and the location for vital public services. The area needs to ensure that it continues to attract investment so that it can become a key sub-regional economic hub that is capable of supporting local communities.

6.38

Ystrad Mynach needs to further promote its identity and exploit its position as the County Borough's administrative centre and exploit the location of major services and facilities. In order to create a more identifiable centre there is a need to build and enhance the Town Centre offer, improve the night time economy and increase the visitor accommodation offer.

C-1 Ystrad Mynach Town Centre

6.39

There is limited scope for physical expansion of the Town Centre, however, in order to create a more identifiable centre there is a need to build and enhance the Town Centre offer.

The town centre already boasts a number of unique independent retailers and it is this type of use that should be encouraged to create a niche shopping and service centre which would attract nearby residents, visitors and the many employees based in and around the area, to spend money in the town centre.

6.40

However, and to address the challenge of online shopping, there is a need to consider other, diverse uses within the town centre. Offices and services enhance and contribute to the vibrancy of a town centre. Town Centre policies and boundaries will be considered through review of the LDP.

6.41

It is important to consider how the night time

economy can support the growth of Ystrad Mynach. Whilst there are a few pubs that serve food in and around the Town Centre there is a limited range of restaurants and family friendly eateries which are fundamental to enhancing Ystrad Mynach's role as a business and visitor destination. Exploiting the popular café culture, encouraging tables and chairs outside will develop a more continental atmosphere prolonging dwell time.

6.42

It is recognised that there is the potential for conflict between town centre residents and expanded town centre provision for food and drink establishments linked to anti-social behaviour, noise or odour. The Council's Planning, Environmental Health and Licensing functions will ensure that the appropriate protection is given to the amenity of residents when considering the appropriateness of proposals for specific sites or properties.

6.43

There is often traffic congestion, particularly

around the bus stop located on Bedwlwyn Road. Repositioning of the bus stop and strict enforcement of short term on-street parking would alleviate congestion whilst an amended traffic flow, i.e. a one way system that directs traffic through the town centre, may increase spend within town centre businesses.

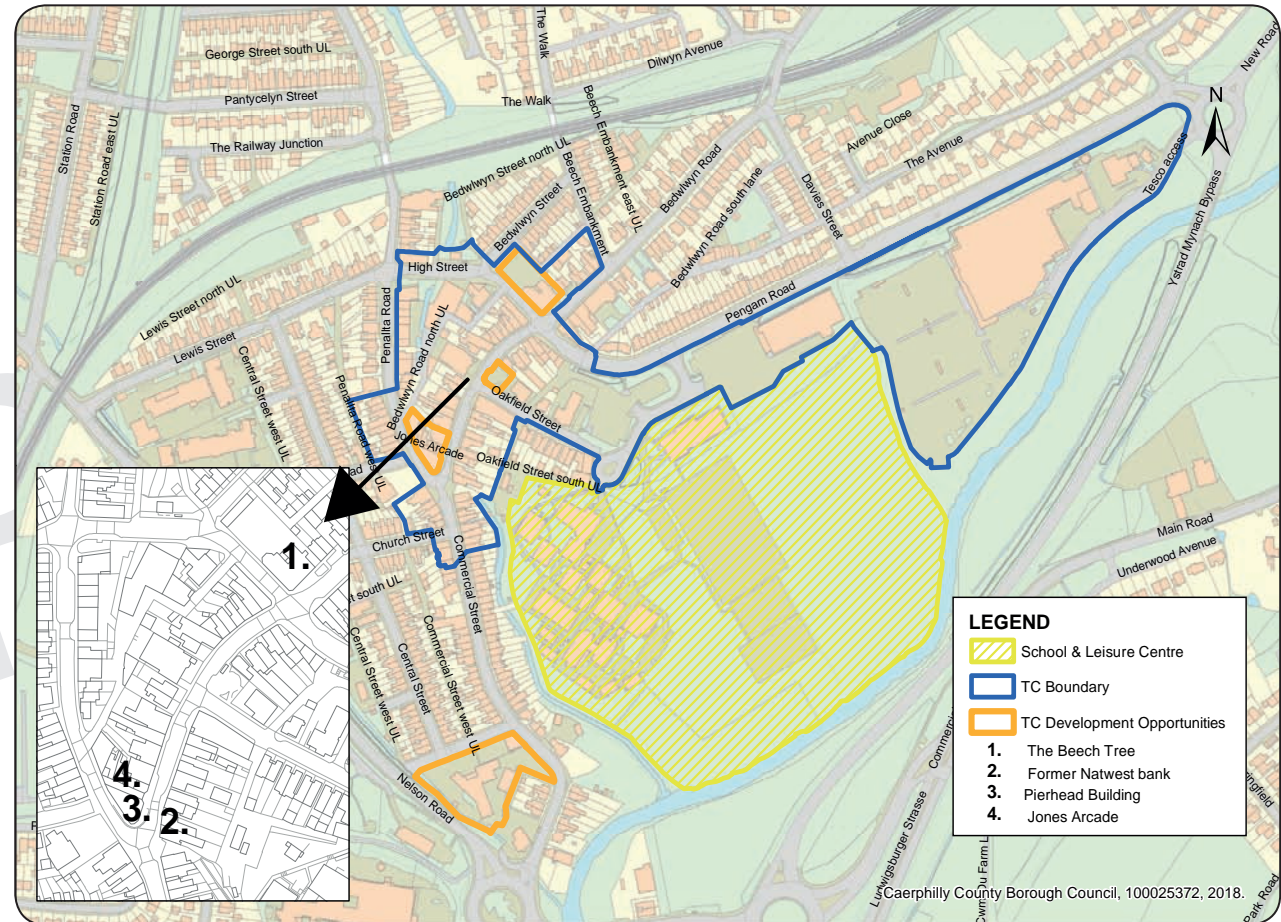
6.44

Figure 9 identifies the Town Centre Boundary

Page 50 Development Principles

- The Pierhead Building occupies a prominent location, the key building is broadly triangular in shape. The rear elevation backs on to Jones Arcade and there are glazed elevations fronting both Bedwlwyn Road and Penallta Road. The building is at a higher level than the road and is surrounded by an attractive terrace area. Whilst the building in its current state is not fulfilling its potential, the building would lend itself to a café/restaurant use with some outside seating.

Figure 9: Ystrad Mynach Town Centre



- Jones Arcade is a traditional arcade with opportunity for shops to display their goods. These units are suitable for sale of foods, including fruit and veg and would be an ideal location for the sale of local or farm produce.
- There is a need to exploit the Beech Tree Hotel, a substantial building situated in a prominent location, by the expansion of facilities to provide quality meals, entertainment, outdoor seating and town centre accommodation.
- The former Natwest Bank building is another key building which is currently unoccupied. Liaison with Welsh Government and Natwest Bank is essential to accelerate the sale process and encourage a new business into the town centre.
- Opportunities should be exploited to expand the night time economy within and around the existing town centre. Licensed cafe/bars with an extended evening offer would attract visitors and residents to spend time and money in the town centre.
- Encourage 'Pop Up Units' to encourage new businesses and concepts within the town centre to improve the vibrancy and vitality of the area and generate footfall.
- Promote the 'Pop Up Galleries' initiative where temporary displays of photos and artwork are displayed in vacant units to improve visual amenity and make the vacant units more appealing to potential tenants.
- Better utilise Siloh Square for events and activities.
- Ystrad Mynach Principal Town Centre policies and boundary should be re-considered as part of the Review of the LDP
- Consider repositioning of bus stops and an amended traffic flow system around the town centre.

C-2 Enhanced Parking Facilities

6.45

Whilst it is envisaged that the enhancements to public transport as part of the Metro will increase the number of people travelling to Ystrad Mynach by public transport, there is still a need for car parking to serve the town centre. The availability of quality parking in the right locations plays a key role in the perception and attractiveness of the town centre and in turn is a fundamental element in increasing footfall.

6.46

It will be necessary for a car parking plan to be prepared to address the following key elements:

- The likely increase in footfall in the town centre and the number and location of car parking spaces that will be required to cater for it;
- Innovative parking solutions should be considered to maximise the use of land;

- Charges are a disincentive to using car parks so the need for charging, the level of charge and the processes for payment will need to be carefully considered against the regeneration objectives;
- Balance the need for residents only parking with the need for short term parking to serve local businesses;
- The strict enforcement of residents only parking areas to deter illegal parking. It is likely that Civil Parking Enforcement will be introduced in 2019;
- Opportunities for electric vehicle charging points within existing or proposed parking areas should be identified.

C-3 Land North of The Royal Oak

6.47

A key redevelopment opportunity lies within the triangular site south of Central Street, north of The Royal Oak public house. There is currently a mix of commercial uses operating from the site. However, the whole

area is disjointed and unsightly, whilst being highly visible from the strategic A472 which runs immediately adjacent to the western boundary of the site. The area needs comprehensive redevelopment to improve its appearance and functionality.

Development Principles

- Longer term, the comprehensive redevelopment of this site would improve the visual richness and maximise the potential of this key site in such a prominent location.

C-4 Land north of Dyffryn Business Park

6.48

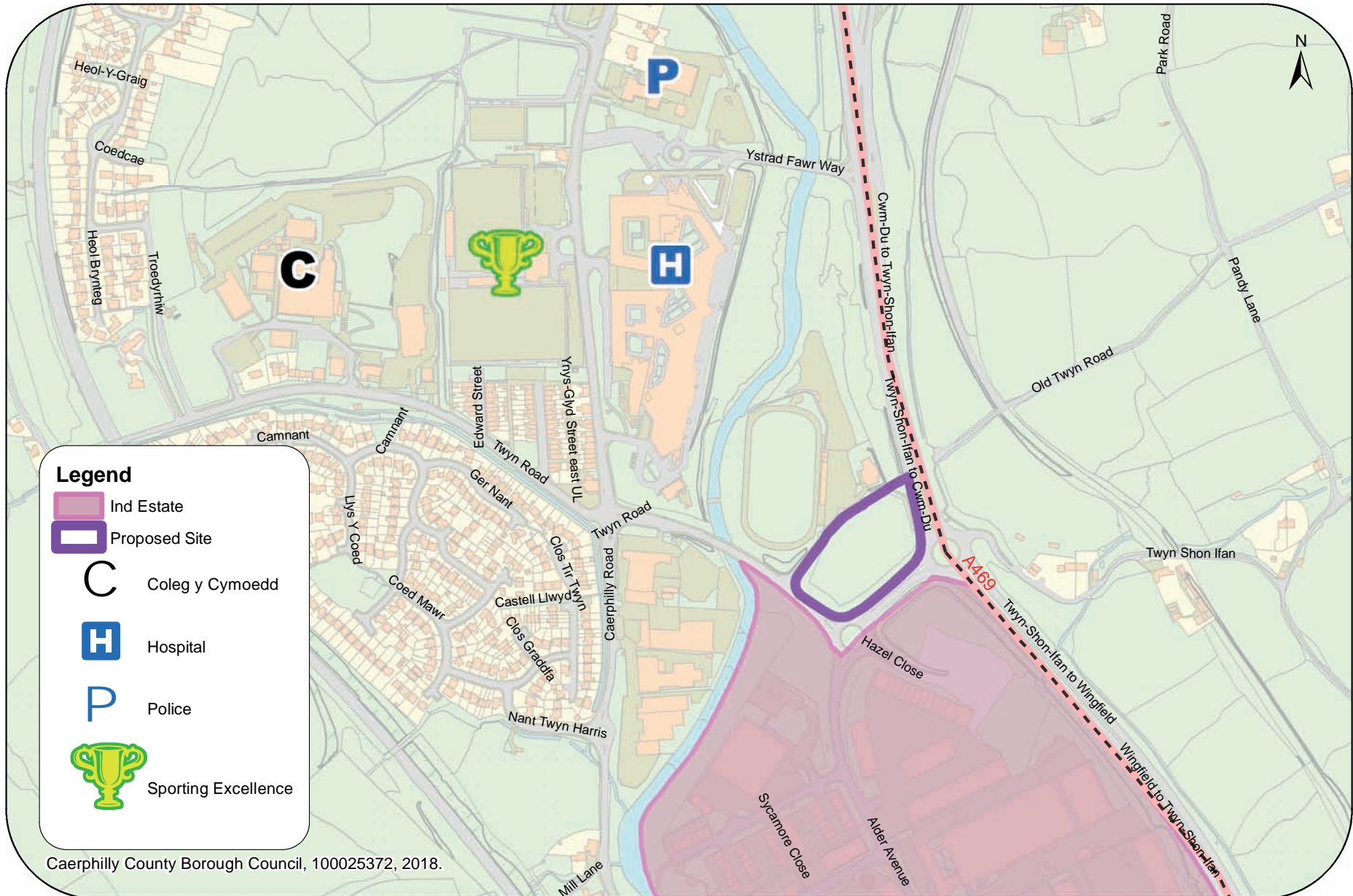
The site is in an excellent location, adjacent to a key vehicular gateway to Ystrad Mynach and well positioned to serve the Business Parks and many services within Ystrad Mynach. Development of this area of land for a hotel and public house offers a real opportunity to increase the tourism offer within Ystrad Mynach which will in turn increase visitor

spend and provide job opportunities in the service sector. Whilst this is contrary to the Adopted LDP, such uses should be considered as part of the review of the LDP.

Development Principles

- Subject to the review of the LDP, the site would lend itself to a budget hotel which could cater for business trips as well as increase the length of stay of visitors who have visited an attraction within the area.
- The site could also accommodate a much needed family pub and restaurant which would attract visitors and also extend the length of stay of visitors to the area.
- The site is ideally based for a complementary restaurant or coffee shop with a drive through facility.

Figure 10: Land north of Duffryn Business Park



Legend

- Ind Estate
- Proposed Site
- Coleg y Cymoedd
- Hospital
- Police
- Sporting Excellence

Caerphilly County Borough Council, 100025372, 2018.

D - CREATE AN EXEMPLARY SPORT, LEISURE AND EDUCATION CLUSTER

6.49

The Centre for Sporting Excellence is the county borough's flagship sporting facility. Opportunity exists to expand the existing site and create world class facilities to allow the centre to hold bigger events and international matches increasing its positive impact on Ystrad Mynach and creating spin off impacts for the foundational economy.

6.50

The surrounding land which includes a multiplicity of uses, offers opportunity to expand the existing Centre for Sporting Excellence facilities to create a Sport Village.

D-1 Centre for Sporting Excellence and surrounding land

6.51

The site should be the subject of a masterplan that will consider the best uses for all of the land.

Development Principles

- Creation of a multi-disciplinary Sports Village.
- Increase seating capacity within existing Centre for Sporting Excellence from 1,152 to 5,000 to create an inspirational facility that will attract and facilitate large scale local, regional and international age-grade and female rugby. An increased capacity at the facility will support the growth of Welsh Rugby outside of the capital city by providing the ability to host wider scale international and other representative fixtures. The ability to offer cultural events and/or concerts at the site would also be facilitated by the increased capacity.
- Provision of an indoor full size Barn with a state of the art indoor 3G IRB22 playing surface. This will support local, regional and national sport and will support and develop sporting opportunities through partnership working with Coleg Y Cymoedd, Coleg Gwent, the Welsh Rugby Union, the Football Association of Wales, community clubs/organisations and the Newport Gwent Dragons.
- Creation of a modern indoor tennis dome to offer international standard tennis facilities.
- Provision of food and beverage outlets to improve the visitor offer.
- Incorporation and enhancement of Ystrad Mynach Park to include a splash pad or water feature, outdoor gym equipment, toilet facilities and snack bar.
- Encourage partnership working with Coleg Y Cymoedd to share resources.
- Develop new courses Coleg Y Cymoedd to train key artisan skills, e.g. dry stone walling, landscaping, tree planting.
- Exploit development opportunities at Coleg Y Cymoedd.
- Allow for the expansion of Trinity Fields School and Resource Centre.

- Improve the physical connectivity between the Cluster and Ystrad Mynach Town Centre and Ystrad Mynach Station.
- Improve signage to signpost visitors between the facilities and Ystrad Mynach Town Centre and Ystrad Mynach Station.
- Improve dialogue between the Centre for Sporting Excellence and local residents and local businesses, particularly within Ystrad Mynach Town Centre, to better promote events.
- Enhance links with local hospitality and accommodation providers.
- Potential base for cycle hire.

Figure 11: Existing Facilities

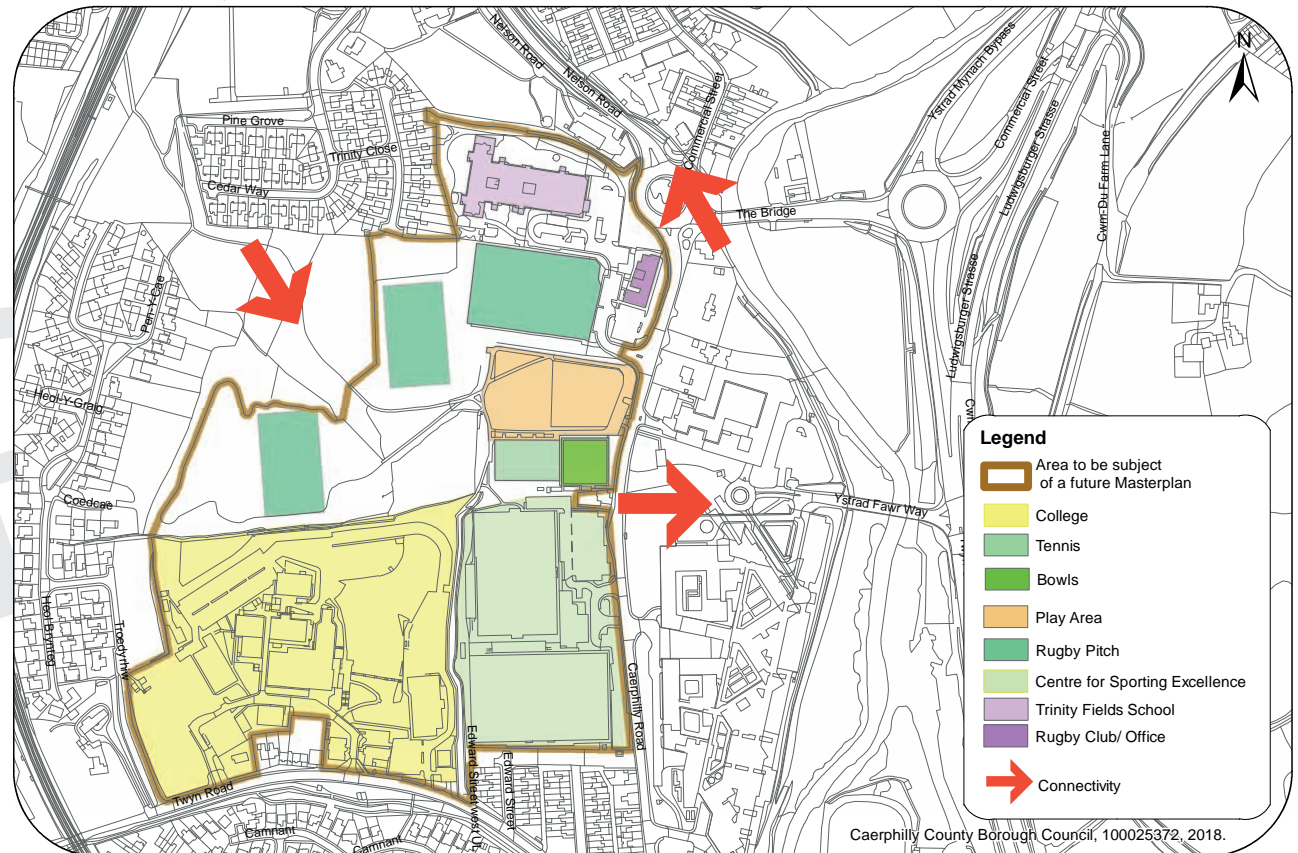
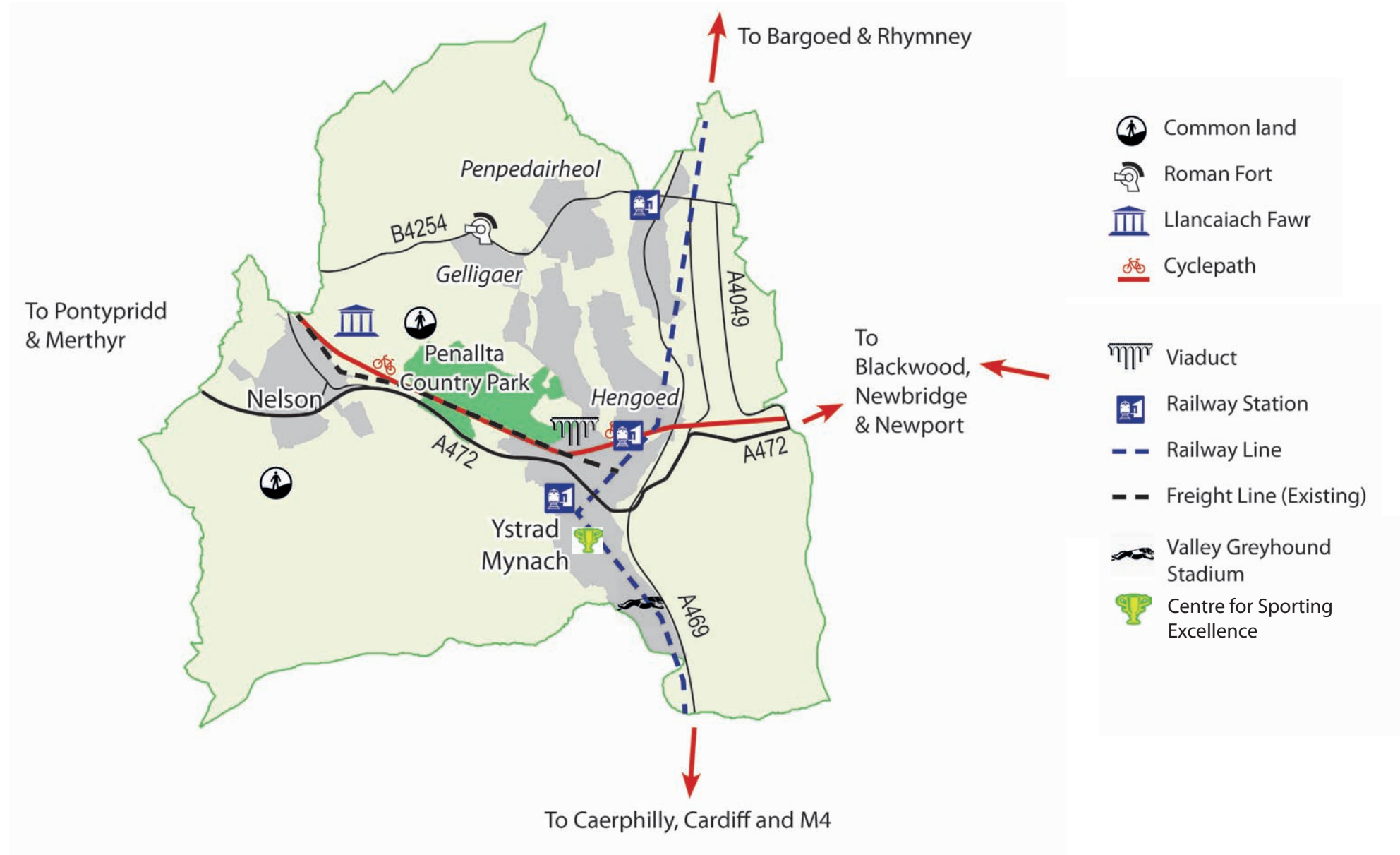


Figure 12: Tourism Attractions



E - CREATE A VIBRANT AND ACCESSIBLE VISITOR DESTINATION

6.52

There is an excellent opportunity to transform the Masterplan area to create an exceptional tourist destination along with a diverse range of accommodation, thriving retail centres and strong day and night time economies.

6.53

The Masterplan area boasts a number of heritage and rural attractions, see Figure 12, as well as the flagship Centre for Sporting Excellence. Whilst tourism is already a draw to the area, there is a need to develop the tourism offer to widen its appeal.

6.54

There are a number of key initiatives throughout the area that could:

- increase the benefits of heritage, rural and sporting attractions from a tourism perspective;
- help raise the profile of the Masterplan area as a tourist destination;

- increase expenditure in the area; increase the dwell time in the area; and,
- create employment opportunities for local residents.

TOURISM ATTRACTIONS

E-1 Llancaiach Fawr Manor

6.55

Llancaiach Fawr Manor is one of the three main tourist attractions in the county borough. It is comprised of the restored Manor House, the Visitor centre, an education block and a large area of open land. The Grade I Listed Building was designed to be easily defended during the turbulent reigns of Tudor kings and queens and is one of the finest examples of a semi-fortified manor in Wales today. The Manor has recently been fully restored with a new stairway and lift added to the rear to increase accessibility for visitors. It currently operates as a living museum. The Visitor Centre contains a café and provides a large hall that hosts events. The education block is a set of purpose built

teaching and learning rooms used for schools and other educational needs.

6.56

The adjacent open area is used for occasional events, such as the Eisteddfod, which was held here in 2016.

6.57

It is an excellent attraction, hosting a wide range of events and functions including Ghost Tours, the Bedwellty Agricultural Show (which showcases rural enterprise and culture across the county borough and beyond) and functions such as weddings and conferences. However, there is a need to develop overnight accommodation on or near to the site to strengthen the tourism offer and increase the attractiveness of the venue for functions and events.

6.58

The site would lend itself to a high end boutique/independent hotel which would reinforce the attraction as a regionally significant tourist and heritage destination



as well as accelerate business growth in and around the Masterplan area.

6.59

There is also opportunity to provide some form of hut/pod style accommodation or glamping.

Development Principles

- Provision of a high end boutique/ independent hotel comprising characterful, individually decorated rooms in keeping with the period of the property, would increase the attractiveness of the venue for functions, including weddings and conferences and increase overnight stays.
- Provision of pods or huts on the land adjacent to the east of the Manor House would also significantly improve the 'staying' visitor market within the region and boost footfall within the existing tourist attraction.
- Further develop outbuildings to create a series of interpretative and educational facilities for visitors.

- Increase the function and events programme to reinforce Llancaiach Fawr Manor as a regionally significant events venue.

E-2 Llechwen Hall Hotel

6.60

The prestigious Llechwen Hall Hotel is located within but on the edge of the Masterplan area. Welsh Government investment of over £400,000 has recently been awarded to further develop the complex and provide a spa and leisure complex which will improve the performance of the facility and strengthen the tourism offer within the region.

6.61

However, its location just off the A470 means that many visitors will not even travel through Caerphilly county borough. There is a need, particularly in light of the proposed redevelopment, to promote this venue and also to promote greater awareness of other attractions within the Masterplan area to encourage linked visitor trips.

E-3 Gelligaer Roman Fort

6.62

The remains of a Roman Fort (formerly Gaer Fawr) were discovered at Gelligaer between 1899 and 1913 along with an elaborate system of bathhouses, pottery kilns and a cemetery. The land lying adjacent to the site has been identified as a Roman parade ground. Gaer Fawr is known to be where the stone fort was built, sometime during the first decade of the second century. These remains are reputed to be the finest example of their type in Europe.

6.63

Work has been undertaken in the immediate area to highlight the importance of the Roman Fort itself, including the installation of seating and interpretation and information panels for visitors.

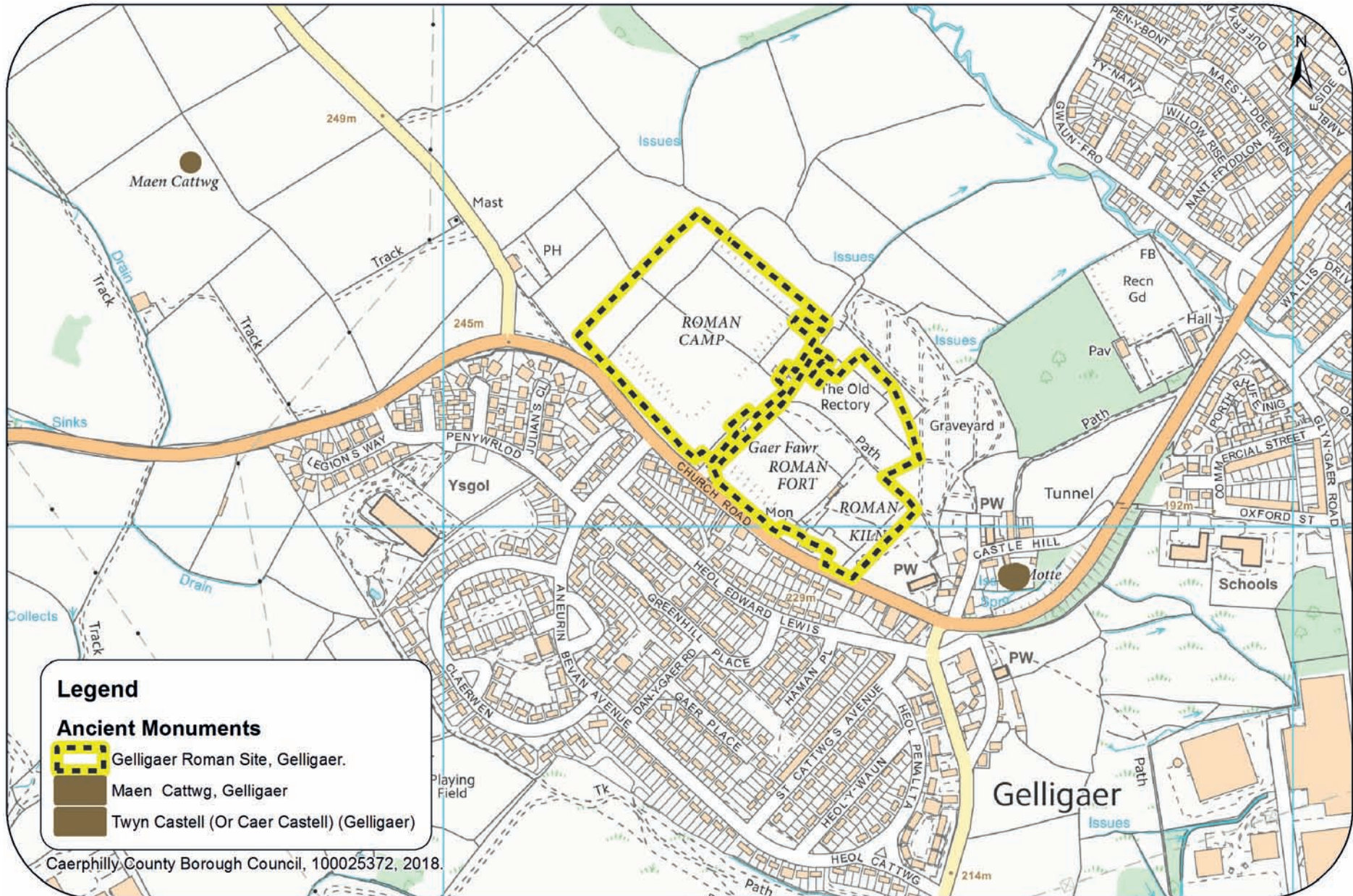
6.64

Although the site is today used for the grazing of horses, the site is of paramount importance in terms of the history and heritage of the Rhymney Valley.

Development Principles

- Increase the profile of the fort for residents and visitors alike,
- Expand interpretation facilities
- Consider archaeological excavation
- Include the fort along with other nearby historic attractions within a heritage trail

Figure 13: Gelligaer Roman Fort



E- 4 Valley Greyhound Track

6.65

The Valley Greyhound Stadium is a long established leisure facility located to the south east of Ystrad Mynach. Facilities at the site have recently been extended and improved and now comprise a greyhound racing track, a stadium comprising a clubhouse and a viewing area, an office building and toilet facilities. A car park is located between the site and Tredomen Athletic Football Club to the east.

6.66

The greyhound track is claimed to be the only remaining one in Wales. It is ideally located to capitalise on the many visitors to the area and there is opportunity to expand and increase the potential of the site as a tourism destination. Furthermore, there is opportunity for spin-off between this site and potential hotel and restaurant development on adjacent land as identified in Figure 14.

E-5 Events

6.67

There are a number of successful events within the Masterplan area each year. These include Bedwellty Agricultural Show, many events at Parc Penallta and the Penallta Park Run. There is a need to increase connectivity between the events and the main centres to increase dwell time.

E-6 Activity Tourism

6.68

Activity tourism is a key driver of the tourism industry in Wales and the Masterplan area is well positioned to capitalise on this through the provision of accommodation and facilities to support walking, cycling, horse riding and mountain climbing. National Cycle Network (NCN) Route 47 (Newport to Fishguard) travels through Ystrad Mynach and Nelson. The area is also well placed to serve the mountain bike centres at Cwmcarn Forest Drive and Bike Park Wales in Merthyr Tydfil, the Rock UK climbing centre in Trelewis, the Mountain View Ranch

and Rockwood Riding Centre, which are both located on Caerphilly Mountain. The provision of a wider range of accommodation, including lodges, camping and glamping, in appropriate locations within the Masterplan area should be encouraged and supported.

E-7 Heritage Trail

6.69

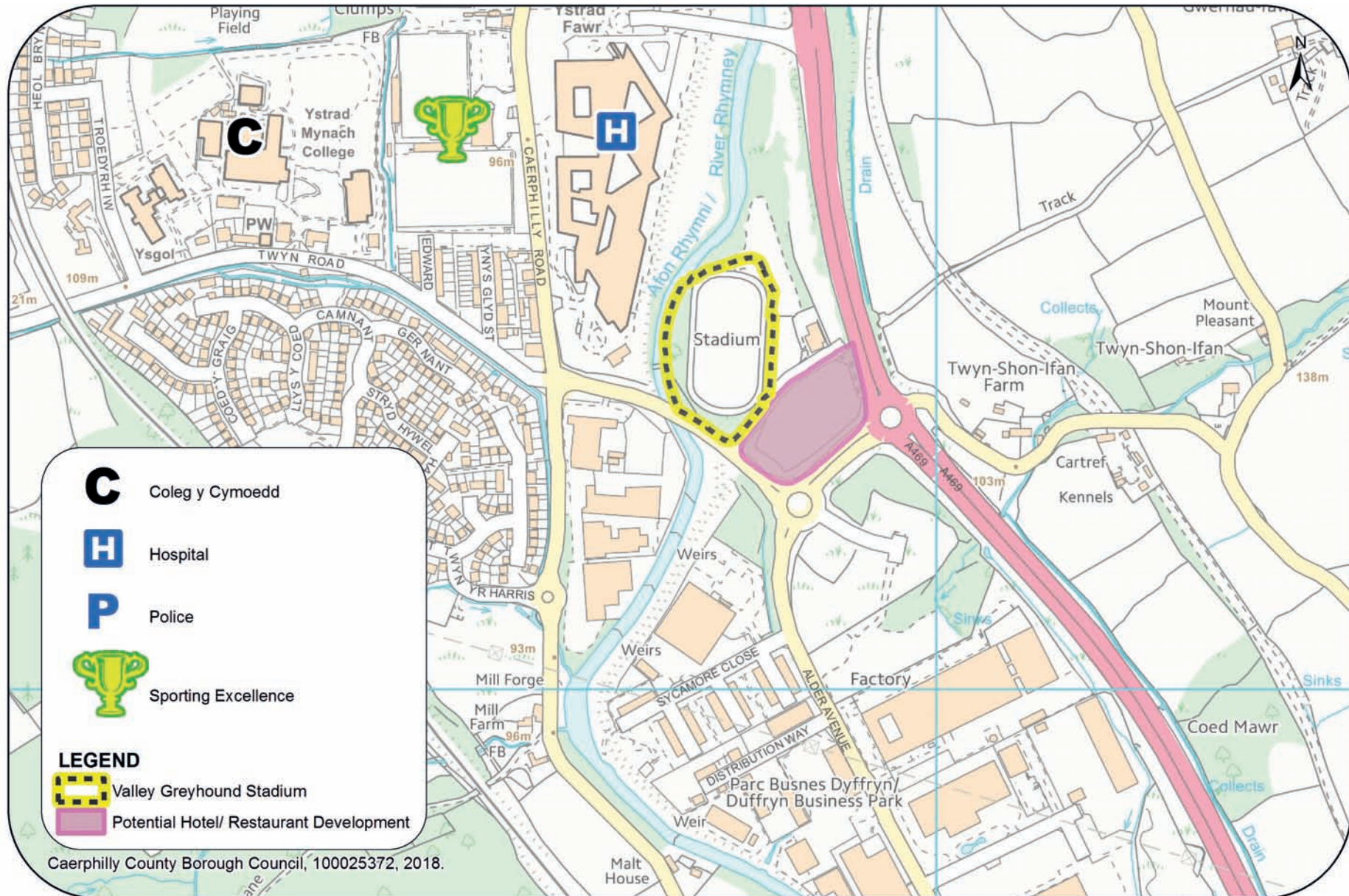
A tourism trail that links the key sites and buildings of interest should be an integral part of the tourism strategy. This should provide a link between Senghenydd Dyke, the Handball Court, Llancaiach Fawr Manor, Gelligaer Roman Fort, Gelligaer Common, Parc Penallta and Maesycwmmmer Viaduct, but also explore other places within the county borough such as Caerphilly Castle, National Mining Memorial and the Winding House.

E-8 Tourist Accommodation

6.70

There is a distinct lack of tourist accommodation in the Masterplan area. There is a need to develop sites for a diverse

Figure 14: Valley Greyhound Track



range of new accommodation to support the Metro hub, the maximised employment opportunities and the Sporting Village which will be attracting many visitors who are looking to stay in the area.

6.71

Existing tourist accommodation is provided by Llechwen Hall and two Guest Houses, all situated around Nelson.

6.72

There is potential to significantly expand on the current offer with the following proposals:-

- Llancaiach Fawr Manor - boutique hotel and pods/huts
- Land at Ty Du - budget chain hotel
- Land north of Dyffryn Business Park - budget chain hotel
- Parc Penallta - camping/glamping provision

F - MAXIMISE ENJOYMENT OF THE MANY GREEN ASSETS WITHIN AND SURROUNDING THE MASTERPLAN AREA

6.73

The Masterplan Area contains many green and open spaces and enhancing and encouraging use of these areas can improve quality of life and promote wellbeing, as well as diversifying the tourism offer.

F-1 Green Infrastructure

6.74

The benefits of Green Infrastructure, a network comprising a broad range of green spaces and environmental features, cannot be underestimated, for users as well as for biodiversity and landscape. Green Infrastructure includes parks and gardens, amenity space, natural and semi-natural green spaces and green corridors and includes allotments, cemeteries, churchyards and golf courses.



Development Principles

- Preparation of a Green Infrastructure Strategy to comprise a 20 year programme for the integration, development and management of a network of green infrastructure, supported by a five year delivery and action plan.
- Support and protect the natural environment and heritage of the area.
- Ensure that green infrastructure is embedded into the design of new development.
- Development of the recreation offer.

Parks and Gardens

6.75

The Masterplan Area contains Parc Penallta and Nelson Wern Woodland Park, see Figure 14, as well as a number of urban parks including Ystrad Mynach Park. These areas have potential to be enhanced to improve both the tourism offer and the natural environment.

F-2 Parc Penallta

6.76

Facilities at the outstanding Parc Penallta include a healthy walking route, way-marked trails, cycle routes, a small education centre, bridleway, public art and car parking as well as one of the UK's largest figurative earth sculptures, 'Sultan' the pit pony. The park is also designated a Dark Skies area for astronomy.

6.77

With already over 250,000 visitors a year the park can become a strong visitor attraction that serves not only the local community but also the wider area. Opportunities exist to attract more visitors by improving the current experience.

Development Principles

- Land has been identified at the entrance to Parc Penallta, off the strategic A472 for a new Visitor Centre. Construction of a carbon neutral Visitor Centre would allow for education and additional events and

provide the opportunity for promoting other attractions in the area.

- Broadening the type of accommodation on offer is a potential commercial opportunity for tourism within the county borough and the increasing popularity of 'glamping' should be exploited by the introduction of glamping and camping facilities that would attract visitors and the much needed diverse range of accommodation would increase the length of stay of visitors to the area.
- Improve connectivity with Ystrad Mynach Town Centre and Nelson Local Centre by exploring the potential for shuttle buses for, and during, events.
- Increase the number of events held at the Park and ensure all events are well promoted.
- Improve pedestrian links between Parc Penallta and Gelligaer and Nelson.
- Provide a landmark footbridge to provide

direct access from the Park to Tredomen Business Park.

- Linking the historic landscapes with the Country Parks as part of themed walks.
- Walking on Water - Enhance board walks and ecological works on the lower levels of the Park.
- Social Climbing – establish various climbing features throughout the Park.
- Enhance existing fishing facilities.
- Explore opportunities such as zorbing.
- Explore renewable energy opportunities.
- Explore dog waste composting facilities.

F-3 Nelson Wern Woodland Park

6.78

Facilities include youth amenities such as a skatepark, BMX track, youth shelter, a sports pitch and a modern play area. These are combined with creative artwork, meadows and a diverse range of natural habitats.

There are opportunities to enhance the attractiveness of this already popular area.

Development Principles

- Improve pedestrian links between Nelson Wern Woodland Park and Parc Penallta to encourage visitors movement between the Parks.
- Enhancements to the youth facilities.
- Upgrade the existing boardwalk over the wetland.
- Explore opportunities such as zorbing.
- Linking the historic landscapes with the Country Parks as part of themed walks.

Green Corridors

6.79

Green corridors include rivers and their banks, hedgerows, rights of way, cycle routes, pedestrian paths and former transport routes (such as rail lines). There are a number of opportunities to improve the network of green corridors to provide enhanced walkways for locals and visitors.

Development Principles

- F-4 Completion of the Rhymney Riverside Walk to provide landscaped walkways with observation points. Provision of an outdoor gym along the route would increase usage and add interest.
- F-5 Enhancement of the Rhymney Valley Ridgeway Walk that would take visitors from Parc Penallta to Gelligaer, Hengoed, Mynydd Eglwysilan as well as Parc Cwm Darran, Caerphilly, Bedwas and Rudry.
- F-6 Greater promotion of the Gren Way would attract visitors to view Gren's famous images including Maesycwmmmer Viaduct.

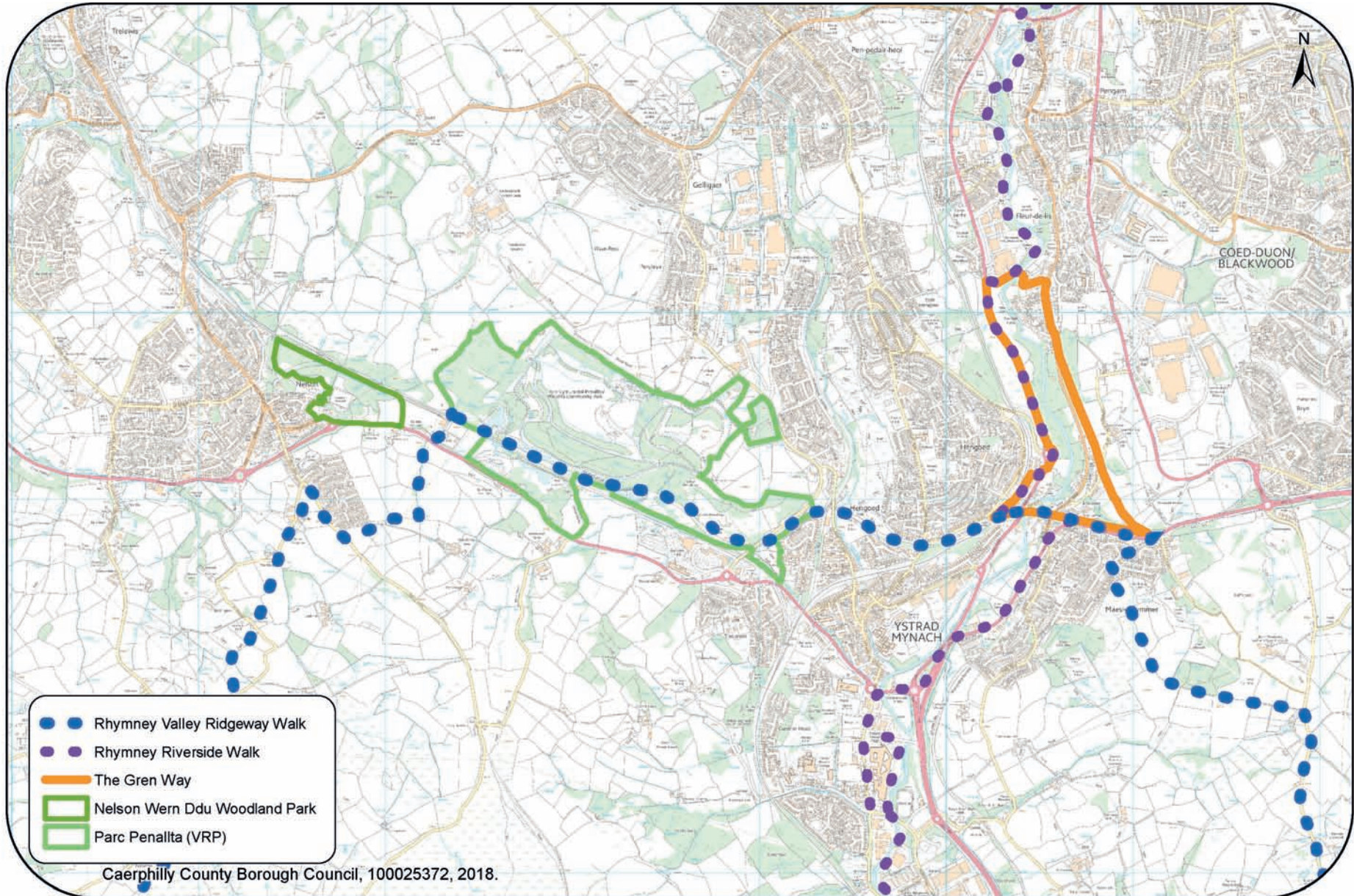
Amenity Greenspace

F-7 Common Land

6.80

Eglwysilan Common is a unique and fascinating landscape with a wealth of historic assets that need protecting including the Senghenydd Dyke and a range of bronze age burial sites. The landscape provides a vital

Figure 16: Walks



green space that is used by walkers, cyclists and horse riders.

6.81

A part of the Gelligaer and Merthyr Common also falls within the Masterplan area. As a designated Historic Landscape, the common contains a range of important archaeological sites. As a popular area for walkers, cyclists and horse riders, the landscape provides a vital recreation area for residents and visitors.

This substantial swathe of countryside has potential to be a major component of the Valleys Regional Park.

Development Principles

- Enhancement of Common Land.
- Address issues across the landscape including fly-tipping, littering and illegal off road vehicles.
- Protection of unique heritage assets.

F-8 The Graig, Hengoed

6.82

The area known as The Graig is a green area

situated on the east side of Cylla Brook, east of Cwm Calon. There is a footbridge crossing the brook allowing pedestrian access from Hengoed and Cefn Hengoed to Cwm Calon. The hillside has suffered from fire damage during the summer months. There are potential opportunities for this attractive large area of land:

Development Principles

- Explore fire prevention methods such as planting and fire breaks to prevent the spread of fire, particularly near to houses.
- Provide improved footpath/cycle links to connect Hengoed and Cefn Hengoed with the new footpath created at Cwm Calon. This connects the area with Glyngaer to the north and Ystrad Mynach and the National Cycle Network to the south, allowing access to employment opportunities at Penallta Industrial Estate and Tredomen Business Park as well as Ystrad Mynach Town Centre and Parc Penallta.

G - COMPLETE THE REGENERATION OF THE FORMER PENALLTA COLLIERY SITE

6.83

The former Penallta Colliery site is ideally located to support Ystrad Mynach Town Centre and also to benefit from the excellent rail links and the many employment opportunities within the surrounding area. A large proportion of the former colliery site has been redeveloped with a high quality housing development that includes a school. Key opportunities still exist to complete the regeneration of the site with high quality conservation-led restoration.

6.84

The transformation of the site so far has seen the development of the picturesque Parc Penallta and a pioneering Cwm Calon housing development scheme that incorporates listed buildings/structures and associated local amenities and infrastructure.

6.85

Permission has recently been granted for

construction of 48 dwellings on land adjacent to former colliery buildings.

6.86

There are two substantial listed buildings that have yet to be converted along with an area of land outlined for commercial opportunity that has yet to be developed.

G-1 and G-2 Conversion of the Power Hall and Bath House Building

6.87

The Power Hall and Bath House Building are two of the last listed buildings that remain to be converted. Both are substantial heritage assets with planning permission and listed building consent for conversion to residential units.

6.88

Given the prominent and strategic location, and the historic significance of the buildings, the site offers a real opportunity to create a high quality mixed use development comprising housing along with employment uses. There is scope to work with the private

sector to accommodate mixed use proposals, breathing renewed life into this historic environment.

Development Principles

- Conversion of the remaining listed buildings for housing as well as retail and employment uses with a focus on entrepreneurship digital/technology hubs and workshops for smaller business.
- Enabling the creation of a “live/work” environment and cluster, linked with broader skills development and training opportunities forged with the nearby further education college of Coleg Y Cymoedd.

G-3 Land at Winding Wheel Lane

6.89

A triangular area of land located to the western edge of the Cwm Calon development, dissected by Winding Wheel Lane, was identified in the original Masterplan for the Cwm Calon development as an area

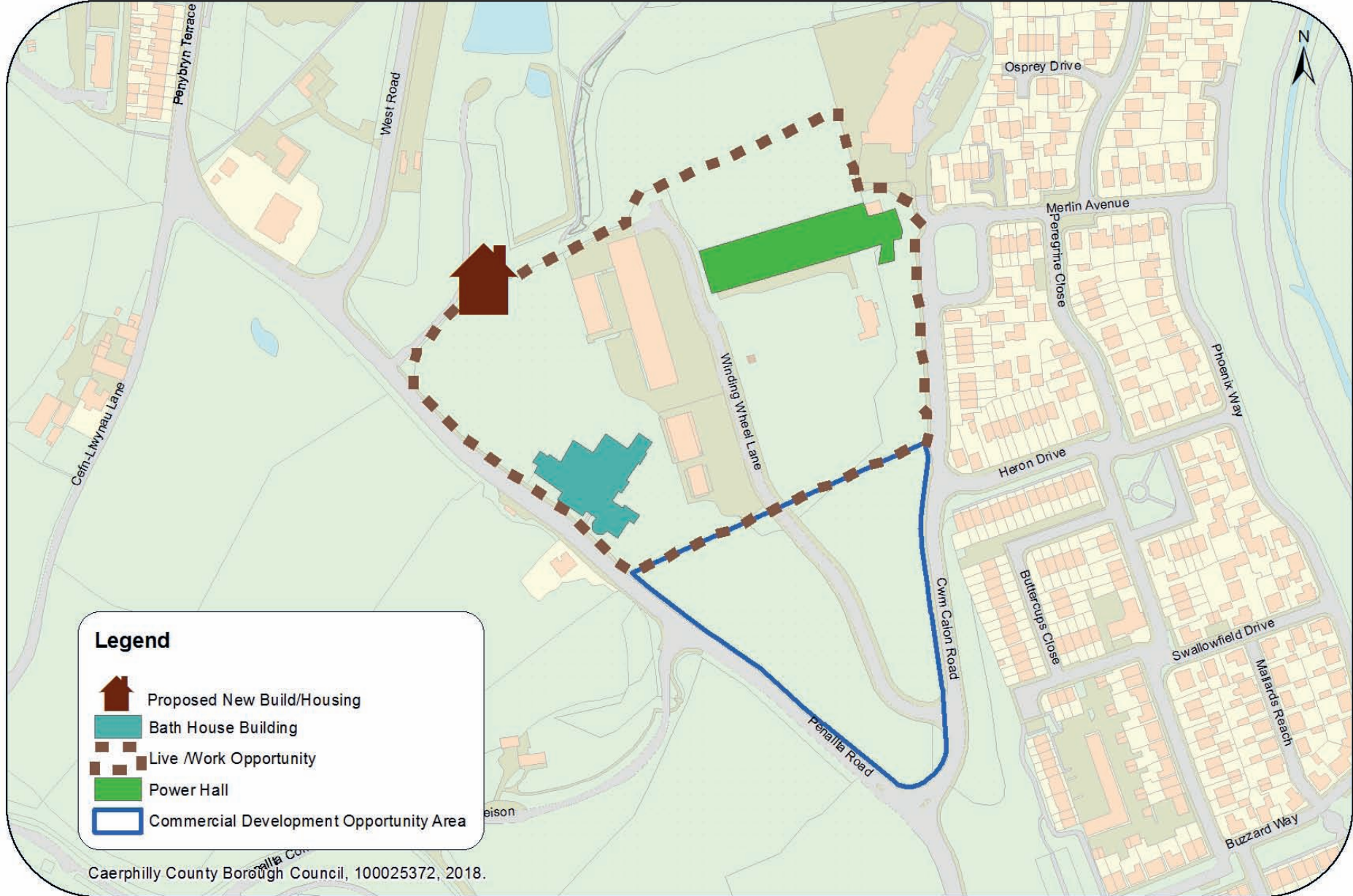
suitable for employment and retail uses ancillary to the new community.

Development Principles

- There is potential to create an innovative development in this prominent location within close proximity of the striking Winding Wheel Listed structures. An example of such a development would be a small scale version of Bristol’s Wapping Wharf ‘Cargo’³ utilising converted shipping containers.
- Suitable uses might include a small food store, Public House, restaurant/café and takeaway. Offices providing local services and employment opportunities would also be welcomed.
- Such development would complete the regeneration of the former Penallta Colliery and engender a more sustainable and self-contained residential environment.

³ <http://wappingwharf.co.uk/gallery/cargo/>

Figure 17: Former Penallta Colliery





H - SUPPORT THE DEVELOPMENT OF HOUSING, INCLUDING AFFORDABLE HOUSING, ON BOTH BROWNFIELD AND GREENFIELD SITES IN SUSTAINABLE LOCATIONS

6.90

The strategy for the LDP promotes the development of new housing on both brownfield and greenfield sites within the Masterplan area. This has been successful, particularly with the development of the former Penallta Colliery, with a number of under-utilised sites having been developed in recent years. Whilst these have made an important contribution to housing in the area, there remains a need for affordable housing.

6.91

There are a small number of brownfield sites that offer the opportunity for housing or mixed use development incorporating an element of housing. However, some of these sites have existing industrial uses which mean they are unlikely to be brought forward by the market without public sector intervention.

6.92

The key development opportunities on both greenfield and brownfield sites within existing settlements in the Masterplan area and their indicative capacities are:

- H-1 Ty Du, Nelson – permission has been granted for residential development of up to 200 dwellings including approximately 50 affordable homes, and the development of 3.8 Ha employment units along with public open space and landscaping;
- H-2 Penallta Colliery – the majority of the site has been developed, potential for approximately 120 additional dwellings to be provided, including potential live/work units;
- H-3 Tir-y-berth, Hengoed (Partmart) – 173 dwellings;
- H-4 Land to the east of the Handball Court, Nelson – 90 units, potential for new railway station and retail development;
- H-5 Land at New Road, Ystrad Mynach – 18 dwellings, potential for further expansion

should be considered through review of the LDP;

- H-6 Greenhill Primary School, Gelligaer – A mixed use site comprising a replacement primary school and 37 affordable houses. The school has been constructed and the dwellings are now under construction.

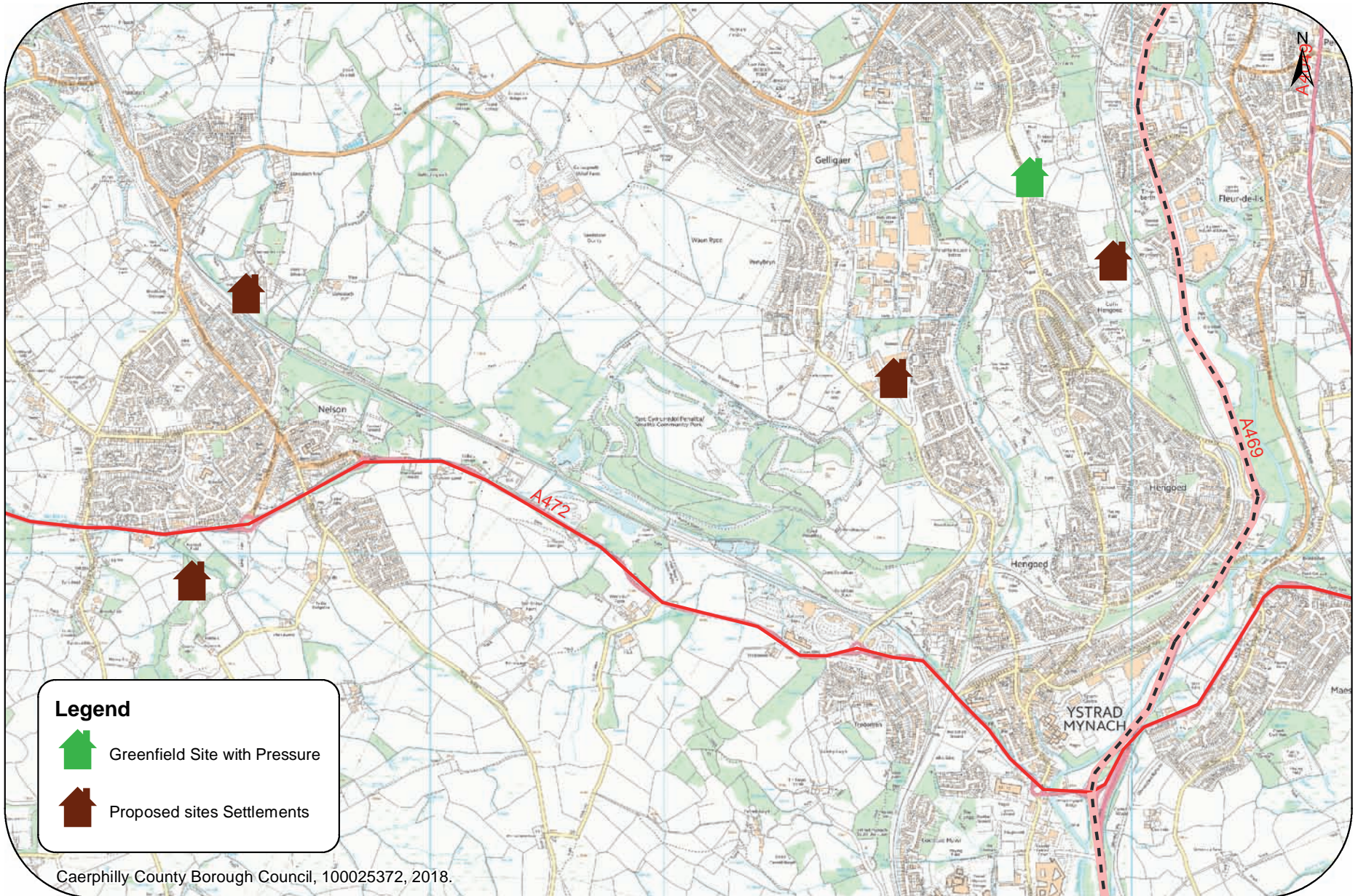
6.93

There is also development pressure for housing on the edge of settlements.

6.94

Figure 18 identifies the position with regards to sites at the time the masterplan was prepared, but it is recognised that additional windfall opportunities may be promoted by the development industry in the future. Where planning applications are submitted, it is necessary to consider each application on its merits, having regard to planning policies, the need for housing and the sustainability of the location.

Figure 18: Housing



Caerphilly County Borough Council, 100025372, 2018.

I - PROVIDE A SUITABLE LEVEL OF COMMUNITY LEISURE AND EDUCATION FACILITIES TO SUPPORT THE POTENTIAL LEVEL OF POPULATION AND HOUSING GROWTH WITHIN THE YSTRAD MYNACH STRATEGIC HUB

COMMUNITY LEISURE

6.95

The Masterplan Area currently offers a large number of opportunities to engage with physical activity including community centres and fixed play areas, supplemented by a number of (country) parks, cycle paths and outdoor sports areas.

6.96

New development will place additional pressure on facilities and therefore more effective use of community leisure facilities is required.

6.97

The draft Sport and Active Recreation Strategy sets out the future purpose and

direction for the provision of sport and active recreation within the county borough.

SCHOOL PROVISION

6.98

The number of school aged children is expected to increase within the Masterplan Area as a result of new development and it is important that there are opportunities for schools to expand to accommodate additional pupils. The Council has recently agreed in principle the provision of additional school places within Ystrad Mynach and the wider area subject to funding being confirmed for individual projects, business cases being approved by Welsh Government and the outcome of individual consultations will be considered as part of the 21st Century Schools programme.

6.99

The key proposals relating to the Masterplan Area are as follows:-

- I-1 Expansion of Trinity Fields School and Resource Centre to accommodate future

demand and requirements of Additional Learning Needs Reform Bill.

- I-2 Amalgamation of Llanfabon Infants School and Llancaeath Junior School will allow for expansion and refurbishment of the existing Llanfabon Infants School to create a fit for purpose, energy efficient 21st Century school with increased opportunities for community use and childcare provision.

J - ENSURE THAT ACCESSIBILITY FOR ALL IS EMBEDDED IN ALL IMPROVEMENT SCHEMES

6.100

Accessibility is a cross cutting objective, which is relevant to schemes identified within this plan. All development proposals should adhere to the principles of inclusive design to ensure that schemes meet the accessibility needs of all those living, working and visiting the Masterplan area, including those with mobility impairments, learning difficulties and sensory impairment.

K - ENSURE ALL COMMUNITIES ARE ABLE TO ENGAGE AND BENEFIT FROM THE MASTERPLAN

6.101

As a result of the 2014 Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation (WIMD), it has been agreed that there will be a priority focus to implement a new way of working in a number of the deprived communities within the county borough.

6.102

A fundamental change to how public services are collectively delivered and approached is required to address the multi faceted needs in the county borough's most deprived communities. There should be far more emphasis upon local government enabling our communities to deliver, rather than delivering for them.

6.103

A greater emphasis on identifying community assets is required. When practitioners begin with a focus on what communities

have, as opposed to what they don't have, a community's efficacy in addressing its own needs increases, as does its capacity to lever in external support. Currently services are designed to 'fill gaps' and 'fix problems' creating dependency and disempowering individuals who become passive recipients of services.

6.104

Caerphilly County Borough Council's new approach to service provision will provide a changing perspective on building bridges with communities, mobilising individual and community assets, and enabling a process of co-production, with community members as active agents in their own and their families' lives. Co-production requires users of services to be seen as experts in their own circumstances and capable of making decisions, while service providers move from being fixers to facilitators. This will necessitate new relationships to be developed with front line professionals, and an enabling role adopted.

6.105

This will require an approach to public service provision that seeks to better coordinate services to achieve maximum impact. The intention is to adopt a place based focus, with a review of public services to assess how well they meet the outcomes required by residents, and how they could improve impact and value for money. The role of the Public Service Board, and the support of partners, is key to implementing this approach, and having endorsed the approach to Lansbury Park, the most deprived area in Wales, it provides an opportunity to develop this across a number of key areas across the borough.

6.106

The projects identified in the Ystrad Mynach Masterplan have the potential to provide far reaching benefits for all residents, including those living in deprived areas within the Masterplan area and the wider county borough.

Section 7: Delivering and Implementing Change

The table below sets out the projects identified in Section 6 of the report, together with the expected outputs that the project will deliver and how these proposals will

address the objectives of the Council's Regeneration Strategy (Appendix 1). The table identifies the indicative costs of each scheme and highlights any funding that has been

secured to date. It should be noted that many of these projects are at an embryonic stage and, as such, the outputs and costs can only be estimated.

Strategic Objective	Project	Description	Expected/Indicative outputs	Objectives of Regeneration Strategy met	Funding secured and potential costs
A - Provide the conditions to strengthen business growth and capitalise on employment opportunities	A - 1 Tredomen Business Park	Develop land north west of Tredomen Business Park for employment units	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Development of approx. 4.3 Ha of underutilised land for business/employment use Creation of approx. 105,000 sq.ft of low carbon office development Continue the momentum of previous three phases of development Accelerate Business development within the Ystrad Mynach/Nelson corridor Help to cement the Ystrad Mynach/Nelson corridor as a viable employment belt – creating connectivity to employment and business opportunities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SP1 SP4 SB1 - 4 CPP3 	<p>Funding Secured: None to date</p> <p>Total Costs: to be determined but likely to be circa £15 - £17m</p> <p>Predominantly private sector investment but there will probably be a viability gap to be filled.</p> <p>Dialogue is open between private sector owner and the Council about possible expansion.</p>

Strategic Objective	Project	Description	Expected/Indicative outputs	Objectives of Regeneration Strategy met	Funding secured and potential costs
A - Provide the conditions to strengthen business growth and capitalise on employment opportunities			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Create a number of new business premises and new enterprises ● Job creation – create in the region of 600 new ‘white collar’ jobs ● Create a number of new jobs through the construction contract ● Include social clauses in any construction contract to ensure employment of local labour ● Introduce necessary servicing and infrastructure to facilitate business unit development ● Attract commuters to new modes of transport via the provision of a new Metro Halt ● Reduce the level of commuting from the area by providing local jobs ● Improve viability of Ystrad Mynach Town centre through increased footfall ● See private/public sector partnership to bring phased development ● Show the area as innovative and open to change 		

Strategic Objective	Project	Description	Expected/Indicative outputs	Objectives of Regeneration Strategy met	Funding secured and potential costs
A - Provide the conditions to strengthen business growth and capitalise on employment opportunities	A - 2 Ty Du, Nelson	Development of significant mixed use site comprising employment and residential properties	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Full mixed use redevelopment of 19 Ha of underutilised land ● Including development of 3.8 Ha of land for employment use ● Job creation – 150 – 300 new jobs ● Development of approx.150 new starter units ● Approx. 200 new houses, including affordable housing ● Creation of indirect/induced jobs from residential development ● Creation of operational jobs created through residential expenditure ● Approx. £41m net effect on economy from residential development ● Generation of CIL revenue 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● SB1 – 4 ● SQL5 	Funding Secured: Infrastructure secured via WG & EU-ERDF Housing – none to date Employment – Phase 1 only (£2m) via CCBC, WG & EU - ERDF Total Costs: to be determined Employment Units – Phases 2 & 3 (development of the remainder of allocated B1 employment land) Estimated Costs £3-4M

Strategic Objective	Project	Description	Expected/Indicative outputs	Objectives of Regeneration Strategy met	Funding secured and potential costs
A - Provide the conditions to strengthen business growth and capitalise on employment opportunities	A - 3 Coopers Court, Caerphilly Road	<p>Demolition of four dilapidated units and construction of replacement bespoke units at the southern end of the site</p> <p>Long term opportunity to redevelop or refurbish remaining units to maximise the potential of this key site located at the southern gateway into Ystrad Mynach.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Development of circa 1 Ha of land for business/employment use would see a beneficial reuse of a dilapidated vacant, brownfield site ● Redevelopment of approx. 2.9 Ha of land for employment use ● Creation of new business floorspace (approx. 8,700m²) ● Job creation – up to 150 new jobs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● SB1 – 4 	<p>Funding Secured: Private sector investment in demolition of four units and construction of new units.</p> <p>Total Costs: to be determined but likely to be circa £2m+</p> <p>Private sector led.</p>
	A - 4 Dyffryn Business Park	Development of unused land for employment use	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Development of 6.3 Ha of employment land ● New business growth ● Provision of new commercial development ● Job creation ● Infrastructure and environmental enhancements 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● SB1 - 4 	<p>Funding Secured: None to date</p> <p>Total Costs: To be determined</p> <p>Public/Private sector partnership</p>

Strategic Objective	Project	Description	Expected/Indicative outputs	Objectives of Regeneration Strategy met	Funding secured and potential costs
B - Create the conditions for the area to become a thriving Metro Hub	B - 1 Ystrad Mynach Station	Redevelopment and expansion of facilities at Ystrad Mynach Station	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Physical enhancements to existing provision Redevelopment of entrance (off Newport Road) Improved connectivity between facilities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CPP4 	<p>Funding Secured: None to date</p> <p>Total Costs: To be determined</p>
	B - 2 Ystrad Mynach Extended Park and Ride facility	Provide additional park and ride facilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provision of new park and ride facility – up to 120 new spaces New associated transport provision Increase in more sustainable travel 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CPP4 	<p>Funding Secured: None to date</p> <p>Total Costs: To be determined</p>
	B - 3 Hengoed Extended Park and Ride facility	Explore opportunities to provide additional park and ride facilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provision of new park and ride facility Increase in more sustainable travel 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CPP4 	<p>Funding Secured: None to date</p> <p>Total Costs: To be determined, will depend upon proposed location</p>

Strategic Objective	Project	Description	Expected/Indicative outputs	Objectives of Regeneration Strategy met	Funding secured and potential costs
B - Create the conditions for the area to become a thriving Metro Hub	B-4 Reinstatement of the Cwmbargoed line	Reinstatement of the Cwmbargoed line for passenger transport	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Provide critical connectivity between the West and East of the Masterplan area ● Creation of new Metro Halts at Tredomen and Nelson ● Wider redevelopment of under utilised land for retail and residential use at Nelson ● Construction of new houses, potentially including affordable housing ● Creation of indirect/induced jobs from residential development ● Creation of operational jobs created through residential expenditure ● Development of new retail units ● Creation of 80 space park and ride facility ● Improve viability of Nelson local centre through increased footfall ● Promote sustainable transport to the workplace ● Reduction in carbon/CO2 emissions ● Improved accessibility ● Reduction in congestion on A472 ● Improved travel times ● Reduced travel costs ● Induced private sector investment ● Generation of CIL revenue ● Longer term, creation of a new Halt at Maesycwmmmer. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● CPP2 - 4 	Funding Secured: None to date Total Costs: £3m+

Strategic Objective	Project	Description	Expected/Indicative outputs	Objectives of Regeneration Strategy met	Funding secured and potential costs
B - Create the conditions for the area to become a thriving Metro Hub	B - 5 Regional Bus Network	Introduction of Rapid Bus Transport Routes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Reduction in congestion on A472 ● Reduction in carbon/CO2 emissions ● Improved connectivity and linkages to key development sites 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● CPP2 	<p>Funding Secured: None to date</p> <p>Total Costs: To be determined</p>
	B - 6 Cycle Parking Facilities	Provision of cycle facilities at all existing transport hubs (Ystrad Mynach, Hengoed and Pengam stations as well as any new stations) together with key employment and retail destinations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Increase usage of sustainable forms of transport ● Alleviate congestion ● Capitalise on excellent cycle links throughout the Masterplan area 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● CPP2 	<p>Funding Secured: None to date</p> <p>Total Costs: To be determined – anticipated to form part of other contracted works</p>
	B - 7 Cycle Hire Scheme	Provision of a cycle hire scheme with hire points at key designations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Increase usage of sustainable forms of transport ● Alleviate congestion ● Capitalise on excellent cycle links throughout the Masterplan area 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● CPP2 	<p>Funding Secured: None to date</p> <p>Total Costs: To be determined</p>

Strategic Objective	Project	Description	Expected/Indicative outputs	Objectives of Regeneration Strategy met	Funding secured and potential costs
C – Modernise and Develop Ystrad Mynach into a thriving Business and Commercial Centre	C - 1 Ystrad Mynach Town Centre	Build on and enhance the Town Centre Offer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Redevelopment of key buildings ● Encourage the sale of local/farm produce ● Bolster the night time economy ● Increase visitor dwell time and spend ● Increase spend from business people 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● SB1 ● SQL3 ● SQL4 ● SQL7 	Funding Secured: None to date Total Costs: To be determined
	C - 2 Enhanced Parking Facilities	Preparation of a town centre parking plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Increase footfall in the town centre ● Improve quality of life for residents ● Provision of electric vehicle charging points 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● CPP1 	Funding Secured: None to date Total Costs: To be determined
	C-3 Land North of The Royal Oak	Redevelopment of site	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Redevelop approx. 0.37 Ha of building/land in a prominent position ● Increase footfall in town centre 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● SP4 ● SB1 ● SQL4 ● SQL7 	Funding Secured: None to date Total Costs: To be determined
	C- 4 Land north of Dyffryn Business Park	Development of hotel, public house and café/ restaurant with drive through facility	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Develop approx. 1 Ha of under utilised land in a prominent and strategic location ● Provision of much needed accommodation ● Greater tourist offer to increase dwell time ● Job creation during the construction period ● Job creation within the commercial sector ● Improve viability of Ystrad Mynach Town Centre through increased footfall ● Private sector investment induced ● Bolster the night time economy ● Generation of CIL revenue 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● SP4 ● SB1 ● SQL4 ● SQL7 	Funding Secured: None to date Total Costs: Estimated at £3m+

Strategic Objective	Project	Description	Expected/Indicative outputs	Objectives of Regeneration Strategy met	Funding secured and potential costs
D – Create an exemplary Sport, Leisure and Education Cluster	D - 1 Centre for Sporting Excellence and surrounding land	Extension of the existing Centre for Sporting Excellence to create a Sporting Village, expansion of facilities at Coleg y Cymoedd and expansion of Trinity Fields School and Resource Centre	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Production of a Masterplan to ensure the best use of all land within the hub ● Increased seating capacity to enable use as an international venue ● Provision of a state of the art indoor 3G IRB22 playing surface ● Creation of a modern tennis dome to offer international tennis facilities ● Provision of food and beverage outlets to improve visitor offer ● Job creation/growth in sports/tourism sector ● Develop community and grass roots sport ● Improve Health and Wellbeing (more active participation of the local and regional population) ● Enhanced facilities at Ystrad Mynach Park to include splashpad/water feature ● Improved pedestrian access to and from Ystrad Mynach Station ● Improved linkages with Ystrad Mynach Town Centre ● Greater tourist offer to increase dwell time ● Job creation during the construction period ● Job creation within the commercial sector ● Improve viability of Ystrad Mynach Town Centre through increased footfall ● Creation of additional specialist provision through expansion of Trinity Fields School 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● SP1 ● SP2 ● SP4 ● SB6 ● SQL2 ● SQL4 	<p>Funding Secured: None to date</p> <p>Total Costs: To be determined £5m+ for sports village (figure based on similar schemes commissioned in other parts of the UK)</p> <p>Funding Secured: Potential Council/Welsh Government 21st Century Schools and Education Programme</p> <p>Total Costs: £5m</p>

Strategic Objective	Project	Description	Expected/Indicative outputs	Objectives of Regeneration Strategy met	Funding secured and potential costs
E - Create a vibrant and accessible visitor destination	E - 1 Llancaiach Fawr Manor	Development of accommodation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop approx. 0.2 Ha of land Creation of high end boutique hotel Significantly boost hospitality and footfall within the existing attraction Strengthen the tourism offer and significantly improve the 'staying' visitor market within the region Reinforce Llancaiach Fawr as a regionally significant tourist and heritage destination Greater tourist offer to increase dwell time Provision of a diverse range of accommodation Job creation during the construction period Job creation within the commercial sector 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SP4 SB1 SQL1 SQL4 	Funding Secured: Total Costs: To be determined
	E - 2 Llechwen Hall	Improve links and connectivity between Llechwen Hall and other attractions within the Masterplan Area	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improve the Masterplan Area's status as a tourist destination Greater tourist offer to increase dwell time in the area Increase footfall and spend Increase visitor numbers at other attractions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SP4 SQL4 	Funding Secured: None to date Total Costs: To be determined
	E-3 Gelligaer Roman Fort	Enhance and raise the profile of the existing tourist attraction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improve Masterplan Area's status as a tourist destination Greater tourist offer to increase dwell time in the area Increase footfall and spend Increase visitor numbers at other attractions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SP4 SQL4 	Funding Secured: None to date Total Costs: To be determined

Strategic Objective	Project	Description	Expected/Indicative outputs	Objectives of Regeneration Strategy met	Funding secured and potential costs
E – Create a vibrant and accessible visitor destination	E - 4 Valley Greyhound Track	Enhance and raise the profile of the existing tourist attraction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Improve Ystrad Mynach’s status as a tourist destination ● Greater tourist offer to increase dwell time ● Job creation within the commercial sector ● Improve viability of Ystrad Mynach Town Centre through increased footfall. Bolster the night time economy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● SP4 ● SQL4 	<p>Funding Secured: None to date</p> <p>Total Costs: To be determined</p>
	E - 5 Events	<p>Expand the programme of events within the area</p> <p>Increase the number of event spaces</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Improve Masterplan Area’s status as a tourist destination ● Greater tourist offer to increase dwell time in the the area ● Increase footfall and spend ● Create temporary job opportunities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● SP4 ● SQL2 ● SQL4 ● SQL7 	<p>Funding Secured: None to date</p> <p>Total Costs: To be determined</p>
	E - 6 Activity Tourism	Increase accommodation suitable for the active tourism market	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Improve Masterplan area’s status as a tourist destination ● Greater tourist offer to increase dwell time in the the area ● Increase footfall and spend ● Increase visitor numbers at other attractions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● SQL1 ● SQL2 ● SQL4 	<p>Funding Secured: None to date</p> <p>Total Costs: dependent on scale and type of accommodation.</p>
	E - 7 Heritage Trail	Creation of a Heritage Trail linking key sites and buildings of interest	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Improve the area’s status as a tourist destination ● Greater tourist offer to increase dwell time in the the area ● Increase footfall and spend ● Increase visitor numbers at other attractions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● SQL2 ● SQL4 ● SQL7 	<p>Funding Secured: None to date</p> <p>Total Costs: To be determined – could be in the region of £5k - £30k dependent on scope of works.</p>

Strategic Objective	Project	Description	Expected/Indicative outputs	Objectives of Regeneration Strategy met	Funding secured and potential costs
E - Create a vibrant and accessible visitor destination	E - 8 Accommodation	Provision of Boutique hotel and pods/huts at Llancaiach Fawr	(see E-1)	See E-1	See E-1
		Provision of a budget chain hotel at Ty Du	(see A-2)	See A-2	See A-2
		Provision of a budget chain hotel on land North of Dyffryn Business Park	(see C-5)	See C-5	See C-5
		Camping/Glamping provision at Parc Penallta	(see F-2)	See F-2	See F-2
F – Maximise enjoyment of the many green assets within and surrounding the area	F - 1 Green Infrastructure	Preparation of a Green Infrastructure Strategy - A 20 year programme for the integration, development and management of a network of green infrastructure, supported by a five year delivery and action plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Identification and prioritisation of key green spaces within the County Borough ● Ensure that green infrastructure is embedded into the design of new development ● Adapted management and utilisation of green corridors. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● SP8 ● SQL1 ● SQL4 	Funding secured: Funding to prepare Strategy secured from Welsh Government
	F - 2 Parc Penallta	Enhance facilities to include a new visitor centre and complimentary accommodation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● New carbon efficient visitor centre ● Provision of a diverse range of accommodation ● Strengthen the tourism offer and significantly improve the 'staying' visitor market within the region ● Improve Ystrad Mynach's status as a tourist destination ● Greater tourist offer to increase dwell time in the area ● Increase footfall and spend ● Increase visitor numbers at other attractions ● Improve quality of life for residents ● Promotion of healthy lifestyle ● Job creation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● SP8 ● SQL1 - 3 	Funding Secured: None to date Total Costs: £1m

Strategic Objective	Project	Description	Expected/Indicative outputs	Objectives of Regeneration Strategy met	Funding secured and potential costs	
F – Maximise enjoyment of the many green assets within and surrounding the area	F - 3 Nelson Wern Woodland Park	Enhance facilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Greater tourist offer to increase dwell time in the area Increase footfall and spend Increase visitor numbers at other attractions Improve quality of life for residents Promotion of healthy lifestyle Improved facilities, including for youths 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SP8 SQL1 - 3 	Funding Secured: None to date Total Costs: To be determined	
	F - 4 – Rhymney Riverside Walk	Completion of the Walk and provision of an outdoor gym	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improve pedestrian connectivity Improve quality of life for residents Promotion of healthy lifestyle Environmental improvements 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SP8 SQL1 - 3 	Funding Secured: None to date Total Costs: To be determined	
	F - 5 – Rhymney Valley Ridgeway Walk	Enhancement of the Walk				
	F - 6 Gren Way	Promotion of the Walk				
	F - 7 Common Land	Enhancement of Eglwysilan Common and Gelligaer Common	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improve quality of life for residents Promotion of healthy lifestyle Environmental improvements Protection of unique heritage assets 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SP8 SQL1 - 3 	Funding Secured: None to date Total Costs: To be determined	
	F - 8 The Graig, Hengoed	Enhancement of open space to include provision of footpath/cycle link	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improve pedestrian connectivity Improve quality of life for residents Promotion of healthy lifestyle Environmental improvements Prevention of fires 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SP8 SQL1 - 3 	Funding Secured: None to date Total Costs: To be determined	

Strategic Objective	Project	Description	Expected/Indicative outputs	Objectives of Regeneration Strategy met	Funding secured and potential costs
G - Complete the regeneration of the former Penallta Colliery Site	G - 1 Power Hall	Conversion of the last two listed buildings within this magnificent heritage site to provide for housing as well as retail and employment uses with a focus on entrepreneurship digital/technology hubs and workshops for smaller business.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Conservation, preservation and conversion of Historic built environment ● Safeguarding of Listed Buildings/structures within the site ● Redevelopment of a former brownfield site ● Provision of circa 100 residential units ● Provision of retail and employment uses ● Creation of technology hubs ● Creation of 'work/live' environment and cluster linked with broader skills development and training opportunities forged with the nearby Coleg y Cymoedd ● Skills development ● Job creation ● Generation of CIL revenue 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● SQL1 ● SQL5 ● CPP5 	Funding Secured: None to date
	G-2 Bath House building				Total Costs: To be determined
	G - 3 Land at Winding Wheel Lane	Opportunity exists for a unique and innovative commercial development scheme to provide a small food store, Public House or restaurant and cafe and offices/services such as a surgery/creche	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Develop circa 1 Ha of underutilised land for commercial/retail use ● Redevelopment of a former brownfield site ● Provide retail and employment services for residents to engender a more sustainable and self contained development ● Job creation ● Create a number of new business premises ● Accommodate new enterprises 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● SP4 ● SB1 	Funding Secured: None to date
					Total Costs: To be determined
					Private Sector led

Strategic Objective	Project	Description	Expected/Indicative outputs	Objectives of Regeneration Strategy met	Funding secured and potential costs
H – Support the development of housing, including affordable housing, on both brownfield and greenfield sites in sustainable locations	H - 1 Land at Ty Du, Nelson	Delivery of housing in an area where there is a need to diversify the housing supply and address the need for affordable housing	See A - 2	See A - 2	See A - 2
	H - 2 Penallta Colliery	Delivery of housing in an area where there is a need to diversify the housing supply and address the need for affordable housing	See G - 1 and G - 2	See G - 1 and G - 2	See G - 1 and G - 2
	H - 3 Tir-y-berth, Hengoed	Delivery of housing in an area where there is a need to diversify the housing supply and address the need for affordable housing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Redevelopment of a 5 Ha brownfield site ● Development of circa 175 dwellings ● Approx. 193 indirect/induced jobs from residential development ● Approx. 18 new permanent operational jobs created through residential expenditure ● Approx. £36m net effect on economy from residential development ● Generation of CIL revenue ● Employment opportunities in the construction industry and local supply chain benefits 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● SQL5 	<p>Funding Secured: None to date</p> <p>Total Costs: To be determined</p> <p>Private Sector Led</p>

Strategic Objective	Project	Description	Expected/Indicative outputs	Objectives of Regeneration Strategy met	Funding secured and potential costs
	H - 4 Land east of Handball Court, Nelson	Delivery of housing in an area where there is a need to diversify the housing supply and address the need for affordable housing	See B-4	See B-4	See B-4
	H - 5 Land at New Road, Ystrad Mynach	Delivery of housing in an area where there is a need to diversify the housing supply and address the need for affordable housing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Redevelopment of a 0.5 Ha brownfield site ● Development of circa 18 dwellings ● Generation of CIL revenue ● Employment opportunities in the construction industry and local supply chain benefits ● Potential for future expansion to provide further dwellings 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● SQL5 	<p>Funding Secured: None to date</p> <p>Total Costs: To be determined</p> <p>Private Sector Led</p>
	H - 6 Greenhill Primary School, Gelligaer	Delivery of housing in an area where there is a need to diversify the housing supply and address the need for affordable housing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Redevelopment of a 0.9 Ha brownfield site for 37 houses ● Employment opportunities in the construction industry and local supply chain benefits ● Provision of state of the art primary school 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● SQL5 	<p>The county borough's most energy efficient school, rated A+ was completed in 2011.</p> <p>The dwellings are under construction, being developed in partnership with United Welsh Housing Association and supported by Welsh Government Social Housing Grant.</p>

Strategic Objective	Project	Description	Expected/Indicative outputs	Objectives of Regeneration Strategy met	Funding secured and potential costs
I – Provide a suitable level of community leisure and education facilities to support the potential level of population and housing growth within the Ystrad Mynach Strategic Hub	I - 1 Trinity Fields School and Resource Centre	Expansion to accommodate future demand and requirements of Additional Learning Needs (ALN) Reform Bill.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Provide modern education establishments ● Increasing specialist educational provision within Caerphilly to meet identified and projected future demand. ● Increased opportunities for community use and on-site childcare provision. ● Support the authority in meeting the legislative requirements of the new ALN Reform Bill. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● SP2 	<p>Funding Secured: Potential Council/Welsh Government 21st Century Schools and Education Programme</p> <p>Total Costs: circa £5m</p>
	I - 2 Amalgamation of Llanfabon Infants School and Llancaeath Junior School	Expansion and refurbishment of Llanfabon Infants School to accommodate the new Primary School.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Targets an area of high social deprivation. ● Removal of 2 Category C schools in relation to condition. ● Creation of 3-11 primary provision. ● Creation of fit for purpose, energy efficient 21st century school. ● Reduction of surplus places. ● Estimated saving of £659K on backlog maintenance costs. ● Increased opportunities for community use and on-site childcare provision. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● SP2 	<p>Funding Secured: Potential Council/Welsh Government 21st Century Schools and Education Programme</p> <p>Total Costs: circa £4m</p>

Strategic Objective	Project	Description	Expected/Indicative outputs	Objectives of Regeneration Strategy met	Funding secured and potential costs
J - Ensure that accessibility for all is embedded in all improvement schemes		This is a cross-cutting objective that should be considered as an integral part of all projects	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Accessibility for those living, working or visiting Ystrad Mynach and the wider area 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● SQL3 	
K – Ensure that Ystrad Mynach and the wider communities are able to engage with and benefit from the Masterplan		Address the multi faceted needs in the most deprived communities by adopting a place based focus that seeks to better coordinate services to achieve maximum impact	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Social, economic and environmental outputs for deprived communities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● SB1 ● SB6 ● SQL3 ● SQL6 ● SP1 - SP11 	

Appendix 1 – A Foundation for Success Objectives

Supporting People

- SP1: Increase employability
- SP2: Raise educational attainment
- SP3: Reduce worklessness
- SP4: Improve resilience and support the development of the foundational economy
- SP5: Develop skills in key growth areas
- SP6: Targeted Intervention of key groups
- SP7: Ensure a clear co-ordinated 'package of services' is available in order to reconnect people to employment
- SP8: Support Interventions to improve health
- SP9: Reduce inequality by reducing the number of lower super output areas within the top 10% deprived within Wales
- SP10: Ensure that Cultivational Procurement is a key consideration in the procurement of goods and services
- SP11: Tackle in-work poverty

Supporting Businesses

- SB1: Building a more resilient & diversified economy
- SB2: Supporting economic growth and innovation
- SB3: Creating an environment that nurtures businesses
- SB4: Key Sites and Infrastructure for employment opportunities
- SB5: Boost Business Support & Enterprise
- SB6: Improve the links between businesses, schools and education & training providers

Supporting Quality of Life

- SQL1: Manage the natural heritage and its resources appropriately for future generations, whilst accommodating much needed sustainable development, protecting wildlife and encouraging the use of green spaces to promote wellbeing

- SQL2: Improve access to culture, leisure and the arts
- SQL3: Active Place Making
- SQL4: There is a need to increase tourism in Caerphilly, focusing on the historic and natural heritage of the area and the opportunities that this presents
- SQL5: Improve the delivery of new housing and diversify housing across all tenures
- SQL6: Improve the quality of the existing housing stock through targeted intervention; particularly in terms of Council owned housing stock
- SQL7: Refocus town centres to serve the needs of residents and businesses

Connecting People and Places

- CPP1: Promote and identify major highway projects that would significantly improve connectivity and accessibility

- CPP2: Promote Public Transport Integration and Connectivity
- CPP3: Promote place-making development around key transport hubs and nodes
- CPP4: Actively promote rail improvements and the reinstatement of new links
- CPP5: Seek to reduce travelling distance and reduce out-commuting
- CPP6: Promote digital connectivity

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Appendix 2 Well-being of Future Generations

The Masterplan has had regard for the seven well-being goals set out within the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015. In order to demonstrate this, an assessment has been made as to which well-being goals each strategic objective would support. The Strategic Objectives of the Masterplan are:

- A.** Provide the conditions to strengthen business growth and employment opportunities
- B.** Create the conditions for the area to become a thriving Metro Hub
- C.** Modernise and develop Ystrad Mynach into a thriving business and commercial centre
- D.** Create an exemplary Sport, Leisure and Education Cluster
- E.** Create a vibrant and accessible visitor destination
- F.** Maximise enjoyment of green assets within and surrounding the Masterplan Area
- G.** Complete the regeneration of the former Penallta Colliery Site
- H.** Support the development of housing, including affordable housing, on both greenfield and brownfield sites in sustainable locations
- I.** Provide a suitable level of community leisure and education facilities to support the potential level of population and housing growth in the Masterplan Area
- J.** Ensure that accessibility for all is embedded in all improvement schemes
- K.** Ensure all communities are able to engage and benefit from the Masterplan

Goal	Description of the goal	How it will be achieved by the Masterplan
A prosperous Wales	An innovative, productive and low carbon society which recognises the limits of the global environment and therefore uses resources efficiently and proportionately (including acting on climate change); and which develops a skilled and well-educated population in an economy which generates wealth and provides employment opportunities, allowing people to take advantage of the wealth generated through securing decent work.	<i>Relevant Strategic Objectives - A, B, C, D, E, G, I</i> A number of the projects identified will increase employment across a range of sectors. The expansion of the retail and employment offer in the town will reduce the need to travel outside of the County Borough, reducing the carbon footprint. The Masterplan also seeks to provide appropriate education facilities, which will contribute to delivering a skilled and well-education population.
A resilient Wales	A nation which maintains and enhances a biodiverse natural environment with healthy functioning ecosystems that support social, economic and ecological resilience and the capacity to adapt to change (for example climate change).	<i>Relevant Strategic Objectives - B, F</i> Central to the Vision is the recognition that the Masterplan Area is set within an attractive natural environment. This is also identified in the development strategy, where it is highlighted that the need to maintain and enhance biodiversity and promote the resilience of ecosystems will be a key policy consideration in the preparation of proposals. It also promotes the use of more sustainable modes of transport and references the opportunities to incorporate renewable technologies within development proposals. It is recognised that the natural environment is important from a tourism perspective and also as an area valued by residents.
A healthier Wales	A society in which people's physical and mental well-being is maximised and in which choices and behaviours that benefit future health are understood.	<i>Relevant Strategic Objectives – B,D,F,I</i> There are projects included within the Masterplan that promote active travel and improve connectivity between key open spaces. The Masterplan acknowledges that enhancing and encouraging use of green and open spaces can improve quality of life and promote well-being. The creation of a sport, leisure and education cluster will also benefit both physical and mental well-being.

Goal	Description of the goal	How it will be achieved by the Masterplan
A more equal Wales	A society that enables people to fulfil their potential no matter what their background or circumstances (including their socio economic background and circumstances).	<p><i>Relevant Strategic Objectives – A,C,E,G,H,I,J,K</i></p> <p>The projects identified will increase employment opportunities in all sectors, including the foundational economy. The Masterplan also recognises the challenges experienced in the more deprived communities (e.g. Cefn Hengoed) and Section 7 identifies how the projects link to the objectives of the Regeneration Strategy, where equality is an integral part.</p> <p>The delivery of housing, including affordable housing, so that everyone has a place to live will also contribute to this.</p>
A Wales of cohesive communities	Attractive, viable, safe and well-connected communities.	<p><i>Relevant Strategic Objectives – A,B,C,E, F,G,H</i></p> <p>There are a number of proposals that will improve connectivity between areas. Furthermore, the physical regeneration of a number of key sites for a mix of uses, together with environmental improvements, will make the Masterplan Area a more attractive, viable and safe area.</p> <p>The Masterplan seeks to promote housing in sustainable locations, which will ensure that new developments are well-connected to services and facilities.</p>
A Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language	A society that promotes and protects culture, heritage and the Welsh language, and which encourages people to participate in the arts, and sports and recreation.	<p><i>Relevant Strategic Objectives – E,F, G</i></p> <p>Maximising the presence of the many heritage assets within the Masterplan Area is a key element of the Masterplan and proposals to enhance the tourism offer associated with these attractions will be supported.</p> <p>The Masterplan will be available bilingually.</p>
A globally responsive Wales	A nation which, when doing anything to improve the economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales, takes account of whether doing such a thing may make a positive contribution to global well-being.	<p><i>Relevant Strategic Objectives – B, F</i></p> <p>There are strong links between this goal and a resilient Wales. The development strategy highlights that there is a need to maintain and enhance biodiversity and promote the resilience of ecosystems, and this will be a key policy consideration in the preparation of proposals. Furthermore, the strategy in the Masterplan promotes the use of more sustainable modes of transport and references the opportunities to incorporate renewable technologies within development proposals.</p>

The development of the Masterplan has also been informed by the five ways of working

Involvement – The Masterplan has been developed through engagement workshops with a number of key stakeholders, including key landowners and interested parties, local authority ward members representing the Masterplan Area, community councillors and key representatives.

Collaborate – The development of the Masterplan has drawn upon the expertise from key representatives from across local authority departments, including Planning, Regeneration, Housing, Engineering, Education, Leisure, and Countryside. The delivery of the projects identified within the Masterplan will involve collaboration between the public, private and third sectors, and the Council will work closely with these partners to deliver schemes in a collaborative manner.

Long term – The objectives identified, and the projects that will deliver these objectives, are part of a longer-term vision of enhancing Ystrad Mynach's role as a sub-regional economic hub capable of supporting local communities. The Masterplan recognises the need for development in order to support economic growth, but recognises that this development should be in sustainable locations.

Integration – The projects identified in the Masterplan will help deliver a number of the Objectives identified within the Council's Regeneration Strategy 'A Foundation for Success' (as set out in Section 7 of this report), as well as proposals identified within the adopted Local Development Plan Up to 2021. They will also deliver against the Council's own Well-being Objectives for 2017/18 by identifying projects that will lead to job creation and training opportunities, which will help address poverty. The projects promote more active and healthy lifestyles

and reduced the carbon footprint through improved active travel routes and facilities locally.

Prevention – The Masterplan recognises that there are a number of challenges within the Masterplan Area that need to be addressed in order to achieve the Vision. The projects identified will respond to these key concerns in order to ensure that they do not get worse. The projects identified will raise the profile of the area, increase the tourism offer and therefore visitor spend, enhance Ystrad Mynach town centre, create job opportunities, enhance connectivity, and improve the quality of life for those living, working and visiting the Masterplan Area.

Appendix 3 - Assessment of Site Specific Proposals against the national well-being goals and the CCBC Well-being objectives

This Appendix provides an initial assessment of the projects identified within the Masterplan against the national well-being goals and the Council's well-being objectives, as set out within the Corporate Plan 2018-2023. The national well-being objectives are set out in Appendix 2, and the corporate objectives are set out below. It should be noted that many of the projects identified are at an embryonic stage and therefore a detailed analysis of the relationship between proposals and the well-being goals and objectives cannot be undertaken at this stage.

Caerphilly CBC Well-being Objectives

Number	Description
Objective 1	Improve education opportunities for all
Objective 2	Enabling Employment
Objective 3	Address the availability, condition and sustainability of homes throughout the county borough and provide advice, assistance or support to help improve people's well-being
Objective 4	Promote a modern, integrated and sustainable transport system that increases opportunity, promotes prosperity and minimises the adverse impacts on the environment
Objective 5	Creating a county borough that supports a healthy lifestyle in accordance with the Sustainable Development Principle within the Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015
Objective 6	Support citizens to remain independent and improve their well-being

Strategic Objective	Project	Description	National well-being goals	CCBC Well-being objectives 2018- 2023
A	A - 1 Tredomen Business Park	Develop land north west of Tredomen Business Park for employment units	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● A prosperous Wales ● A more equal Wales ● A Wales of cohesive communities ● A globally responsible Wales 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 2 - Enabling employment
	A - 2 Ty Du, Nelson	Development of significant mixed use site comprising employment and residential properties	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● A prosperous Wales ● A more equal Wales ● A Wales of cohesive communities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 2 - Enabling employment ● 3 - Address the availability, condition and sustainability of homes
	A - 3 Coopers Court, Caerphilly Road	Demolition of four dilapidated units and construction of replacement bespoke units at the southern end of the site Long term opportunity to redevelop or refurbish remaining units to maximise the potential of this key site located at the southern gateway into Ystrad Mynach.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● A prosperous Wales ● A more equal Wales ● A Wales of cohesive communities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 2 - Enabling employment
	A - 4 Dyffryn Business Park	Development of unused land for employment use	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● A prosperous Wales ● A more equal Wales ● A Wales of cohesive communities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 2 - Enabling employment

Strategic Objective	Project	Description	National well-being goals	CCBC Well-being objectives 2018- 2023
B	B - 1 Ystrad Mynach Station	Redevelopment and expansion of facilities at Ystrad Mynach Station	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● A resilient Wales ● A healthier Wales ● A Wales of cohesive communities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 4 - Promote a modern, integrated and sustainable transport system
	B - 2 Ystrad Mynach Extended Park and Ride facility	Provide additional park and ride facilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● A Wales of cohesive communities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 4 - Promote a modern, integrated and sustainable transport system
	B - 3 Hengoed Extended Park and Ride facility	Explore opportunities to provide additional park and ride facilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● A Wales of cohesive communities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 4 - Promote a modern, integrated and sustainable transport system
	B - 4 Reinstatement of the Cwmbargoed Line	Reinstatement of the Cwmbargoed line for passenger transport	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● A prosperous Wales ● A resilient Wales ● A more equal Wales ● A Wales of cohesive communities ● A globally responsible Wales 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 2 - Enabling employment ● 3 - Address the availability, condition and sustainability of homes ● 4 - Promote a modern, integrated and sustainable transport system
	B - 5 Regional Bus Network	Introduction of Rapid Bus Transport Routes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● A resilient Wales ● A Wales of cohesive communities ● A globally responsible Wales 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 4 - Promote a modern, integrated and sustainable transport system

Strategic Objective	Project	Description	National well-being goals	CCBC Well-being objectives 2018- 2023
B	B - 6 Cycle Parking Facilities	Provision of cycle facilities at all existing transport hubs (Ystrad Mynach, Hengoed and Pengam stations as well as any new stations) together with key employment and retail destinations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● A resilient Wales ● A healthier Wales ● A Wales of cohesive communities ● A globally responsible Wales 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 4 - Promote a modern, integrated and sustainable transport system ● 5 - Support a healthy lifestyle
	B - 7 Cycle Hire Scheme	Provision of a cycle hire scheme with hire points at key designations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● A resilient Wales ● A healthier Wales ● A Wales of cohesive communities ● A globally responsible Wales 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 4 - Promote a modern, integrated and sustainable transport system ● 5 - Support a healthy lifestyle
C	C - 1 Ystrad Mynach Town Centre	Build on and enhance the Town Centre Offer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● A prosperous Wales ● A healthier Wales ● A more equal Wales ● A Wales of cohesive communities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 2 - Enabling employment
	C - 2 Enhanced Parking Facilities	Preparation of a town centre parking plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● A Wales of cohesive communities 	
	C - 3 Land North of The Royal Oak	Redevelopment of site	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● A prosperous Wales ● A healthier Wales ● A more equal Wales ● A Wales of cohesive communities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 2 - Enabling employment
	C - 4 Land north of Dyffryn Business Park	Development of hotel, public house and café/restaurant with drive through facility	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● A prosperous Wales ● A more equal Wales ● A Wales of cohesive communities ● A Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 2 - Enabling employment

Strategic Objective	Project	Description	National well-being goals	CCBC Well-being objectives 2018- 2023
D	D-1 Centre for Sporting Excellence and surrounding land	Extension of the existing Centre for Sporting Excellence to create a Sporting Village, expansion of facilities at Coleg y Cymoedd and expansion of Trinity Fields School and Resource Centre	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● A prosperous Wales ● A resilient Wales ● A healthier Wales ● A more equal Wales ● A Wales of cohesive communities ● A Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 5 - Support a healthy lifestyle
E	E-1 Llancaiach Fawr Manor	Development of accommodation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● A prosperous Wales ● A resilient Wales ● A healthier Wales ● A more equal Wales ● A Wales of cohesive communities ● A Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language ● A globally responsible Wales 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 2 - Enabling employment
	E-2 Llechwen Hall	Improve links and connectivity between Llechwen Hall and other attractions within the Masterplan Area	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● A Wales of cohesive communities ● A Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 2 - Enabling employment
	E-3 Gelligaer Roman Fort	Enhance and raise the profile of the existing tourist attraction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● A prosperous Wales ● A more equal Wales ● A Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 2 - Enabling employment
	E-4 Valley Greyhound Track	Enhance and raise the profile of the existing tourist attraction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● A prosperous Wales ● A more equal Wales 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 2 - Enabling employment

Strategic Objective	Project	Description	National well-being goals	CCBC Well-being objectives 2018- 2023
E	E - 5 Events	Expand the programme of events within the area Increase the number of event spaces	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● A prosperous Wales ● A Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language 	
	E - 6 Activity Tourism	Increase accommodation suitable for the active tourism market	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● A prosperous Wales ● A healthier Wales ● A Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language 	● 5 - Support a healthy lifestyle
	E - 7 Heritage Trail	Creation of a Heritage Trail linking key sites and buildings of interest	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● A prosperous Wales ● A healthier Wales ● A Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language 	● 5 - Support a healthy lifestyle
	E - 8 Accommodation	Provision of Boutique hotel and pods/huts at Llancaiach Fawr Provision of a budget chain hotel at Ty Du Provision of a budget chain hotel on land North of Dyffryn Business Park Camping/Glamping provision at Parc Penallta	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● A prosperous Wales ● A more equal Wales ● A Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language 	● 2 - Enabling employment

Strategic Objective	Project	Description	National well-being goals	CCBC Well-being objectives 2018- 2023
F	F-1 Green Infrastructure	A 20 year programme for the integration, development and management of a network of green infrastructure, supported by a five year delivery and action plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● A resilient Wales ● A healthier Wales ● A Wales of cohesive communities ● A globally responsible Wales 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 5 - Support a healthy lifestyle
	F - 2 Parc Penallta	Enhance facilities to include a new visitor centre and complimentary accommodation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● A prosperous Wales ● A resilient Wales ● A healthier Wales ● A Wales of cohesive communities ● A Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language ● A globally responsible Wales 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 1- Improve education opportunities for all ● 5 - Support a healthy lifestyle
	F - 3 Nelson Wern Woodland Park	Enhance facilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● A resilient Wales ● A healthier Wales ● A Wales of cohesive communities ● A globally responsible Wales 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 5 - Support a healthy lifestyle
	F - 4 Rhymney Riverside Walk	Completion of the Walk and provision of an outdoor gym	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● A resilient Wales ● A healthier Wales ● A Wales of cohesive communities ● A globally responsible Wales 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 5 - Support a healthy lifestyle

Strategic Objective	Project	Description	National well-being goals	CCBC Well-being objectives 2018- 2023
F	F - 5 Rhymney Valley Ridgeway Walk	Enhancement of the Walk	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● A resilient Wales ● A healthier Wales ● A Wales of cohesive communities ● A globally responsible Wales 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 5 - Support a healthy lifestyle
	F - 6 Gren Way	Promotion of the Walk	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● A resilient Wales ● A healthier Wales ● A Wales of cohesive communities ● A Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language ● A globally responsible Wales 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 5 - Support a healthy lifestyle
	F - 7 Common Land	Enhancement of open space to include provision of footpath/cycle link	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● A resilient Wales ● A healthier Wales ● A Wales of cohesive communities ● A Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language ● A globally responsible Wales 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 5 - Support a healthy lifestyle
	F - 8 The Graig, Hengoed	Enhancement of open space	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● A resilient Wales ● A healthier Wales ● A Wales of cohesive communities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 5 - Support a healthy lifestyle

Strategic Objective	Project	Description	National well-being goals	CCBC Well-being objectives 2018- 2023
G	G - 1 Power Hall G - 2 Bath House building	Conversion of the last two listed buildings within this magnificent heritage site to provide for housing as well as retail and employment uses with a focus on entrepreneurship digital/ technology hubs and workshops for smaller business.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● A prosperous Wales ● A more equal Wales ● A Wales of cohesive communities ● A Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 2 - Enabling employment ● 3 - Address the availability, condition and sustainability of homes
	G - 3 Land at Winding Wheel Lane	Opportunity exists for a unique and innovative commercial development scheme to provide a small food store, Public House or restaurant and cafe and offices/services such as a surgery/creche	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● A prosperous Wales ● A more equal Wales ● A Wales of cohesive communities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 2 - Enabling employment
H	H - 1 Land at Ty Du, Nelson	Delivery of housing in an area where there is a need to diversify the housing supply and address the need for affordable housing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● A prosperous Wales ● A Wales of cohesive communities ● A more equal Wales 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 2 - Enabling Employment ● 3 - Address the availability, condition and sustainability of homes
	H - 2 Penallta Colliery	Delivery of housing in an area where there is a need to diversify the housing supply and address the need for affordable housing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● A prosperous Wales ● A Wales of cohesive communities ● A more equal Wales 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 2 - Enabling Employment ● 3 - Address the availability, condition and sustainability of homes
	H - 3 Tir-y-berth, Hengoed	Delivery of housing in an area where there is a need to diversify the housing supply and address the need for affordable housing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● A prosperous Wales ● A Wales of cohesive communities ● A more equal Wales 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 2 - Enabling Employment ● 3 - Address the availability, condition and sustainability of homes

Strategic Objective	Project	Description	National well-being goals	CCBC Well-being objectives 2018- 2023
H	H - 4 Land east of Handball Court, Nelson	Delivery of housing in an area where there is a need to diversify the housing supply and address the need for affordable housing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● A prosperous Wales ● A Wales of cohesive communities ● A more equal Wales 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 2 – Enabling Employment ● 3 - Address the availability, condition and sustainability of homes
	H - 5 Land at New Road, Ystrad Mynach	Delivery of housing in an area where there is a need to diversify the housing supply and address the need for affordable housing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● A prosperous Wales ● A Wales of cohesive communities ● A more equal Wales 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 2 – Enabling Employment ● 3 - Address the availability, condition and sustainability of homes
	H - 6 Greenhill Primary School, Gelligaer	Delivery of housing in an area where there is a need to diversify the housing supply and address the need for affordable housing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● A prosperous Wales ● A Wales of cohesive communities ● A more equal Wales 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 2 – Enabling Employment ● 3 - Address the availability, condition and sustainability of homes
I	I - 1 Trinity Fields School and Resource Centre	Expansion to accommodate future demand and requirements of Additional Learning Needs (ALN) Reform Bill.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● A prosperous Wales ● A more equal Wales 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 1 - Improve education opportunities for all
	I - 2 Amalgamation of Llanfabon Infants School and Llancaeath Junior School	Expansion and refurbishment of Llanfabon Infants School to accommodate the new Primary School	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● A prosperous Wales ● A more equal Wales 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 1 - Improve education opportunities for all

Strategic Objective	Project	Description	National well-being goals	CCBC Well-being objectives 2018- 2023
J		This is a cross-cutting objective that should be considered as an integral part of all projects	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● A more equal Wales ● A healthier Wales 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 4 - Promote a modern, integrated and sustainable transport system
K		Address the multi faceted needs in the most deprived communities by adopting a place based focus that seeks to better coordinate services to achieve maximum impact	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● A more equal Wales ● A Wales of cohesive communities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 3 - Address the availability, condition and sustainability of homes

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CABINET – 16TH JANUARY 2019

SUBJECT: WELSH GOVERNMENT FLEXIBLE FUNDING

REPORT BY: CORPORATE DIRECTOR COMMUNITIES

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To inform Cabinet of the Welsh Government's Flexible Funding project and the subsequent decision made by Welsh Government to implement two integrated grants from 1st April 2019: A Children and Communities Grant & A Housing Support Grant.
- 1.2 To establish the necessary governance structure to administer and manage the two integrated grants and establish a new Programme Collaboration Group and support collaboration with the Housing Support Grants

2. SUMMARY

- 2.1 Welsh Government have piloted an approach to the amalgamation of funding for ten grant programmes aimed at supporting vulnerable people and communities, with the intention that a single Early Intervention Prevention and Support Grant will be allocated to the authority for local determination of delivery from 2019/20. The aim of Welsh Government is to support a joined-up, long term, preventative approach to delivering for vulnerable people.
- 2.2 The full Funding Flexibilities and Extending Flexibilities pilot was implemented from April 2018 and is ongoing. Caerphilly CBC was not a pilot authority.
- 2.3 There are many examples of joint working and collaboration already in place in Caerphilly within the grants in scope for funding flexibility. Examples are highlighted in section 4.12, although this is not an exhaustive list.
- 2.4 On the 3rd October 2018 a written statement from Alun Davies, Cabinet Secretary for Local Government and Public Services and Rebecca Evans, Minister for Housing and Regeneration confirmed the future direction of the Early Intervention Prevention and Support Grant over the remainder of this Assembly term. Detail of included programmes is listed in Appendix 1. Welsh Government has indicated the level of funding across the programmes will remain unchanged during the current administration and will not be subject to financial cuts as previously indicated in 2017. However, should this position change a further report will be necessary as soon as the level of cuts are known.
- 2.5 A further letter was received from Welsh Government on 15th November 2018 outlining the arrangements for financial year 2019-20. Indicative grant offers will be issued by the end of the 2019 calendar year, with a comprehensive final offer issued by the end of March 2019.

3. LINKS TO STRATEGY

- 3.1 The antipoverty programmes together aim to maximise our contribution towards the following Well-being Goals within the Well-being of Future Generations Act (Wales) 2016:

- *A prosperous Wales*
 - The programmes aim to support children, young people, adults and families to achieve their personal goals which may include raising aspirations, children's development, attainment, employability skills, increase attendance at provision and build life skills for their future. In addition they support families to improve their resilience, financial management, parenting skills, language and literacy skills as well as support them to gain confidence to move on to employment support programmes, which aim to support and grow our economy.
- *A resilient Wales*
 - Many of the programmes encourage delivery of and use of local community based provision for sustainability of local resources. All childcare settings and schools as well as some of the projects funded are signed up to the Healthy Schools, Healthy colleges, Healthy Early Years and healthy snacks schemes which also include Eco Schools / Early Years and encourage children, young people and their families to use the indoors / outdoors natural environment.
- *A healthier Wales*
 - The Healthy schemes are embedded into practice across many of the programmes, projects, childcare settings, and group based provision encouraging healthy eating and activity, as well as reinforcing healthy behaviour messages, like no smoking, and advice on misuse of substances. There are also key health messages throughout the various projects and a specific project that encourages establishing healthy behaviours from the antenatal period. Using local community based provision for delivery of the programmes encourages walking rather than driving to settings and groups. New projects commissioned are also exploring transport training so that families are supported to access public transport.
- *A more equal Wales*
 - The programmes have a main objective to reduce the impact of poverty on children, young people, adults and families through supporting them to access interventions, building confident and resilient communities and promoting positive development and attainment. Some of the programmes aim to early identify children with additional needs and support their parents to be able to support their child's development. Some programmes also link with employment based programmes to encourage adults to take up opportunities to return to / start employment.
- *A Wales of cohesive communities*
 - Through the collaboration of the programmes the geographical limitations have been overcome. Although a criticism of Flying Start and Communities First programmes are the geographical targeting of postcodes, this also acts as a way to support those communities in the most concentrated areas of need. The geographical nature enables targeting of resources; creation of well resourced quality community based provision and builds a value to their local area, which other families want to access. However, Supporting People and Families First cover the whole borough so that families in need are able to access relevant provision to meet their needs. Collaboratively the programmes support safe, confident communities by minimising the chances of young people escalating through the criminal justice system and supporting the strategic planning for families subjected to domestic violence.

- *A Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language*
 - Improving understanding of culture and using conversational Welsh language across provision and especially in the schools and childcare settings has been embedded throughout programme delivery. Childcare settings are working on a quality assurance scheme called the Road to Bilingualism which identifies their current practice and targets for improvements. Facebook pages and communications are now bilingual so that choices can be made as well as having translation into other languages as needed.
- *A globally responsible Wales*
 - Wellbeing is embedded through practice across many of the programmes, including programme / project delivery and the new specification designs. The Solihull approach is being embedded across all staff teams to enable a common language and understanding of the importance of relationships and attachment. The focus now is on preventing / mitigating the impact of Adverse Childhood Experiences [ACEs] and using trauma informed approaches including Psychologically Informed Environments [PIE] to ensure practitioners are aware of and recognise how to support children and adults who have embedded behaviours due to previous life experiences, and therefore improve their wellbeing.

4. THE REPORT

4.1 Background

The Communities and Tackling Poverty (CTP) Programme Alignment Project was set up in October 2015 to explore options to streamline some of the administrative processes involved in the four tackling poverty programmes - Communities First (CF), Families First (FF), Flying Start (FS) and Supporting People (SP) - and to allow greater flexibility and alignment between them. The project recommended and implemented a number of recommendations to promote alignment between the programmes in 2016/17. The other programmes, listed in 4.8, have recently become part of the alignment project.

4.2 In order to understand what impact the recommendations had in 2016/17 and inform the decision on which recommendations should be taken forward in the next financial year (2017/18), an evaluation was carried out. The evaluation focused on the impact of the following recommendations:

- Reducing the number of programme payments and aligning the timings of these payments.
- Introducing some flexibility between the four programmes' budgets, through a virement window (open 1st October to 30th November) where up to 5% of one programme's budget could be transferred to another, subject to Welsh Government approval.
- Taking steps to better align the reporting arrangements across all four programmes, in line with changes to the timings of funding streams.
- Encouraging collaboration and smarter planning to take place between the programmes.

4.3 From October 2015 – April 2017 the Welsh Government Alignment Project sought to achieve greater alignment between four CTP programmes (Communities First (CF), Families First (FF), Flying Start (FS) and Supporting People (SP)). A number of recommendations were agreed relating to the schedules for fund claims and performance reporting as well as limited virement of funds between programmes.

4.4 In October 2016 Welsh Government offered Local Authorities the opportunity to pilot greater financial freedom and flexibilities across programmes. Several expressions of interest and outline proposals were received and this has led to the Flexible Funding Pilot. The organisations that accepted the offer are: Cwm Taf Public Services Board; Rhondda Cynon Taff (RCT), Torfaen, Cardiff, Newport, Conwy, Bridgend and Merthyr.

4.5 Welsh Government wrote to Local Authorities in June 2017 informing them of the Cabinet Secretary's intention to establish a Flexible Funding project, which outlined two strands of work for the 2018/19 financial year, both of which seek to build on the positive messages drawn from the evaluation of the alignment project; the first is a 'Full Flexibility' pathfinder, the second is an 'Extended Flexibilities' programme. Local authorities were expected to allocate the same amount to the Supporting People programme.

4.6 Full Flexibility Pathfinders

Feedback from pilot local authorities participating in the Alignment Project indicated a clear appetite for increased flexibility, reduced bureaucracy and for grant structures that support and promote better joint planning and commissioning.

4.7 The Full Flexibility pathfinder gave 100% flexibility across grants in order to achieve increased programme alignment, make more effective use of funding and meet local needs. This greater financial freedom and flexibility is expected to enable pilot areas to work differently, giving more scope to design services to support the Government's drive for more preventative, long-term approaches.

4.8 The pathfinders have flexibility in relation to the 10 grants listed below previously in scope of the alignment project;

- Supporting People
- Flying Start
- Families First
- Legacy Fund
- Promoting Positive Engagement for Young People
- Childcare and Play (formerly Out of School Childcare)
- Homelessness Prevention
- Rent Smart Wales Enforcement (formerly Independent Living)
- St David's Day Fund
- Communities for Work Plus (formerly the Employability Grant)

However, given the view that the greater the combined fund, the more opportunity there is for efficiencies to be realised in the strategic targeting of funds on local needs in line with local strategies, Welsh Government are minded to consider extending the number of grants in scope to include those outlined in Appendix 1.

Extended Flexibility

Welsh Government gave those local authorities who were not Full Flexibility pathfinders 15% flexibility from April 2018 across the original grants (Supporting People, Flying Start, Families First and the Communities First Legacy Fund) and the new Employability Grant (Communities for Work Plus).

The Cabinet Secretary moved ahead with these two approaches from April 2018, firmly believing they offer opportunities for service improvements directly impacting citizens, including:

- Improving access and availability of services
- Reducing service gaps and improving pathways
- Increasing understanding of need/demand
- Scoping, formulating and implementing broader strategy

4.9 Feedback from Newport City Council as a Pathfinder Area

Newport began the process with an Equality Impact Assessment and an approach that the pilot should focus on improving the experience of residents, not saving costs. They set up a governance model that encompassed:

- A Flexible Fund Steering Group
- The Resilient Communities Board – oversees the process e.g. all virements are agreed by the Board.
- Links to the Regional Boards
- The 'One Newport' Public Services Board

Newport considered all elements of the process, including recognising there are 10 funds with 10 different managers, 10 finance teams, and multiple delivery sites across the City and some duplication of projects. To ensure impartiality they will be bringing in an external party to do a full review.

4.10 A number of Local Authority areas are undertaking a place based approach, in line with the Community Hubs agenda, focusing on family centre provision and co locating staff on an area management basis.

4.11 The Flexible Funding evaluation contract was awarded to Wavehill and will run until the end of May 2019. They have provided an Interim Evaluation Report, which formed part of the Ministerial statement on 3rd October 2018. A Final Report is expected in May 2019. The Society of Welsh Treasurers is also playing a role in providing further evidence to help influence the decision on the way forward, and to provide an analysis of the possible administrative and service efficiencies that might be generated by working differently, to complement the independent evaluation.

4.12 As set out in the written statement in Appendix 2, Cabinet Secretaries and Ministers have decided that from 1 April 2019, there will be two integrated grants for all 22 local authorities:

- A Children and Communities Grant (Flying Start, Families First, Legacy Fund, Communities for Work Plus, Promoting Positive Engagement for Young People, Childcare and Play and St David's Day Fund) and
- A Housing Support Grant (Supporting People, Homelessness Prevention and Rent Smart Wales Enforcement).

These arrangements will remain in place for the remainder of this Assembly term.

The decision reflects some of the learning from the pathfinder local authorities and some of the issues that were raised in the interim evaluation. Moving forward, Welsh Government will look to ensure that in developing the two grants, they consider how they best complement each other.

In simplifying the grants they aim to enable local authorities to explore opportunities to redesign services, drive sustainable long term preventative approaches and improve outcomes for vulnerable people

Welsh Government is currently working on more detailed guidance for the two grants for 2019-20. They will allocate £13.4m in total to restore previously-planned cuts to the programmes supporting early intervention, prevention and support by using £5m previously earmarked for the childcare offer, and allocating an extra £8.4m. The move to housing and non-housing grant arrangements will help provide stability to the housing sector, whilst maintaining the commitment towards alignment and integration.

4.13 The position in Caerphilly to date

The original anti poverty programmes have continued to jointly commission where possible and practical and have also a number of examples of partnership working across grant funded programmes and wider partners.

4.13.1 Supporting People joint working with Families First

Jointly commissioned project to provide support for people with financial issues, specifically around Debt, services for families or individual single people, facing eviction or who have a form of disability.

- The Floating Support worker who undertakes safety planning with families for Families First is part of Supporting People's larger Floating Support contract with Llamau.
- Families First funds Emphasis, a service for young people at risk of becoming homeless or NEET, which is joint with Supporting People's Family Mediation contract with Llamau.

4.13.2 Supporting People joint working with Housing

- Supporting People fund a number of staff based within Housing Advice to provide support to anyone facing homelessness and those with housing related support needs that enter the office.
- Supporting People fund location based Floating Support workers in Caerphilly across two sites with an additional one due to start in the North of the borough shortly.
- Supporting People fund Cornerstone, a dedicated service for rough sleepers/homeless individuals across the Caerphilly borough and coordinators of the Night Shelter Scheme.
- Supporting People provide a dedicated worker for B&Bs across the Caerphilly borough, providing Housing Related Support to anyone in Bed and Breakfast or temporary accommodation.
- Supporting People and Housing Advice staff work together when producing Personal Housing Plans for all individuals going through Housing Advice.

4.13.3 Supporting People partnership with Social Services

- Supporting People fund an officer based in integrated Health and Social Care Centre – dealing with housing related support issues, signpost/support individuals to social services or health services, link in with the CPN and accommodation services.
- Supporting People, Housing and Social Services provide accommodation for those with Learning Disabilities and/or Physical Disabilities who do not require staff services 24/7 to move them into independent housing

4.13.4 Gwent Wide services

- Supporting People commission some services across Gwent where there are needs identified in each area The floating support services for Gypsies and Travellers, High Level MAPPA Probation clients, and tenants of United Welsh properties is a contract between Caerphilly, Monmouthshire and Blaenau Gwent.
- There are also fixed site accommodation projects for domestic abuse provision for those with acute mental health needs or substance misuse issues based in Blaenau Gwent and young people with complex needs based in Newport.

4.13.5 Flying Start with Families First and Childcare and Play grants

- Flying Start and Families First have strategically planned, commissioned and delivered services for 0-4 to provide a range of services for families in need who live outside of Flying Start areas.

- Families First funds the ABUHB health contract to ensure there are referral based services for health interventions for antenatal support, responsive feeding support following discharge from hospital after the birth and throughout the early years of the child's life.
- The Flying Start and Families First joint contract for GAVO and Homestart allow speech and language support groups to be accessed by all families with concerns over their child's language development.
- Families First have commissioned parenting and family support for all families who are not able to access Flying Start family support. In addition Flying Start parenting programmes allow families living locally referred for parenting to access places on the parenting programmes, where there is no additional cost for childcare or transport, in an effort to reduce waiting time for a high demand service and therefore provide intervention avoiding crisis.
- Childcare cannot be funded through Families First as specified in the guidance unless there are concerns regarding developmental delay. Families First have commissioned Action for Children who deliver More Than Play which is similar to Join in and Play in Flying Start and provides a bespoke parenting child development package in the home to support children with additional needs or emerging delays. This service can then refer to Assisted and Supported places scheme for childcare for up to two terms prior to a child starting Foundation Phase. This scheme is funded by Families First for children Pre School and through Childcare and Play grant for those of school age.

4.13.6 Flying Start and Communities First legacy and Community Regeneration Employability programmes

- Jointly fund a family support worker post in Lansbury Park. This post is funded by legacy, Flying Start and St James Primary School with the aim of providing family support and parenting programmes to families from antenatal to when the child moves to comprehensive school. Good family support will enable a child to have settled routines, appropriate support to engage in school and raise aspirations. This post also links families to other legacy and employability projects so that parents are able to fulfil their own aspirations and role model this to their children.
- Flying Start and the Communities First Legacy programme works closely in partnership both strategically and frontline enabling families to move between services as their needs change and support offered is timely and appropriate
- Flying Start family support team work closely with the Community Regeneration Employability programmes to support transition from the STEPS group onto work related support.

4.13.7 Flying Start with Social Services

- Flying Start outreach receives referrals for all young pregnant parents leaving care or Local Authority Care and provides an intensive support package with the aim to reduce the babies taken into care or needing child protection measures at birth and beyond. This project implemented since 2013 has had significant success reversing the trend, supporting parents to provide positive environments for their babies and preventing 85% of babies being removed to date.

4.13.8 Flying Start with Education

- Flying Start aims to early identify children with additional needs and put in place appropriate support measures aiming to reduce the need for additional support as a child enters Foundation Phase and school. The strategies being implemented in Join in and Play as well as Childcare has reduced the number of children needing support on entry to school as well as appropriately identifying those who have complex needs and need health care plans or individual plans prior to starting school. The team works closely with Education Psychology and Health and Safety to ensure a smooth transition to school nursery.

4.13.9 Childcare and Play

- Childcare and Play grant supports the development of affordable childcare provision across the borough. The majority of the grant is for small businesses that are frequently not for profit voluntary sector run registered groups; as well as supporting training, quality and Welsh language development across the sector. This grant now provides the underpinning support for the Childcare Offer in small grant set up support for new developments which are needed as the market needs to grow to meet demand of working families.
- Childcare and Play also part funds the placement officer for the Assisted and Supported places scheme jointly with Families First to ensure children with developmental needs can be supported across the age range in childcare and play provision.
- The childcare development team work closely with the employability projects to ensure childcare is removed as a barrier to returning to work as well as offer work placement opportunities for those wishing to pursue a career in childcare and play.

4.13.10 Families First, Flying Start and Communities First

- The three programmes joint commissioned a project to develop Parent Forum groups in Flying Start areas, Communities First legacy areas and across the borough where there are identified communities with high levels of need. The project looks to improve engagement with services and the wider community and develop skills through volunteering opportunities and community focused activities.

4.13.11 Families First and Social Services

- Children and Young People's Advocacy is provided through a joint Children's Services contract throughout Gwent. Both Caerphilly and Blaenau Gwent Families First have also commissioned advocacy services for children below statutory threshold as part of the contract, with the option for the remaining three Families First services to join the contract in the future.
- Social Services provide assessment for all Young Carers and through a package of one to one support will ensure that the young person's needs are being met. This service is complemented by Families First funded groups for Young Carers.
- The Supporting Family Change team (Team Around the Family model) sit within Children's Services but work at an early intervention level, below statutory. There are close working relationships between Supporting Family Change and Children's Services teams to ensure families are provided with seamless support as they 'step down' from, or escalate to, statutory interventions.
- Families First fund two Duty Officers within the Information, Advice and Assistance team (IAA) who complement the existing core team and receive and allocate all referrals for Early Intervention via the JAFF.

4.13.12 Families First and Promoting Positive Engagement for Young People (PPE)

- Both Families First and PPE jointly fund Youth Respect workers who work with young people who show early indications of abusive, aggressive and controlling behaviours in family or intimate relationships.
- Funding from Families First and PPE is used to undertake targeted work within the Youth Service. Funding has been undertaken in a joined up approach to ensure that there is no duplication. The Families First element (Targeted Youth and Family Engagement) focuses on developing personal and social skills, raising confidence and building self-esteem and resilience, The PPE element focuses on preventing First Time Entrants and offending behaviour by delivering detached sessions in areas identified as having high levels of ASB. Work is also undertaken with children and young people aged 8 – 25 to prevent and/or reduce incidents of ASB and/or involvement in crime.

4.13.13 Families First and Education

- Families First works closely with Education to ensure that families receive support at an early intervention and schools understand where they can refer for support. The Supporting Family Change team have a part-time Education Support Worker who supports and liaises closely with schools. In addition, Families First fund Outreach SRB to support children in school with severe and significant speech and language delays. Support is available for the whole family via Families Learning Together, a project which increases parents' understanding of how best to support their children's learning and development.

4.13.14 Promoting Positive Engagements for Young People and Community Safety

- **Promise Project** - offers support and services to every young person at strike 2, 3 and 4 in the two Safer Community Partnerships Antisocial Behaviour (ASB) process. The aim is to divert young people away from ASB and crime. The YOS address areas such as family support, substance misuse, mental health, education, training and employment, citizenship and community reintegration.
- **Family Support Project** - This funding covers service provision for all young people and their families involved with the YOS whether they are engaging voluntarily on an early intervention or prevention initiative or on a Statutory Court Order as a voluntary intervention as part of a wider plan.
- **Youth Inclusion & Support Panel** - The YISP programme seeks to promote positive engagement and prevent offending and anti-social behaviour by offering multi-agency support services to children aged 8-15. The YISP ensures that children and their families receive access to early intervention, prevention and diversionary support as well as tailored educative, substance misuse, parenting, and mental health and youth services.

4.14 St David's Day Fund

Outcomes for care leavers in relation to employment, housing and well being can be poor. The St David's Day Fund supports young people age 16 – 25 who are, or have been, in local authority care, to access opportunities that will promote independent and successful lives. As corporate parent for these young people Caerphilly County Borough Council are committed to ensuring that young people in or leaving care are not disadvantaged in the support they receive in relation to education, maintaining social contact and building independence skills, similar to their peers living with birth families. The flexibility provided by the St David's Day Fund has ensured that where care leavers request support to enable them to undertake an activity that will improve their wellbeing and contribute to their development and progression, these requests are supported.

This has enabled creative and flexible support to these young people and has significantly reduced the risk of homelessness for a number of young people by assisting with arrears, bonds or rent in advance. It has also promoted and enabled young people to sustain educational placements through the purchase of laptops and college equipment and ensured successful employment by contributing to car insurance, a significant cost for young people.

Development and implementation of a six week tenancy ready programme during the Summer School holidays, specifically for those young people approaching leaving care, the St David's Day Fund was able to ensure those young people were able to access and attend this programme, ensuring that they have the opportunity to begin developing essential skills for living independently.

The accelerated transition of a number of young people leaving care to live independently at a very young age compared to their peers will result in greater responsibility for managing a tenancy, being economically independent and often reliant on the benefits system. With such great responsibility at such a young age, these young people have little opportunity to enjoy activities, hobbies or holidays that their peers might enjoy. The St David's Day Fund has

enabled these young people to access activities and hobbies and has also facilitated a residential course, the focus being team work, whilst promoting well being, self esteem and self worth.

The purpose of the fund clearly states that the fund is not to support the implementation of national strategies, but is to go directly to care experienced young people.

4.15 Other grants forming part of programme collaboration in Caerphilly

There has been a long standing approach to joint commissioning across the four anti-poverty programmes in Caerphilly. Welsh Government proposals for the Early Intervention and Support grant bring in other grants that were under the direction of the previous Cabinet Minister.

4.15.1 Community Safety funding for youth crime prevention has been managed on a Gwent wide basis for a number of years.

4.15.2 Youth crime prevention funding supports projects across Gwent that are managed and delivered by Community Safety and Youth Offending Services jointly, including specific projects in the YOS's within Youth Services and in Leisure (Positive Futures), including the main partnership co-ordinating support to deescalate young people from the criminal justice system.

5. WELL-BEING OF FUTURE GENERATIONS

- 5.1 This report contributes to the Well-being Goals as set out in Links to Strategy above. It is consistent with the five ways of working as defined within the sustainable development principle in the Act. The long term strategy is to reduce the attainment gap and develop a well skilled, well educated workforce able to contribute positively to society.
- 5.2 Integration and collaboration through partnership working supports a coordinated approach for children, young people and their families aiming towards a long term prevention of poverty.

6. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 No impact assessment has been undertaken on this report, however many individuals and groups who fall under the protected characteristics, and wider issues covered by the Council's Strategic Equality Plan, are often affected to a greater extent by poverty, vulnerability and the related causes; therefore any reduction in resources would have a negative impact on those individuals and groups.

7. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 The current grant budgets have either been at standstill or have faced a reduction for the last few years. This is increasing the pressure on budgets as many are staff related costs, which have been increasing due to recent pay increases (CCBC employed staff have increased by 2%, ABUHB staff have increased by 4% and are anticipated to increase again in 2019/20); all of which has to be met by the standstill or reduced grant. This has usually seen a rationalisation of delivery and project costs.
- 7.2 As the grants are currently received individually across directorates, a decision will need to be made in regards to how the new funding arrangements are managed, allocated and reported against.
- 7.3 Welsh Government has indicated that no cuts to the total grant allocation will be made during this administration. However, should this position change a further report will be required to determine the financial implications.

8. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1 All funding streams have directly employed staff as well as contracted providers who directly employ staff. As the grant seeks administrative and service efficiencies there could be implications for employees within this service. Should this be the case, employees will be supported and we will work within the Council's agreed HR policies to address any issues.
- 8.2 Indicative grant offers will be issued by the end of the 2019 calendar year, with a comprehensive final offer issued by the end of March 2019. Staff funded by the programme are on fixed term contracts until the 31st March 2019 and these cannot be extended until the final offer letter is received. Therefore all staff will be formally served their notice.

9. CONSULTATIONS

- 9.1 All comments from consultees have been included in the report.

10. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 10.1 That 2019 / 20 budgets are allocated to the programmes as previous year to enable time to plan for future years.
- 10.2 That future planning should include the evaluation of a programme's effectiveness, prioritising delivery in line with corporate priorities.
- 10.3 Establish two collaboration groups for both new integrated grants to be chaired by the Interim Head of Business Improvement Services.
- 10.4 To provide a further report when the amount of funding is known and guidance and grant conditions are received from Welsh Government.

11. REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS

- 11.1 To allow early grant planning for the proposed changes.

12. STATUTORY POWER

- 12.1 Local Government Act 2000. This is a Cabinet function.

Author: Tina McMahon, Community Regeneration Manager
Consultees: Cllr Sean Morgan, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Economy, Infrastructure, Sustainability & Wellbeing of Future Generations Champion
Mark S Williams, Interim Corporate Director Communities
Stephen Harris, Interim Head of Business Improvement Services
Sue Richards, Head of Education, Planning and Strategy
Rhian Kyte, Head of Planning and Regeneration
Rob Hartshorn, Head of Communities, Leisure and Public Protection
Shaun Couzens, Chief Housing Officer
Suzanne Cousins, Principal Housing Officer
Kathryn Peters, Corporate Policy Manager
Michaela Rogers, Service Manager Social Services
Sarah Mutch, Early Years Manager
Shelly Jones, Supporting People Manager
Rebecca Boulton, Families First Manager

Natalie Kenny, Community Safety Partnership Team Manager
Nicole Scammel, Head of Corporate Finance & Section 151 Officer
Mike Eedy, Finance Manager
Lesley Allen, Principal Accountant
Mike Lewis, Principal Accountant
Jane Southcombe, Principal Accountant
David Roberts, Group Manager

Appendices:

Appendix 1 - Flexible Funding Grants' Programmes and Detail

Appendix 2 - 3rd October correspondence from Welsh Government

Appendix 1

Funding Flexibilities Grants

Grant	Lead	Service Area	Amount (2018/19)	How paid to Local Authority	End Date of funding (if known)	Comment
Supporting People	Shelly Jones	Adult Services	£6,232,790			
Families First	Becky Boulton	Children's Services	£2,697,747	As separate grant (re-imbursed through quarterly claims)	Renewed annually; no known end date	
Flying Start Revenue Grant	Sarah Mutch	Early Years	£5,120,443			To fund the four elements: childcare, parenting, SLC, and health interventions to a cap number of 2483 children aged 0-3. Original cost planned on a basis of £2100 per child which is already challenging as childcare place alone costs this figure and excludes the contract management, advisory teacher support for quality child development, health, parenting, SLC and ALN support needed for one child per year. They have also increased the ability to do FS outreach to 5% of budget but only if you are under cap. Our last caseload count was 2586 at 31 st Dec 2017 and excludes number of 4 year olds on caseload until Sept and all pregnancies.
Communities First Legacy	Tina McMahon	Com Regen	£547,000	Reimbursement through quarterly claim forms	31.03.19	The Legacy programme will focus on developing a multi-faceted approach to revitalizing, planning, designing and managing the eight priority communities, in meaningful co-production with residents and other partners. Services and future projects will only be identified when this process has been successfully undertaken. Each area will then have an holistic masterplan that will address the social, economic and environmental needs of each community, underpinned by an action

						plan with relevant and meaningful measurements of success that have been agreed with the community.
Communities for Work Plus	Tina McMahon	Com Regen	£856,753.85	Reimbursement through quarterly claim forms	31.03.19	The Communities for Work Plus structure has been developed to provide a wrap around support service to Communities for Work including supporting clients with 'softer skills' such as digital & financial literacy, health & wellbeing, which will improve their employment prospects
Promoting Positive Engagement for Young People at Risk of Offending	Kath Peters	Corporate Policy	£248,240	Reimbursement through quarterly claim forms	Renewed annually; no known end date	Broken down into: Anti Social Behaviour Initiative £43,166 Restorative Approaches for LAC £12,000 Gwent Early Intervention, Prevention & Diversion Project £5,210 BCG YOS Prevention & Early Intervention Initiative £187,864
Childcare and Play (Out of School Childcare Grant)	Sarah Mutch	Early Years	£128,000			Going to change to be childcare and play and is essential to delivery to meet Childcare Sufficiency Assessment (developing new provision, training, quality and definitely essential in new Childcare Offer development for the small provision revenue developments to complement the big capital developments in the future) and newly added but not increased budget will be Play Sufficiency Assessment (but not sure what they are expecting from it as already challenging for CSA)
Homeless Prevention	Suzanne Cousins	Housing	£282,000			Awarded through the RSG to provide the statutory homeless prevention service which covers staffing and all operational costs and prevention funding to prevent or alleviate homelessness
Rent Smart Wales Enforcement	Claire Davies	Private Sector Housing	£11,840.34	Paid in arrears at the end of the financial year		Figure awarded in 2017/18. No figure for 2018/19 yet.
St David's Day Fund	Janine Edwards	Children's Services	£68,327			Specifically for Care Leavers. New in April 2017 – has been used for Personal Adviser, Peer Mentor work with NYAS.

The below were mentioned in the Flexible Funding letter/Draft budget narrative but were not included in the final pathfinders pilot						
Independent Living						Mentioned in Flexible Funding letter but not in Draft Budget Narrative
National Advocacy Services	Marie Reid	Commissioning				
Violence Against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Services Grant	Kath Peters (Regional)	Corporate Policy	£350,000 regionally			Regional coordination of VAWDASV services across Gwent, delivery of the regional strategy and partial support for the regional Independent Domestic Violence Advocacy Team (IDVA allocated to support in Caerphilly)
Community Cohesion Grant	Kath Peters (Regional)	Corporate Policy	£45,000 regionally			Support the national community cohesion programme in including support to the Syrian Refugee Programme and settlement of families in the borough. Regional coordinator post hosted by Torfaen



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Y Grŵp Addysg a Gwasanaethau Cyhoeddus
Education and Public Services Group

To: Chief Executives of
Local Authorities in Wales

3 October 2018

Dear Sir/Madam

I am writing to you following the Written Statement today issued by the Cabinet Secretary for Local Government and Public Services and the Minister for Housing and Regeneration.

You will be aware that seven pathfinder local authorities have been developing approaches to funding flexibility across ten grants in 2018-19 (Supporting People, Flying Start, Families First, Legacy Fund, Communities for Work Plus, Promoting Positive Engagement for Young People, Childcare and Play, Homelessness Prevention, St David's Day Fund and Rent Smart Wales Enforcement). During the course of the year, Wavehill have also conducted an independent evaluation of flexible funding and produced an interim report which was published today.

As set out in the [written statement](#), Cabinet Secretaries and Ministers have decided that from 1 April 2019, there will be two integrated grants for all 22 local authorities.

- A Children and Communities Grant (Flying Start, Families First, Legacy Fund, Communities for Work Plus, Promoting Positive Engagement for Young People, Childcare and Play and St David's Day Fund) and
- A Housing Support Grant (Supporting People, Homelessness Prevention and Rent Smart Wales Enforcement).

These arrangements will remain in place for the remainder of this Assembly term.

The decision reflects some of the learning from the pathfinder local authorities and some of the issues that were raised in the evaluation. Moving forward, we will look to ensure that in developing the two grants, we consider how they can best complement each other.

In simplifying grants we aim to enable local authorities to explore opportunities to redesign services, drive sustainable long term preventative approaches and improve outcomes for vulnerable people.

Throughout this year, we have been working with local authorities to support this agenda: monthly pathfinder events, meetings in North and South Wales to support non-pathfinder local authorities and an all Wales network event in mid Wales on 13 July. Feedback on these arrangements has been positive and we will want to build on this.

We are also working on more detailed guidance for the two grants for 2019-20 and will share this as soon as we are in a position to do so, being mindful of your need to put in place arrangements for next year.

Welsh Government will continue to work with you throughout this period to generate maximum public benefits from these grants and to facilitate effective dialogue and support with your teams. We are reviewing the best way to maximize our engagement with you and will be in touch in due course.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of you for your engagement around Flexible Funding and your continued support as the new arrangements are put in place.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Ruth Studley', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Ruth Studley
Deputy Director Funding Transition

Cc CEO WCVA, WLGA, Cymorth Cymru

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CABINET – 16TH JANUARY 2019

SUBJECT: SELF-EVALUATION PROCESS AND ITS IMPACT ON THE EDUCATION DIRECTORATE'S SERVICE IMPROVEMENT PLAN

REPORT BY: CORPORATE DIRECTOR, EDUCATION AND CORPORATE SERVICES

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To inform Members of the process of self evaluation and its impact on the Education Directorate's Service Improvement Plan, and to provide a summary of key strengths and priorities for improvement that are identified as a result of the self-evaluation process.

2. SUMMARY

- 2.1 The self-evaluation process is an integral part of the overall cycle of service improvement. It is fundamental in ensuring the directorate secures ongoing improvements that positively contribute to the objectives in our Caerphilly Local Authority Service Improvement Plan and corporate plan. Over the last twelve months, an increasing number of strategies have been implemented to ensure that the process is robust, increasing the level of challenge, reflecting changes to the Estyn Inspection framework and involving a wider range of stakeholders.
- 2.2 The self-evaluation process has identified a range of strengths and priorities for improvement detailed in the report.
- 2.3 This report was considered at the Education for Life Scrutiny Committee for noting on 6th November, 2018.

3. LINKS TO STRATEGY

- 3.1 The content of this report contributes to the Wellbeing of Future Generations Act (Wales) 2015, specifically to maximise the contribution of Education towards national goals. It also links to the Local Authority's Wellbeing objectives.
- *A prosperous Wales* – developing a skilled and well educated workforce.
 - *A healthier Wales* – An education system that promotes health and wellbeing as central to its core purpose.
 - *A more equal Wales* – An education system that meets the needs of all learners including those from disadvantaged or vulnerable groups.
 - *A Wales of cohesive communities* – An education system that builds on strengthening communities at a local and national with significant focus on enrichment experiences based on the heritage and language of Wales.

4. THE REPORT

4.1 SELF-EVALUATION POLICY AND PROCESS

4.1.1 A range of data and other information is collected through the self-evaluation process and has the following purposes:

- providing an evidence base upon which to arrive at judgements about pupil outcomes and progress, quality of provision and the effectiveness of leadership and management of Education Services and its future improvement journey;
- reflecting on what has been done to consistently deepen understanding ;
- recognising and celebrating good practice and where appropriate use this to support others in line with Caerphilly LA's vision for education;
- ensuring that stakeholders understand the context of the organisation and the contribution that they can make towards further aid improvement;
- improving the performance, impact and effectiveness of the directorate services and its constituent parts, including commissioned services, so that Members and Regulators can hold officers, the school improvement service, education and youth settings to greater account;
- evaluating value for money across services; and
- quality assuring our contribution to overall corporate objectives

4.1.2 An effective self-evaluation policy will lead to the following:

- strategic and operational plans which are monitored against clear targets and success criteria;
- purposeful activities linked to continuing professional development;
- improved provision for education and youth support services; and
- accelerated outcomes on the standards and quality of education and wellbeing for all learners across the Caerphilly region.

4.1.3 The judgements made during self-evaluation should be:

- **secure** – based on sufficiently robust, reliable and accessible evidence;
- **first-hand** – based on direct observation;
- **reliable** – based on common, well-understood criteria;
- **valid** – accurately reflecting what is achieved and provided;
- **free of bias** – valuing equality of opportunity and diversity; and
- **corporate** – reflect the collective vision of Caerphilly LA.

4.1.4 The Caerphilly Education directorate self-evaluation links directly to the Estyn Local Government Education Services Inspection Framework (LGES) and our wider local authority priorities. This enables us to have an accurate and up to date picture of our strengths and areas for development across all areas of our work.

4.1.5 The three inspection areas of the LGES inspection framework are set out below.

1. Outcomes

- 1.1 Standards and progress overall
- 1.2 Standards and progress of specific groups
- 1.3 Wellbeing and attitudes to learning

2. Quality of Education Services

- 2.1 Support for school improvement
- 2.2 Support for vulnerable learners
- 2.3 Other education support services

3. Leadership and management

- 3.1 Quality and effectiveness of leaders and managers
- 3.2 Self-evaluation and improvement planning
- 3.3 Professional learning
- 3.4 Use of resources

4.2 STRATEGIES TO IMPROVE SELF-EVALUATION

4.2.1 Self-evaluation processes have improved significantly over the last twelve months. Strategies include:

- a. A series of re-induction training sessions for the Education Management Team. This has helped an increased number of managers and staff improve their understanding of the purpose of self-evaluation and to develop consistency in approach;
- b. A move away from narrative heavy 'FADE' forms to 'Monitoring and Evaluation' reports that capture the impact of the services through internal monitoring and external verification. These reports also include a focus on 'value for money' and actions for improvement;
- c. Introduction of a timetabled monitoring and evaluation cycle to ensure that all aspects of the directorate are robustly reviewed. Individual reports are assigned to key members of staff, thereby increasing expectation around engagement with self-evaluation processes.
- d. Moderation of 'Monitoring and Evaluation' reports to ensure consistency across the directorate;
- e. Dedicating a significant proportion of senior management meetings to self-evaluation;
- f. The expectation for authors of monitoring and evaluation reports to present at senior management meetings. This enables the senior management team to have an improved understanding of the key priorities across service areas. It also allows scope for increased challenge to reports to ensure that judgements are fair and actions for improvement are purposeful;
- g. Focused self-evaluation days to ensure that staff are provided with the opportunity to work in teams. This also includes Caerphilly LA staff who do not work within the education directorate. Partnership working strengthens the quality of self-evaluation processes.
- h. Regional peer moderation. Self-evaluation has been a key area for development for the SEWC School Improvement group for 2017-18. The senior management team also attended Neath and Port Talbot County Council to consider self evaluation practices;
- i. Increased collaboration with stakeholders; e.g. school survey, HT feedback sessions, pupil feedback.
- j. Strengthened links between the Service Improvement plan, operational plans, corporate objectives and EAS Business plan.

4.2.2 In October 2018, a questionnaire was distributed to staff who participate in the self-evaluation cycle. Findings overall indicated that staff are engaged with the revised self-evaluation policy and understand the impact of self-evaluation on improvement planning.

Questionnaires sent out: 25

Respondents: 21

	strongly disagree	disagree	undecided	agree	strongly agree
Processes for self - evaluation have improved over the last twelve months			1	4	16
Self-evaluation engages with a wide range of data to create accurate judgements				6	15
Self-evaluation informs the Service Improvement Plan and operational plans			1	3	17

The key questions used for monitoring and evaluation forms are appropriate (titles of each MER)			1	8	12
Monitoring and Evaluation forms provide me with a clearer understanding of what I need to do next.		1		5	15
I have been provided with appropriate support and guidance to undertake self evaluation effectively.			1	7	13
I have a clearer understanding of how well we perform as a Local Authority.			3	4	14
Feedback on self-evaluation policy and processes is taken into account.			3	4	14

4.2.3 Qualitative statements from the questionnaires:

- a. *Due to the higher importance and focus on self-evaluation, I believe as a directorate we are more connected with where we have been, where we have to go and how we are going to get there.*
- b. *I feel the changes recently made to the self-evaluation process has already significantly improved the way we work as a team and ensured a real meaningful alignment between our operational plan and the Authorities Well Being Objectives.*
- c. *The away day for Managers brought teams together allowing integration of the plans aiding in the delivery of the high performance which we continually strive for as a Directorate.*
- d. *The 'Monitoring and Evaluation' process adopted allows meaningful challenge whilst also increasing the knowledge base of the Directorate.*
- e. *The staff team, as a whole, have embraced the process allowing it to become embedded into the day to day work of the Directorate.*
- f. *For the responses marked agree rather than strongly agree, I think there is room for further development/improvement*
- g. *This process has been very productive in that I now know more about other educational areas and not just the Music Service and what we provide. I hope that other service areas know a bit more about the Music Service too through the meetings that we have held so far.*
- h. *The whole process has been explained thoroughly and the 'Monitoring and Evaluation' forms have been extremely helpful as they do give a clearer understanding of what needs doing and by whom.*
- i. *I think that the whole process has been received well by services and I hope it continues in the same format.*
- j. *The opportunities created for discussion & challenge are very helpful when considering our own areas and greatly enhance understanding & knowledge of other service areas & issues within the Directorate.*

4.2.4 Current actions to improve the self-evaluation process:

- a. Further develop the role of stakeholders in the self-evaluation process. At present, stakeholder feedback does not feature in all aspects of the self-evaluation document;
- b. Continue to maintain focus on self-evaluation processes in regional SEWCI meetings in 2018-19 to build on existing regional best practice;

- c. Complete a summary for schools and Youth settings based on the main findings of the self-evaluation report;
- d. Organise a series of meetings for LA staff to share best practice;
- e. Monitor the impact of the revised self-evaluation policy. Consider frequency of reports to ensure the process is manageable. Consider amendments to key questions in light of feedback from stakeholders.

4.3 ROLE OF SCRUTINY IN SELF-EVALUATION

4.3.1 Through the year, members of the Education for Life committee have had opportunity to contribute to the self-evaluation process via regular scrutiny meetings. Members receive a range of reports designed to inform and encourage discussion, resulting in the following outcomes:

- Acknowledgement of the work of the education directorate;
- Consideration to the impact and rate of progress which regards to key education priorities;
- Informed feedback on whether the main priorities are appropriate and how the work of the education directorate can be further improved.

4.3.2 The table below identifies the range of scrutiny reports for the academic year 2017-18 and identifies their relationship to the different inspection areas.

Indicator	Inspection Area	Scrutiny reports 2017-18
1.1	Standards and progress overall	Key Stage 4/Key Stage 5 Performance 2017 (26 th February 2018) Pupil Attainment at Foundation Phase, Key Stage 2, Key Stage 3 (25 th September 2018)
1.2	Standards and progress of specific groups	Regional target setting strategy (7 th November 2017)
1.3	Wellbeing and attitudes to learning	Elective Home Education (EHE) (7 th November 2017) Improving School Attendance (9 th January 2018) Wellbeing Objective 2017-18 (3 rd July 2018) Implementation of the Childcare Offer in Wales (24 th April 2018)
2.1	Support for school improvement	Education Achievement Services (EAS) Business Plan 2018-2021 – 28 th March 2018. (26 th February 2018) EAS Schools Causing Concern Protocol and Risk Register (22 nd May 2018)
2.2	Support for vulnerable learners	Caerphilly behaviour model and provision (9 th January 2018) Support for mental health for Children and Young People (24 th April 2018)
2.3	Other education support services	
3.1	Quality and effectiveness of leaders and managers	Welsh in Education Strategic Plan 2017 - 2020. (9 th January 2018) Summary of Estyn Inspection under the new Common Inspection Framework September 2017 – May 2018 (3 rd July 2018)

Indicator	Inspection Area	Scrutiny reports 2017-18
3.2	Self-evaluation and improvement planning	Revised guidance for the inspection of local government education services (9 th January 2018) The Directorate of Education and Life Long Priorities for 2018-2023. (22 nd May 2018) Junior and Youth Forum Priorities (9 th January 2018)
3.3	Professional learning	
3.4	Resources	Medium term financial plan – saving proposals for 2018/19 (7 th December 2017) Draft Budget Proposals for 2018/19 (7 th December 2017) Education Capital 2018/19 (26 th February 2018) Education Achievement Service (EAS) Value for Money (22 nd May 2018) 21st Century Schools and Education Band B Proposals. (19 th April 2018) Budget Monitoring 2018/19 (25 th September 2018)

4.3.3 Additional scrutiny committees may also contribute to the education self-evaluation process. For example, on 20th March 2018, the Health, Social care and Wellbeing Committee considered 'How do schools engage with healthy living?'

4.4 MAIN THEMES FROM THE SELF-EVALUATION PROCESS

4.4.1 Good features across the education directorate include:

- a. Performance at foundation phase is good. Performance of the Foundation Phase Indicator in 2018 compares favourably against the regional SEWC and Welsh averages. Trends over time are favourable compared to the SEWC region and Welsh average. Of note, performance in Mathematical Development at Outcome 5+ and 6+ compare favourably against the regional SEWC and Welsh averages. This is also reflected in the performance in trends over a three year period.
- b. Overall, performance at the end of Key Stage 2 is good. Performance at the expected +1 in English, Welsh 1st Language and mathematics remains above the national average.
- c. Performance at Key Stage 3 continues to improve. A range of indicators measuring performance at the end of Key Stage 3 over the previous 3 years has increased and compares favourably against the Welsh average. Trends over time are favourable compared to both the SEWC region and Welsh average.
- d. Standards of achievement (additional awards, national and local accreditations) through the Youth Service (16-25) is good. This is evidenced through the development of skills in 5 key areas essential for personal, social and educational development.
- e. Despite an increase in 2017/18, trends over time indicate that strategies to reduce the number of young people not in education, employment or training (NEETs) are effective.

- f. The number of schools categorised as red and amber in primary, infant and junior schools has decreased over time. An increasing number of schools are being categorised as 'green', therefore requiring less support.
- g. The LA currently has a relatively low number of schools in a statutory category. At present, there is one primary school and one secondary school in a statutory category. Where schools have been placed in an Estyn follow-up category, nearly all primary, infant and junior schools make good progress within the agreed timeframe and are removed.
- h. School engagement with the Healthy Schools scheme has ensured that Caerphilly has achieved the target of 95% of schools to have reached Phase 3 or above. Caerphilly has achieved above the 10% target figure of schools to achieve NQA status. At present, only eight other authorities across Wales have achieved this level of success. Caerphilly is only one of three LAs to have a Special School achieve the Healthy Schools National Quality Award.
- i. Flying Start Programmes provide effective intensive bespoke interventions in conjunction with health visitors and family support workers.
- j. The implementation of the WG Childcare Offer has been effective. Caerphilly LA was an early implementer and was able to roll out the offer to the full Caerphilly borough within seven months. Feedback from Welsh Government has been very positive.
- k. The Youth service participation structures and provision have been recognised by Welsh Government and the Children's Commissioner for Wales as one of the most effective nationally. Excellent practice within the Youth service has been recognised annually through the Youth Work Excellence Awards.
- l. Caerphilly has been proactive in stimulating demand for Welsh medium education across the borough including development of substantial Welsh medium childcare provision, primary schools and secondary school across 2 sites. The commitment to continue to provide an increased number of places is demonstrated through plans in the 21st century school Band B capital programme, and the successful securing of funding for all Welsh medium capital programme bids.
- m. Students entered for Associated Board and Trinity Guildhall examinations via Caerphilly Music Service have resulted in a 100% pass rate. A record number of more able and talented pupils are supported via the regional Four Counties Orchestra and Wind band. Caerphilly Music Service is the only remaining Local Authority in Wales that provides a subsidy for schools to support students from an economic disadvantaged background.
- n. The Junior Forum, one of a few in Wales, is recognised by WG as an effective and accessible mechanism for participation. Nearly all students demonstrate an increased understanding of children's rights as well as demonstrating a progression in soft skills attainment. All young people actively involved in the Youth Forum feel that they influence decision making through the youth forum, and demonstrate progression in personal and social skills.
- o. The Cabinet Member for Education plays a pivotal role in the strategic planning of education across Caerphilly. The scrutiny committee play an important role in self-evaluation processes and holding the education directorate to account.
- p. There is a breadth of skills and knowledge alongside a range of experiences across the leadership team;
- q. Processes around self-evaluation and service improvement planning continue to improve.

- r. There are effective and strategic monitoring and evaluation processes in place around the planning and delivery of the 21st Century Schools programme.
- s. Analysis of the most recent Children’s Public Library User Surveys highlights the encouraging levels of customer satisfaction that persist among users under 16 years of age. The Library Service achieved 18 out of 18 core entitlements against the Welsh Public Library Standards in 2017/18.
- t. CCBC’s adult education service is an active member of the Gwent Five County Partnership for Adult Community Learning. Our ACL department has achieved the highest successful completion & attainment rates [learners who start and complete courses] for the last five years.
- u. In 2017-18 the Directorate remained within its budget allocation for the year and contributed to an increase in Authority balances at year end. To date the Directorate has successfully achieved its MTFP annual savings target.
- v. Financial planning has enabled Managers to target investment for specific interventions within Schools and other areas of the Directorate (e.g. £173k identified for Behaviour & Mental Health issues; match funding for European Projects – Bridges into Work 2 and Working Skills for Adults 2 which have recently been extended by WEFO; targeted spend for School Improvement – directed by Chief Education Officer).
- w. The finance team have successfully worked with Managers and Schools to secure “new” funding through a bid process with Welsh Government [e.g. School Business Managers Pilot; Community Focus School Business Managers Pilot; Reducing Infant Class Size Grant; School Based Supply Cluster Pilot].

4.4.2 Main priorities for improvement:

- Improve outcomes at end of Key Stage 4 and 5. Identify any dips in performance at Foundation Phase, Key Stage 2 and Key Stage 3 and consider strategies for improvement.
- Await confirmation of outcomes measures for Key Stage 4 and 5 by Welsh Government. Consider alternative strategies to effectively scrutinise performance data in light of changes to performance reporting measures. Data to be based on:
 - National categorisation;
 - Progress of schools causing concern;
 - Estyn inspection outcomes and progress of schools;
 - School engagement in the curriculum reform progress;
 - Implement guidance from WG regarding a national ‘score card’.
- Improve the performance of boys and pupils identified as e-FSM across all phases of education. Work alongside school improvement partners to implement a series of measures to increase accountability for all stakeholders.
- Refine current procedures to monitor and track ‘risk’ pupils to ensure that all categories of vulnerability are taken into account. Work alongside school improvement partners to monitor, challenge and support schools in order to raise attainment for these students.
- Ensure target setting is focused on aspiration for all learners rather than high stakes accountability.
- Build on the recent increase in attendance data to achieve improvements over time. Continue to build capacity in schools in order to effectively raise levels of attendance.

- Reduce the number of exclusions across secondary schools in line with regional and national data. Support schools in sharing best practice across the SEWC region.
- Continue to develop methods for evaluating the impact education services have on wellbeing and attitudes to learning. Modify existing strategies based on findings.
- Work alongside regional and national partners to further improve the quality of education for pupils identified as EOTAS (Education other than at school)
- Improve identification and outcomes for less able students through the successful implementation of the Additional Learning Needs Reform Act.
- Reduce the number of secondary schools requiring the highest levels of support (amber and red).
- Reduce the number of secondary schools identified as 'Estyn Review' following statutory inspection.
- Work alongside the school improvement service to effectively implement the 'Successful Futures' curriculum.
- Continue to sharpen and improve self-evaluation processes through an ethos of 'collective accountability'. Engage with the national self-evaluation toolkit currently being developed by Estyn, OECD and practitioners. Use the toolkit to inform the Local Authority self-evaluation process.
- Verify the very good practice across the Youth Service through participation in the Quality Mark initiative. Continue to evaluate the effectiveness of the Youth Service and make adjustments to provision where appropriate.
- Monitor and evaluate the impact of the 21st Century Schools programme and ensuring lessons learnt from Band A are embedded into the Band B delivery.
- Continue to embed the newly revised leadership structure to maximise attainment and achievement across all aspects of the directorate.
- Continue to promote regional partnerships to ensure consistency and promote best practice.
- Improve financial analysis to enhance how the Directorate considers value for money, thus ensuring that managers are more fully informed when considering the allocation of reducing resources.

4.4.3 LINK TO SERVICE IMPROVEMENT PLANNING

The above priorities for improvement link with the main objectives identified in the Service Improvement plan.

1. **Standards** - Improve outcomes for all learners particularly those within Key Stage 3 and 4;
2. **Attendance** - Increase the percentage of pupil attendance across primary and secondary schools in order to maximise pupils' learning;
3. **Early Years/Youth/Adult Learning** - Reduce the impact of poverty upon communities;
4. **21st Century Schools** - Transform educational opportunities for learners by delivery of fit for purpose;
5. **Inclusion** - Improve provision and outcomes for vulnerable groups;

6. **Inclusion** - Reduce the rates of exclusions, therefore impacting upon pupil attainment and outcomes;
7. **Inclusion** - Secure excellence in learner well-being;
8. **Inclusion** - Ensure that the LA is fully compliant with the ALN Act.

5. WELL-BEING OF FUTURE GENERATIONS

- 5.1 The self-evaluation process contributes to the Well-being Goals as set out in Links to Strategy above. It is consistent with the five ways of working as defined within the sustainable development principle in the Act:
- Long Term: The importance of balancing short-term issues of attainment alongside longer-term needs around the impact of attainment on economic wellbeing and health and wellbeing.
 - Prevention: A long term strategic plan makes a contribution to public bodies meeting their wider objectives.
 - Integration: A purposeful, strategic self-evaluation process fully integrates into the Local Authority wellbeing objectives and other corporate objectives.
 - Collaboration: Improvement in standards of attainment and achievement is reliant upon effective partnership with a range of stakeholders including schools, EOTAS settings, inclusion and medical specialists and safeguarding teams.
 - Involvement: An effective self-evaluation relies on the involvement of pupils and other young people in achieving the identified objectives.

6. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 There is no specific equalities impact in relation to the content of this report. The Local Authority self-evaluation process considers all equalities issues through the identification of vulnerable groups related to their achievement and attainment. This identification of groups contributes to priorities identified in the Service Improvement Plan.

7. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 There are no financial implications.

8. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1 There are no personnel implications.

9. CONSULTATIONS

- 9.1 All responses are reflected in the report.

10. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 10.1 That Cabinet Members note the content of the report.

11. REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS

- 11.1 Self-evaluation provides key evidence for improvement across the Education Directorate.

12. STATUTORY POWER

12.1 Education Act 1996.

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Appendices:
Appendix 1 - Cycle of Submitting Reports to SMT

Appendix 1

Cycle of Submitting Reports to SMT

Month	Title	Type of evidence	Responsibility
April	What is the level of participation by young people with the Youth Service across Caerphilly?	Monitoring and Evaluation Report	Youth/Community
April	Evaluate the scope and effectiveness of the current Public Library Service offer in relation to supporting the development of literacy, numeracy and digital skills.	Monitoring and Evaluation Report	Libraries
April	How effective are strategies to reduce the number of NEETs? Do the percentage of NEETs in Caerphilly compare favourably with the SEWC region and the rest of Wales?	Monitoring and Evaluation Report	Youth/Community
April	What is the impact of FPNs on rates of attendance	Case study	Educational Welfare Service (LP)
April	What is the impact of the LAs use of statutory powers?	Monitoring and Evaluation Report	School Improvement (KC)
April	What is the quality of provision for EOTAS settings (LA provision)	Case study	EOTAS (SE)
May	How does the library service support the LAs commitment to improving quality of experience of pupils identified as vulnerable?	Case study	Libraries
May	How effective is the school improvement service?	Monitoring and Evaluation Report	School Improvement (PW)
May	How effectively does the LA promote Welsh medium education?	Monitoring and Evaluation Report	Early Years/Non maintained settings
May	What is the impact of the Youth forum and Junior forum?	Monitoring and Evaluation Report	Youth/Community (CE)
May	How effective are stakeholder consultations?	Monitoring and Evaluation Report	Youth/Community Additional contributions – all services
May	How effective is the LAs strategy to tackle issues related to substance misuse?	Case study	Healthy Schools (AT) Additional contribution - Inclusion
May	How effectively does the LA monitor child licenses	Case study	Educational Welfare Service (LP)
June	What is the quality of provision for EOTAS settings (external provision)	Case study	EOTAS (SE)
June	How effective is partnerships with additional KS5 provisions?	Case study	School Improvement (PW)

Month	Title	Type of evidence	Responsibility
June	How well does the LA safeguarding team work with regional partners?	Monitoring and Evaluation Report	Safeguarding (HW) Additional contribution - Inclusion
June	What is the impact of family support on parental learning outcomes?	Case Study	Early Years/Non maintained settings
June	What evidence is there to suggest that the music service contributes to the attainment and achievement of all pupils?	Monitoring and Evaluation Report	Music Service (HP)
July	How does the music service support the LAs commitment to improving quality of experience of pupils identified as vulnerable?	Case study	Music (HP)
July	Utilise direct public feedback Customer Satisfaction (CIPFA Plus Survey) Findings to review the impact of local library services on the community.	Monitoring and Evaluation Report	Libraries
July	What is the impact of the Lansbury Park project	Case study	Early Years/Non maintained settings Additional contribution – School Improvement
July	How well does the LA promote Health and Fitness?	Monitoring and Evaluation Report	Healthy Schools (CQ)
July	What is the impact of Healthy and Sustainable Preschool Scheme?	Monitoring and Evaluation Report	Early Years/Non maintained settings
September	How do young people contribute to strategic improvement?	Case study	Youth/Community/ Healthy Schools Additional contribution – all services
September	How effectively does the LA monitor and support elective home education?	Case study	Educational Welfare Service (LP)
September	What is the impact of Flying Start programme against children developmental norm outcomes?	Monitoring and Evaluation Report	Early Years/Non maintained settings
September	How effectively does the LA manage provision for pupils in EOTAS settings?	Monitoring and Evaluation Report	EOTAS (SE)
September	What is the impact of regional partnerships?	Monitoring and Evaluation Report	School Improvement/ Inclusion (PW)
September	How effective are procedures for school admissions?	Monitoring and Evaluation Report	Admissions (AW)
September	Review the library performance against the Welsh Government Standards Core and Quality Indicators.	Monitoring and Evaluation Report	Libraries

Month	Title	Type of evidence	Responsibility
September	What are standards of achievement (additional awards, national and local accreditations) for young people through the Youth Service?	Monitoring and Evaluation Report	Youth/Community
October	How effective is the work of SACRE?	Monitoring and Evaluation Report	School Improvement (PW)
October	What is the effectiveness of elected members and other supervisory boards?	Monitoring and Evaluation Report	School Improvement (KC)
October	How effective is the ongoing management of existing buildings?	Monitoring and Evaluation Report	21 st Century Schools (SR)
October	How effective are safeguarding policies, procedures, training, recruitment	Monitoring and Evaluation Report	Safeguarding (HW) Additional contribution - Inclusion
October	Does Estyn Inspections suggest that performance in schools is improving over time?	Monitoring and Evaluation Report	School Improvement (PW)
October	Does categorisation suggest that performance in schools is improving over time?	Monitoring and Evaluation Report	School Improvement (PW)
October	What is the attainment and achievement of vulnerable groups at FP?	Monitoring and Evaluation Report	Inclusion (SE)
November	How is professional learning linked to strategic improvement?	Case study	School Improvement (PW)
November	How effective is the LA in managing statutory responsibilities linked to ALN?	Case Study	Inclusion (SE)
November	How effective are strategies to prevent extremism and radicalisation?	Monitoring and Evaluation Report	Safeguarding (HW)
November	Does the use of WG grants impact on pupil attainment?	Case study	Finance (JS)
November	What is the attainment and achievement of vulnerable groups at KS2?	Monitoring and Evaluation Report	Inclusion (SE)
November	How effective is the Healthy Schools scheme?	Monitoring and Evaluation Report	Healthy Schools (CQ)
November	How good are accredited outcomes for volunteers/workers in the play sector?	Monitoring and Evaluation Report	Youth/Community
November	What is the impact of the Legacy Programme?	Case study	Youth/Community
November	Evaluate the success of the annual Summer Reading Scheme delivered to support literacy levels across the UK.	Monitoring and Evaluation Report	Libraries
November	How well do we provide an appropriate range and number of school places?	Monitoring and Evaluation Report	21 st Century Schools (AW)
December	How effective is 21 st Century Schools Programme?	Monitoring and Evaluation Report	21 st Century Schools (SR)
December	How effective is LA provision for Eco-Schools?	Monitoring and Evaluation Report	Healthy Schools (CQ)/Policy
December	How effective is strategic leadership and overall vision?	Monitoring and Evaluation Report	School Improvement/21 st Century Schools (KC/SR)

Month	Title	Type of evidence	Responsibility
December	How effective is the LA in supporting pupils with SPLD difficulties?	Monitoring and Evaluation Report	Inclusion (BC)
December	What is the attainment and achievement of vulnerable groups at KS3?	Monitoring and Evaluation Report	Inclusion (SE)
January	Are examination results indicating that standards in schools is improving over time?	Monitoring and Evaluation Report	School Improvement (PW)
January	What is the attainment and achievement of vulnerable groups at KS4?	Monitoring and Evaluation Report	Inclusion (SE)
January	Are pupil attendance rates improving?	Monitoring and Evaluation Report	Educational Welfare Service (PW)
February	What is the attainment and achievement of vulnerable groups at KS5?	Monitoring and Evaluation Report	Inclusion (SE)
February	Does target setting and progress against targets identify robust processes to raise standards?	Monitoring and Evaluation Report	School Improvement
February	Evaluate the scope and effectiveness of the current Public Library Service offer to secondary schools and pupils at Key Stage 3 and 4 within the County Borough Council.	Monitoring and Evaluation Report	Libraries
February	Does Estyn Inspections suggest that performance in schools is improving over time?	Monitoring and Evaluation Report	School Improvement (PW)
February	21 st Century project - review	Case study	21 st Century Schools (SR)
March	How effectively does the Youth Service work with education partners?	Monitoring and Evaluation Report	Youth/Community
March	Does the use of WG grants impact on pupil attainment?	Case study	Finance (JS) Additional contribution – School Improvement
March	How well does the LA manage complaints	Monitoring and Evaluation Report	Complaints (AW)
March	How effective are we in the management of information governance?	Monitoring and Evaluation Report	Admin Team (ES)
March	How effective are self-evaluation processes?	Monitoring and Evaluation Report	School Improvement/Admin and Policy (PW/ES)

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CABINET – 16TH JANUARY 2019

SUBJECT: BREXIT

REPORT BY: INTERIM CHIEF EXECUTIVE

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To provide Cabinet with an update on Brexit and the potential implications for Caerphilly CBC prior to consideration by Council at its meeting on the 22nd January 2019.

2. SUMMARY

- 2.1 The report provides details of the following: -

- The background of the Brexit process.
- An update on the current position including the significant levels of uncertainty in relation to Brexit.
- An overview of the potential impact for Local Authorities.
- Preparations within Caerphilly CBC to identify key actions and mitigation.

- 2.2 The report also seeks Cabinet endorsement of a recommendation to Council to set aside £1m in an earmarked reserve as a contingency to meet any short to medium-term financial implications arising from the Brexit process

3. LINKS TO STRATEGY

- 3.1 Brexit has the potential to impact on a number of key strategies within the Council. This will be kept under review and considered further once there is greater clarity around the withdrawal process.

4. THE REPORT

4.1 Background

- 4.1.1 On the 23rd June 2016 the UK public voted to leave the EU. Following this the UK Government invoked Article 50 on the 29th of March 2017, resulting in an “exit day” of the 29th March 2019 at 11.00 pm.

- 4.1.2 Over the past two years the UK Government has sought to secure a deal (the Withdrawal Agreement), with the 27 European Countries that will remain in the EU, covering matters such as: -

- The kind of relationship and level of participation the UK will have with the EU’s Single Market i.e. the free movement of people, goods and services; and
- The Customs Union – the bloc’s trade and tax agreement.

- 4.1.3 On the 25th November 2018, the Prime Minister agreed a draft Withdrawal Agreement with the other 27 EU Leaders. All parties also signed off a Future Relationship Declaration which is a draft political declaration on the future relationship between the EU and the UK after Brexit. The Declaration considers subjects such as trade and economic co-operation, law enforcement and criminal justice, foreign policy, security and defence and wider areas of co-operation. The Declaration is not a legally binding document and formal negotiations start after the UK has left the EU on the 29th March 2019.
- 4.1.4 If over the next few weeks, the Prime Minister is able to secure the support of Parliament to approve the Withdrawal Agreement, there will be a transition period of approximately two years before the eventual permanent arrangements for UK-EU relations (which have yet to be agreed) take effect.
- 4.1.5 The Prime Minister has said the transition period, which the UK tends to refer to as an "implementation phase", will allow businesses and EU citizens resident in the UK, and UK citizens resident in the EU, time to prepare for the new arrangements and avoid disrupting essential shared arrangements such as international security measures. It is proposed by the EU that the transition should not extend beyond 31 December 2020, 21 months after Brexit day. The EU wants the UK to continue to: -
- follow its rules during this time but not be involved in making decisions;
 - allow the free movement of people, goods and money to continue; and
 - be subject to European Court of Justice Rulings.
- 4.1.6 The UK also wants to be able to strike trade deals with other countries which it cannot do as an EU member. These deals cannot come into force until the transition period ends.
- 4.1.7 The transition period is conditional on the UK and EU agreeing a deal (the Withdrawal Agreement).
- 4.1.8 If over the next few weeks Parliament votes yes, an EU Withdrawal Bill will be introduced to enshrine the deal in law and it will be implemented. The European Parliament then takes a vote, where it needs a simple majority. A vote follows in the European Council, where 20 of the 27 countries must approve the deal. The UK would then leave the EU on the 29th March 2019 with a deal.
- 4.1.9 If the UK Parliament votes no in early 2019 and the EU Withdrawal Bill is rejected, the UK Government must reconsider its options, which are: -
- Leave with no-deal.
 - Re-negotiate.
 - General Election.
 - Referendum.
- 4.1.10 If the UK Parliament does not agree a Withdrawal Agreement and a framework that sets out the future relationship between the UK and the EU, the UK will become the equivalent of a third party country to the EU and the free movement of people, goods and money will stop at 11pm on the 29th March 2019.
- 4.1.11 The EU has suggested they would apply *“regulation and tariffs at borders with the United Kingdom as a third country, including checks and controls for customs, sanitary and phytosanitary standards and verification of compliance with EU norms”*.
- 4.1.12 This position is called the “No Deal Brexit.”

4.2 Is the UK Government planning for a potential “No Deal Brexit”?

- 4.2.1 Yes. The European Union (Withdrawal) Act 2018 received Royal Assent in June 2019, and became law. It will keep most existing EU laws as UK domestic laws after Brexit in order to ensure the continuity and completeness of the UK's legal system. It will also confer wide powers on the Government to amend that retained EU law in order to remedy or mitigate any deficiencies arising from the UK's withdrawal from the EU.
- 4.2.2 Over recent months the UK Government has also published a series of Technical Notices which provide information to allow businesses and citizens to understand what they would need to do in a no deal scenario, so they can make informed plans and preparations. A summary of the Notices that are relevant to Local Authorities is provided in Appendix 1.
- 4.2.3 It has always been the case that as March 2019 approaches, preparations for a no deal scenario would have to be accelerated. Whilst, on 25th November 2018 the UK and the EU leaders approved the “Deal” there are still considerable political differences of opinion in Parliament, and within the political parties, and the risk of a no deal exit remains significant.
- 4.2.4 If the current or a revised Withdrawal Agreement is not approved in the next couple of months, there is insufficient time to make changes to existing day to day dealings with the EU and the UK Government if we leave the EU with no deal. The UK Government has tried to ensure the briefing papers offer some form of stability for citizens, consumers and business, to ensure the continued operation of business, infrastructure and public services and to minimise any disruption to the economy. The Government has also committed to act unilaterally to provide continuity for a temporary period in a no deal scenario to protect and minimise disruption for UK citizens and businesses, irrespective of whether the EU reciprocates.
- 4.2.5 The extent of such continuity will vary by area as detailed in specific Technical Notices with change happening in different areas over time. Crucially, however, such changes will be applied where and when it is best for the UK.

4.3 How will a no deal Brexit affect Local Government?

- 4.3.1 Over the past 40 years, as a Member of the European Community, the UK's day to day operations have become truly integrated with the other 27 nations of the European Union, in particular the EU rules and regulations in respect of the freedom of movement of citizens, goods and services integral to our daily lives. Quantifying the impact of a no deal Brexit on Local Government is very difficult as there are so many other inter-dependencies and uncertainties.
- 4.3.2 Set out below is a list of the key areas for consideration in understanding the potential impact of a no deal Brexit on the Council: -
- **Laws regulating Local Government Services** - Many local government services are affected by EU rules and regulations, including waste management, environmental standards, trading standards and procurement. The Withdrawal Act 2018 ensures that there is legal certainty and no cliff edge for councils as those EU laws that underpin key services (such as waste management and trading standards) on exit day would continue to apply through UK law, even under no deal. However, further clarity is required and additional Government advice is promised. For example, it is acknowledged that we cannot use OJEC for procurement after a no deal exit and further engagement is promised on how to deal with ongoing procurement procedures as we switch from EU to a UK system.

- **A new constitutional settlement** - Under a no deal scenario, all EU legislative, enforcement and judicial powers would immediately return to the UK, with no implementation period. Consequently, under the current UK constitutional settlement, powers would return immediately to Whitehall, Stormont, Cardiff Bay and Holyrood. The English LGA and the Local Government Associations of Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland have been clear that Brexit must create the opportunity for the devolution of powers beyond central government to local communities and cannot result in a centralisation of powers. Therefore, under a no deal scenario there must be the consideration of a new central-local agreement across the UK which results in the devolution of powers to local communities through local government, as well as giving local government a more formal role in law-making.
- **Regeneration and other funding sourced from the EU** - Under a no deal scenario the UK would lose access to European Funding. However, through a Parliamentary Statement in July 2018, the Treasury announced that in the event of no deal the Government would underwrite European funding until the end of 2020. The Government has committed to a UK replacement for EU funds.
- **Workforce** – There are many non-UK EU workers that provide vital public services and non-UK EU construction and agricultural workers that are vital for many local economies and projects. The current draft Withdrawal Treaty sets out a reciprocal agreement between the EU and the UK. It provides for ‘settled-status’ for those (non-UK) EU citizens living in the UK and gives such rights to UK citizens living elsewhere in the EU. This provides assurance about residency and employment rights and for the delivery of vital public services. In the event of no deal, there will of course be no Withdrawal Treaty. As such the provision for a reciprocal agreement on ‘settled-status’ contained in the draft Treaty will fall.
- **Public health and protection and local regulation** – Our Public Protection service supports local businesses to trade internationally through the process of issuing export health certificates for certain food products being exported to third countries. A no deal scenario could significantly increase the number of certificates required by traders who do not currently require them to export to the EU, with resource implications for the Council and others involved in providing them. Similarly, any move to relieve pressure at ports by requiring import checks to be carried out inland could also place additional demands on local authorities. Additionally, much of the intelligence and risk assessment activity in relation to food safety is undertaken at an EU level and access to this currently informs food inspection programmes. There are concerns that public protection should not be undermined following Brexit. It is understood the Government and other agencies are considering the implications of and mitigation in the event of a no deal scenario, but presently there remains a great deal of uncertainty.
- **Goods and services** - Under a no deal scenario any imported goods used by the Council could be subject to new tariffs and thus services would be subject to new costs. We would have to assume the absence of any Free Trade Agreement (FTA) with the EU and the UK reverting to World Trade Organisation (WTO) rules. There would be many choices available to the UK such as a policy of tariff free trade with every nation or the UK may choose to try and roll over the current EU tariffs. What is clear is that under WTO rules, the UK would have to treat the EU the same as other trading nations. Thus if the UK continued to apply tariffs to countries outside the EU (such as the US), there would have to be the same tariffs to pay on imported goods supplied to the Council from the EU. The Council, or more likely its suppliers, currently buy such EU goods tariff free. Whilst a no deal Brexit would in theory leave the UK free to set its own tariffs on imported goods (within WTO limits), Government is nevertheless likely to adopt tariffs replicating the EU’s. Goods imported from the EU into the UK could therefore be subject to the same tariffs as those goods imported from elsewhere.

As it is the importer, rather than the exporter, who has to pay the tariff, the Council would have to pay these new tariffs when it imports goods directly from a supplier in the EU. This will be very rare however. Much more commonly it will be the UK supplier (not the Council itself) who would have to pay new tariffs, if it were importing goods from the rest of the EU. Whether these costs can then be passed on to the Council depends on the nature of the contract the UK supplier has with the Council.

The contract may be fixed price, in which case the supplier will have to absorb the tariff costs; or the contract may allow for some variability in the price, in which case the supplier can pass on some or all of the tariff costs onto the local authority. If there is no provision for the supplier to pass on price increases mid-contract, we would need to be assured that the supplier was able to absorb such costs. In some cases, the supplier may seek to pass on price increases to the Council when the contract is renewed. This may have a significant impact on the Council's budget.

In a no deal scenario, there will also be a range of non-tariff barriers, which would constitute the bulk of the costs for the national economy of doing business without FTAs, including: border checks, custom controls and compliance with different product standards and regulations.

- 4.3.3 As a Council it is difficult to plan for a no deal, as there is so much outside our control that it is impossible to mitigate many of the risks without greater clarity on the actions to be taken by the UK and Welsh Governments.
- 4.3.4 Council officers will continue to liaise with Welsh Government, the Welsh Local Government Association, partners and third party suppliers and contractors to ensure we better understand the risks of a No-Deal Brexit and the impact on the Council's services and local communities.

4.4 What are we doing in Caerphilly CBC to prepare for Brexit?

- 4.4.1 CCBC has recently established an internal Brexit Working Group consisting of the following: -
- Leader of the Council
 - Interim Head of Business Improvement Services
 - Head of Customer and Digital Services
 - Corporate Communications Manager
 - Head of People Services
 - Service Manager, Older People Services
 - Head of Regeneration and Planning
 - Head of Public Protection, Community & Leisure Services
 - Senior Policy Officer
 - Head of Education Planning & Strategy
- 4.4.2 This Working Group will meet on a monthly basis until further notice to monitor the potential impacts of Brexit and to agree specific mitigation and actions.
- 4.4.3 The Corporate Policy Unit has also set up a dedicated Brexit section on the Council's Intranet. This provides important information for all staff and will be regularly updated as matters progress.
- 4.4.4 CCBC has also been working with the WLGA through its Brexit Transition Support Programme for Welsh Local Authorities which is funded by the Welsh Government's £50m EU Transition Fund. The WLGA has commissioned Grant Thornton to produce a Brexit Preparedness Toolkit and this is attached as Appendix 2 for information.
- 4.4.5 The Toolkit will be a key reference point in CCBC's Brexit assessment and planning during the coming months. A workshop has been arranged for the Brexit Working Group on the 11th January 2019 to work through the recommended priority actions and to identify key tasks, risks and mitigation that will need to be addressed.

- 4.4.6 A representative from the WLGA is scheduled to attend the Council meeting on the 22nd January to give a presentation on the key issues surrounding Brexit and the potential implications.
- 4.4.7 In response to a request from the Welsh Government, CCBC has been working with the Gwent Local Resilience Forum (LRF) to help build a common picture on the national and local risks that Brexit presents to Wales. The Wales Risk Group has collated information from this process across the four LRF areas and this will shortly be submitted to the Welsh Government.
- 4.4.8 A key immediate implication of a no deal scenario for CCBC would be the potential disruption to the supply chain. The Council's Procurement Team is currently undertaking a review to identify the main risk areas and to establish what mitigating actions may be required. Deloitte's have also been commissioned by the Welsh Government EU Exit Team to step up preparations to ensure continuity of supply of goods and services in the event of a no deal exit from the EU. CCBC has provided information requested from Deloitte's to support their work in this area. CCBC will actively engage with suppliers once the key risk areas have been confirmed.
- 4.4.9 Communication is challenging as there is still no clarity around what the key messages are meaning that it is difficult to give a firm view. However, CCBC will take steps to ensure that staff and Elected Members are being kept up to date. CCBC also has a "Community Leader" role and will need to provide advice and guidance to members of the public and signpost as appropriate.
- 4.4.10 There is the potential for a negative impact on the local economy in the short to medium-term along with a possible lack of inward investment in the longer-term. The potential for increases in prices for goods and services will also provide a significant challenge for some smaller businesses. CCBC will have an important role to play in working with local businesses to deal with these challenges.

5. WELL-BEING OF FUTURE GENERATIONS

- 5.1 This will be kept under review and considered further once there is greater clarity around the withdrawal process.

6. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 The European Union (Withdrawal) Act 2018 has sought to mitigate the equality and diversity implications of Brexit.

7. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 There is an "opportunity cost" of senior staff having to consider the potential impacts of Brexit and prepare mitigating actions as appropriate.
- 7.2 No specific financial resource has been allocated in respect of Brexit to date. However, due to the high levels of uncertainty surrounding the process and the potential risks, Cabinet is asked to support a recommendation to Council that £1m be set-aside in an earmarked reserve as a contingency to meet any short to medium-term financial implications arising from the Brexit process. It is further recommended that this earmarked reserve should be funded from the £20.8m unallocated reserves identified in the 'Update on Reserves' report due to be presented to the Policy and Resources Scrutiny Committee on the 15th January 2019 and subsequently to Cabinet.

7.3 To ensure that funds in the proposed earmarked reserve can be accessed promptly Cabinet is also asked to support a recommendation to Council that delegated powers be granted to the Leader and Interim Chief Executive to jointly approve expenditure from the earmarked reserve as and when required.

8. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

8.1 There are no direct personnel implications arising from this report albeit that the position will be kept under review.

9. CONSULTATIONS

9.1 There are no consultation responses that have not been reflected in this report.

10. RECOMMENDATIONS

10.1 It is recommended that Cabinet: -

10.1.1 notes the content of the report;

10.1.2 endorses a recommendation to Council that £1m be set-aside in an earmarked reserve as a contingency to meet any short to medium-term financial implications arising from the Brexit process (funded from the £20.8m unallocated reserves identified in the 'Update on Reserves' report due to be presented to the Policy and Resources Scrutiny Committee on the 15th January 2019); and

10.1.3 endorses a recommendation to Council that delegated powers be granted to the Leader and Interim Chief Executive to jointly approve expenditure from the earmarked reserve as and when required.

11. REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS

11.1 To ensure that Cabinet Members are fully briefed on the current position regarding Brexit and the steps being taken to mitigate emerging risks.

11.2 To ensure that funding is set aside to meet any short to medium-term financial implications arising from Brexit.

12. STATUTORY POWER

12.1 European Union (Withdrawal) Act 2018.

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Tel: 01443 863022 E-mail: harrisr@caerphilly.gov.uk

Consultees: Cllr David Poole, Leader
Cllr Barbara Jones, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance, Performance and Governance
Christina Harrhy, Interim Chief Executive
Richard Edmunds, Corporate Director for Education and Corporate Services
Nicole Scammell, Head of Corporate Finance and S151 Officer
Robert Tranter, Head of Legal Services and Monitoring Officer
Paul Cooke, Senior Policy Officer

Appendices:

Appendix 1 – No Deal Brexit – Summary of UK Government Technical Notices

Appendix 2 – Brexit Preparedness Toolkit

No Deal Brexit – Summary of UK Government Technical Notices

The full list of Technical Notices can be found at: -

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/how-to-prepare-if-the-uk-leaves-the-eu-with-no-deal#driving>

Background and information on using the Notices is provided in an overview document, with a further 19 areas covered by Notices: -

- Overview
- Applying for EU-funded programmes
- Driving and transport
- Farming
- Handling civil legal cases
- Importing and exporting
- Labelling products and making them safe
- Meeting business regulations
- Money and tax
- Personal data and consumer rights
- Protecting the environment
- Regulating energy
- Regulating medicines and medical equipment
- Regulating veterinary medicines
- Satellites and space
- Seafaring
- State aid
- Studying in the UK or the EU
- Travelling between the UK and the EU
- Workplace rights

Each of these sections contains additional, more detailed guidance in the event of there being no Brexit deal. The following is a summary of the Notices that are likely to be more relevant to Local Government: -

1. Overview

This Notice states that at the heart of Government's approach to preparing for a no deal scenario is a commitment to prioritise stability for citizens, consumers and business, to ensure the smooth operations of business, infrastructure and public services and to minimise any disruption to the economy. It also states that the UK Government is committing to taking unilateral steps to minimise disruption and prioritise stability in a no deal scenario.

2. Applying for EU-funded programmes

Before 29 March 2019

Until our departure from the EU, we remain a Member State, with all the rights and obligations that entails. This means that the UK will continue to participate in all EU programmes while we remain a member of the EU.

As agreed as part of the Financial Settlement, the UK will continue to take part in all EU programmes post 29 March 2019 for the rest of the 2014-2020 Multi-annual Financial Framework. This Financial Settlement has been signed off by both UK and Commission negotiators in the draft Withdrawal Agreement and welcomed by the other 27 EU countries.

After March 2019 if there is no deal

In the event of a no deal, the UK will leave the EU Budget in March 2019 meaning UK organisations would no longer receive future funding for projects under EU programmes, such as the European Regional Development Fund and Horizon 2020, without further action. However, the UK Chancellor announced in August and October 2016 that the Government will guarantee EU projects agreed before we leave the EU, to provide more certainty for UK organisations over the course of EU Exit.

In July 2018, the Chief Secretary laid a Written Ministerial Statement (HCWS926) extending this guarantee to provide further stability for UK organisations in a no deal scenario. The guarantee now covers the following: -

- The full 2014-20 Multi-annual Financial Framework allocation for structural and investment funds.
- The payment of awards where UK organisations successfully bid directly to the European Commission on a competitive basis while we remain in the EU.
- The payment of awards under successful bids where UK organisations are able to participate as a third country in competitive grant programmes from Exit day until the end of 2020.
- The current level of agricultural funding under CAP Pillar 1 until 2020.

The notice states that this guarantee ensures that UK organisations, such as charities, businesses and universities, will continue to receive funding over a project's lifetime if they successfully bid into EU-funded programmes before the end of 2020.

Preparations for replacing EU funding for Wales

In September 2018 the National Assembly for Wales Finance Committee published a report - Preparations for replacing EU funding for Wales – this set out 11 recommendations including that the Welsh Government: -

- Negotiates with the UK Government to ensure the Welsh Government is responsible for the administration and management of the UK Shared Prosperity Fund in Wales.
- In prioritising negotiations with the UK Government to secure the best possible funding deal, to ensure that Wales is “not a penny worse off” post-Brexit
- Initially secures at least the same amount of funding to Wales through the UK Shared Prosperity Fund as it currently receives through Structural Funds, plus inflation.
- Installs a central unit equipped with the necessary expertise and capacity to deliver a coherent programme of funding post-Brexit.

3. Farming

Rural Development Fund

The UK government has guaranteed that any projects where funding has been agreed before the end of 2020 will be funded for their full lifetime. This means, in the event the UK leaves the EU with no deal, the UK government would fund any remaining payments to farmers, land managers and rural businesses due after March 2019. This would ensure continued funding for these projects until they finish. The guarantee also means that Defra and the devolved administrations can continue to sign new projects after the UK leaves the EU during 2019 and 2020, up to the value of programme allocations.

Farm Payments

As the UK will have the freedom to design its own agricultural policy once we have left the EU, the nature of support for the agricultural sector will change. The Agriculture Bill will

legislate for those changes in England. The future of agricultural policy has been the subject of a public consultation in each country of the UK.

The devolved administrations and UK government are working together to determine where UK frameworks need to be established

If the UK leaves the EU in March 2019 with no agreement in place, eligible beneficiaries will continue to receive payments under the terms of the UK government's funding guarantee.

Defra and the devolved administrations are preparing domestic legislation (under the Withdrawal Act) to ensure we have the ability in law to continue operation of payments in a no deal scenario. This legislation preserves the EU law as it currently stands, and 'fixes' the legislation so that it is operable once we've left the EU.

The domestic legislation will require beneficiaries to conform to the same standards as they do currently, in order to receive payments. This will include on-site inspections to UK farms receiving payments, which will continue as normal.

All of these rules and processes will remain the same until Defra and the devolved administrations introduce new agriculture policies, either through the Agriculture Bill due to be introduced in the UK Parliament, or an Agriculture Bill in one or more of the devolved parliaments.

The Government has pledged to continue to commit the same cash total in funds for farm support until the end of this Parliament, expected in 2022. This includes all funding provided for farm support under both Pillar 1 and Pillar 2 of the current CAP. This commitment applies to the whole UK.

4. Importing and exporting

If the UK leaves the EU on 29 March 2019 without a deal there will be immediate changes to the procedures that apply to businesses trading with the EU. It would mean that the free circulation of goods between the UK and EU would cease.

Businesses should consider how a no deal scenario could affect them, and may want to begin taking steps to mitigate against such a risk.

The Notice suggests actions businesses can take now to prepare including the following: -

- Establish the volume of their trade with the EU and any potential supply chain impacts such as engaging with the other businesses in the supply chain to ensure that the necessary planning is taking place at all levels.
- In the event that the UK and the EU does not have a Free Trade Agreement (FTA) in place in a no deal scenario, trade with the EU will be on non-preferential, World Trade Organisation terms. This means that Most Favoured Nation (MFN) tariffs and non-preferential rules of origin would apply to consignments between the UK and EU.

5. Labelling products and making them safe

The UK Government will maintain our current set of standards on food safety, food labelling and food quality, ensuring high food standards at home and promoting high standards internationally.

Initially, the EU based provisions would all be rolled over, as part of the Withdrawal Act, and fixed where necessary by Statutory Instrument so the rules apply as before. However, some changes would be required to reflect the fact that the UK will no longer be a member of the EU.

Where the UK has its own compositional standards that do not stem from the EU, such as specific national rules on products containing meat and the composition of bread and flour, these would remain unchanged.

Labelling the origin of food

Use of the term 'EU' in origin labelling would no longer be correct for food or ingredients from the UK. In addition, from April 2020, the country of origin or place of provenance of the primary ingredient of a food (where different to that given for the food overall) will be required on labels as part of EU rules on food labelling. The Government may seek views on whether similar national rules would be appropriate in the UK when EU rules no longer apply.

6. Meeting business regulations

Accessing Public Sector Contracts

If the UK leaves the EU in March 2019 with no deal in place regarding future arrangements on access to OJEU/TED, the government has committed to providing a replacement UK-specific e-notification service. Changes to the procurement rules will be made via amendments to existing legislation, to ensure continued operability.

All contract opportunities that would currently be published on OJEU/TED would be published on the new UK e-notification service. This would be in line with the current requirements to send notices to the EU Publications Office for publication on OJEU/TED. Publication would take place electronically and the service will be free for all users.

The UK is also aiming to accede to the WTO Agreement on Government Procurement (GPA). The UK currently participates in the GPA by virtue of its EU membership.

Contracting authorities and entities

Contracting authorities would need to ensure their contract notices are published on the UK e-notification service rather than OJEU/TED.

The requirement to advertise in Contracts Finder, MOD Defence Contracts Online, Public Contracts Scotland, Sell2Wales and eTendersNI would remain. Those contracting authorities who are currently working with a third party such as an 'E-Sender' or 'E-Publisher' to publish to OJEU/TED should be able to continue to work with their provider to publish on the UK e-notification service.

Contracting authorities that place their contract opportunities directly on to OJEU/TED will be contacted to ensure that they are familiar with the new UK e-notification service.

7. Money and tax

Implications for individuals and business customers

How customers of financial services firms will be affected will depend on where they are based, where their firm is based and under what regulatory authorisations they operate, and the services that they access. If action by customers is needed, then firms should communicate this to their customers at an appropriate time.

8. Personal data and consumer rights

If the UK leaves the EU in March 2019 with no agreement in place regarding future arrangements for data protection, there would be no immediate change in the UK's own data

protection standards. This is because the Data Protection Act 2018 would remain in place and the EU Withdrawal Act would incorporate the GDPR into UK law to sit alongside it.

9. Protecting the environment

This Notice states that UK Government is committed to maintaining environmental standards after we leave the EU, and will continue to uphold international obligations through multi-lateral environmental agreements. The EU Withdrawal Act 2018 will ensure all existing EU environmental law continues to operate in UK law, providing businesses and stakeholders with certainty as we leave the EU.

The UK government and devolved administrations will amend current legislation to correct references to EU legislation, transfer powers from EU institutions to domestic institutions and ensure we meet international agreement obligations.

The UK's legal framework for enforcing domestic environmental legislation by UK regulatory bodies or court systems is unaffected by leaving the EU and continues to apply.

Environmental targets currently covered by EU legislation are already covered in domestic legislation. Permits and licences issued by UK regulatory bodies will continue to apply as now.

10. State aid

This Notice states that the Government will create a UK-wide subsidy control framework to ensure the continuing control of anti-competitive subsidies. The EU state aid rules will be transposed into UK domestic legislation under the European Union (Withdrawal) Act. This will apply to all sectors; and will mirror existing block exemptions as allowed under the current rules, including the Agricultural Block Exemption Regulation, and the Fisheries Block Exemption Regulation. The Competition and Markets Authority will take on the role of enforcement and supervision for the whole of the UK.

The UK Government will continue to work with the devolved administrations to ensure the new state aid regime works for the whole of the UK.

11. Workplace rights

The EU (Withdrawal) Act 2018 brings across the powers from EU Directives. This means that workers in the UK will continue to be entitled to the rights they have under UK law, covering those aspects which come from EU law.

The Government will make small amendments to the language of workplace legislation to ensure the existing regulations reflect the UK is no longer an EU country. These amendments will not change existing policy. This will provide legal certainty, allowing for a smooth transition from the day of EU exit, and will ensure that employment rights remain unchanged, including the employment rights of those working in the UK on a temporary basis.

Brexit preparedness toolkit

Part of the Brexit Transition Support Programme
for Welsh local authorities

Version 1 - November 2018



Contents

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Your services and suppliers	10
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WLGA Brexit Transition Support Programme	14

Document log

Version	Update	Date
Version 1	First iteration of the WLGA Brexit preparedness toolkit published.	23 November 2018

The impact of Brexit will be far-reaching – no matter the outcome of negotiations. With discussions entering the final stages, the preparations made by local authorities during the following months may well affect how local communities and economies within Wales are impacted in the longer term.

Purpose of this document

Welsh local authorities have always navigated uncertainty and faced challenges on behalf of communities. While the outcome of Brexit negotiations remains uncertain, it is essential for councils to set a path to ensure the continued delivery of vital services and the best possible outcomes for their local communities and economies.

This toolkit has been designed to provide a comprehensive and consistent approach to support Welsh Local Authorities in identifying and addressing the local implications of Brexit.

Produced in partnership with the Welsh Local Government Association as part of the Brexit Transition Support Programme for Welsh local authorities, the toolkit is intended to support local political and executive decision-makers in understanding the potential risks and opportunities that Brexit poses, ensuring that they are asking the right questions locally and putting in place robust plans on behalf of their communities and businesses.

Key messages

- The outcome of Brexit is uncertain, but there are specific, practical preparations that Welsh local authorities should make by focusing on their organisations, their services and suppliers and the places they serve.
- All parts of government must work together to manage the process of withdrawal from the EU successfully, however, preparations at a local level are an essential part of the duties of Welsh Local Authorities as leaders and representatives on behalf of their communities.
- The Welsh Government and Welsh Local Government Association are fully committed to assisting local authorities in carrying out this crucial role.
- Priority Actions' have been outlined in each section of this report - these are tasks that councils should plan to undertake immediately, if they have not begun to do so already, with the aim of completing preparations before March 2019.

Context

The *White Paper – Securing Wales’ Future* (published in January 2017) and the subsequent suite of policy documents on future funding arrangements, trade, regional investment, the movement of people and devolution, set out the key priorities of the [Welsh Government](#) as the UK attempts to moves towards a deal with the EU.

The aims of the wider Brexit Transition Support Programme for Welsh Local Authorities, funded by the [Welsh Government’s EU Transition Support Fund](#), are to ensure Welsh local authorities are not duplicating work in preparing for Brexit; ensure all local authorities in Wales are equally prepared for Brexit in key sectors; and to establish a more formalised, two-way programme of communication between local authorities and those planning for Brexit in the Welsh and UK Governments. Activities under the support programme include a range of stakeholder events, the production of this toolkit and other resources, and the commissioning of research in areas where Brexit will have a significant impact for local government.

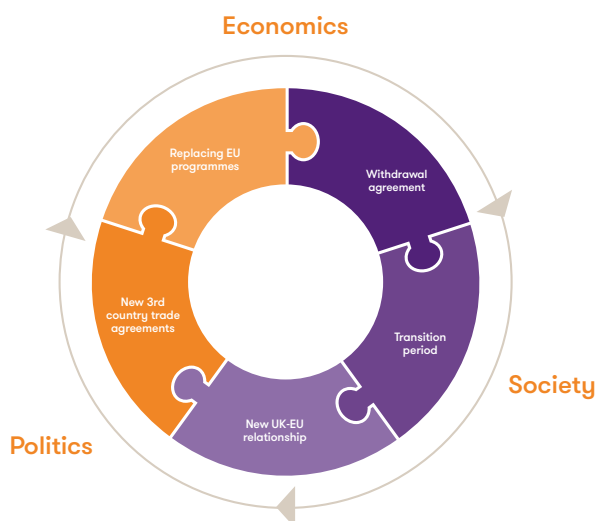


Scenarios, timelines and implications

What is Brexit?

Brexit consists of five interconnected elements:

- **The withdrawal agreement:** covering issues such as citizens' rights and financial settlement. A draft withdrawal agreement was proposed by the Prime Minister on 14 Nov 2018 which must now be agreed by parliament and EU member states.
- **A transition period:** a proposed 21 months during which the UK remains in the Single Market and Customs Union.
- **A new UK-EU trading relationship:** what will replace our current membership of the European Union.
- **New 3rd country Free Trade Agreements:** to establish new trading relationships with countries around the world and replace EU originated FTAs that we may lose access to.
- **Replacement of EU funding programmes:** redesigning current EU funding streams.



It is important to remember that negotiations and decisions on these elements are not taking place in a vacuum. They are impacted from the outside by societal change, economic pressures and political volatility – meaning things can change quickly.

What might happen and when?



On the 14 November 2018, the UK Government published a draft Withdrawal Agreement which sets out the terms for the UK's departure from the European Union. It reflects an agreement in principle between the UK and EU. However, this agreement is not legally binding until it has been ratified in Westminster and Brussels.

There remain two options for what will happen at 11 pm on 29 March, the UK will leave the EU, either with a Deal or with No Deal.

Two options in March 2019

A Deal – UK leaves EU and enters transition period:

If the Deal is ratified in the UK and EU, much of the UK relationship with the EU will remain unchanged for a 21-month transition period, up to 31 December 2020.

The transition period will be used to negotiate our future relationship with the EU – there is still much debate about what this outcome may be, though the ‘backstop’ will mean that if a new agreement is not reached the UK will remain in a customs union with the UK, with deep regulatory alignment between Northern Ireland and the EU.

No Deal – UK leaves EU with no transition to trade on WTO terms:

If the Withdrawal Agreement does not manage to pass through UK parliament or EU member states, and no alternative is found, then the UK will leave the EU with No Deal.

If there is No Deal, there is no transition period. Trading on WTO terms imports and exports between the UK and EU become subject to tariffs (which vary from 0% to over 80%) and customs declarations. This would mean new processes for business as well as additional costs. The free movement of people would end and the recruitment of EU nationals arriving in the UK for the first time after March 2019 could be subject to similar immigration rules as those currently applying from the rest of the world. Access to EU programmes and funding will also end, although the government has guaranteed the EU projects agreed before March 2019.

We believe there are three key perspectives local authorities should consider

The toolkit focuses on three key areas where Brexit is likely to have the most significant impact. Across each of these areas, the toolkit provides a range of perspectives that will help councils to tease out the fundamental questions they should be asking about the specific risks and opportunities that may arise under each Brexit scenario and present several priority recommendations for councils to act upon.

Your organisation

The first step any local authority must take is to understand the impact of Brexit on their organisation.

Whatever the deal, there are likely to be short- and long-term implications for the people working for your council, the funding streams relied upon to provide valuable local services and changes to the legal and regulatory frameworks within which you operate.

Your services and suppliers

Councils provide essential public services and play an integral role in local marketplaces.

They must understand the potential impacts of Brexit on core services and the risks within their supply chain.

Once the risks and opportunities have been identified, local authorities can develop contingency plans, identify critical decisions and manage risks.

Your place

Finally, local authorities need to be alive to the impact Brexit may have on local economies, the continued uncertainty around funding streams previously available through the EU and new opportunities potentially available for further devolution.

These factors will shape communities for years to come, and it will fall to local authorities to foster the social cohesion and leadership necessary for communities live, work and thrive as the UK redefines itself outside the EU.

Your organisation

Welsh local authorities must ensure that they understand the potential impacts on their organisations to maintain their crucial role as stewards and community leaders for the places they serve.

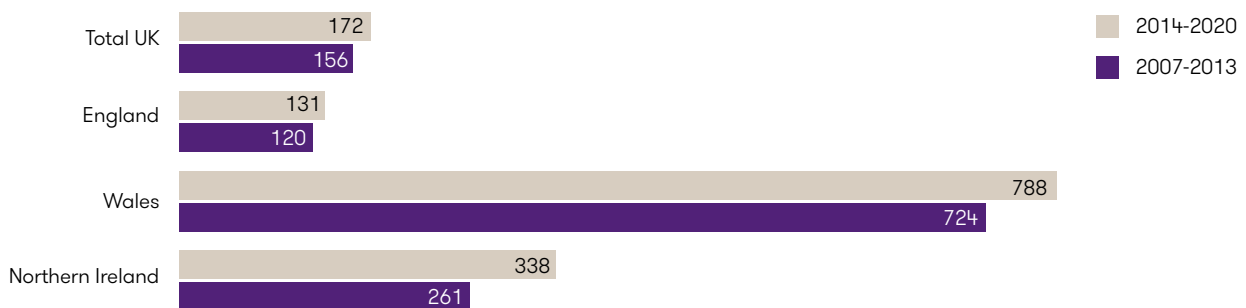
From HGV drivers collecting waste to those carers working with social care clients, councils will already employ many EEA nationals for the provision of high-quality local services. Given the importance of the local workforce, local authorities should consider how Brexit will impact the retention of its staff. In Wales, EU migrants have a higher employment rate (79%) than the overall working-age population (71%). Most EU migrants – like UK-born people or non-EU migrants – work in occupations such as administration, caring and leisure or skilled trades for example in the construction industry. In the social care sector, while specific data is not available for Wales, figures for England show that people with an EU nationality hold around 3% of local authority and independent sector jobs, and a further 5% are held by people with a non-EU nationality.

Although commitments have been made to protect existing EU residents, [ONS data](#) is showing that EU citizens have already begun to leave because of exchange rate changes or a sense of not being valued. Reduced access to EU labour in the

future, coupled with a fall in the pound impacting international workers, means that organisations will need to work hard to retain and attract the skills they require. Moving forward, councils will need to think about how they will continue to recruit the skillsets they need after March 2019; how Brexit and other related policies could increase or decrease labour costs and what additional skills and resources will be necessary to deliver a robust Brexit plan successfully.

Regarding potential financial implications, Wales currently takes more funding from the EU than its taxpayers contribute. As a net financial beneficiary of EU membership, Wales receives approximately £680million in EU funding each year. After any agreed transition period, UK organisations will be unable to access EU funding streams such as the European Regional Development Fund and Horizon 2020 or the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP); in the event of No Deal, the UK Treasury has provided a full lifetime [expenditure guarantee](#) for projects approved before the end of December 2020.

Per capita combined European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) and European Social Fund allocations (€m)



We can also expect to see increased volatility in financial markets as they react to updates in negotiations in different ways. If the UK leaves the EU without a deal, we can expect the Pound to fall and interest rates to fluctuate depending on the perceived impact.

The EU Withdrawal Act converts EU into UK law, which will ensure short-term certainty across many of the legal and

regulatory frameworks used by local government. However, in the longer term, it is much more unclear how Brexit will impact the areas particularly relevant to councils, such as data protection and procurement. All the above means that local authorities will need to be agile in their approach to setting organisational priorities and responding to an environment that is increasingly dynamic.

Recommendations:



Priorities

Priority Action: Mobilise key decision-makers and partnerships – Ensure that local leaders and decision-makers understand the potential economic, political and regulatory changes and are actively considering the impacts. Ensure that working groups, involving partners where necessary, are up and running.

Priority Action: Create a plan and be ready to act – Know what you need to do and when for specific Brexit scenarios. Improve your organisational responsiveness through analysis of what aspects of your organisation will be impacted by Brexit and what areas are not impacted.

Also consider: What policy decisions might you need to influence in the longer term – Identify what policy changes you might need to call for and whether there are any opportunities to make specific asks of the Welsh and UK Government in the face of Brexit pressures.



People

Priority Action: Conduct a workforce audit to identify EEA nationals – Understand who in your workforce is likely to be affected, particularly those working in critical areas such as social care.

Priority Action: Encourage retention – Start your communication with your EEA employees and ensure they understand their residency rights and are aware of [UK government resources](#). Identify opportunities to streamline your council's recruitment and retention procedures, positioning yourself as an employer of choice. This will require you to make sure that your employee value proposition is as attractive as it can be by developing and reviewing remuneration packages, benefits and incentive.

Also consider: How Brexit may impact the cost of labour – In all scenarios, there is a risk of increased staffing costs if wages are inflated because of skills shortages or other policy changes such as tax rises, enlargements to the minimum wage. Keep the cost of your workforce under review and ensure that your offer is competitive.



Finance and Funding

Priority Action: Map your current income – Although the UK government has extended a guarantee that covers all projects which would have been funded by the EU under the 2014-2020 programme, councils need to identify which projects and programmes are dependent on this funding and begin to assess alternative funding streams and create a gap analysis for future requirements.

Priority Action: Understand your financial exposure – Modelling the financial impact using a range of outcomes, identify the real terms impact of reduced funding sources by forecasting (NDR, Council Tax and other sources) and ensure that your medium-term financial strategies are based on robust and prudent assumptions.

Also consider: Revisit the business cases for major projects – Conduct viability analysis of individual projects reliant on EU funding and create a list of strategic options for delivery post-2020.

Your services and suppliers

Welsh local authorities play a central role in the lives of all residents by delivering over 700 statutory and discretionary services drawing on a wide range of suppliers and partners.

Changes in the model of economic co-operation between the UK and EU and any subsequent amendments to specific legal and regulatory frameworks will impact council services in many ways. For example, if there is No Deal, mutual recognition will end for imports from EU into the UK. This includes certain foodstuffs, furniture, bicycles, ladders and precious metals. Manufacturers and sellers of such products will need to meet UK standards to sell in the UK, which in turn would need to be enforced by trading standards. Any alterations to the rules and requirements around the manufacturing and marketing of fertilisers would equally affect trading standards. For state aid,

if there is no deal, UK public authorities would need to notify state aid to the Competition and Markets Authority instead of the European Commission.

No Deal would also mean that the UK becomes a 'third country'. Simply put, this would impose new checks and processes for goods passing between the UK and the EU and increases the likelihood for confusion and delays at our borders as new rules are implemented and therefore increasing the risk to council service providers and their suppliers

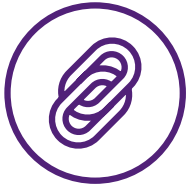
Things to think about:



Local authorities need to be able to map the impact of Brexit across all services and key supply chains, making sure their organisations can familiarise themselves and adapt to new

approaches and challenges - this means looking beyond immediate service areas, contracted suppliers, partnership working network and Joint Venture and PFI Arrangements.

Recommendations:



Services, suppliers and supply chain

Priority Action: Identify your most significant and most critical services and suppliers – Engage with your supply chain to understand their level of exposure and the preparations they have put in place. Once you understand the potential level of impact and your contractual position, develop contingency plans and possible alternative procurement options.

Also consider: Future regulatory changes impacting service delivery – In the event of No Deal there will be various changes to everyday processes and procedures. Councils will need to familiarise themselves with any new approaches that would be taken in areas such as:

- Procurement;
- Data protection;
- Regulating chemicals (REACH);
- Exporting animals and animal products;
- Labelling tobacco products and e-cigarettes;
- End of mutual recognition of EU national standards;
- Producing and labelling food; and,
- Handling civil legal cases that involve EU countries.

Guidance on how to prepare for Brexit if there's no deal can be found [here](#).



Core operations

Priority Action: Identify key decisions – Work through the actions your council will need to undertake now to safeguard services, regardless of the Brexit outcome.

Priority Action: Understand how your core services may be affected and develop contingency plans – Once the risks have been identified, examine the business impact on your core services.

Also consider: Creating an opportunities matrix – Brexit could create new opportunities to reshape existing service delivery models and way of working. Consider areas such as:

- Devolution and the ability to lobby the government for greater local freedoms;
- The opportunity to develop the local indigenous workforce;
- Collaborating with partners to address common challenges; and,
- The possibility to adopt different delivery models.



Legal, data and regulatory

Priority Action: Understand the risk to your contracted suppliers and your legal position if Brexit renders them unable to deliver their services – your council will need to have alternative arrangements for delivery of services, especially statutory services such as social care.

Also consider: The transfer of data – Brexit could result in changes to the laws and regulations governing information and data and if access to this data is disrupted, then it could impact upon the ability of public service organisations to work collaboratively. Understanding how current data sharing arrangements could be impacted by Brexit is key to beginning a risk assessment. Based on this risk assessment, required changes to data sharing arrangements can be identified.

Your place

Welsh Local government will continue to ensure the wellbeing of communities, grow local economies and maintain healthy and representative local democracies. Helping residents and businesses prepare for departure from the EU is a key part of this role in the short term.

Brexit creates a strategic opportunity for local authorities to push for greater freedoms and flexibilities as leaders of the places they serve. This means pushing the principle of devolution and subsidiarity; making a case for enhanced powers and seeking greater fiscal autonomy. In theory, Brexit will mean that decisions will be made closer to the communities they impact, however, as has already been witnessed during the negotiations, the UK Government may seek to retain new powers in Whitehall. The responsibility will fall to local government and its representatives to ensure that appropriate responsibilities come as close to communities as possible.

The long-term economic consequences of Brexit are still heavily disputed, though the majority predict a negative long-term impact. Ultimately, lower growth of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) would be mirrored by lower wages and incomes – impacting the day to day lives of residents. Over the medium term the economy in Wales has tracked UK economic performance quite closely, but in the short-term Wales is

potentially more vulnerable to economic shocks than many other parts of the UK. For example, Welsh international exports are dominated by a small number of large businesses, the loss of which would have a very significant impact on their localities.

Forecasts for Wales suggest:

The sectors most affected by No Deal or by leaving the customs union after a transition include food and farming, manufacturing with complex supply chains (including automotive and aerospace) and life sciences. Retail and construction, in particular, will be affected by any drop-in consumer confidence or economic shock if there is No Deal. Many sectors including tourism and leisure, logistics and manufacturing will also be affected by skills shortages and food and farming could also see very significant long-term change resulting from the end of CAP subsidies and the possible opening of UK food markets to cheaper imports from the US, Brazil and Asia-pacific.

Share of Export Goods (2015) to EU: Major categories of goods exports from Wales, and from the UK as a comparator



There are also wider implications on the well-being of the people of Wales. By its very nature, the referendum has brought to the surface longstanding tensions within communities by highlighting the fundamental differences in peoples view of what the country should like, both socially and economically, and then pitching these two opposing futures against each other.

It will fall to local councils to rebuild the social cohesion necessary for communities to live and work together and local authorities will need to be confident about civil contingency plans in the event of No Deal. It will be important to work with local partnerships to assess how the first days and months could play out in your local community and understand exactly what contingencies your council may need to be prepared for.

Recommendations:



Local community

Priority Action: Councils need to understand their communities – Map the impact of Brexit by charting the make-up of communities. This will help local authorities to understand local demography and how any changes may impact demand for local services (such housing and school places, for example).

Priority Action: Head off community unrest – Starting the dialogue with residents early will help local authorities to understand community concerns and map local resilience. Encourage meaningful community engagement by enabling residents to be part of shaping your response to Brexit and any resulting strategies.

Priority Action: Continue business continuity and emergency planning duties – This is a significant role of local authorities and the possible impact of No Deal could be felt in many ways, for example:

- The imposition of additional/new checks on goods arriving from or going to the EU could cause traffic backlogs at UK port towns.
- In the longer term, there could be scenarios where large numbers of elderly UK citizens return from other parts of the EU.
- The economic consequences of “no deal” arising from trade and currency fluctuations could impact household and business stability. This, in turn, may lead indirectly to increased pressure on local public services and more challenging prospects for local growth.



Future growth

Priority Action: Understand points of vulnerability within your economy – Create a clear view of your local economy; including scale, strengths, weaknesses, sectors and productivity. This will assist you to understand the local exposure to Brexit by sector and intervene or offer support where necessary.

Priority Action: Identify any major growth catalysts that are at-risk – SRegeneration and major infrastructure projects could be delayed or stalled due to uncertainty on funding and/or demand assumptions – start working now to understand which projects may be at risk and consider how these risks can be managed.

Also consider: Using scenario planning to model the risk – Use scenarios to plan how your organisations would respond to different economic outcomes such as:

- The UK enters another recession
- Property market falls impacting development projects
- Foreign-owned businesses relocate outside the UK
- Reductions in FDI due to uncertainty around Single Market access

Also consider: The impact of Brexit on transport networks – Brexit will have an impact on areas of transport policy, including the haulage industry and those driving in and flying to and from Europe or travelling by train. Map your key transport networks and work with relevant partners to plan for severe delays.

WLGA Brexit Transition Support Programme

The Brexit Transition Support Programme is being managed by the Regeneration and Sustainable Development Team of the WLGA. Overall responsibility and main contact for the programme - [Lucy Sweet](mailto:Lucy.Sweet@wlga.gov.uk), WLGA Senior EU Policy and Communications Officer. Input on the activities needed under the programme have come from the WLGA's Internal Brexit Group, which brings together policy leads from each of the WLGA's teams on the issues of Brexit. These individuals are the lead contacts in WLGA for Brexit in their policy areas.

Membership as follows:

- Tim Peppin, Director of Regeneration and Sustainable Development (Tim.peppin@wlga.gov.uk)
- Lowri Gwilym, Team Manager- Europe and Regeneration (Lowri.gwilym@wlga.gov.uk)
- Lucy Sweet, Senior EU Policy and Communications Officer (Lucy.sweet@wlga.gov.uk)
- Carwyn Jones-Evans, Policy Officer - Economic Development and Regeneration (Carwyn.jonesevans@wlga.gov.uk)
- Neville Rookes, Environment Policy Officer (Neville.rookes@wlga.gov.uk)
- Chris Llewelyn, Director of Lifelong Learning, Leisure and Information (and Chief Executive Designate) (Chris.llewelyn@wlga.gov.uk)
- Jon Rae, Director of Resources (Jon.rae@wlga.gov.uk)
- Jonathan Lloyd, Head of Employment (Jonathan.lloyd@wlga.gov.uk)
- Simon Wilkinson, Regulatory Services Policy Officer (Simon.wilkinson@wlga.gov.uk)
- Anne Hubbard, Manager, Wales Strategic Migration Partnership (Anne.hubbard@wlga.gov.uk)
- Jim McKirdle, Housing Policy Officer (Jim.mckirdle@wlga.gov.uk)
- Stewart Blythe, Policy Officer- Social Services and Health (Stewart.blyth@wlga.gov.uk)
- Richard Dooner, Procurement Programme Manager (Richard.dooner@wlga.gov.uk)
- Dilwyn Jones, Communications Officer (Dilwyn.jones@wlga.gov.uk)

All the WLGA's Brexit work is overseen by the WLGA Elected Members' Brexit Group. Membership as follows:

- **Chair: Councillor Rob Stewart**, WLGA Deputy Leader and Economic Development, Europe and Energy Spokesperson
- **Labour Group: Councillor Anthony Hunt**, WLGA Finance and Resources Spokesperson
- **Plaid Cymru Group: Councillor Ellen ap Gwynn**, WLGA Welsh Language Spokesperson
- **Independent Group: Councillor Hugh Evans**, WLGA Independent Group Leader and Improvement Spokesperson
- **Conservative Group: Councillor Peter Fox**, WLGA Conservative Group Leader and Digital and Innovation Spokesperson

Local authority Brexit leads

WLGA asked all LAs to identify Brexit Leads (on the Elected Member and officer side), who have overall responsibility for Brexit in the LA. The Brexit Leads are who we target with Brexit information, for them to disseminate appropriately within their LA, and those responsible for feeding in to the WLGA on local Brexit impacts. A list of the Brexit Leads is as follows:

Local authority	Brexit member lead(s)	Brexit officer lead(s)
Blaenau Gwent	Cllr Nigel Daniels, Leader Nigel.daniels@blaenau-gwent.gov.uk	Bernadette Elias, Head of Policy and Performance Bernadette.elias@blaenau-gwent.gov.uk
Bridgend	Cllr Charles Smith, Cabinet Member for Education and Regeneration Cllr.Charles.Smith@bridgend.gov.uk Cllr Richard Young – Cabinet Member for Communities Cllr.Richard.Young@bridgend.gov.uk	Mark Shephard, Corporate Director of Communities Mark.Shephard@bridgend.gov.uk Lisa Jones – Team Leader Regeneration Funding and Regional Engagement Lisa.Jones@bridgend.gov.uk
Caerphilly	Cllr Barbara Jones, Deputy Leader Barbarajones@caerphilly.gov.uk Cllr David Poole, Leader pooled@caerphilly.gov.uk	Steve Harris, Interim Head of Finance harrisr@caerphilly.gov.uk Paul Cooke, Senior Policy Officer cookepa@caerphilly.gov.uk
Cardiff	Cllr Huw Thomas, Leader Huw.Thomas@cardiff.gov.uk	Jon Day, Economic Policy Manager Jday@cardiff.gov.uk Gareth Newell, Policy, Partnerships and Research Manager Gnewell@cardiff.gov.uk
Carmarthenshire	Cllr Emlyn Dole, Leader EDole@carmarthenshire.gov.uk Cllr David Jenkins, Cabinet Member Resources DMJenkins@carmarthenshire.gov.uk	Mark James, Chief Executive mjames@carmarthenshire.gov.uk mwbennett@carmarthenshire.gov.uk NiJWilliams@carmarthenshire.gov.uk Wendy Walters, Director of Regeneration and Policy swalters@carmarthenshire.gov.uk Helen Morgan, Development Manager HLMorgan@Carmarthenshire.gov.uk
Ceredigion	Cllr Ellen ap Gwynn, Leader of the Council Ellen.ApGwynn@ceredigion.gov.uk Cllr Rhodri Evans, Cabinet Member: Economy & Regeneration Rhodri.Evans2@ceredigion.gov.uk	Russell Hughes-Pickering, Head of Performance and Economy Russell.Hughes-Pickering@ceredigion.gov.uk Eifion Evans, Chief Executive eifione@ceredigion.gov.uk Mike Shaw, Group Manager Community Regeneration and European, Economic and Community Development Services Mike.shaw@ceredigion.gov.uk
Conwy	Cllr Louise Emery, Portfolio Holder Economic Development Cllr.louise.emery@conwy.gov.uk	Barbara Burchell, Principal European Officer Barbara.Burchell@conwy.gov.uk
Denbighshire	Cllr Hugh Evans, Leader leader@denbighshire.gov.uk	Graham H Boase, Corporate Director: Economy and Public Realm Graham.boase@denbighshire.gov.uk

Local authority	Brexit member lead(s)	Brexit officer lead(s)
Flintshire	CCllr Aaron Shotton, Leader Aaron.shotton@flintshire.gov.uk	Niall Waller, Enterprise and Regeneration Manager Niall.waller@flintshire.gov.uk Colin Everett, Chief Executive Chief.executive@flintshire.gov.uk
Gwynedd	ClI'r Dyfrig Siencyn, Council Leader Cynghorydd.dyfrigsienecyn@gwynedd.llyw.cymru ClI'r Ioan Thomas, Cabinet Member for Economic Development Cynghorydd.ioanthomas@gwynedd.llyw.cymru	Sioned Williams, Head of Economy and Community sionedewilliams@gwynedd.llyw.cymru Geraint Owen, Head of Corporate Support Geraintowen@gwynedd.llyw.cymru
Isle of Anglesey	ClI'r Carwyn Jones, Major Projects and Economic Development Portfolio Holder carwyneliasjones@ynysmon.gov.uk	Dylan Williams, Head of Regulation and Economic Development DylanJWilliams@ynysmon.gov.uk
Merthyr	ClI'r Geraint Thomas, Political Lead Geraint.Thomas@merthyr.gov.uk	Alyn Owen, Officer Lead Alyn.owen@merthyr.gov.uk Ellis Cooper, Officer Lead Ellis.cooper@merthyr.gov.uk
Monmouthshire	Peter Fox, Leader Peterfox@monmouthshire.gov.uk	Cath Fallon, Head of Enterprise and Community Development cathfallon@monmouthshire.gov.uk Frances Williams - Chief Officer for Enterprise franceswilliams@monmouthshire.gov.uk
Newport	ClI'r Debbie Wilcox, Leader Leaders.office@newport.gov.uk Debbie.wilcox@newport.gov.uk	Will Godfrey, Chief Executive Will.godfrey@newport.gov.uk Bev Owen, Strategic Director (Place) Beverley.owen@newport.gov.uk
Neath Port Talbot	ClI'r Anthony Taylor, Deputy Leader/Cabinet Member for Transformation/WLGA Deputy Spokesperson for Europe ClI'r.a.j.taylor@npt.gov.uk	Gareth Nutt, Director of Environment g.nutt@neath-porttalbot.gov.uk
Pembrokeshire	ClI'r Paul Miller, Cabinet Member for Economy, Tourism, Leisure and Culture ClI'r.paul.miller@pembrokeshire.gov.uk	Gwyn Evans, European Manager Gwyn.evans@pembrokeshire.gov.uk

Local authority	Brexit member lead(s)	Brexit officer lead(s)
Powys	<p>Cllr Rosemarie Harris, Leader Cllr.rosemarie.harris@powys.gov.uk</p> <p>Cllr Martin Weale, Portfolio Holder for Regeneration Cllr.martin.weale1@powys.gov.uk</p>	<p>David Powell, Acting Chief Executive David.powell@powys.gov.uk Ria.claridge@powys.gov.uk</p> <p>Lisa Griffiths, Economic and Regeneration Manager Lisa.griffiths@powys.gov.uk</p> <p>Nigel Brinn, CSP – Regeneration and Corporate Property Nigel.brinn@powys.gov.uk</p>
Rhondda Cynon Taf	<p>Cllr Rhys Lewis, Cabinet Member for Prosperity and Wellbeing Rhys.lewis@rctcbc.gov.uk</p>	<p>Derek James, Head of Regeneration and Prosperity Derek.james2@rctcbc.gov.uk</p> <p>Chris Bradshaw, Chief Executive Christopher.d.bradshaw@rhondda-cynon-taf.gov.uk</p>
Swansea	<p>Cllr Rob Stewart, Leader and WLGA Spokesperson for EU Affairs Cllr.Rob.Stewart@swansea.gov.uk</p>	<p>Ben Smith, CFO Ben.smith@swansea.gov.uk</p> <p>Paul Relf, European Funding Officer Paul.Relf@swansea.gov.uk</p>
Torfaen	<p>Cllr Anthony Hunt, Leader Anthony.Hunt@torfaen.gov.uk</p> <p>Cllr Richard Clark, Exec Member for Health, Adult Service and Wellbeing Richard.clark@torfaen.gov.uk</p>	<p>Rob Wellington, Head of European Policy and External Funding Rob.wellington@torfaen.gov.uk</p> <p>Neil Jones, Head of Communication, Engagement and Civil Contingencies 1205895@torfaen.gov.uk</p>
Vale of Glamorgan	<p>Cllr Jonathan Bird, Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Planning jbird@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk</p> <p>Cllr John Thomas, Leader JWThomas@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk</p>	<p>Huw Isaac, Head of Performance and Development Hisaac@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk</p> <p>Phil Chappell, Team Leader Economic Development prchappell@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk</p>
Wrexham	<p>Cllr Mark Pritchard, Leader leader@wrexham.gov.uk</p>	<p>Ian Bancroft, Chief Executive ian.bancroft@wrexham.gov.uk</p>

WLGA is linked in to the Welsh Government Brexit planning in several ways, which provide opportunities to feed in the outcomes of the Brexit Transition Support Programme. We are members of:

- The First Minister's EU Advisory Group (WLGA contact: Tim Peppin)
- The Welsh Government's Environment and Rural Affairs (ERA) Roundtable and its sub-groups (WLGA contacts: Tim Peppin and Neville Rookes)
- Ken Skates' EU Exit Working Group (WLGA contact: Tim Peppin)
- Welsh Government's Welsh Ports and Airports Border Planning Steering Group (WLGA contacts: Tim Peppin and Simon Wilkinson)
- Welsh Government Health and Social Care EU transition leadership group (WLGA contact: Naomi Alleyne and Tim Peppin)

Further resources, links and networks

The draft Withdrawal Agreement

[Draft Agreement on the withdrawal of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland from the European Union and the European Atomic Energy Community](#)

WLGA Brexit Events

- [Brexit event for LA Brexit Leads and Communications Managers / Senior Communications Officers](#)
- [Planning for Brexit: Economic Development Local Authority Workshop](#)
- [Brexit and Public Protection](#)
- [Brexit and the Environment](#)

<https://www.wlga.wales/resources-wlga-brexit-events>

UK Government - How to prepare if the UK leaves the EU with no deal

[Guidance on how to prepare for Brexit if there's no deal](#)

Examples of local authority preparedness

- [Cornwall](#)
- [Buckinghamshire](#)

Commons Library Briefing - Brexit timeline: events leading to the UK's exit from the European Union

- [7 November 2018](#)

Business Wales

- [Brexit Portal](#)

Data sources:

- [The University of Sheffield: UK regions and European structural and investment funds](#)
- [ONS: Estimating the value of service exports abroad from different parts of the UK](#)



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CABINET – 16 JANUARY 2019

SUBJECT: WRITE-OFF OF DEBTS OVER £20,000 – BUSINESS RATE ARREARS FOR LTD COMPANIES

REPORT BY: CORPORATE DIRECTOR FOR EDUCATION AND CORPORATE SERVICES

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 On 15th September 2009, Cabinet approved a revised write-off procedure for debts that are material, where the individual debt is greater than £20,000. Approval is sought to write-off two national non-domestic rate (NNDR), also known as business rate, debts where, in each case, the individual debt is greater than £20,000.

2. SUMMARY

2.1 This report gives details of an amount of business rate that the Authority is required to write off as a bad debt.

3. LINKS TO STRATEGY

3.1 To comply with Financial Regulations.

3.2 The writing-off of unrecoverable debts is an important element of prudent financial management. Effective financial management contributes to the following Well-being Goals within the Well-being of Future Generations Act (Wales) 2015:-

- A prosperous Wales
- A resilient Wales
- A healthier Wales
- A more equal Wales
- A Wales of cohesive communities
- A Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language
- A globally responsible Wales

4. THE REPORT

4.1 Policy & Resources Scrutiny Committee receives half yearly reports on monies due to the Council which cannot be collected. Unpaid business rate is pursued through a magistrates' court liability order that empowers the Authority to instruct bailiffs.

4.2 Due to debtors absconding, declaring themselves insolvent through bankruptcy/liquidation or other proceedings, ceasing to trade, dying with no estate, and because of limited means there are inevitably circumstances when debts cannot be collected. After all legal means have been exhausted a decision is made to write-off debts. Policy and Resources Scrutiny Committee receive a report every 6 months summarising the value of debts written off by the Authority. It should be noted that business rate is an unsecured debt in the event of bankruptcy/liquidation.

- 4.3 Members are reminded that the Authority collects Business Rates on behalf of the Welsh Government which then redistributes the total amount collected by all 22 local authorities in Wales, along with the Revenue Support Grant.
- 4.4 The first case involves Solarwise Renewables Ltd, a company that occupied Unit B & D 3-4 De Clare Court, 5 Sir Alfred Owen Way, Pontywindy Industrial Estate, Caerphilly. The unpaid rates of £26,256.39 are in respect of an occupied rate liability (reference no. 510362850) covering the period 1st April 2016 to 2nd November 2016 inclusive and an unoccupied rate liability covering the period 3rd November 2016 to 24th August 2017 inclusive. The company had operated from this unit since January 2014 and previously paid the business rate by direct debit. However, when the direct debit failed, the Authority obtained a liability order in respect of the outstanding debt for the financial year 2016/17. An enforcement agent was instructed to recover the debt in December 2016 and, as no contact or payment was made, following a visit to the premises in January 2017 it was discovered that the company had absconded in November 2016. Although the property was unoccupied, as the company held the lease it remained liable for the unoccupied business rate to 24th August 2017, albeit the company did not trade again after vacating the premises. The lease was determined by the landlord on 25th August 2017 and the company was dissolved on 20th February 2018, according to Companies House records. In the unlikely event that any future payment is received in respect of these arrears, an equivalent amount of the debt will be reinstated.
- 4.5 The second case involves a company, GKD One Ltd, who occupied 3 shops in the Caerphilly and Blackwood Area. The company was dissolved on 24th October 2017 according to Companies House records. In the unlikely event that any future payment is received in respect of the arrears detailed in points 4.5.1 to 4.5.3, an equivalent amount of the debt will be reinstated.
- 4.5.1 The first account concerns unpaid rates of £9,594.57 for the property at 59 Cardiff Road, Caerphilly which are in respect of a rate liability covering the period 3rd November 2014 to 25th October 2015 inclusive (reference no. 510337767). The company did not inform the Authority of their occupation which delayed the issuing of rate demands until June 2015. The Authority subsequently obtained a liability order in respect of the debt. A voluntary payment plan was agreed and payments of £10,625.78 were collected between November 2015 and January 2017. The total liability (including £57.30 court costs) was £20,220.35, of which £10,625.78 has been collected, leaving an unpaid balance of £9,594.57.
- 4.5.2 The second account concerns unpaid rates of £5,550.48 for the property 181 High Street, Blackwood which are in respect of an occupied rate liability covering the period 29th September 2016 to 18th January 2017 inclusive (reference no. 510353984). The Authority issued a rate demand in October 2016 and subsequently obtained a liability order in respect of the debt. An enforcement agent was instructed to recover the debt but no monies were collected.
- 4.5.3 The third account concerns unpaid rates of £10,588.10 for the property Unit 8 Castle Court, Caerphilly which are in respect of occupied periods covering 6th November 2015 to 1st February 2016 inclusive and 6th October 2016 to 20th January 2017 inclusive (reference no. 510345360). The Authority issued rate demands in March and October 2016 respectively and subsequently obtained a liability order in respect of the debt. A voluntary payment plan was agreed and payments of £2,400.00 were collected between May and December 2016. The total liability (including £70.00 court costs) was £12,988.10, of which £2,400.00 has been collected leaving an unpaid balance of £10,588.10. An enforcement agent was instructed to collect the debt but no further monies were collected
- 4.6 In these cases the Authority has no further legal powers to recover the unpaid debts.

5. WELL-BEING OF FUTURE GENERATIONS

- 5.1 Effective financial management is a key element in ensuring that the Well-being Goals in the Well-being of Future Generations Act (Wales) 2015 are met. The process of writing-off unrecoverable debts ensures that financial liabilities are recognised as they occur and are not deferred as potential future liabilities.

6. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 There are no potential equalities implications of this report and its recommendations on groups or individuals who fall under the categories identified in Section 6 of the Council's Strategic Equality Plan, therefore no Equalities Impact Assessment has been carried out.

7. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 There are no direct financial implications to the Authority as the Authority collects NNDR on behalf of Welsh Government.

8. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1 There are none.

9. CONSULTATIONS

- 9.1 There are no consultation responses which have not been reflected in this report.

10. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 10.1 It is recommended that Cabinet determine the debts detailed in paras. 4.4 and 4.5.1 to 4.5.3 inclusive be written-off on the grounds that they are irrecoverable.

11. REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS

- 11.1 To write-off bad debts due to the Authority where no further legal remedy exists.

12. STATUTORY POWER

- 12.1 Local Government Act 1972 and 2000.

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Consultees: Cllr Barbara Jones, Deputy Leader & Cabinet Member for Finance, Performance and Governance
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