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For all enquiries relating to this agenda please contact Emma Sullivan
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Date: 21st September 2023

This meeting will be live-streamed and recorded and made available to view via the Council's website, except for discussions involving confidential or exempt items. Therefore the images/audio of those individuals speaking will be publicly available to all via the recording on the Council website at www.caerphilly.gov.uk

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 on request.

To Whom It May Concern,

A multi-locational meeting of **Council** will be held in the Chamber, Penallta House and via Microsoft Teams on **Wednesday, 27th September, 2023 at 5.00 pm** to consider the matters contained in the following agenda. Members of the public or Press may attend in person at Penallta House or may view the meeting live via the following link: <https://civico.net/caerphilly>.

Yours faithfully,

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

Christina Harrhy
CHIEF EXECUTIVE

AGENDA

- 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 this 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



3 Presentation of Awards.

To approve and sign the following minutes: -

- 4 Council held on 4th July 2023. 1 - 12

To receive and consider the following reports: -

- 5 Provisional Revenue Budget Outturn for 2022/23. 13 - 30

- 6 Constitutional Arrangements and Political Balance. 31 - 36

- 7 Gwent Regional Partnership Board (RPB) Area Plan and RPB Annual Report 22-23. 37 - 46

- 8 Adoption of the Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee Arrangements for the South East Wales Corporate Joint Committee. 47 - 56

- 9 Waiver of 6 Month Councillor Attendance Rule. 57 - 60

- 10 Caerphilly County Borough Local Development Plan up to 2021 - Annual Monitoring Report 2023 (Including the Annual Community Infrastructure Levy Report). 61 - 150

To note the following item(s): -

- 11 To receive announcements from the Mayor. 151 - 152

- 12 To receive petitions under Rule of Procedure 28(3).

- 13 To receive and to answer questions received under Rule of Procedure 10.

Question from Councillor A. McConnell to the Cabinet Member for Prosperity, Regeneration and Climate Change, Councillor J. Pritchard.

Can the Cabinet Member for Prosperity, Regeneration and Climate Change provide an update on our events programme?

- 14 To receive and to answer questions received under Rule of Procedure 10.

Question from Councillor K. Etheridge to the Cabinet Member for Corporate Services, Property and Highways, Councillor N. George.

To ask the Cabinet Member for Corporate Services, Property and Highways to confirm that all children's transport provision is being met under the school transport tender process, and no child is left behind during this process with all tenders being met.

Circulation:

All Members And Appropriate Officers

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Agenda Item 4



COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MULTI-LOCATIONAL MEETING HELD IN THE CHAMBER PENALLTA HOUSE AND VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS ON TUESDAY, 4TH JULY 2023 AT 5.00PM

PRESENT:

Councillor M. A. Adams - Mayor
Councillor J. Simmonds - Deputy Mayor

Councillors:

E.M. Aldworth C. Andrews, A. Angel, C. Bishop, M. Chacon-Dawson, R. Chapman, P. Cook, S. Cook, D. Cushing, C. Cuss, D.T. Davies MBE, G. Ead, G. Enright, M. Evans, A. Farina-Childs, C. Forehead, E. Forehead, J. E. Fussell, A. Gair, N. George, C. Gordon, D. Harse, T. Heron, A. Hussey, D. Ingram-Jones, M. James, L. Jeremiah, G. Johnston, J. Jones, S. Kent, A. Leonard, P. Leonard, C.P. Mann, A. McConnell, B. Miles, C. Morgan, S. Morgan, T. Parry, L. Phipps, M. Powell, D.W.R. Preece, H. Pritchard, J. Pritchard, J.A. Pritchard, J. Rao, J. Reed, J. Roberts, R. Saralis, S. Skivens, E. Stenner, J. Taylor, C. Thomas, A. Whitcombe, L.G. Whittle, S. Williams, W. Williams, J. Winslade, K. Woodland, C. Wright

Together with:

C. Harrhy (Chief Executive), D. Street (Deputy Chief Executive), M.S. Williams (Corporate Director Economy and Environment), R. Tranter (Head of Legal Services and Monitoring Officer), L. Lane (Head of Democratic Services and Deputy Monitoring Officer), R. Thomas (Planning Services Manager), D. Lucas (Team Leader, Strategic Planning), M. Godfrey (Team Leader - Pollution Control and Emergency Planning and Resilience), E. Sullivan (Senior Committee Services Officer), S. Hughes (Committee Services Officer), R. Barrett (Minute Taker)

Also present:

D. Walker (Future Generations Commissioner for Wales) and A. Horn (Office of the Future Generations Commissioner).

IN MEMORIUM

The Mayor referred to the loss of Councillor Jim Sadler, who passed away on 23rd May 2023. Members and Officers stood for a minute's silence as a mark of respect.

Councillor Roy Saralis spoke of his profound sadness in losing his ward colleague and long-time friend and referenced the numerous messages of condolence received from so many Members, which had been much appreciated by Councillor Sadler's family. Councillor Saralis paid tribute to Councillor Sadler's long-standing support as a local party member and campaigner. Councillor Saralis expressed his sadness that Jim's tenure had been so short and reflected on their time together and wished for his dearly missed friend to now rest in peace.

CHANGES TO THE RUNNING ORDER

The Mayor advised that he had given permission for the Leader of Council to make a statement, and also for Agenda Item 11 (Presentation from the Future Generations Commissioner) to be taken directly after Agenda Item 5.

RECORDING, FILMING AND VOTING ARRANGEMENTS

The Chief Executive reminded those present the meeting was being live streamed, and a recording would be available following the meeting via the Council's website – [Click Here to View](#). She advised that decisions would be made by Microsoft Forms.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors A. Broughton-Pettit, N. Dix, C. Elsbury, K. Etheridge, B. Owen, D. Price and J. Scriven.

2. MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Mayor referred to the many engagements and events that he and the Deputy Mayor had attended since the last meeting of Council, with 17 events attended between them. The wide range of engagements included a sponsored walk with Fochriw Primary school, gala and centenary concerts, commissioning ceremonies and long-service awards, visits to local care homes and a fundraising event for the Mayor's chosen charity, Sight Cymru. The Civic Office had particular pleasure in receiving a visiting delegation from the Council's twinning town of Ludwigsberg. On 24th June 2023, the Deputy Mayor attended the first ever Caerphilly Pride event, and he expressed his thanks to the many staff who had organised this wonderful event.

3. TO RECEIVE PETITIONS UNDER RULE OF PROCEDURE 28(3)

There were no petitions received.

4. PRESENTATION OF AWARDS

Nant y Parc Primary School – World Class Schools Quality Mark

The Cabinet Member for Education and Communities was pleased to announce that Nant-y-Parc Primary School had been accredited with the World Class Schools Quality Mark and are the first primary school in Wales to achieve this award. The Quality Mark is awarded by the education charity 'World Class Schools Quality Mark'. The Cabinet Member expressed her pleasure in recognising the hard work and commitment shown by the pupils and shared the same pride of their parents and the staff.

Council was then shown a video which gave Members a small insight into life at the school.

Adding to this achievement, the Cabinet Member was delighted to announce that the school had since been named "World Class School of the Year" by the education charity.

Headteacher Nicola Davies and teacher Emma Winter were invited forward by the Mayor so that Council could congratulate them on both of these fantastic achievements.

South-East Wales Schools and Colleges Awards/ Gwent Adult Community Learning Partnerships Awards

The Cabinet Member for Education and Communities was delighted to announce the successes at two recent awards ceremonies. The South-East Wales Schools and Colleges Awards saw a number of schools and their staff winning 7 categories in total. Meanwhile, the Gwent Adult Community Learning Partnerships Awards achieved wins in the Tutor of the Year, the Group Award and Learner/s of the Year categories. The Cabinet Member asked Members to join her in congratulating the winners on their success, and expressed the hope that they can attend Council in September 2023 for their achievements to be formally recognised.

Empty Homes Team – National Empty Homes Network Awards

The Cabinet Member for Housing was pleased to announce that two members of CCBC's Empty Homes Team were recently recognised at this year's National Empty Homes Network Awards. Jamie Wagenaar received the Rising Star Award and Oliver Denton was highly commended in the Empty Homes Practitioner of the Year category. It was noted that Jamie and Oliver work as part of the team responsible for tackling the issue of empty privately owned homes in the borough, which has successfully returned over 100 empty homes back into beneficial use. The approach used by the team has also been cited as best practice by Welsh Government. The hard work and dedication put in by Jamie and Oliver, along with other members of the team, is admirable and the Cabinet Member expressed his pride in having such incredible members of staff working for the borough.

Jamie Wagenaar and Oliver Denton were invited forward by the Mayor in order for Members to congratulate them on their achievements.

5. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor A. Farina-Childs declared a personal and prejudicial interest in Agenda Item 12 – Notice of Motion – Ty Llwyd Quarry, Ynysddu, as he works for BRUSH Switchgear. He left the meeting during consideration of this item. Details are also minuted with the respective item.

11. PRESENTATION FROM THE FUTURE GENERATIONS COMMISSIONER

With the permission of the Mayor, this item was brought forward on the agenda.

The Leader of Council was pleased to introduce Mr Derek Walker, Future Generations Commissioner for Wales, and referred to his extensive background and experience in the public sector prior to taking up his new post in March 2023 for a term of seven years.

The Commissioner thanked Members for the opportunity to address Council to share his experience and outline his role and responsibility within his current position. He advised Members that he had recently met with the Leader and Chief Executive to discuss his role and how his office might work alongside Caerphilly Council. The Commissioner explained that his role had been established as a result of the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015, which requires all public bodies in Wales to think about sustainable development in all that they do, including the long-term impact of their decisions, to work better with people, communities and each other, and to prevent persistent problems such as poverty, health inequalities and climate changes. This will ensure that we not only

resolve the issues of today but also the issues of tomorrow and is world-leading legislation which is already having a significant impact in Wales.

The Commissioner provided an overview of the Act and referred Members to the information available on the Future Generations Wales website.

The Commissioner made reference to the Five Ways of Working, which will be used by the Auditor General to look at local authorities' progress in terms of delivering the Act and understanding whether these have been applied to decision-making, policy making and service delivery. He referred to Caerphilly Council's Well-being Objectives which have been established in line with the Act, and the fact that the Authority already works collaboratively as part of the Gwent Public Service Board which forms part of the integration and collaborative agenda. However, the Authority now needs to consider how it applies the Five Ways of Working throughout the Council and how it drives cultural change right across the organisation in guiding staff to take this forward.

The Commissioner explained that he is keen to work alongside local authorities to facilitate change, and acknowledged the difficult circumstances being faced in terms of budgetary pressures and service demands. He emphasised that part of his role is to support, advise, monitor, assess and challenge progress and review when needed. He welcomed any input from Councillors in shaping his priorities for his new Plan which will be in place by October 2023. He looked forward to supporting Caerphilly Council's journey in terms of delivering the Act and the ongoing relationship and the conversations they would have.

The Leader thanked the Commissioner for taking the time to speak at Council, and asked how the Authority can focus on long-term preventative issues whilst in the midst of an economic crisis. The Commissioner explained that there is simply no choice in terms of sustainable development and that the world is running out of time to address these issues. Therefore, public bodies need to think about solutions 50-75 years ahead of time and consider whether solutions are still likely to be the right one in terms of future generations and whether these will continue to be sustainable in the long term. He confirmed that his Office would be able to give advice and examples of how such decisions have been taken across other local authorities to inform the Council's decision-making moving forward.

Council were invited to ask questions and the Commissioner responded to a query regarding his influence at a WG level in order to address these major issues facing future generations. The Commissioner explained that although his powers within the role are limited, there is much emphasis around cross-sector collaborative working and progress being made by working together in a positive manner. In response to a further query, the Commissioner confirmed that social care is high on the agenda, and he is also keen to focus on engagement at a societal level across Wales for these issues around sustainable development to be recognised. The Commissioner emphasised that he is keen to manage expectations and that some of these issues have been around for generations, and whilst he will strive to influence outcomes wherever possible, these issues are not directly under his control and his role is to support public bodies in managing the implementation of the Act.

Council noted the contents of the presentation from the Future Generations Commissioner, and the Mayor thanked Mr Walker for his attendance and for responding to Members' queries.

6. ANNUAL COUNCIL HELD ON 11TH MAY 2023

RESOLVED that the minutes of the annual meeting of Council held on 11th May 2023 (minute nos. 1-19) be approved as a correct record.

7. COUNCIL HELD ON 23RD MAY 2023

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Council meeting held on 23rd May 2023 (minute nos. 1-15) be approved as a correct record.

STATEMENT FROM THE LEADER OF COUNCIL

With the permission of the Mayor, the Leader of Council delivered a statement.

Members were reminded that in March 2020, the free school meals home delivery scheme commenced in response to the Covid-19 pandemic. CCBC began delivering 5,580 meals and this demand quickly increased to over 7,000 pupils receiving a nutritious free meal direct to their door.

In 2020 Wales became the first UK nation to guarantee free school meals for eligible families during the school holidays and over the past 2 years the Council continued to deliver much needed food parcels over school holiday periods, which were fully funded by Welsh Government. Due to resource and supplier challenges associated with the delivery of food parcels to individual family homes, a decision was made to change the scheme to the Post Office Voucher scheme to the value of £19.50 per week, per child. It was felt that a voucher system would allow eligible families to receive cash payments directly, offering them more choice and flexibility.

Unfortunately, last Wednesday, the Welsh Government announced there will be no further extension of funding to cover the upcoming summer holiday period or beyond. WG funding will therefore stop, bringing an abrupt end to a much-needed service to our vulnerable children. The cost-of-living crisis has become a significant burden on our communities, especially those from low-income backgrounds. Rising prices have placed a severe strain on many households, with many forced to choose between necessities, including eating or heating. The feedback already received from families has evidenced that they were absolutely relying on this payment and had every expectation it would continue during the Summer Holiday.

The Leader expressed the vital need for our children and young people to enjoy their school holidays in the knowledge that there is food available for them, and that the Council can help take some pressure off families who are struggling to make ends meet.

Members were advised that in order to support our most vulnerable families through this very difficult time, Cabinet will consider a proposal next week to continue this funding for the upcoming summer holidays through the allocation of a one-off fund of £900k to support the continuation of the food vouchers for this summer holiday period only. The Leader has also asked Officers to bring forward a report in early Autumn, which will outline options to ensure much needed support is sustained, and is financially sustainable, over the longer term, forming part of our overall Caerphilly Cares support package. To agree to continue this funding in the long term would mean building in, in excess of £2million into our base budget, at a time when we are already facing a £50million deficit over the next two years, so this could not be an option.

Whilst the Leader expressed his surety that Members across the Council would support this initiative, he asked the Plaid Cymru Group if they would support him in writing to the First Minister asking that Welsh Government review the Universal Free School Meals policy, in light of the pressures the poorest families in our communities are under, in the midst of this Cost of Living Crisis, which goes on in both school term time and holiday time.

Councillor L. Whittle responded as the leader of the Plaid Cymru Group was pleased that the Council were making alternative arrangements in respect of the free school meal provision

during the summer holiday period. He confirmed that the Plaid Cymru Group would lend their full support to the proposal and had also lobbied Members of the Senedd in this regard.

8. TO RECEIVE AND TO ANSWER QUESTIONS RECEIVED UNDER RULE OF PROCEDURE 10

Question from Councillor A. Whitcombe to the Leader of Council, Councillor S. Morgan

With the real need for housing in the borough, what has CCBC done to help bring back empty properties into the local housing market?

Response from the Leader of Council to Councillor A. Whitcombe

I want to highlight the progress we have made with Private Empty Properties. We have increased the supply of housing by supporting opportunities to bring long-term, empty homes in the private sector back into use. The Valley Task Force grant has been finalised with 66 grants being completed over the programme, with a total spend of just under £1.5m. Cabinet has recently agreed to the National Empty Home Grants over the next two years. The grant was launched in April 2023 with £2.6 million spend available for the programme. The Empty Homes Team returned 105 long term empty homes, to beneficial use, simply through engagement with owners. We are also pursuing enforcement action with 73 properties identified as high-risk, priority empty properties, which are being proactively targeted.

The Welsh Government approved, 5 Year Empty Property Action Plan, is on target for delivery and is being driven forward by the Team, while a communication plan is ongoing to promote the work undertaken by the Team. The Empty Homes Strategy, entitled “No Use Empty” was approved by Cabinet on 8th March 2023 and is now being implemented. The consultation on the Strategy confirmed overwhelming support from the public to tackle empty property issues. We have made a positive start to this challenging programme. We accept there’s much more to do and as this work progresses, regular updates to the Scrutiny Committee and Cabinet will be provided.

Finally, I would like to thank the award-winning team of 5 staff, headed by Claire Davies, for all the fantastic work they have been doing, so much has been achieved, but as I say much more to do yet.

9. TO RECEIVE AND TO ANSWER QUESTIONS RECEIVED UNDER RULE OF PROCEDURE 10

Question from Councillor A. McConnell to the Cabinet Member for Waste, Leisure and Green Spaces, Councillor C. Morgan

Can the Cabinet Member for Waste and Green Spaces offer an update on the ‘No Mow May’ campaign?

Response from the Cabinet Member for Waste, Leisure and Green Spaces to Councillor A. McConnell

Members will no doubt be very aware of our commitment to biodiversity within the county borough and the support you all gave us at the Biodiversity seminar last October.

We have just completed our first No Mow May and it has brought a mixed response from our residents and mixed results operationally. We have received many positive messages from the public, but we have also received some not so positive comments. Whilst we celebrate and enjoy the positive results from the No Mow May trial, we recognise there are some areas

we haven't quite got right, and we know we will have to change our approach in some key areas before next season. Sadly due to the extreme heat and lack of rain experienced across the UK in recent weeks, the planting of wildflowers has not been as successful as we would have liked.

Now that the No Mow May period has concluded, everyone wants their grass areas cut and cut quickly. Whilst we are working through this, we have a backlog, and I would ask Members and members of the public for their continued patience as the staff work through the county borough. I want to thank the Parks and Countryside Teams as we work through this new approach. It hasn't been easy, but I know the teams remain committed to this. We are in the process of recruiting an additional 10 staff to further support the team and we have ordered new machinery and spare parts as the impact of the high grass has affected our machinery too.

We have learnt a lot from our first No Mow May and we intend to build upon this year's experience in order to improve our approach next year. As the Cabinet Member I want to assure you that we will do just that. Another Members Seminar is planned for the Autumn for Members to discuss and consider our next steps, including the lessons learned from this year and the way forward for biodiversity across the county borough. This will then be captured in a Cabinet report before the new season commences. Our approach will be communicated to all Members and members of the public to ensure everyone understands and is engaged with the approach we are taking.

I think we all now know that "Nature isn't neat" but we know that we need to find a middle ground that balances our biodiversity intentions and responsibilities alongside keeping our area green and clean.

10. TO RECEIVE QUESTIONS UNDER RULE OF PROCEDURE 10 TO BE ANSWERED IN WRITING

Question from Councillor K. Etheridge to the Cabinet Member for Planning and Public Protection, Councillor P. Leonard

To ask the Cabinet Member why the elected members comments for the Ynysddu Wards views were ignored who made the decision to ignore their constructive amended comments, and not include them in the newsletter distributed to residents and how this fits in with the National Principles For Engagement in Wales and do they feel this is good practice and sets a precedent in all other Team Caerphilly Wards?

Written response from the Cabinet Member for Planning and Public Protection to Councillor K. Etheridge

I can confirm the Corporate Director for Economy and Environment made the decision to progress sending the newsletter out. There were no factual inaccuracies in the newsletter, and it was deliberately designed to be succinct and supported by a series of FAQs on the internet which can easily be updated / amended as required. In his email response to Councillors Reed and Jones on 8th June 2023 the Corporate Director stated:

"I note your extensive comments but I am advised by my technical officers that there are no factual inaccuracies contained within the newsletter. The newsletter is not misleading in any way and has been designed as a short background summary for residents to be informed of what the council has done and is planning in relation to Ty Llwyd. Consequently delivery of the newsletter will be going ahead as scheduled for the end of this week.

Importantly, the newsletter signposts residents to a series of FAQ's which will also go live on our web site and includes contact numbers for Maria Godfrey and Ceri Evans who are willing to discuss any queries that residents may have. The FAQ's are more appropriate to upload information as and when updates are required and are also the most appropriate place for addressing the queries raised in various emails on the subject of Ty Llwyd."

1 Engagement is effectively designed to make a difference

Engagement is effective and designed to make a difference but only if both parties are willing.

2 Encourage and enable everyone affected to be involved, if they so choose

A meeting was organised between CCBC Officers, NRW, Arkadis, both Ynysddu Ward Councillors, Myself and the Leader, to involve, encourage and enable them to take part in discussions regarding Ty Llwyd Quarry. Unfortunately, both Ward Councillors decided not to attend, resulting in the residents having no voice and no representation in the meeting.

3 Engagement is planned and delivered in a timely and appropriate way.

The above meeting was planned well in advance in a timely manner with representatives from all organisations involved but unfortunately both Ward Councillors failed to attend, this I find inappropriate and certainly not 'good practice'

REPORTS OF OFFICERS

Consideration was given to the following reports.

12. NOTICE OF MOTION - TY LLWYD QUARRY, YNYSDDU

Councillor A. Farina-Childs declared a personal and prejudicial interest in this item, as he works for BRUSH Switchgear, and he left the meeting during consideration of this item.

Consideration was given to the Notice of Motion which was received from Councillor J. Jones and Councillor J. Reed and was supported by Councillor K. Etheridge.

Councillor J. Reed presented the Notice of Motion which had been considered and supported by the Environment and Sustainability Scrutiny Committee on 2nd May 2023. At that meeting, Councillor J. Jones and Councillor J. Reed made an amendment to their motion which is set out in full below, with the changes highlighted.

"In their notice of motion Councillor J. Jones and Councillor J. Reed, due to the concern of residents, call on the Council to write to the Welsh Government to support their request to the First Minister Mark Drakeford, for an Independent Public Inquiry and to investigate and facilitate funding within the Environmental Protection Act Part Two A Second Part Process, on the Ty Llwyd Quarry".

Councillor J. Reed confirmed that she wished to further adjust the wording of the Notice of Motion for consideration by Council and this was moved and seconded.

Queries were raised in relation to the proposed amendments and the meeting was adjourned at 6.50 p.m. in order for clarification to take place.

The meeting reconvened at 7.01 p.m. and Officers provided further clarification and advice in relation to the Notice of Motion.

Councillor J. Jones and Councillor J. Reed, as the signatories to the Notice of Motion, confirmed that they wished to amend the wording of the Notice of Motion to read as follows:-

“In their notice of motion Councillor J. Jones and Councillor J. Reed, due to the concern of residents, call on the Council to write to the Welsh Government to support their request to the First Minister Mark Drakeford, for an Independent Public Inquiry and to investigate and facilitate funding within the Environmental Protection Act Part 2A on the Ty Llwyd Quarry”.

The amended Notice of Motion was moved and seconded. Voting took place by way of Microsoft Forms and verbal confirmation, and in noting there were 57 for, 0 against and 4 abstentions, this was agreed by the majority present.

RESOLVED that the amended Notice of Motion be supported.

13. NOTICE OF MOTION - MOTOR NEURONE DISEASE (MND) CHARTER

Consideration was given to the Notice of Motion which was received from Councillor N. George and was supported by Councillors C. Andrews, P. Leonard, E. Forehead, S. Cook, C. Morgan, J. Simmonds, E. Stenner, J. Pritchard and S. Morgan.

Councillor N. George presented the Notice of Motion which had been considered and supported by the Social Services Scrutiny Committee on 30th May 2023. The Notice of Motion requested that CCBC adopt the Motor Neurone Disease (MND) Charter to raise awareness internally and, ultimately, achieve better outcomes for people living with the disease.

There were no questions received and the Notice of Motion was moved and seconded. Voting took place by way of Microsoft Forms and verbal confirmation, and in noting there were 59 for, 0 against and 0 abstentions, this was unanimously agreed.

RESOLVED that the Notice of Motion be supported.

14. CAERPHILLY COUNTY BOROUGH 2ND REPLACEMENT LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN UP TO 31 MARCH 2035 – PRE-DEPOSIT PLAN - INITIAL CONSULTATION REPORT

Consideration was given to the report, which sought Council endorsement of the Initial Consultation Report and the Pre-Deposit consultation of the Local Development Plan, and Council agreement to the undertaking of a regional assessment of growth and migration across the region, during which work on the 2nd Replacement Local Development Plan would be suspended.

Members were advised of the outcome of the statutory 6-week consultation on the Pre-Deposit LDP which was held between 19th October and 30th November 2022, with just under 2000 representations received (including 327 on the Pre-Deposit Plan and 1641 on Candidate Sites). Regulation 16A of the LDP regulations require the Council to prepare an Initial Consultation Report that sets out how the consultation was publicised and addresses the issues raised through the representations received, which was set out at Appendix 6 of the Officer's report.

Welsh Government submitted its comments on the Pre-Deposit plan on 25th November 2022 and these comments are split into two categories; general comments requiring further information and clarity, which are addressed in the Initial Consultation Report, and Conformity Objections that raises conformity issues in respect of three parts of the plan. These objections could have significant implications for the Pre-Deposit Plan and these are outlined in the Initial Consultation Report, but no recommendation in respect of them has been made.

The first Conformity Objection is to the Strategic Site at Maesycwmmmer, and unless this objection is overcome, it raises significant doubt over whether the Plan could be found sound at examination. Recommendations in respect of this issue would be reported to full Council on completion of the work associated with the second issue below. The second Conformity Objection relates to how the proposed level of growth proposed in the Plan was developed from a regional assessment of growth. Despite the very significant reservations of all local authorities in the region and the differing WG approach to growth in other authority plans, the SE Wales Planning Officers Society are seeking to commission this work for the Cardiff Capital Region area. This work will be a fundamental piece of evidence for all plans in the region, and will take a lengthy period of time to complete. As a result, the report sought a temporary halt on progress of the LDP until such time as this work has been conducted. The third Conformity Objection relates to adopting a nature-based approach to preparing the Plan. Whilst the Plan was developed on this basis, it was not clearly set out in the evidence base. It is therefore proposed that an additional evidence paper be prepared that addresses this issue once work on the Plan is recommenced.

The first step in considering the way forward for the Plan is for the regional work to be undertaken and completed, and Council were therefore asked to approve the recommendations set out in Sections 3.1 to 3.4 of the Officer's report.

Council discussed the report and a Member enquired how their community council would be able to submit further comments in relation to the Strategic Site at Maesycwmmmer. The Team Leader for Strategic Planning explained that whilst regulations state that comments can only be submitted during the consultation period, Officers would welcome receipt of any further comments in terms of the Candidate Sites. However, these would not be able to be reflected in any Council report put forward in respect of the Strategic Site because of these limitations placed by the regulations.

A Member asked if financial provision had been made in the extension of the LDP process. The Officer confirmed that the financial situation in respect of the preparation of the 2nd Replacement LDP was set out at the very start of the process in 2019. However, this is a rolling programme with no definitive budget. A report will be brought back following the completion of the regional work, which will address any financial issues, and therefore will be revisited at that time. In response to a further query on timescales, the Officer confirmed that production of this report will depend on how long the regional work takes to be completed, which in his view would take at least 6 months, meaning that this will be early 2024 before the Council is in a position to look at outcomes and next steps.

Members congratulated D, Lucas and his team for the masterful way in which they had countered the Welsh Government objections and thanked them for the preparation of the comprehensive report.

Following consideration of the report it was moved and seconded that the recommendations contained in the Officer's report be approved. By way of Microsoft Forms and verbal confirmation (and in noting there were 57 for, 0 against and 2 abstentions) this was agreed by the majority present.

RESOLVED that: -

- (i) the content of the Initial Consultation Report be noted;
- (ii) the recommendations set out in the Annexes of the Initial Consultation Report be endorsed;
- (iii) a temporary halt on work on the 2nd Replacement Local Development Plan be agreed until the conclusion of the regional work required by Welsh Government in respect of growth and migration are known, at which time the Council can consider the options for moving forward with plan preparation at a subsequent Council meeting;
- (iv) It be agreed that, given the emphasis by Welsh Government on collaborative working and the rapidly changing national and regional context for plan preparation, the Leader lobbies the WG and the CCR (CJC) regarding the urgency of progressing an agreed planned timeline for the preparation of the Strategic Development Plan for the CCR.

The meeting closed at 7.41 p.m.

Approved as a correct record and subject to any amendments or corrections agreed and recorded in the minutes of the meeting held on 27th September 2023 they were signed by the Mayor.

MAYOR

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COUNCIL – 27TH SEPTEMBER 2023

SUBJECT: PROVISIONAL REVENUE BUDGET OUTTURN FOR 2022/23

REPORT BY: CORPORATE DIRECTOR FOR EDUCATION AND CORPORATE SERVICES

-
- 1.1 The attached report was considered by Cabinet at its meeting on the 26th July 2023 and the recommendations in paragraphs 3.1.1 to 3.1.4 were unanimously agreed.
 - 1.2 Members will be aware that decisions in respect of the General Fund Reserve are a matter for Full Council.
 - 1.3 Council is therefore asked: -
 - i) To consider and approve the proposed use of surplus General Fund balances totalling £3.455m as detailed in Section 5.11 of the attached report.
 - ii) To approve the recommendation of the Head of Financial Services and S151 Officer to maintain the General Fund balance at £15.166m.

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Appendix: Report to Cabinet 26th July 2023

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CABINET – 26TH JULY 2023

SUBJECT: PROVISIONAL REVENUE BUDGET OUTTURN FOR 2022/23

REPORT BY: CORPORATE DIRECTOR FOR EDUCATION AND CORPORATE SERVICES

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To provide Cabinet with details of the provisional revenue budget outturn for the 2022/23 financial year prior to the completion of the annual external audit of the accounts by Audit Wales.
- 1.2 To seek Cabinet approval of specific proposals for the use of General Usable Service Reserves.
- 1.3 To seek Cabinet endorsement of proposals for the use of surplus General Fund balances prior to consideration by Council.

2. SUMMARY

- 2.1 In advance of the 2022/23 Draft Financial Statements being audited by Audit Wales, this report provides an overview of the Council's performance against the revenue budget for the 2022/23 financial year.
- 2.2 Members receive detailed budget monitoring reports as part of the Scrutiny process throughout the financial year.
- 2.3 The report also includes specific proposals for the use of General Usable Service Reserves and surplus General Fund balances.

3. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 Cabinet is asked to: -
 - 3.1.1 Note the provisional 2022/23 revenue budget outturn position.
 - 3.1.2 Approve the proposed use of General Usable Service Reserves totalling £1.148m as set out in section 5.10 of the report.
 - 3.1.3 Endorse the proposed use of surplus General Fund balances totalling £3.455m as detailed in section 5.11 of the report, prior to consideration by Council on 27 September 2023.

- 3.1.4 Endorse a recommendation to Council to maintain the General Fund balance at £15.166m.

4. REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS

- 4.1 To ensure that Cabinet is aware of the provisional revenue budget outturn for the 2022/23 financial year and supportive of the proposed use of reserves.

5. THE REPORT

5.1 Overview

- 5.1.1 The 2022/23 provisional outturn position is attached as Appendix A and is summarised below:-

	£m
Net Service Directorate Underspends	4.201
Miscellaneous Finance Underspend	4.317
Council Tax Surplus	0.420
Schools Overspend	(5.947)
Housing Revenue Account (HRA) Underspend	5.340
Total Net Underspend:-	8.331

- 5.1.2 The total net underspend of £8.331m is significantly lower than in recent years (net underspends of £38.517m and £37.815m in 2020/21 and 2021/22 respectively) and this signifies the return of a more realistic picture of financial performance that is not impacted by the significant levels of external grant funding received in recent years in response to the Covid-19 pandemic.
- 5.1.3 After adjusting for earmarked reserves, 50% of underspends are carried forward by Directorates and are available to meet the requirements of these service areas. The remaining balance is transferred to the General Fund. Overspends are normally funded from future Directorate budgets or balances brought forward from previous years. Service reserves held by Directorates can be used to fund one-off cost pressures or to pump-prime service reconfiguration, but they cannot be relied upon to deliver balanced budgets in the medium to longer-term.
- 5.1.4 The Council has managed the financial challenges presented by the Cost-of-Living crisis during the 2022/23 financial year, but the position will be extremely challenging moving forward. The 2023/24 budget proposals approved by Council on 23 February 2023 included total cost pressures of £55.4m. These pressures are being funded through an increase in the Welsh Government Financial Settlement of £22.2m, permanent savings of £4.9m, temporary savings of £6.9m, the one-off use of reserves totalling £15.3m, and £6.1m from a 7.9% increase in Council Tax.
- 5.1.5 Due to the unprecedented levels of inflation, the current economic outlook, and the range of temporary budgetary measures that were approved for the 2023/24 financial year, the Council's Medium-Term Financial Plan (MTFP) has been updated based on a range of assumptions, resulting in a potential savings requirement of £48.335m for the two-year period 2024/25 to 2025/26.

5.1.6 The following paragraphs provide details of the more significant variations against budget by service area for the 2022/23 financial year.

5.2 Education and Lifelong Learning (£3.089m Overspend)

5.2.1 Overall, the Directorate is reporting a net overspend of £3.089m, which includes an overspend of £5.947m for schools. The schools in-year overspend is ring-fenced, consequently school balances have reduced from £17.2m to £11.3m as of 31 March 2023.

5.2.2 At the end of the 2021/22 financial year there were no schools with a deficit balance. As of 31 March 2023 there were five primary schools (£151k collectively) and three secondary schools (£949k collectively) carrying forward deficit balances.

5.2.3 Excluding schools, the Education & Lifelong Learning Directorate (including Home to School/College Transport) is reporting an underspend of £2.858m. The most significant variances against budgets are as follows: -

Service Area	(Overspend)/ Underspend £m
Home to School/College Transport	(0.219)
Covid-19 Related Expenditure (Summer Term Support for Schools)	(0.227)
Pension Costs of School Based Staff	0.390
Management and Support Service Costs	0.224
Psychological Service and Schools Based Counselling	0.421
Advisory Support Service	0.164
EOTAS, Additional Support and Out-of-County	1.056
Early Years Central Team	0.297
School Improvement	(0.152)
Adult Education	0.169
Youth Service	0.237
Library Service	0.126
Net Other	0.373
Total Net Underspend: -	2.858

5.2.4 There is a reported overspend of £219k for Home to School/College Transport which equates to 2.6% of the budget. Contracts are due to be reviewed during the 2023/24 financial year which may result in further cost pressures for this budget.

5.2.5 The Covid-19 related expenditure of £227k was incurred to support specific temporary issues raised by Headteachers following the end of financial support on 31 March 2022 from WG through the Covid-19 Hardship Fund. The expenditure relates to an agreement by the Authority to support an additional mid-day clean in schools to the end of the Summer Term 2022, and additional supply cover costs for the most vulnerable staff. This included pregnant staff (26+ weeks), supported by a risk assessment to the end of December 2022.

5.2.6 The £390k underspend on the pension costs of school-based staff follows two years of good budget settlements for schools, which has had a positive impact on the retention of staff.

- 5.2.7 The £224k underspend for Management & Support Service costs is primarily linked to in-year vacancies, additional income generation and savings linked to general office costs.
- 5.2.8 The £421k underspend for the Psychology Service and School Based Counselling Team is linked in part to ensuring that grant funding was fully expended in the financial year. Further underspends in the Psychology Service and Advisory Support Teams were linked to in-year vacancies and delays in recruitment. The recruitment issues have largely been addressed for the 2023/24 financial year.
- 5.2.9 There is a net underspend of £1.056m for the budgets supporting our most vulnerable learners (Education Other Than at School (EOTAS), Additional Support and Out-of-County). This is an area where budgets will need to be re-aligned as we progress the EOTAS Strategy with the development of expanded provision at the old Pontllanfraith Comprehensive site, and to incorporate the financial impact of the Additional Support Review. The positive outturn position follows budget growth in recent years to support significant financial pressure in this area, plus work to support more cost-effective practices. An element of the underspend relates to a delay in the expansion of two classrooms at Glan Y Nant (Pupil Referral Unit).
- 5.2.10 The £297k underspend in the Early Years Central Team is due to the success of the Team in accessing specific grant funding to support staff related costs.
- 5.2.11 The in-year projected net underspend for the Directorate allowed for an additional level of targeted spend totalling £152k in relation to support for school improvement.
- 5.2.12 The £169k underspend for Adult Education is largely due to expenditure being managed within available grant funding levels, and income levels being greater than initially projected.
- 5.2.13 The total net underspend of £363k for Youth and Library Services is largely linked to in-year vacancies and delays in recruitment.

5.3 Social Services (£981k Underspend)

- 5.3.1 There is a net underspend of £981k for Social Services, which is summarised in the table below:-

Service Area	Revised Budget 2022/23 £m	Outturn 2022/23 £m	(Over)/ Underspend £m
Children's Services	30.214	33.648	(3.434)
Adult Services	78.482	74.720	3.762
Business Support	2.314	2.210	0.104
Social Services Transport	1.702	1.153	0.549
Totals: -	112.712	111.731	0.981

- 5.3.2 Within the Children's Services Division increasing demand for, and the complexity of children looked after placements, led to an overspend of £5.224m. However, vacancy savings of £931k, other non-recurring savings of £209k and the use of £650k of additional grant funding reduced the Division's net overspend to £3.434m.

- 5.3.3 The Adult Services Division experienced increased demand for long-term residential and nursing care, with service users' confidence in care homes beginning to recover as we emerged from the Covid-19 pandemic. This surge in demand led to an overspend of £1.376m.
- 5.3.4 Demand for short-term respite provision in care homes also saw a surge in 2022/23 leading to a further overspend of £528k, which is linked to a shortfall in capacity within the domiciliary care market caused by a national staff shortage across the sector.
- 5.3.5 In order to enable a smoother transition into adulthood, services for children with disabilities is managed within the Adult Services Division. As experienced in the Children's Services Division, there was increasing demand for, and complexity of children looked after, resulting in an overspend of £153k for placements for children with disabilities.
- 5.3.6 The overspends for Adult Services have been more than offset by underspends totalling £5.819m, resulting in the net underspend for the Division of £3.762m. The most significant areas of underspend are the following: -
- £2.107m due to a lack of staffing capacity within the domiciliary care market;
 - £1.870m in respect of Day Services due to recruitment challenges, which limited capacity in our own day centres and external provision;
 - £1.335m in non-recurring savings such as vacancies, reduced demand for casual staff to cover staff absences, and reimbursement of overpayments from prior years; and
 - £507k of additional short-term funding streams.
- 5.3.7 The £104k underspend for Business Support is due to vacant posts in the Financial Services Team (£86k), reduced stationery and printing costs (£25k), and other miscellaneous non-recurring underspends totalling £77k. These underspends are partially offset by an overspend of £84k due to increased energy and cleaning costs across the Social Services office estate.
- 5.3.8 The increasing demand for children looked after placements also resulted in an overspend of £52k in respect of the transport costs associated with these placements. However, the limited capacity in Day Services provision resulted in an underspend of £601k in respect of transport to and from day centres. This resulted in a net overall underspend of £549k in respect of Social Services transport costs.

5.4 Economy & Environment (£603k Overspend)

- 5.4.1 The overall net outturn position for the Economy & Environment Directorate is an overspend of £603k, after adjusting for the approved earmarking of reserves.
- 5.4.2 The Regeneration & Planning Division is reporting an overall net underspend of £254k.
- 5.4.3 Regeneration is reporting an underspend of £287k, the most significant elements of which are the following: -
- £69k in Town Centre Management due in the main to recruitment delays.
 - £60k for Cwmcarn Visitor Centre
 - £127k in Community Regeneration due to the transfer of staff to the Caerphilly Cares Team.

5.4.4 Planning has a net overall overspend of £33k which is primarily due to income budgets not being achieved, partially offset with in-year salary savings while recruiting to vacant posts.

5.4.5 The Infrastructure Division is reporting a net underspend of £352k, which consists in the main of the following: -

- An underspend of £487k for Network Contracting Services (NCS) due to additional income generated.
- A net underspend of £200k for the Engineering Projects Group (EPG) due to reduced sickness levels, delays in recruiting to vacant posts, and maximisation of grant funding.
- A net overspend of £340k for Highways Services arising from additional costs in reactive maintenance, additional costs in respect of contractors and agency staff, partially offset by some savings due to delays in filling vacant posts and one-off grant income.

5.4.6 The Public Protection Division is reporting an overall underspend of £675k, the most significant elements of which are the following: -

- £96k in the Food Team due to delays in filling vacant posts.
- £95k in Enforcement, also largely due to delays in filling vacant posts.
- £73k in Emergency Planning due to vacant posts.
- £120k for Community Safety Wardens due to vacant posts.
- A Catering underspend of £241k due in the main to additional one-off grant funding received from WG in March 2022.

5.4.7 The Community & Leisure Division is reporting a net overspend of £1.912m as summarised in the table below: -

Service Area	(Overspend) Underspend £m
Waste Strategy and Cleansing Operations	(0.164)
Parks, Countryside and Cemeteries	(0.715)
Leisure Services	(0.485)
Building Cleaning	(0.077)
Vehicle Maintenance and Fleet Management	(0.471)
Total Net Overspend: -	(1.912)

5.4.8 The net overspend of £164k for Waste Strategy & Cleansing Operations consists in the main of the following: -

Overspends

- £614k overspend for Residual Recycling mainly due to additional staffing costs (£386k), fuel costs (£80k), vehicle hire (£122k), vehicle repairs (£88k), and additional bins (£34k), partially offset by a net underspend of £96k on other budgets.
- £417k overspend for Organic Recycling due in the main to additional staffing costs (£227k), additional agency costs (£157k), fuel (£46k), additional bins/materials (£20k), partially offset by a net underspend of £33k on other budgets.

- £894k overspend for Dry Recycling due in the main to additional staffing costs (£84k), agency costs (£45k), fuel (£48k), vehicle Hire (£409k), vehicle repairs (£129k), and additional contractor costs (£233k). These overspends are partially offset by a net underspend of £54k on other budgets.

Underspends

- £189k underspend for Civic Amenity Sites due to salary savings (£141k), vehicle/plant related costs (£60k), telephone charges (£30k), additional income (£25k), partially offset by additional contractor payments.
- £37k underspend for Bulky Waste due to contractor savings (£52k), offset by additional salary costs (£15k).
- £81k underspend on the Revenue Contribution to Capital Outlay (RCCO) budget.
- £34k underspend on Commercial Waste due to additional income.
- £36k for Trehir due to reduced maintenance and effluent charges.
- £138k underspend for HQ Staff due to vacant posts (£131k), transport savings (£20k), partially offset by a net overspend of £13k on other budgets.
- £1.271m underspend for Cleansing, the main elements of which are salary underspends (£1.031m) due to staff covering other service areas within the Division, and reduced contractor payments (£213k).

5.4.9 There is a net overspend of £715k for Parks, Countryside and Cemeteries, consisting of the following: -

- £493k overspend for Parks and Playing Fields due to additional fuel costs, additional vehicle hire, vehicle repair charges, additional contractor costs, additional agency costs and reduced income.
- £37k overspend for Playgrounds due to additional contractor costs arising from increased equipment damage at some sites, partially offset by additional income and salary savings due to vacant posts not being filled.
- £109k overspend for Outdoor Facilities due to additional utility costs and increased contractor costs, partially offset by some salary savings and additional income.
- £34k overspend on HQ staffing costs.
- £51k overspend for Countryside Services.

5.4.10 The net overspend of £485k for Leisure Services is due to the following: -

- £477k overspend in Leisure Centres due to increased salary costs and income targets not being met.
- £48k overspend in Outdoor Education due to income levels not being achieved, but partially offset with salary savings.
- £28k underspend on Community Centres as non-urgent spend was held back to support the broader budget position.
- £12k underspend on Sports & Health Development due to a reduction in hours for a member of staff.

5.4.11 The Building Cleaning overspend of £77k is due to income levels being lower than anticipated.

5.4.12 The overspend of £471k for Vehicle Maintenance & Fleet Management is due to the inability to recruit Fitters and consequently contracting out at an additional cost to keep the fleet mobilised. Income for the service was also at a lower level than budgeted.

5.4.13 The reported overspends within Community & Leisure Services will be subject to further review by the Corporate Management Team.

5.5 Corporate Services – (£2.327m Underspend)

5.5.1 The outturn position for the Directorate of Corporate Services is an underspend of £2.327m after adjusting for the agreed earmarking of reserves. The most significant elements of the underspend are the following: -

5.5.2 There is a net underspend of £474k for Corporate Finance, a significant element of which relates to one-off funding received from WG for the administration of Cost of Living Support Scheme grant payments and Winter Fuel payments. Underspends have also occurred through delays in filling vacant posts.

5.5.3 Business Improvement Services is reporting an overall net underspend of £251k, which is largely due to vacant posts.

5.5.4 There is a net underspend of £770k for Customer & Digital Services. This includes underspends of £247k in Information Technology, £298k in Procurement and £225k in Customer Services. The most significant elements of these underspends are delays in appointing to vacant posts and a number of existing staff not being at the top of pay scales.

5.5.5 For People Services there is a net underspend of £548k. This consists of underspends of £77k in the Apprentice Programme, £65k for the MeUs Leadership Development Programme, £70k in Communications, £67k in Occupational Health, £212k in Health and Safety and £57k in Human Resources.

5.5.6 Legal Services is reporting a net underspend of £230k, which is due to delays in filling vacant posts and additional income.

5.5.7 There is a net underspend of £27k for Property Services.

5.6 General Fund Housing & Private Housing (£1.361m Overspend)

5.6.1 There is a net overspend of £1.361m for Housing Services, excluding the Housing Revenue Account (HRA).

5.6.2 £1.128m of the overspend is in General Fund Housing and this relates to Homelessness and the ongoing cost pressures experienced as a direct result of temporary accommodation (Bed & Breakfast placements). This is a legacy of Covid-19 where these costs were fully funded by WG in 2020/21 and 2021/22, but the level of funding has reduced significantly in 2022/23. Growth has been built into the 2023/24 budget to meet this ongoing cost pressure.

5.6.3 There is a projected overspend of £233k for Private Housing which is due to significant disruption to staffing levels and contractor availability, which impacted on the ability to generate enough income from agency fees to sustain the budget.

5.7 Miscellaneous Finance - (£4.317m Underspend)

5.7.1 Budgets in Miscellaneous Finance underspent by £4.317m, the most significant elements of which are the following: -

- £361k underspend on debt charges due to delays in the need to borrow.
- £1.424m additional investment income due to interest rate increases.
- £367k underspend on City Deal borrowing.
- £970k from underspends on provisions for pay awards and Housing Benefit subsidy, along with an underspend on contributions to the Gwent Crematorium Service.
- £322k on Free School Meals funding held centrally that was not required during the financial year.
- £247k underspend on the Carbon Energy Tax budget.

5.8 Council Tax Collection – (£420k Surplus)

5.8.1 The Council Tax surplus of £420k is lower than the typical levels experienced prior to Covid-19, and this has been further impacted by financial pressures arising from the Cost-of-Living crisis.

5.8.2 The Council Tax Team encourages all residents to contact the Council as soon as possible if they are struggling to pay their Council Tax and they actively promote Council Tax Reduction take-up for those residents on low incomes. The Team also supports residents to set up payment plans and residents experiencing financial difficulty can also access support and advice from the Caerphilly Cares Team.

5.9 Housing Revenue Account (£5.340m Underspend)

5.9.1 The majority of the underspend for the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) is due to the inability to progress fully with the Post Asset Management Strategy Programme due to the ongoing impact of limited resources (staff and contractors). This restricted the spend on the capital programme meaning the revenue contributions from the HRA were not required to the extent anticipated. However, more work was directed to the response area to address the backlog of repairs that the Team had been unable to complete since the pandemic. There were also underspends on the Capital Financing Requirement budget due to delays in the need to borrow and underspends also occurred within the Strategy & Development budget where revenue provision for investigative work (e.g. Land appraisals) towards increasing housing supply was not fully expended.

5.9.2 HRA Working Balances stood at £21.5m at the start of 2022/23. However, due to the continued restrictions throughout the year, this balance, along with the £5.3m surplus made in year, will be carried forward to assist in funding future HRA commitments in relation to increasing housing supply and maintaining the WHQS on our existing properties. However, £4.5m of this balance has been earmarked separately towards match funding the Transitional Accommodation Capital Programme (TACP), which is helping to provide good quality transitional homes for those facing homelessness. There is also a separate earmarked balance of £795k originally set up for welfare reform which will be used to help alleviate the cost of living crisis for our tenants.

5.10 Impact on General Usable Service Reserves

5.10.1 As outlined in paragraph 5.1.3, after adjusting for earmarked reserves 50% of underspends are carried forward by Directorates and are available to meet the requirements of these service areas in subsequent financial years. Overspends are normally funded from future Directorate budgets or balances brought forward from previous years. However, in the current financial climate it is not feasible to top-slice budgets given the potential savings requirement of £48.335m for the two-year period

2024/25 to 2025/26.

5.10.2 The following table provides a summary of General Usable Service Reserves and the closing balances as at 31 March 2023: -

Service Area	Opening Balance (01/04/22) £m	In-Year Movement 2022/23 £m	Closing Balance (31/03/23) £m
Education & Lifelong Learning	1.074	0.411	1.485
Social Services	5.396	(2.683)	2.713
Economy & Environment	1.177	(1.671)	(0.494)
Corporate Services	0.622	0.559	1.181
General Fund Housing & Private Housing	0.601	(1.604)	(1.002)
Totals: -	8.870	(4.988)	3.882

5.10.3 Cabinet will note the deficit General Usable Service Reserves balances for the Economy & Environment Directorate and General Fund Housing and Private Housing. As already mentioned, it is not feasible to fund these deficits by top-slicing the 2023/24 budgets due to the scale of the financial challenge that services face moving forward. Section 11 of this report therefore includes proposals to fund these deficits from surplus General Fund balances.

5.10.4 The Education and Lifelong Learning and Corporate Services Directorates have identified some immediate cost pressures that require consideration for funding from General Usable Service Reserves, and Cabinet is therefore asked to consider the following proposals totalling £1.148m: -

Description	Amount £m
Education & Lifelong Learning	
- Shortfall in funding for September 2022 Teachers Pay Award	0.123
- New Demountable at Ysgol Gymraeg Trelyn	0.120
Corporate Services	
- Extension of Fixed-term Contracts for Schools I.T. Team	0.605
- Top-up of Earmarked Reserve for Cloud Migrations	0.300
Total: -	1.148

5.10.5 **Shortfall in Funding for September 2022 Teachers Pay Award** – WG has provided additional one-off funding for the 2023/24 impact of the September 2022 teachers pay award but to ensure that the full cost can be met in 2023/24 further funding of £123k is required.

5.10.6 **New Demountable at Ysgol Gymraeg Trelyn** - Ysgol Gymraeg Trelyn is currently at full capacity with no additional surplus places. In order to accommodate the rollout of Universal Primary Free School Meals it is necessary to expand both the kitchen and dining area at the school. The Headteacher and Governing Body of the school are in full support of this initiative, however they have evaluated the school site and the only available option is to extend the kitchen and dining facilities into the school's Wellbeing room. This has created a need for the installation of an additional demountable on site

to compensate for the loss of the room. The only area identified to site this is away from the main school building. Funding of £30k has been secured from WG but a further £120k is required for this facility to be installed in readiness for the start of the new school year in September 2023.

5.10.7 **Extension of Fixed-term Contracts for Schools I.T. Team** – Funding has previously been set aside to support these fixed-term posts, but this is now almost fully utilised. The Schools Support Team was established within Customer and Digital Services to support the deployment of the Welsh Government Ed Tech funding programme. The programme itself required a significant change in the way schools procured and deployed technology in order to meet the WG Core Digital standards to develop better learning outcomes for all learners within Wales.

5.10.8 The core results from the Team in the past two years are significant in terms of keeping children safe throughout the Covid-19 pandemic, by learning through online facilities and services. As we have emerged from the pandemic the Team has deployed digital technology and support on a daily basis. Since September 2022 to date, the Team has successfully closed over 5000 support calls.

5.10.9 In the next two years the Council is expected to continue to receive Ed Tech funding which will see more technology deployed into the learning environments. The schools I.T. Support Team will be critical to the successful deployment and application of this technology. The Team will also support the wider Digital Team in supporting schools with fit for purpose infrastructure and security provision. It is therefore proposed to extend the fixed-term contracts for the Team for a further period of 2 years at a cost of £605k.

5.10.10 **Cloud Migrations** – £500k has previously been set aside to fund the initial one-off costs associated with Cloud migrations and the purchase of software as a service for critical I.T. systems. These costs include initial set-up costs and professional support, along with the first year’s additional maintenance costs. The programme of migrations is progressing well, but further funding is now required to meet the one-off costs of the next planned migrations, in particular the Council’s General Ledger system. It is therefore proposed that a further sum of £300k is set aside.

5.11 Impact on the General Fund

5.11.1 The table in Appendix B shows the movements on the General Fund balance from 01 April 2022 to 31 March 2023, along with agreed commitments for 2023/24. The forecast General Fund balance as reported to Council on 23 February 2023 was £13.041m. The updated position is a balance of £18.621m, an increase of £5.580m. The variations to the forecast are as follows: -

	£m
Increased Contribution from Service Areas (including Miscellaneous Finance)	5.160
2022/23 Council Tax Surplus	0.420
Net Increase: -	5.580

5.11.2 It is usually recommended by the Head of Financial Services & S151 Officer that the minimum balance on the General Fund should be 3% of the Council’s net revenue budget, which equates to £13.172m for the 2023/24 financial year. This results in a surplus General Fund balance of £5.449m being available to support the Council in the delivery of its strategic priorities.

5.11.3 There are a number of items that will require consideration for funding from the surplus General Fund balance as summarised in the following table: -

Description	Amount £m
In-year Impact of 2023/24 NJC Pay Awards	1.959
Funding of Economy & Environment General Usable Service Reserves Deficit	0.494
Funding of General Fund Housing and Private Housing General Usable Service Reserves Deficits	1.002
Total: -	3.455

5.11.4 **In-year impact of 2023/24 Pay Awards** – The latest pay offer for National Joint Council (NJC) staff is an increase of £1,925 on all pay points from April 2023. This results in an additional funding requirement of £1.959m for the current financial year. This position will be reviewed again once the pay awards have been finalised, and the confirmed increases will also need to be factored into the budget setting process for the 2024/25 financial year. It is currently assumed that the teachers pay award from September 2023 will be fully funded by WG.

5.11.5 **General Usable Service Reserve Deficits** - As outlined in paragraph 5.10.3, there are deficit General Usable Service Reserve balances for the Economy & Environment Directorate, and General Fund Housing and Private Housing as at 31 March 2023. These deficits must be funded, and it is therefore proposed that the deficits totalling £1.496m are met from the surplus General Fund balance.

5.11.6 Cabinet is asked to endorse a recommendation to Council that surplus General Fund balances totalling £3.455m are utilised as detailed in paragraphs 5.11.3 to 5.11.5 of this report. If approved, this will reduce the General Fund balance to £15.166m, which is £1.994m higher than the 3% minimum balance usually recommended by the Head of Financial Services & S151 Officer. Given the significant financial challenges that we face moving forward, Cabinet is asked to endorse a recommendation to Council that the General Fund balance is maintained at £15.166m.

5.12 Conclusion

5.12.1 The overall 2022/23 net underspend of £8.331m is significantly lower than in recent years (net underspends of £38.517m and £37.815m in 2020/21 and 2021/22 respectively) and signifies the return of a more realistic picture of financial performance that is not impacted by the significant levels of external grant funding received in recent years in response to the Covid-19 pandemic.

5.12.2 The Council faces significant financial challenges moving forward with an anticipated savings requirement of £48.335m for the two-year period 2024/25 to 2025/26.

5.12.3 The scale of the financial challenge facing the Council requires new approaches to service delivery and this is being led by the Chief Executive, Leader, CMT, and Cabinet and is being co-ordinated through our Transformation and Placeshaping Investment Programmes. It is vital that required changes are developed at pace and that key decisions are made early to ensure that the projected savings requirement for 2024/25 and 2025/26 can be delivered.

6. ASSUMPTIONS

6.1 There are no assumptions within this report.

7. SUMMARY OF INTEGRATED IMPACT ASSESSMENT

7.1 The 2022/23 revenue budget outturn position does not require an Integrated Impact Assessment to be completed as it is a statement of fact and is reported for information only.

7.2 The proposals for the use of General Usable Service Reserves are not strategic in nature and do not require changes to policy, therefore Integrated Impact Assessments are not required.

7.3 The proposals for the use of surplus General Fund balances relate to unavoidable cost pressures in relation to pay awards, and the funding of deficit balances in General Usable Service Reserves. These proposals do not require Integrated Impact Assessments to be completed.

8. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

8.1 As detailed throughout the report.

9. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

9.1 There are no direct personnel implications arising from this report other than the proposal to fund some fixed-term posts.

10. CONSULTATIONS

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

11. STATUTORY POWER

11.1 Local Government Act 1972.

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Appendices:

Appendix A - Provisional Outturn Summary 2022/23

Appendix B - Movement on General Fund

PROVISIONAL OUTTURN 2022/23**SUMMARY**

SERVICE AREA	UNDERSPEND (OVERSPEND) £m	TAKE TO GENERAL FUND £m
Education & Lifelong Learning	2.858	1.429
Social Services	0.981	0.490
Economy & Environment	(0.603)	0.000
Corporate Services	2.327	1.163
General Fund Housing	(1.128)	0.000
Private Housing	(0.233)	0.000
Miscellaneous Finance	4.317	4.317
Council Tax Surplus	0.420	0.420
TOTALS	8.938	7.819

OTHER	UNDERSPEND (OVERSPEND) £m	TAKE TO GENERAL FUND £m
Schools	(5.947)	N/A
Housing Revenue Account (HRA)	5.340	N/A
OVERALL TOTAL SURPLUS	8.331	7.819

Service area surpluses are subject to a 50% take to General Fund balances after specific agreed earmarking of funds.

Miscellaneous Finance underspends and Council Tax surpluses are transferred in total to General Fund balances.

School and HRA balances must be ring-fenced to those service areas.

MOVEMENT ON GENERAL FUND

	£m	£m
Opening Balance 01/04/2022		27.235
Use of Funds as Previously Agreed by Council: -		
Budget Strategy Contribution 2022/23	(1.050)	
In-Year impact of 2022/23 Pay Awards	(6.860)	
Cost of Living Hardship Fund	(3.000)	
Cost of Living Crisis Contingency	(2.098)	
Home to School/College Transport	(0.460)	
Wi-Fi Infrastructure Review	(0.100)	
Heolddu Leisure Centre Fitness Equipment	(0.100)	
Emporium Car Park Repairs	(0.100)	
Highway Inspections (Covid-19 Backlog)	(0.120)	
External Asbestos Surveys	(0.100)	
Modern Patch Management Tool	(0.100)	
Cloud Migrations	(0.500)	
Canal Refurbishment	(0.200)	
Additional RSG (Electric Vehicles/Driving Lessons)	(0.595)	(15.383)
Approved Contribution from Earmarked Reserves to Support 2023/24 Budget		15.345
Funds Transferred into General Fund (2022/23): -		
Education & Lifelong Learning – 50% of Directorate Underspend	1.429	
Social Services - 50% of Directorate Underspend	0.490	
Corporate Services - 50% of Directorate Underspend	1.163	
Miscellaneous Finance Underspend	4.317	
Council Tax Surplus 2022/23	0.420	7.819
General Fund Closing Balance 31/03/2023		35.016
2023/24 Commitments Previously Agreed by Council: -		
Budget Strategy Contribution 2023/24		(1.050)
Earmarked Reserves Funding Released to Support the 2023/24 Budget		(15.345)
Current General Fund Balance		18.621



COUNCIL – 27TH SEPTEMBER 2023

SUBJECT: CONSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS AND POLITICAL BALANCE

REPORT BY: CORPORATE DIRECTOR FOR EDUCATION AND CORPORATE SERVICES

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To seek Council approval to agree that all 60 non-executive members shall have the right of membership of joint meetings of scrutiny committee.
- 1.2 To ask Council to note the outcome of the review of the political balance as a result of a by-election and a reduction in the number of members within the Independent Group.

2. SUMMARY

Membership of Joint Scrutiny

- 2.1 The changes to the scrutiny committee structure, as agreed at the annual meeting of Council on 11th May 2023, set out that there would be three scrutiny committees and agreed to continue with joint meetings of the scrutiny committees on an ad hoc basis to consider cross-cutting issues. This report clarifies that the intention is that all 60 non-executive members will have the right to sit on and vote in meetings of the joint scrutiny committee. The joint scrutiny committee will be chaired by one of the three scrutiny committee chairs to be determined by the subject matter.

To note the review of the political balance of the Council

- 2.2 To ask council to note the review of the political balance as a result of recent changes to the membership of the Independent Group.

3. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 That all 60 non-executive members will be members of the joint scrutiny committee.
- 3.2 That co-opted members to be invited to a meeting of the joint scrutiny committee if the subject matter is relevant to them.

- 3.3 That the Chair of each joint scrutiny committee meeting will be one of the three scrutiny committee chairs and will be determined by the subject matter.
- 3.4 The Council’s Monitoring Officer is given approval to amend the Council Constitution to reflect these changes if agreed.
- 3.5 To note the review of the political balance for the authority as set out in Appendix 1 and that there is no change to the allocation of seats.

4. REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS

- 4.1 To ensure that the scrutiny structure is clearly set out and the council constitution is amended.
- 4.2 To comply with the requirements of Section 15 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989.

5. THE REPORT

Membership on Joint Scrutiny Committee

- 5.1 The new scrutiny committee structure agreed by the annual meeting of Council on the 11th May 2023 is 3 scrutiny committees plus joint meetings of scrutiny to meet to consider cross cutting matters such as finance, performance, transformation or other significant issues. The joint scrutiny committee will be made up of all 60 non-executive members and co-opted members (if subject matter is relevant to them) and will be chaired by one of the three chairs of scrutiny and determined by the matter to be debated.
- 5.2 Council is therefore asked to agree to this additional change to the scrutiny structure which are summarised below and note the membership:

Scrutiny Committee	Responsibilities	Membership
Corporate and Regeneration	Corporate Services	18
Education and Social Services	Education and Social Services	18 plus co-opted members
Housing and Environment	Housing and Communities (excluding Regeneration)	18
Joint	Cross Cutting Matters – Finance; Performance, Transformation, and other Significant Matters	All non-executive Members and co-opted members (if subject is relevant)

Review of the Political Balance

- 5.3 Since the political balance of the Council was reviewed at the annual meeting, there has been a by-election with the seat being held by Labour and an Independent

Member has given notice that he is no longer a member of the Independent Group, which has reduced in membership from six to five councillors.

5.4 As such a review of the political balance has been undertaken and is outlined in Appendix 1. Council will note that there are no changes to the membership of the committees which were agreed at the annual meeting.

5.5 **Conclusion**

If the recommendations contained within the report are accepted, this will allow all 60 non-executive members to be members of the joint scrutiny committee. Council is asked to note that there are no changes to the political balance.

6. **ASSUMPTIONS**

6.1 There are no assumptions necessary.

7. **SUMMARY OF INTEGRATED IMPACT ASSESSMENT**

7.1 Due to the nature of this report, there is no requirement for an IIA to be undertaken.

8. **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

8.1 There are no financial implications in this report.

9. **PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS**

9.1 There are no personnel implications in this report.

10. **CONSULTATIONS**

10.1 Any consultation response received has been included in this report.

11. **STATUTORY POWER**

11.1 Local Government Act 2000 and Local Government (Wales) Measure 2011.

11.2 Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021.

11.3 Local Government and Housing Act 1989 and regulations made under the Act.

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Richard Edmunds, Corporate Director Education and Corporate Services
Mark S Williams, Corporate Director Economy and Environment
Lynne Donovan, Head of People Services

Steve Harris, Head of Corporate Finance. Section 151 officer
Councillor S. Morgan, Leader of Council
Councillor L. Whittle, Group Leader Plaid Cymru
Councillor N. Dix, Group Leader Independents
Councillor N. George, Cabinet Member Corporate, Property and
Highways

Appendix 1 Review of Political Balance

Background Papers:

Council 11th May 2023 Agenda item 13 Refinements to Council Constitution

Seats	No	%
Total	69	100
Labour Group	45	65
Plaid Cymru Group	18	26
Independent Group	5	7
Single Member	1	2

Seats allocated to particular committee sizes

Committee Size	Labour			Plaid Cymru			Independent			Single Member		
	Calculated	Actual	%	Calculated	Actual	%	Calculated	Actual	%	Calculated	Actual	%
2	1.3	1	50.0	0.5	1	50.0	0.1	0	0.0	0.0	0	0.0
3	2.0	2	66.7	0.8	1	33.3	0.2	0	0.0	0.1	0	0.0
4	2.6	3	75.0	1.0	1	25.0	0.3	0	0.0	0.1	0	0.0
5	3.3	3	60.0	1.3	1	20.0	0.4	0	0.0	0.1	0	0.0
6	3.9	4	66.7	1.6	2	33.3	0.4	0	0.0	0.1	0	0.0
7	4.6	5	71.4	1.8	2	28.6	0.5	0	0.0	0.1	0	0.0
8	5.2	6	75.0	2.1	2	25.0	0.6	0	0.0	0.2	0	0.0
9	5.9	6	66.7	2.3	2	22.2	0.7	1	11.1	0.2	0	0.0
10	6.5	6	60.0	2.6	3	30.0	0.7	1	10.0	0.2	0	0.0
11	7.2	7	63.6	2.9	3	27.3	0.8	1	9.1	0.2	0	0.0
12	7.8	8	66.7	3.1	3	25.0	0.9	1	8.3	0.2	0	0.0
13	8.5	9	69.2	3.4	3	23.1	0.9	1	7.7	0.3	0	0.0
14	9.1	9	64.3	3.7	4	28.6	1.0	1	7.1	0.3	0	0.0
15	9.8	10	66.7	3.9	4	26.7	1.1	1	6.7	0.3	0	0.0
16	10.4	11	68.8	4.2	4	25.0	1.2	1	6.3	0.3	0	0.0
17	11.1	11	64.7	4.4	5	29.4	1.2	1	5.9	0.3	0	0.0
18	11.7	12	66.7	4.7	5	27.8	1.3	1	5.6	0.4	0	0.0
19	12.4	13	68.4	5.0	5	26.3	1.4	1	5.3	0.4	0	0.0
20	13.0	13	65.0	5.2	5	25.0	1.4	2	10.0	0.4	0	0.0
21	13.7	14	66.7	5.5	5	23.8	1.5	2	9.5	0.4	0	0.0
22	14.3	14	63.6	5.7	6	27.3	1.6	2	9.1	0.4	0	1.0
23	15.0	15	65.2	6.0	6	26.1	1.7	2	8.7	0.5	0	0.0
24	15.7	16	66.7	6.3	7	29.2	1.7	2	8.3	0.5	0	0.0
25	16.3	16	64.0	6.5	7	28.0	1.8	2	8.0	0.5	0	0.0
26	17.0	17	65.4	6.8	7	26.9	1.9	2	7.7	0.5	0	0.0
27	17.6	18	66.7	7.0	7	25.9	2.0	2	7.4	0.5	0	0.0
28	18.3	18	64.3	7.3	8	28.6	2.0	2	7.1	0.6	0	0.0
29	18.9	19	65.5	7.6	8	27.6	2.1	2	6.9	0.6	0	0.0
30	19.6	20	66.7	7.8	8	26.7	2.2	2	6.7	0.6	0	0.0
31	20.2	20	64.5	8.1	8	25.8	2.2	3	9.7	0.6	0	0.0
32	20.9	21	65.6	8.3	8	25.0	2.3	3	9.4	0.6	0	0.0
33	21.5	21	63.6	8.6	9	27.3	2.4	3	9.1	0.7	0	0.0
34	22.2	22	64.7	8.9	9	26.5	2.5	3	8.8	0.7	0	0.0
35	22.8	23	65.7	9.1	9	25.7	2.5	3	8.6	0.7	0	0.0
36	23.5	24	66.7	9.4	9	25.0	2.6	3	8.3	0.7	0	0.0
37	24.1	24	64.9	9.7	10	27.0	2.7	3	8.1	0.7	0	0.0
38	24.8	25	65.8	9.9	10	26.3	2.8	3	7.9	0.8	0	0.0
39	25.4	26	66.7	10.2	10	25.6	2.8	3	7.7	0.8	0	0.0
40	26.1	26	65.0	10.4	10	25.0	2.9	3	7.5	0.8	0	0.0
41	26.7	27	65.9	10.7	11	26.8	3.0	3	7.3	0.8	0	0.0
42	27.4	27	64.3	11.0	11	26.2	3.0	4	9.5	0.8	0	0.0
43	28.0	28	65.1	11.2	11	25.6	3.1	4	9.3	0.9	0	0.0
44	28.7	29	65.9	11.5	12	27.3	3.2	4	9.1	0.9	0	0.0
45	29.3	29	64.4	11.7	12	26.7	3.3	4	8.9	0.9	0	0.0

46	30.0	30	65.2	12.0	12	26.1	3.3	4	8.7	0.9	0	0.0
47	30.7	31	66.0	12.3	12	25.5	3.4	4	8.5	0.9	0	0.0
48	31.3	31	64.6	12.5	13	27.1	3.5	4	8.3	1.0	0	0.0
49	32.0	32	65.3	12.8	13	26.5	3.6	4	8.2	1.0	0	0.0
50	32.6	33	66.0	13.0	13	26.0	3.6	4	8.0	1.0	0	0.0
51	33.3	34	66.7	13.3	13	25.5	3.7	4	7.8	1.0	0	0.0
52	33.9	34	65.4	13.6	14	26.9	3.8	4	7.7	1.0	0	0.0
53	34.6	35	66.0	13.8	14	26.4	3.8	4	7.5	1.1	0	0.0
54	35.2	36	66.7	14.1	14	25.9	3.9	4	7.4	1.1	0	0.0
55	35.9	36	65.5	14.3	15	27.3	4.0	4	7.3	1.1	0	0.0
56	36.5	37	66.1	14.6	15	26.8	4.1	4	7.1	1.1	0	0.0
57	37.2	37	64.9	14.9	15	26.3	4.1	5	8.8	1.1	0	0.0
58	37.8	38	65.5	15.1	15	25.9	4.2	5	8.6	1.2	0	0.0
59	38.5	39	66.1	15.4	15	25.4	4.3	5	8.5	1.2	0	0.0
60	39.1	39	65.0	15.7	16	26.7	4.3	5	8.3	1.2	0	0.0
61	39.8	40	65.6	15.9	16	26.2	4.4	5	8.2	1.2	0	0.0
62	40.4	41	66.1	16.2	16	25.8	4.5	5	8.1	1.2	0	0.0
63	41.1	41	65.1	16.4	16	25.4	4.6	5	7.9	1.3	1	1.6
64	41.7	41	64.1	16.7	17	26.6	4.6	5	7.8	1.3	1	1.6
65	42.4	42	64.6	17.0	17	26.2	4.7	5	7.7	1.3	1	1.5
66	43.0	43	65.2	17.2	17	25.8	4.8	5	7.6	1.3	1	1.5
67	43.7	44	65.7	17.5	17	25.4	4.9	5	7.5	1.3	1	1.5
68	44.3	44	64.7	17.7	18	26.5	4.9	5	7.4	1.4	1	1.5
69	45.0	45	65.2	18.0	18	26.1	5.0	5	7.2	1.4	1	1.4

Main committee sizes highlighted:



COUNCIL – 27TH SEPTEMBER 2023

SUBJECT: GWENT REGIONAL PARTNERSHIP BOARD (RPB) AREA PLAN AND RPB ANNUAL REPORT 22/23

REPORT BY: PHIL DIAMOND, GWENT REGIONAL PARTNERSHIP TEAM

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To update Members on the work of the Gwent Regional Partnership Board (RPB) in fulfilling local authority statutory duties required under the Social Services and Wellbeing (Wales) Act 2014
- Regional Area Plan 2023-2027, and
 - RPB Annual report 2022/23

2. SUMMARY

- 2.1 The Social Services and Wellbeing Act (2014) places a statutory duty on local authorities and health boards to prepare a regional Area Plan, following the publication of the region's population needs assessment (PNA) and Market Stability Report (MSR). The Gwent PNA was previously signed off by CCBC during Autumn 2022 and a commitment was made to share the Gwent Area Plan with CCBC members, to set out how regional priorities are to be delivered in partnership.
- 2.2 The **Gwent Area Plan 2023-2027** (appendix 1) has been completed and signed off by Gwent RPB. An Area Plan summary has also been included as *appendix 2*. The plan has been developed in partnership with Blaenau Gwent, Caerphilly, Monmouthshire, Newport, and Torfaen local authorities, and Aneurin Bevan University Health Board, Third Sector partners and the Regional Partnership Team. The Area Plan sets out the actions required to achieve the priorities identified in the PNA, by our partners and citizens, and closely aligns and share similar principles of working to the Public Service Board (PSB) and Well-being Plan. The Area Plan is reviewed annually and can be updated to ensure we are meeting the needs of our communities.
- 2.2 The progress against delivery of key objectives in the Area Plan, is monitored through the **RPB Annual Report** (Appendix 3) which considers specifically the priority groups set out in the PNA and cross cutting themes. Key developments have also been set out in appendix 4.

3. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 Council consider the joint commitments within the Area Plan.
- 3.2 Ensure that Members have the opportunity to review the RPB Annual Report and progress made against the objectives; and provide any feedback/comments.
- 3.3 To note the joint priorities in the Area Plan and Caerphilly Integrated Service Partnership Board plan, and at a future date, discuss how these can be integrated in the Council's corporate plan going forward.

4. REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS

- 4.1 The Area Plan highlights our commitment to work in partnership to improve the health and wellbeing across the population of Blaenau Gwent, Caerphilly, Monmouthshire, Newport and Torfaen. Given current challenges and financial pressures, it is paramount to work in partnership to deliver joint solutions to shared priorities and avoid duplication. The development of Area Plan and RPB Annual report is a statutory duty placed upon CCBC under the Social Services and (Wales) Wellbeing Act 2014.
- 4.2 There are a number of statutory duties placed on local authorities and CCBC specific under the Social Services and (Wales) Wellbeing Act 2014, and expanded on in underpinning codes of practice. In total, there are 299 'Must Dos' and 236 'Should Dos' included and facilitated through RPT and RPB on behalf of CCBC. Both development of Area Plan and RPB Annual Report

	<i>Must DOs</i>	<i>Should DOs</i>
Local Authorities	75	25
Health boards	18	9
Local authorities and health boards	14 + (18)	6 + (22)
RPB	20	20
TOTAL	240 + (77)	130 + (115)
	317	245

5. THE REPORT

- 5.1 Following the publication of the regional Population Needs Assessment (PNA) report each local authority and health board are required to prepare and publish an Area Plan setting out the range and level of services they propose to provide in response to the PNA core themes, which are:
 - Children & Young People
 - Older People, including People with Dementia
 - Health & Physical Disabilities including Sensory Loss & Impairment
 - Emotional Wellbeing and Mental Health
 - Learning Disabilities
 - Autism and Neurodevelopmental Conditions
 - Unpaid Carers
 - Violence Against Women, Domestic Abuse & Sexual Violence
- 5.2 Core themes are not addressed in isolation and there is an element of cross cutting working, in addition to the above including:

- A resilient skilled and integrated health and social care workforce
- Housing needs
- Rebalancing health and social care including social value
- Substance misuse
- Adult protection, child protection and safeguarding
- Transforming children's services and removing profit from the care of looked after children
- Tackling loneliness and isolation

5.3 Area plans must include the specific services planned in response to each core theme identified in the population assessment. As part of this, area plans must include:

- The actions partners will take in relation to the priority areas of integration for Regional Partnership Board
- Administer and monitor Welsh Government grant funding e.g. Integrated Care Fund.
- The instances and details of pooled funds to be established in response to the population assessment.
- How services will be procured or arranged to be delivered, including by alternative delivery models.
- Details of the preventative services that will be provided or arranged.
- Actions being taken in relation to the provision of information, advice, and assistance services
- Actions required to deliver services through the medium of Welsh

A section of the Area Plan is monitored at each Strategic Partnership that sits within the RPB governance structure, to monitor progress; with an annual review report by the RPB via an Annual Report which is submitted to Welsh Government. (Appendix 2)

The regional Area Plan has been developed with ABUHB and Integrated Service Partnership Board (ISPB) leads to ensure alignment with the Caerphilly ISPB Plan. The RPB will work closely with the 5 ISPBs across the region to ensure plans are delivered in collaboration, resources maximised and duplication is avoided. ISPB plans have to demonstrate alignment to the RPB population needs assessment, and the regional strategic partnerships will define integrated models of care, and work with the ISPBs to make an assessment of how close they are to delivering those models, identify gaps and what can be addressed through the local Neighbourhood Care Networks. The RPB and Strategic Partnerships will identify specific actions within the Area Plan that are best delivered at the ISPB level and form part of a place-based care model. A copy of the Caerphilly ISPB plan is published alongside the Area Plan <https://www.gwentrpb.wales/area-plan>

5.4 **Conclusion**

This is the second Area Plan for Gwent (following the inaugural plan in 2017) where we will continue to develop on work already underway and address the care and support needs reflected in the most recent PNA. The Area Plan also links to Caerphilly County Borough Councils Corporate Improvement Plan and will align and complement other strategic plans such as the Public Service Board (PSB) Wellbeing Plans to avoid duplication and ensure national cross cutting priorities can be delivered.

The Area Plan will also set out high level actions to support winter planning and use of Welsh Government grants such as Regional Integration Fund; and members are asked

to take note of any future implications to winter planning arrangements and tapering of funding.

6. ASSUMPTIONS

6.1 No assumptions.

7. SUMMARY OF INTEGRATED IMPACT ASSESSMENT

7.1 Promoting equalities is a fundamental requirement of the Social Services and (Wales) Wellbeing Act 2014 and integral to the development of the Area Plan. An equality impact assessment was developed under the Population Needs Assessment and linked to the PSB's Wellbeing Assessment. Further monitoring and review will be ensured during the lifetime of the Area Plan.

8. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

8.1 There are no direct financial implications related to this report. However, there are considerable Welsh Government grant funding streams supporting projects and staff across health and social care in Caerphilly; and grant requirements and implications will need to be monitored closely. For example, CCBC supported the relaxation of Regional Integration Fund tapering during 2022/23 given need to match fund specific projects.

9. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

9.1 No implications. Officers from the Gwent Regional Partnership Team have been working closely with Council's Corporate Policy Unit who have played a key part in ensuring the alignment of both the regional Area Plan and Well-being Plan required under the Social Services and Wellbeing Act and Well-being of Future Generations Act respectively.

10. CONSULTATIONS

10.1 This report has been sent to the Consultees listed below and all comments received are reflected in this report

11. STATUTORY POWER

11.1 This is to identify the enabling statutory power(s) for the decision under consideration. It should also state whether the power(s) are the responsibility of full Council or Cabinet and if it has been delegated to officers. If you have any queries on powers, please consult the Monitoring Officer/Head of Legal Services.

Author: Phil Diamond, Phil.Diamond@torfaen.gov.uk

Consultees: Christina Harrhy, Chief Executive

Dave Street, Deputy Chief Executive
 Richard Edmunds, Corporate Director of Education and Corporate Services
 Mark S. Williams, Corporate Director for Economy and Environment
 Rob Tranter, Head of Legal Services and Monitoring Officer
 Stephen Harris, Head of Financial Services and S151 Officer
 Councillor Sean Morgan, Leader of Council
 Councillor Jamie Pritchard, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Prosperity, Regeneration and Climate Change
 Councillor Nigel George, Cabinet Member for Corporate Services, Property and Highways
 Councillor Eluned Stenner, Cabinet Member Finance and Performance
 Councillor Carol Andrews, Cabinet Member for Education and Communities
 Councillor Shayne Cook, Cabinet Member for Housing
 Councillor Elaine Forehead, Cabinet Member for Social Care
 Councillor Philippa Leonard, Cabinet Member for Planning and Public Protection
 Councillor Chris Morgan, Cabinet Member for Waste, Leisure and Green spaces

Background Papers:

- Population Needs Assessment 2022/2023: [Population Needs Assessment - Gwentrbp](#)
- Regional Area Plan 2023-2027 & Caerphilly Integrated Service Partnership Board Plan (Appendix 1)
- Regional Partnership Board Annual Report 2022/23 (Appendix 3)

Appendices:

Appendix 1: Regional Area Plan 2023-2027 <https://www.gwentrbp.wales/area-plan>

Appendix 2: Area Plan Summary




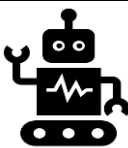

Welsh Government Core Theme	Outcome Priority
Children and Young People	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To improve outcomes for children and young people with complex needs through earlier intervention, community-based support, and placements closer to home. • To ensure good mental health and emotional wellbeing for children and young people through effective partnership working especially mitigating long term impact of Covid-19 pandemic.





Older People including Dementia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To improve emotional wellbeing for older people by reducing loneliness and social isolation with earlier intervention and community resilience. • To improve outcomes for people living with dementia and their carers. To support older people to live, or return following a period of hospitalisation, to their own homes and communities through early intervention, integrated care models and a whole system approach. • To mitigate the long-term impact of Covid-19 pandemic through, especially reducing waiting lists and times to access support, appointments, and medical procedures
Health and Physical Disabilities including people with sensory impairment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To support disabled people, including sensory impairment, through an all-age approach to live independently in appropriate accommodation and access community-based services, including transport. • Ensure people are supported through access to accurate information, assistance and 'rehabilitation' where required. • Improve transition across all age groups and support services. • Ensure people are supported through access to accurate accessible information, assistance and 'rehabilitation' where required.
People with a Learning Disability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To support people with learning disabilities to live independently with access to early intervention services in the community; and greater public awareness and understanding of people with learning disabilities needs.
Mental Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase understanding and awareness of mental health amongst the public, to reduce stigma and help people to seek support earlier. • We need to improve emotional well-being and mental health for adults and children through timely early intervention and community support.
Carers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support unpaid carers to care through flexible respite, access to accurate information, peer to peer support, effective care planning and through increased public understanding. • Improve well-being of young carers and young adult carers and mitigate against long-term impacts
Autism	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To provide more timely diagnosis of Autistic Spectrum Disorder and access to support services and information.
Housing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A multi-agency partnership approach to ensure appropriate housing and accommodation for older people and vulnerable citizens. • To ensure effective use of Disabled Facilities Grants and appropriate partnership support and available resources. • Homelessness requiring a collaborative response from public services and partners, especially the non-use of B&B accommodation for young people, and through prevention and early intervention.

Appendix 3: RPB Annual Report 2022/23

[RPB Annual reports - Gwentrbp](#)

Appendix 4: Key Developments over the last Year

	<p>Carers Annual Report: Carers team supports implementation of various programmes across the region</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 415 successful applicants provided with £415,000 to support • Young Carers in School: 599 members of staff have taken part in 17 face-to-face 'Young Carers: Identifying Us' training sessions and 19 virtual sessions • Over 100 Young Carers supported through schools. • Training and awareness: a broad range of Gwent services have been represented at training sessions where 8 Community Awareness sessions were held attended by 120 people, 39 workshops were held attended by 332 people and 52 people completed the on-line training
	<p>Dewis figures</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The total number of published resources in Gwent over the past year has increased by 400 resources. • Detailed views of resources have increased by 9,568. This is the amount of times someone has searched for something on Dewis and then clicked to find more information. In March 2022 there was 31,227 clicks and in March 2023 there was 40,795. • Registered users have increased by 365. • Expired resources have reduced from 158 to 65 showing that currency of the directory is improving.
	<p>Dementia Conference There were over 130 partners who attended the Gwent Dementia Friendly Communities conference at The Christchurch Centre, in September 2022 and 35 partners who attended the Gwent Dementia Friendly Webinar and 87% respondents wanted to become more involved in the dementia agenda across Gwent.</p> <p>Dementia Friends Dementia Friends sessions and supporting online connections with communities. 1,468 Dementia Friends have been made across 98 sessions during 2022 – 2023.</p>
	<p>Assistive Technology (AT)</p> <p>Over 650 AT devices have been distributed to all sectors across Gwent including the Happiness Programme, HUG and RITA to support well-being and positive stimulation.</p>
	<p>Workforce & College Consortium</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social Care Work Placements - regional work placement process was launched in September 2022 to support students to apply for LA work placements and for LA social care teams to adequately prepare to accept these placements. 13 work placement applications have been received and facilitated by LA social care teams. • Coleg Gwent campuses, the 'Placement to Progression' events. Held in Oct/Nov across 4 Coleg Gwent campuses, events have supported students with securing work placements while providing local providers the opportunity to promote part-time vacancies to the current student cohort. 52 work placement applications have been received by providers and 24 commissioned providers attended the events, all were from the adult care sector or 3rd sector.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ABUHB Work Placements. 25 students have been cleared and are ready to start placements with ABUHB. As of the 14th of November, these students will be placed on wards
	<p>Micro carers MCC pilot: There are currently 7 micro carers on the directory, providing around 70 hours of carer each week as of Dec 22. There are 3 more micro carers going through training. Updated figures will be available following the project evaluation. Costings of Recruitment agencies costing a total of £1575 for 70 hours, whereas Micro carers costings a total of £1155 for 70 hours. Micro carers provide a saving of £420 per week.</p>
	<p>Launch of Autism Code of Practice and Autism Conference. 240 people attended, day long awareness and training event 100% delegates felt better informed of autism after the event.</p>
	<p>Communications and Engagement Regional Partnership page views have increased from 7,470 (2021-2022) to 22,502 (2022-2023) – See Annex: 4.</p>
	<p>AskSARA As of February, all metrics (users, new users, sessions, reports, bounce rate) have increased. The user/report percentage and bounce rate remain at very positive levels, indicating users are interacting well with the site. Good variety of referral sources. 90% of users would recommend AskSARA, 71% were helped to find a solution or equipment.</p>

Use of grant funding

In 2022-23 the Regional Partnership Board utilised Welsh Government grant funding and the following has been achieved across the region:

- 19,310 unpaid carers have accessed services, with 2083 feeling less isolated and 2479 achieving personal outcomes.
- 2,597 children at risk of entering care have been supported, to date 600 have achieved personal outcomes.
- We have provided intensive support to 267 care leavers to develop coping strategies and achieve personal outcomes.
- 611 neurodivergent children and their families have been supported, with 515 reporting good experiences.
- Additional capacity within Memory Assessment Services has enabled a total of 3644 people with cognitive impairment, living with dementia and young onset dementia to be supported and assessed.
- 12,462 contacts have been provided to support people to live well with Dementia, and an additional in-year referral acceptance of 2,577 people.
- The connected communities programme has assisted 25,276 adults via a range of prevention and wellbeing services to remain well within the community. Of which, 4968 report maintaining or improving their emotional health and wellbeing and 4396 are more aware of the support available to them.
- 12,498 individuals have received intermediate care in the community via the Place Based Graduated Care programme. 45% of stroke survivors have been supported to rehabilitate within the community, and 53% of individuals receiving intermediate care were prevented from hospital admission/crisis.

- Improving System Flow programme capacity supported 8824 individuals to leave hospital, with 1689 of these individuals receiving aids and adaptations to return home as independent as possible, and 2007 individuals achieved personal outcomes.
- 2505 people with learning disabilities achieved personal outcomes via the LD independence and wellbeing programme, with 1195 new individuals identified during 2022-23.
- 25,000 individuals have accessed information and advice via the Enhanced Foundation Tier programme, along with 169 training sessions provided across the partnership to support awareness and recognition of emotional wellbeing in self and others.
- The CVC led Third Sector Grants fund has supported 3107 individuals within the community, with 2511 reporting maintaining or improving their emotional health and wellbeing.

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COUNCIL – 27TH SEPTEMBER 2023

SUBJECT: ADOPTION OF THE JOINT OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE SOUTH EAST WALES CORPORATE JOINT COMMITTEE

REPORT BY: CORPORATE DIRECTOR FOR EDUCATION AND CORPORATE SERVICES

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To seek Council approval for the scrutiny arrangements for the South East Wales Corporate Joint Committee ('SEWCJC').

2. SUMMARY

- 2.1 Council is asked to consider the details of the report and endorse the recommendations regarding the Scrutiny arrangements for the South East Wales Corporate Joint Committee as set out in paragraph 3 below. This will ensure that appropriate arrangements are in place in accordance with the relevant legislation as outlined in the report. Put simply, the Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee ('JOSC') of the Cardiff Capital Region City Deal ('CCRCD') will also perform the same function for the South East Wales Corporate Joint Committee.

3. RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Council:

- 3.1 Appoints the CCRCD JOSC as the Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee for the SEWCJC;
- 3.2 Approves the Draft Terms of Reference for its functions in respect of the SEWCJC, as attached at Appendix 2;
- 3.3 Notes that the cost of administering the JOSC for the SEWCJC will be included in a service level agreement between RCTCBC and the SEWCJC, to be concluded in due course.

4. REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS

- 4.1 To ensure that appropriate overview and scrutiny functions are in place for the SEWCJC.

5. THE REPORT

Background

- 5.1 The Statutory Guidance issued by Welsh Government that accompanies the CJC Regulations states that the CJC's will be subject to the same performance, governance and scrutiny requirements as local authorities. However, it also states that it is expected that these arrangements should be proportionate to the scale of functions the CJC undertakes.
- 5.2 The Statutory Guidance further states that *'in considering the most effective and efficient approach to scrutiny, constituent councils and CJC's should give thought to the benefits of a joint overview and scrutiny committee made up of the constituent councils'*.

Issues

- 5.3 Regulations 8 – 10 of the Corporate Joint Committees (General) (No. 2) (Wales) Regulations 2022 ("the Regulations") set out the CJC's duties in relation to overview and scrutiny. The Regulations require the CJC to provide information to attend meetings of and consider any report or recommendations made by a 'relevant overview and scrutiny committee.' A 'relevant overview and scrutiny committee' is defined in Regulation 8 (7) as:
- a. an overview and scrutiny committee appointed by a constituent council under section 21(2) of the Local Government Act 2000;
 - b. a joint overview and scrutiny committee appointed under the Local Authorities (Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committees) (Wales) Regulations 2013 where the appointing authorities are constituent councils of the corporate joint committee;
 - c. a sub-committee of a committee described in paragraph (a) or (b).
- 5.4 The Cardiff Capital Region City Deal Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee was appointed by the constituent councils of the Cardiff Capital Region City Deal Joint Committee to provide the scrutiny function for that body. It meets up to 4 times per year and is administered by Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council ("RCTCBC"). The Council's representative on this Committee is Councillor Andrew Whitcombe and the substitute member is Councillor Colin Elsbury.
- 5.5 The JOSc comprises one non-executive member from each constituent council of the CCRCD, which are also the constituent authorities of the SEWCJC.
- 5.6 It is proposed that appointing the JOSc as the overview and scrutiny committee for the SEWCJC under a separate terms of reference would best satisfy Welsh Government's intention, as set out in the Statutory Guidance, because:
- (1) the Statutory Guidance provides for consideration to be given to scrutiny being carried out by a joint committee of the constituent authorities;
 - (2) the Statutory Guidance expressly states that scrutiny arrangements should be proportionate to the scale and functions of the CJC; and

(3) JOSC already provides the scrutiny function of the CCRCD, the functions of which will be transferred to the CJC in due course.

5.7 Informal discussions have taken place between the Interim Monitoring Officer of the SEWCJC and officers of RCTCBC to discuss the viability of the proposal. The JOSC met on 27th July 2023 and have indicated their agreement in principle to the proposal. A letter from the Chair of the JOSC to the Interim Monitoring Officer of the SEWCJC dated 27th July 2023 is attached to this report at Appendix 1.

5.8 The Local Authorities (Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committees) (Wales) Regulations 2013 requires all ten constituent Councils to agree to appoint a JOSC as a relevant scrutiny committee for the CJC, and when doing so, to enter into an agreement setting out the terms of reference, rules and procedures and other ancillary matters as set out in regulation 4 of those Regulations. A draft terms of reference dealing with these matters is attached to this report as Appendix 2. In approving the draft terms of reference, the Council is entering into an agreement pursuant to regulation 4 as set out above.

6. ASSUMPTIONS

6.1 No assumptions are necessary within this report.

7. SUMMARY OF INTEGRATED IMPACT ASSESSMENT

7.1 There is a statutory requirement to form the scrutiny arrangements for the Corporate Joint Committee and so there is no requirement to undertake an Integrated Impact Assessment.

8. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

8.1 The additional costs of providing the scrutiny function will be met by the CJC under existing budgets.

9. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

9.1 There are no personnel implications arising from this report.

10. CONSULTATIONS

10.1 The consultation responses have been incorporated within the body of the report.

11. STATUTORY POWER

11.1 The Local Authorities (Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committees) (Wales) Regulations 2013.

Corporate Joint Committees (General) (No. 2) (Wales) Regulations 2022

Author: Lisa Lane Head of Democratic Services and Deputy Monitoring Officer

Consultees: Christina Harray Chief Executive
Dave Street Deputy Chief Executive
Richard (Ed) Edmunds Corporate Director Education and Corporate Services
Mark S Williams Corporate Director for Economy and Environment
Robert Tranter Head of Legal Services and Monitoring Officer
Cath Forbes-Thompson Scrutiny Manager
Stephen Harris Head of Corporate Finance/Section 151 Officer
Councillor Sean Morgan Leader
Councillor Lindsay Whittle Leader of Plaid Cymru
Councillor Nigel Dix Leader of the Independent Group
Councillor Nigel George Cabinet Member for Corporate Services

Appendices

Appendix 1 - Letter from the Chair of the JOSC dated 27th July 2023

Appendix 2 – Draft Terms of Reference of the JOSC for the CJC

27th July 2023

Cardiff Capital Region Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee – Feedback on the proposal of Scrutiny arrangements of the Corporate Joint Committee

Dear James,

The Cardiff Capital Region Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee met on the 27th July 2023 to consider the proposed Scrutiny arrangements for the South East Wales Corporate Joint Committee, before these are formally considered at the CJC on Monday 31st July 2023

Members were supportive of the proposed arrangements for the Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee to be appointed as the Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee for the CJC and highlighted the importance of ensuring that an effective model of governance and scrutiny arrangements for the CJC are put in place. This included ensuring that the arrangement is adequately resourced to include funding for Members to receive sufficient training and support to take forward future Scrutiny for the CJC. In doing this, Members welcomed the opportunity to shape and revise their Terms of Reference to ensure they are fit for purpose and provide a clear and defined purpose on the Committee's future objectives and responsibilities.

We look forward to hearing from you following the South East Wales Corporate Joint Committee meeting on Monday 31st July to progress the next steps

Yours sincerely,

Councillor A Whitcombe
Chair Cardiff Capital Region City Deal Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Y Pafiliynau, Cwm Clydach, Tonypany,
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We welcome correspondence in Welsh and corresponding with us in Welsh will not lead to a delay. Let us know your language choice if Welsh or bilingual.



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**TERMS OF REFERENCE OF THE JOINT OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY
COMMITTEE OF THE SOUTH EAST WALES CORPORATE JOINT COMMITTEE**

Definitions

1. For the purposes of these Terms of Reference:

‘CJC’ – The South East Wales Corporate Joint Committee

‘Appointing Authorities’ are the constituent councils of the CJC

‘Host Authority’ means Rhondda Cynon Taff CBC, or such other authority as the Appointing Authorities may agree from time to time;

Introduction

2. The Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee of the South East Wales Corporate Joint Committee (“the JOSC”) was established by the agreement of the Appointing Authorities pursuant to the Local Authorities (Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committees) (Wales) Regulations 2013.

Members

3. The JOSC shall consist of one non-executive member from each Appointing Authority.
4. It is a matter for each Appointing Authority, from time to time, to nominate, or terminate the appointment of its nominated member serving on the JOSC. Each Appointing Authority shall be entitled, from time to time, to appoint a deputy for its member representative to the JOSC but such deputy shall only be entitled to vote at meetings of the JOSC in the absence of their corresponding principal.
5. The length of appointment is a matter for each Appointing Authority.

Quorum

6. The quorum necessary for a meeting of the JOSC is at least 5 out of the 10 JOSC members, present at the relevant time.

Election of a Chair

7. The JOSC shall elect a Chair and Vice Chair annually.

Rules of Procedure

8. The procedure rules will be those of the Host Authority for its Scrutiny Committees.

Members' Conduct

9. Members of the JOSC will be bound by their respective Council's Code of Conduct.

Declarations of Interest

10. Members of the JOSC must declare any interest either before or during the meetings of the JOSC (and withdraw from that meeting if necessary) in accordance with their Council's Code of Conduct or as required by law.

Confidential and Exempt Information / Access to Information

11. The Host Authority's Access to Information Procedure rules shall apply subject to the provisions of the Local Government Act 1972.

Openness and Transparency

12. All meetings of the JOSC will be open to the public unless it is necessary to exclude the public in accordance with Section 100A (4) of the Local Government Act 1972.
13. All agendas, reports and minutes of the JOSC will be made publicly available, unless deemed exempt or confidential in accordance with the above Act.

Functions to be exercised by the Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee

14. The JOSC shall be responsible for exercising the functions of a Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee pursuant to the Local Authorities (Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committees) (Wales) Regulations 2013.

15. Any member of the JOSC may refer to the JOSC any matter which is relevant to its functions provided it is not a local crime and disorder matter as defined in section 19 of the Police and Justice Act 2006.
16. Any member of any of the Appointing Authorities may refer to the JOSC any local Government matter which is relevant to the functions of the JOSC, subject to the following conditions:
 - a. The matter relates to one of the functions of the Appointing Authority and is relevant to the functions of the JOSC,
 - b. It affects the electoral area of the member or it affects any person who lives or works there; and
 - c. It is not a local crime and disorder matter as defined in section 19 of the Police and Justice Act 2006.
17. When considering whether to refer a matter to the JOSC a member should first consider if it falls within the remit of a single overview and scrutiny committee within the member's local authority, and if that is the case the member should raise the matter there. Members should only refer a matter to the JOSC if it falls clearly within the responsibilities and terms of reference of the JOSC and if there is no scrutiny of the issue in the local authority to which the member belongs.

Administrative Arrangements

18. It shall be the responsibility of the Head of Democratic Services of the Host Authority to ensure that an appropriate level of officer support and other resources to the joint overview and scrutiny committee are in place at all times. The cost of providing these resources will be met by the CJC.

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COUNCIL – 27TH SEPTEMBER 2023

SUBJECT: WAIVER OF 6 MONTH COUNCILLOR ATTENDANCE RULE

REPORT BY: HEAD OF LEGAL SERVICES AND MONITORING OFFICER

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1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To seek Council approval for a request received for an extension to the six months Councillor Attendance Rule from Councillor Dianne Price in accordance with the relevant legislation.

2. SUMMARY

- 2.1 Due to poor health and ongoing medical treatment Councillor Dianne Price has been unable to attend a Council meeting since the 8th of June 2023 and on medical advice is unable to attend any further meetings for several months.
- 2.2 A request has been received by the Monitoring Officer for Council to consider approving an extension to the usual six month attendance rule to enable Councillor Price to remain in office until she is able to resume normal duties when she returns to good health.

3. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 That the current absence from all council and committee meetings of Councillor Dianne Price due to her ill-health be authorised and approved for a further period of six months ending on 8th June 2024, or until she resumes attendance if that is sooner, in accordance with section 85 of the Local Government Act 1972.

4. REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS

- 4.1 To allow Councillor Dianne Price to remain in office until her health allows her to be able to resume normal duties.

5. THE REPORT

- 5.1 Section 85 (1) of the Local Government Act 1972 states that “if a member of a local Authority fails, throughout a period of six consecutive months from the date of their

last attendance, to attend any meeting of the authority they will, unless the failure was due to some reason approved by the authority before the expiry of that period, cease to be a member of the authority”.

- 5.2 For the purposes of section 85(1), attendance can be at any committee or sub-committee, or any joint committee, joint board or other body where the functions of the authority on any matter relating to the discharge of their functions.
- 5.3 Councillor Price has not been able to attend any council meetings since attending the Voluntary Sector Liaison Committee on 8th June 2023 due to poor health and ongoing medical treatment. Councillor Price has received medical advice that she is not fit to attend any Council meetings for several months.
- 5.4 Council can only consider approval of any reasons for non-attendance before the end of the relevant six month period which will end on 8th December 2023. Given the medical advice received by Councillor Price this report has been submitted to Council seeking approval for an extension of the usual six month rule.
- 5.5 Councillor Price is a long serving member, former Mayor and ward member for Bargoed. In addition to council, Councillor Price serves as a member of Democratic Services Committee, the Voluntary Sector Liaison Committee/Sub-Committee and the Standards Committee.

5.6 **Conclusion**

Council is asked to consider the request to extend the six month rule for Councillor Price as outlined above.

6. **ASSUMPTIONS**

- 6.1 There are no assumptions contained in this report.

7. **SUMMARY OF INTEGRATED IMPACT ASSESSMENT**

- 7.1 As this report is a statutory function of Council relating to an individual councillor there is no requirement for an Integrated Impact Assessment to be completed.

8. **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 8.1 If the absence period is not extended beyond 6 months or Councillor Price does not attend a meeting prior to 8th December a by-election will need to be called for which there will be a financial cost.

9. **PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS**

- 9.1 If the extension is not approved Councillor Price, would under Section 85 (1) of the Local Government Act be disqualified on the 8th of December 2023 from the office of

councillor.

- 9.2 Once any councillor loses office, through failure to attend for the six month period, the disqualification cannot be overcome by the councillor subsequently resuming attendance nor can retrospective approval of Council be sought for an extension in time.

10. CONSULTATIONS

- 10.1 Any consultation responses have been reflected within the body of the report.

11. STATUTORY POWER

- 11.1 Local Government Act 1972

Author: Lisa Lane Head of Democratic Services and Deputy Monitoring Officer

Consultees: Christina HARRY, Chief Executive
Dave Street, Deputy Chief Executive
Ed Edmunds, Corporate Director for Education and Corporate Services
Robert Tranter, Head of Legal Services and Monitoring Officer
Emma Sullivan, Senior Committee Services Officer
Cllr Sean Morgan, Leader of Council
Cllr Lindsay Whittle, Leader of Plaid Cymru
Cllr Nigel Dix, Leader of the Independent Group

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COUNCIL – 27TH SEPTEMBER 2023

SUBJECT: CAERPHILLY COUNTY BOROUGH LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN UP TO 2021 – ANNUAL MONITORING REPORT 2023 (INCLUDING THE ANNUAL COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE LEVY REPORT)

REPORT BY: CORPORATE DIRECTOR FOR ECONOMY AND ENVIRONMENT

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To allow full Council to consider the findings and recommendations of the Caerphilly County Borough Local Development Plan 2023 Annual Monitoring Report (2023 AMR).
- 1.2 To recommend that the 2023 Annual Monitoring Report be approved by Council.
- 1.3 To recommend that the 2023 Annual Monitoring Report be submitted to the Welsh Government by 31 October 2023, in order to satisfy the Council's statutory requirements.

2. SUMMARY

- 2.1 It is a statutory requirement that the Council submits an Annual Monitoring Report (AMR) to the Welsh Government (WG) that monitors whether or not the Caerphilly County Borough Local Development Plan up to 2021 (LDP) is being implemented successfully. The overall purpose of the AMR is to identify whether the LDP strategy, or any of the strategic policies, are not being implemented and if they are not, identify steps to rectify this. This AMR covers the period 1 April 2022 – 31 March 2023 and must be submitted to Welsh Government by the end of October 2023.
- 2.2 An overview of the LDP monitoring data for the 2023 AMR provides an interesting insight into the implementation of the LDP over the monitoring period. Of particular note are the following:
 - The annual house building rate rose from 303 in 2021/22 to 380 in 2022/23 (the latter figure will not feed through into the LDP monitoring indicators until the 2024 AMR, though it will be factored into the housing trajectory);
 - Whilst there is no longer a housing land supply figure, the 380 units delivered in 2022/23 is still beneath the annual requirement of 575, as set out in the housing trajectory. While the adopted LDP remains in effect, the 15 year plan period elapsed at the end of 2021;
 - The average house price in the County Borough has risen to £184,321. This remains more than six times average earnings;

- Unemployment fell to 3.2% (from 3.8%), though the number of people in employment also fell to 82,300 (from 83,600);
 - Nearly 16 ha worth of planning permission was granted on employment land during 2022/23, though development of allocated sites (EM1) continues to stagnate;
 - Commercial vacancy rates in all five principal town centres have decreased, albeit not markedly in some instances. The rates for Caerphilly, Risca-Pontymister and Ystrad Mynach are below 10% and with the remainder above that mark. Bargoed remains the only town centre whose vacancy rate is over 20%;
 - Footfall in Caerphilly, Blackwood and Bargoed has again increased since the previous year, though remains below pre-pandemic levels.
- 2.3 The 2023 AMR includes the monitoring statement for the Council's implementation of its community infrastructure levy (CIL). This is the seventh year the Council has included this. Just over £255k was collected in revenue during 2022/23, whilst £18.77k has been passed to town and community councils during this time. £291k was available to the Council to deliver appropriate infrastructure as of 1 April 2023.
- 2.4 Previous AMRs have reflected Council resolutions to seek support for, and to commence work on, the preparation of a Strategic Development Plan (SDP) for the Cardiff Capital Region (CCR), as well as to undertake a review of the LDP, and subsequently commence a formal revision (preparation of the 2nd Replacement LDP). While regulations to oversee the preparation of SDPs and allow for the creation of corporate joint committees (CJCs) – the bodies responsible for their preparation – have come into effect, the absence of an adopted SDP is likely to remain for the foreseeable future. In terms of the 2nd Replacement LDP, the Review Report and accompanying draft Delivery Agreement were made subject to public consultation between January and March 2021, and approved by Council, and subsequently Welsh Government, in June 2021, thereby committing the Council to the plan preparation timetable contained therein. A formal call for candidate sites took place between 1 July and 31 August 2021, and public consultation on the Pre-Deposit Plan (Preferred Strategy) was held between 19 October and 30 November 2022.
- 2.5 As stated in previous AMRs, preparation of the 2nd Replacement LDP is influenced by several policy considerations which remain pertinent, including:
- An urgent need to increase the housing land supply to deliver market and affordable housing;
 - An urgent need to identify additional employment land to encourage economic growth in the County Borough;
 - The potential for further unplanned development being allowed on appeal.
- 2.6 The 2023 AMR concludes and recommends that:
- R1 Substantial progress has been made in implementing the Caerphilly County Borough Local Development Plan, adopted 2010;
- R2 Preparation of the 2nd Replacement Local Development Plan should continue, consistent with the processes and timetable set out within the approved Delivery Agreement or subsequent revisions thereof;
- R3 In the period up to the adoption of the 2nd Replacement LDP, the Council will continue to address the shortfall in the housing land supply through proactive action, including:

- Considering proposals for new residential development on their relative planning merits on a site-by-site basis and having due regard for the need to increase the housing land supply in line with national planning policy and guidance;
- Lobbying Welsh Government to establish funding mechanisms to incentivise sites in low viability areas and promote remediation of suitable brownfield sites for development;
- Utilising innovative funding models to bring forward Council owned sites with viability issues;
- Identifying schemes where funding opportunities could be exploited to deliver regeneration projects, including for housing and employment;
- Prioritising affordable and new-build Council housing on brownfield sites to help preserve the natural environment;
- Working to ensure new housing and other Council-led development schemes comply with high environmental standards to help address the climate emergency.

3. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 That Council considers and notes the findings of, and approves, the 2023 Annual Monitoring Report.
- 3.2 That the 2023 Annual Monitoring Report (including the Annual Community Infrastructure Levy Report) be submitted to the Welsh Government before the deadline of 31 October 2023.

4. REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS

- 4.1 To comply with the requirements of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004, the LDP (Wales) Regulations 2005, the SEA Directive and the Community Infrastructure Levy Regulations 2010.
- 4.2 To comply with the recommendations set out in the 2023 Annual Monitoring Report.

5. THE REPORT

- 5.1 The Council formally adopted the Caerphilly County Borough Local Development Plan up to 2021 (LDP) on 23 November 2010. Following the adoption of its LDP, the Council has a statutory obligation under section 61 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 to keep all matters under review that are expected to affect the development of its area. Further, section 76 of the Act requires the Council to produce information on these matters in the form of an Annual Monitoring Report for submission to Welsh Government (WG). The 2023 AMR monitors the period 1 April 2022 to 31st March 2023. It is required to be submitted to WG by 31 October 2023.
- 5.2 The 2023 AMR considers whether the development strategy that underpins the adopted LDP remains valid; and whether or not the strategy policies contained therein are being effective in delivering the development strategy and meeting the objectives of the plan.

Annual Monitoring Requirements

5.3 Section 76 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004, and Regulation 37 of the LDP (Wales) Regulations 2005 (as amended), require the preparation and publication of an AMR. Whilst the LDP Manual Edition 3 provides guidance in terms of structure and content, the structure of the 2023 AMR remains the same as in previous years:

- An executive summary;
- A review of changes to national and regional policy and guidance and their implications for the LDP;
- The strategic environmental assessment/sustainability appraisal (SEA/SA) monitoring based on the SEA/SA monitoring framework (LDP Appendix 18);
- The LDP monitoring based on the LDP monitoring framework (LDP Appendix 19).
- The required statutory indicators;
- The recommendations on the course of action in respect of policies and the LDP as a whole.

Report of Findings

National Policy Context

Technical Advice Note (TAN) 15: Development, Flood Risk and Coastal Erosion

5.4 It had been the intention of Welsh Government for the updated version of TAN 15 to come into effect, along with the new Flood Map for Planning (FMfP), in June 2023, thereby replacing the previous version as well as the Development Advice Maps (DAMs). However, further consultation on the updated version took place between January and April 2023 which was followed by a written statement from the Minister for Climate Change, postponing publication of the new TAN until an as-yet-unspecified date (likely to be in 2024) due to the scale and complexity of the work involved to analyse consultation responses and make further changes. In terms of planning applications, while it remains the case that the current version of TAN 15 and the DAMs remain in effect, the more up-to-date information contained in the FMfP can be taken into account and regarded as a material consideration.

Strategic Environmental Assessment/Sustainability Appraisal Monitoring

5.6 In preparing the LDP, the Council undertook a sustainability appraisal (SA) process which also incorporated strategic environmental assessment (SEA), thereby fulfilling the requirements of the LDP Regulations and SEA Directive. It produced and published its SEA/SA Report in conjunction with the LDP.

5.7 The SEA Directive also requires that the Council monitors the state of the environment through monitoring the sustainability objectives set out in the SEA/SA Report. This forms an integral part of the AMR and is contained in Section 4.

5.8 While there has been no reduction in the number of positive effects since the last monitoring period, there has been a shift in favour of neutral effects at the expense of negative ones (the longer-term position shows a shift towards neutral effects against both positive and negative ones). Overall, however, there has been long-term

variability and fluctuation, from which it is difficult to identify clear trends. This is due to the site-specific nature of certain indicators, external circumstances and the fact that many indicators are considered relative to national averages.

LDP Policy Monitoring

- 5.9 The LDP monitoring process considers each of the 22 strategy policies against the LDP monitoring framework to identify whether the policies are effective and to identify any policies that are not being implemented successfully.
- 5.10 An overview of the LDP monitoring data for the 2023 AMR provides an interesting insight into the implementation of the LDP over the monitoring period. Of particular note are the following:
- The annual house building rate rose from 303 in 2021/22 to 380 in 2022/23 (the latter figure will not feed through into the LDP monitoring indicators until the 2024 AMR, though it will be factored into the housing trajectory);
 - Whilst there is no longer a housing land supply figure, the 380 units delivered in 2022/23 is still beneath the annual requirement of 575, as set out in the housing trajectory. While the adopted LDP remains in effect, the 15 year plan period elapsed at the end of 2021;
 - The average house price in the County Borough has risen to £184,321. This remains more than six times average earnings;
 - Unemployment fell to 3.2% (from 3.8%), though the number of people in employment also fell to 82,300 (from 83,600);
 - Nearly 16 ha worth of planning permission was granted on employment land during 2022/23, though development of allocated sites (EM1) continues to stagnate;
 - Commercial vacancy rates in all five principal town centres have decreased, albeit not markedly in some instances. The rates for Caerphilly, Risca-Pontymister and Ystrad Mynach are below 10% and with the remainder above that mark. Bargoed remains the only town centre whose vacancy rate is over 20%;
 - Footfall in Caerphilly, Blackwood and Bargoed has again increased since the previous year, though remains below pre-pandemic levels.
- 5.11 In 2022/23, 380 units had been completed, an increase from the 303 in the previous year and significantly lower than the average annual requirement (AAR) previously employed by the housing trajectory. This includes continuing development of sites such as Pandy Road, Bedwas; Hendredenny, Caerphilly; and Hawtin Park, Pontllanfraith, as well as housing association sites such as Winding Wheel Lane, Penallta; and Wingfield Crescent, Llanbradach. Some of these schemes are the result of permissions for housing on greenfield sites having been granted on appeal, with Planning and Environment Decisions Wales (formally the Planning Inspectorate) continuing to take the view that the under-delivery of housing remains a material consideration. Matters to be considered in determining the weight to be attributed to under-delivery include:
- The extent of the shortfall;
 - The length of time there has been a shortfall;
 - How soon the Council will be able to demonstrate through an adopted LDP that it will meet the area's housing need.
- 5.12 Whilst the preparation of an up-to-date LDP is the appropriate means of addressing the housing shortfall in the medium to long term, it will not be adopted for some time. Therefore, as in previous years, there remains a need to increase the housing land

supply in the short term. Those proactive measures identified in previous AMRs therefore remain valid.

- 5.13 As in 2022, objective 17, which addresses Caerphilly's role as a commercial and employment centre, and objective 18, which concerns the provision and protection of employment land, have also been identified as not delivering, on the grounds of minimal take-up and the low level of permissions granted during the monitoring period. The LDP has been relatively successful in respect of the development of employment sites and it is therefore not surprising that only a few sites remain. However, it is important that opportunities are explored through the development plan process to ensure that there will be a diverse portfolio of sites available in the future to support Caerphilly's strategic position in respect of employment and commercial development, especially in light of the County Borough's position within the Cardiff, Newport and the Valleys 'national growth area'.
- 5.14 Overall, and as in 2022, the AMR finds that the plan is being implemented successfully. However, the rate at which new housing is being delivered, and new economic and commercial development in taking place, remains low and requires intervention.

Mandatory Indicators

- 5.15 The LDP Regulations and Development Plans Manual, Edition 3 set out those key indicators that should be included in monitoring frameworks (aside from local, contextual and SEA indicators). However, it was decided for consistency and comparison reasons that the 2016 AMR and subsequent AMRs will continue to include the 10 of the original 12 mandatory indicators still monitored.
- 5.16 Included in these 10 are the two statutory indicators required by Regulation 37 in respect of the housing land supply and the number of net additional and general market dwellings. Following the revocation of TAN 1, the first of these indicators (relating to the housing land availability study) is no longer monitored. The Development Plans Manual now requires that the following indicators are monitored, which relate to the housing trajectory:
- The annual level of housing completions monitored against the anticipated annual build rate (AABR);
 - Total cumulative completions monitored against the anticipated cumulative completions rate.
- 5.17 However, the Manual is clear that for authorities who adopted their LDP prior to the publication of Edition 3, the average annual requirement (AAR) method should be used in preference to the AABR. Therefore, for the remainder of the lifetime of the adopted LDP, the AMR will monitor the annual level of completions against the AAR. However, while the adopted LDP remains in effect, it should be noted that the monitoring year 2020/21 was the last full year of the 15-year plan period. The trajectory, therefore, is included for reference only and no longer provides information on cumulative completions. Data is, however, provided on completions for subsequent years, plus forecast completions for a further five years, as this will form part of the evidence base for the 2nd Replacement LDP.

Community Infrastructure Levy

- 5.18 The Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) was introduced in Caerphilly County Borough on 1 July 2014. It is a mandatory charge that is levied against all new qualifying

development. Regulation 62 of the Community Infrastructure Levy Regulations 2010 (as amended) requires a collecting authority (i.e. the Council) to publish an annual report in respect of CIL for every year when CIL receipts have been collected.

- 5.19 Given that the reporting period for CIL is the same as that used for the Annual Monitoring Report for the LDP (1 April to 31 March) it makes sense that the Annual CIL Report be incorporated into the Annual Monitoring Report for that year. During this period a total of £255,243.02 in CIL receipts were received by the Council. A total of £18,771.06 was paid to five local councils (i.e. town/community councils) in accordance with the CIL Regulations. In addition to this a further £16,525.87 is being retained for use within those areas of the County Borough that are not covered by local councils.
- 5.20 In accordance with the CIL Regulations, the Council has taken £12,762.20 of the CIL receipts in admin fees to assist in covering the cost of implementing and operating the CIL. The admin fees amount to 5% of the total CIL receipts for the year.
- 5.21 The Council has allocated £3,546,985 to the following strategic infrastructure projects:
- Caerphilly Leisure and Well-Being Centre (match funding) - £3,000,000;
 - Caerphilly Leisure and Well-Being Centre (preparation of bids for LUF funding) - £200,000;
 - Pontymister Car Park - £46,985;
 - Bedwas Bridge Highway Scheme - £300,000.
- 5.22 It can be confirmed that no infrastructure payments have been received in lieu of CIL and no CIL receipts have been passed to third parties to provide infrastructure. As a result, the remaining amount of CIL receipts available for expenditure on infrastructure items is £291,362.55.

Conclusion and Recommendations

- 5.23 The 2023 AMR has identified that one policy – SP15 (Affordable Housing Target) – is not being delivered and requires intervention, as well as objective 9, which seeks to ‘Ensure an adequate and appropriate range of housing sites are available in the most suitable locations’. Whilst SP14 (Total Housing Requirements) is being met as it is assessed against a low annual build rate, the number of completions realised in 2023 remains low when assessed against the annual requirement set out in the housing trajectory.
- 5.24 The adopted LDP was not able to achieve its target of 8,625 dwellings, and at least 964 affordable dwellings, by the end of the plan period i.e. 2021. The number of completions realised by the end of 2020/21 (5,588) represented a shortfall of circa 3,000 compared to the cumulative average annual requirement (AAR) as set out in the housing trajectory.
- 5.25 Whilst the preparation of an up-to-date LDP is the appropriate means of addressing the housing shortfall in the medium to long term, it will not be adopted for some time. Therefore, there remains a need to increase the housing land supply in the short term, utilising a number of direct interventions.
- 5.26 While the adopted LDP will remain in effect until superseded by the 2nd Replacement LDP, this does not change the position regarding housing delivery highlighted in previous years. Pressure will remain on the Council to grant permission for

development in locations that may be contrary to the adopted LDP. The under-delivery of housing will remain a material consideration in the determination of planning applications, and inspectors will continue to take it seriously. Therefore, the previous recommendation that proposals for residential development should be considered on their relative merits on a site-by-site basis, having regard to the need to increase the housing land supply, remains valid. This is especially true since the publication of the national development framework *Future Wales* in 2021, and the implications for the County Borough of being part of the Cardiff, Newport and the Valleys 'national growth area'.

- 5.27 Objective 17, which addresses Caerphilly's role as a commercial and employment centre, and objective 18, which concerns the provision and protection of employment land, have also been identified as not delivering as required, on the grounds of minimal take-up and the low level of permissions granted during the monitoring period. The LDP has been relatively successful in respect of the development of employment sites and it is therefore not surprising that only a few sites remain. However, it is important that opportunities are explored through the development plan process to ensure that there will continue to be a diverse portfolio of sites available in the future to support Caerphilly's strategic position in respect of employment and commercial development, especially in light of the County Borough's position within the 'national growth area'.
- 5.28 Whilst the new South East Wales Corporate Joint Committee has been established in law, SDP preparation is yet to commence and it will not be adopted in the short term. It is therefore incumbent upon the Council to continue to progress the 2nd Replacement LDP, including for those matters which will ultimately be dealt with at the regional level by the SDP.
- 5.29 The 2023 AMR therefore concludes and recommends that:
- R1 Substantial progress has been made in implementing the Caerphilly County Borough Local Development Plan, adopted 2010;
 - R2 Preparation of the 2nd Replacement Local Development Plan should continue, consistent with the processes and timetable set out within the approved Delivery Agreement or subsequent revisions thereof;
 - R3 In the period up to the adoption of the 2nd Replacement LDP, the Council will continue to address the shortfall in the housing land supply through proactive action, including:
 - Considering proposals for new residential development on their relative planning merits on a site-by-site basis and having due regard for the need to increase the housing land supply in line with national planning policy and guidance;
 - Lobbying Welsh Government to establish funding mechanisms to incentivise sites in low viability areas and promote remediation of suitable brownfield sites for development;
 - Utilising innovative funding models to bring forward Council owned sites with viability issues;
 - Identifying schemes where funding opportunities could be exploited to deliver regeneration projects, including for housing and employment;
 - Prioritising affordable and new-build Council housing on brownfield sites to help preserve the natural environment;
 - Working to ensure new housing and other Council-led development schemes comply with high environmental standards to help address the

climate emergency.

6. ASSUMPTIONS

- 6.1 It is assumed that preparation of the 2nd Replacement LDP will continue in accordance with the timetable set out in a revised Delivery Agreement, to be drawn up and approved by Council and Welsh Government, and that adoption of the 2nd Replacement LDP will predate the adoption of the SDP, for which preparation has yet to commence.

7. SUMMARY OF INTEGRATED IMPACT ASSESSMENT

- 7.1 The IIA indicates a largely neutral impact on protected characteristics and socio-economic concerns. Preparation of the 2nd Replacement LDP was the recommendation of a previous AMR and has already been agreed. Potential impacts will be assessed and mitigated through the integrated sustainability appraisal (ISA) process.

[Link to full Integrated Impact Assessment](#)

8. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1 The decision to undertake preparation of the 2nd Replacement LDP, and incur those costs associated with that process, is the subject of a previous Council resolution. There are no financial implications as a result of the 2023 AMR.

9. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1 There are no personnel implications.

10. CONSULTATIONS

- 10.1 All responses have been incorporated into this report.

11. STATUTORY POWER

- 11.1 Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004;
Town and Country Planning (Local Development Plan) (Wales) Regulations 2005 (as amended);
Local Government Act 2000

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Appendices:

Appendix 1 - Caerphilly County Borough Local Development Plan Annual Monitoring Report
2023

Caerphilly County Borough
Local Development Plan up to 2021

Annual Monitoring Report 2023
(including the
Annual Community Infrastructure Levy Report)

1 April 2022 – 31 March 2023

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1. Introduction

- 1.1 The Caerphilly County Borough Local Development Plan up to 2021 (LDP) was formally adopted by Caerphilly County Borough Council (CCBC) on the 23 November 2010. Following the adoption of its LDP, the Council has a statutory obligation under section 76 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 to produce an Annual Monitoring Report (AMR) for submission to the Welsh Government (WG). This, the eleventh AMR, covers the period 1 April 2022 – 31 March 2023 and must be submitted to Welsh Government by the end of October 2023.
- 1.2 The main aim of the AMR is to assess the extent to which the LDP Strategy and policies are being achieved. It therefore has two primary roles: firstly to consider whether the policies identified in the monitoring process are being implemented successfully; and secondly to consider the plan as a whole against all of the information gathered to determine whether a complete or partial review of the plan is necessary.
- 1.3 The 2013 AMR concluded that a review of the LDP was required. The review was commenced and a Replacement LDP was progressed through to deposit stage before being formally withdrawn by the Council in October 2016.
- 1.4 The eighth (2019) AMR also concluded that a review of the LDP was required. To this end, Council resolved in October 2019 to commence a review. Subsequently, a draft Review Report was prepared, which concluded that a revision of the LDP was necessary. The Review Report and accompanying draft Delivery Agreement were made subject to public consultation between January and March 2021, and approved by Council in June 2021. A formal call for candidate sites took place between 1 July and 31 August 2021, and public consultation on the Pre-Deposit Plan (Preferred Strategy) took place between 19 October and 30 November 2022.
- 1.5 The 2023 AMR will address the following:
 - A summary of the key findings in respect of the SA/SEA monitoring for the period 1 April 2022 to 31 March 2023;
 - A summary of the key findings in respect of the strategy policies for the monitoring period 1 April 2022 to 31 March 2023;
 - The statutory indicators required by Welsh Government;
 - An update on the implementation of the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL); and
 - Identify actions to be undertaken.

2. Executive Summary

- 2.1 It is a statutory requirement that the Council submits an Annual Monitoring Report to the Welsh Government that monitors whether or not the LDP is being implemented successfully. The overall purpose of the AMR is to identify whether the LDP Strategy, or any of the strategy policies are not being implemented and, where they are not, identify steps to rectify this.
- 2.2 This is the eleventh AMR to be prepared for the Caerphilly County Borough Local Development Plan up to 2021 (LDP) and it monitors the period from 1 April 2022 to 31 March 2023. The Council is required to submit the 2023 AMR to WG by 31 October 2023.
- 2.3 Monitoring of the plan indicates that the following policies triggered in 2023, having also done so in 2022:
- SP3: Development in the Southern Connections Corridor;
 - SP4: Settlement Strategy;
 - SP5: Settlement Boundaries;
 - SP8: Minerals Safeguarding;
 - SP10: Conservation of Natural Heritage;
 - SP15: Affordable Housing Target;
 - SP16: Managing Employment Growth;
 - SP17: Promoting Commercial Development;
 - SP18: Protection of the Strategic Leisure Network.
- 2.4 The following did not trigger, by virtue of the relevant data not being available:
- SP3: Development in the Southern Connections Corridor.
- 2.5 The 2023 AMR also includes the results of the SA/SEA monitoring, which is required by the SEA Directive and national policy. This is set out in Chapter 4 and though it is somewhat mixed between positive and negative, there is a shift towards neutral records between this monitoring period and the last, as well as overall since 2010. However, there is evidence of long-term variability and fluctuation, from which it is difficult to identify clear trends.
- 2.6 The 2023 AMR is also required to include information relating to the mandatory indicators specified by Welsh Government. These are discussed in Chapter 6.
- 2.7 An overview of the LDP monitoring data for the 2023 AMR provides an interesting insight into the implementation of the LDP over the monitoring period. Of particular note are the following:
- The annual house building rate rose from 303 in 2021/22 to 380 in 2022/23 (the latter figure will not feed through into the LDP monitoring indicators until the 2024 AMR, though it will be factored into the housing trajectory);
 - Whilst there is no longer a housing land supply figure, the 380 units delivered in 2022/23 is still beneath the annual requirement of 575, as set out in the housing trajectory. While the adopted LDP remains in effect, the 15 year plan period elapsed at the end of 2021;
 - The average house price in the County Borough has risen to £184,321. This remains more than six times average earnings;
 - Unemployment fell to 3.2% (from 3.8%), though the number of people in employment also fell to 82,300 (from 83,600);
 - Nearly 16 ha worth of planning permission was granted on employment land during 2022/23, though development of allocated sites (EM1) continues to stagnate;
 - Commercial vacancy rates in all five principal town centres have decreased, albeit not markedly in some instances. The rates for Caerphilly, Risca-Pontymister and Ystrad

Mynach are below 10% and with the remainder above that mark. Bargoed remains the only town centre whose vacancy rate is over 20%;

- Footfall in Caerphilly, Blackwood and Bargoed has again increased since the previous year, though remains below pre-pandemic levels.

2.8 The 2023 AMR includes the monitoring statement for the Council's implementation of its community infrastructure levy (CIL). This is the seventh year the Council has included this. Just over £255k was collected in revenue during 2022/23, whilst £18.77k has been passed to town and community councils during this time. £291k was available to the Council to deliver appropriate infrastructure as of 1 April 2023.

2.9 The 2013 AMR and subsequent AMRs clearly identified the need for the LDP to be reviewed. Work commenced on a review of the LDP in 2013, but in July 2016 the Council resolved to withdraw the 1st Replacement LDP and seek support for the early preparation of a Strategic Development Plan (SDP) for the Cardiff Capital Region (CCR).

2.10 In 2019, Council resolved to agree to commence work on the SDP, alongside other CCR member authorities, thereby meeting the 2016 resolution. Regulations to oversee the preparation of SDPs and allow for the creation of Corporate Joint Committees (CJCs) – the bodies responsible for their preparation – came into effect between March 2021 and February 2022. However, the absence of an adopted SDP is likely to remain for the foreseeable future.

2.11 The 2019 AMR also concluded that a review of the LDP was required. To this end, Council resolved to commence a review. Subsequently, a draft Review Report was prepared, which concluded that a revision of the LDP was necessary. The Review Report and accompanying draft Delivery Agreement were made subject to public consultation between January and March 2021, and approved by Council, and subsequently Welsh Government, in June 2021, thereby committing the Council to the plan preparation timetable contained therein. A formal call for candidate sites took place between 1 July and 31 August 2021, and public consultation on the Pre-Deposit Plan (Preferred Strategy) was held between 19 October and 30 November 2022.

2.12 In September 2020, the (then) Minister for Housing and Local Government issued clarification in respect of LDP expiry dates, stating that LDPs adopted prior to 4 January 2016 "will remain the LDP for determining planning applications until replaced by a further LDP." Whilst this eliminates the possibility of a policy vacuum until such time as the 2nd Replacement LDP is adopted, those reasons set out in the 2019 AMR, and reiterated subsequently, for the review of the LDP remain applicable:

- There is a statutory requirement to move to review after four years;
- There has been a substantial passage of time since the 2013 AMR identified the need to prepare a new plan;
- There is an urgent need to increase the housing land supply to deliver market and affordable housing;
- There is an urgent need to identify additional employment land to encourage economic growth in the County Borough;
- Further unplanned development may be allowed on appeal in the short-term.

2.13 The 2023 Annual Monitoring Report therefore concludes and recommends that:

R1 Substantial progress has been made in implementing the Caerphilly County Borough Local Development Plan, adopted 2010;

R2 Preparation of the 2nd Replacement Local Development Plan should continue, consistent with the processes and timetable set out within the approved Delivery Agreement or subsequent revisions thereof;

R3 In the period up to the adoption of the 2nd Replacement LDP, the Council will continue to address the shortfall in the housing land supply through proactive action, including:

- **Considering proposals for new residential development on their relative planning merits on a site-by-site basis and having due regard for the need to increase the housing land supply in line with national planning policy and guidance;**
- **Lobbying Welsh Government to establish funding mechanisms to incentivise sites in low viability areas and promote remediation of suitable brownfield sites for development;**
- **Utilising innovative funding models to bring forward Council owned sites with viability issues;**
- **Identifying schemes where funding opportunities could be exploited to deliver regeneration projects, including for housing and employment;**
- **Prioritising affordable and new-build Council housing on brownfield sites to help preserve the natural environment;**
- **Working to ensure new housing and other Council-led development schemes comply with high environmental standards to help address the climate emergency.**

3. Contextual Changes

- 3.1 External factors need to be considered as part of the AMR and consideration given to their impact upon the implementation of LDP policy. Therefore by seeking to understand how external factors have impacted on the delivery of the LDP, the Council will gain a better understanding of what it can do to facilitate the implementation of the Plan.
- 3.2 The following section looks specifically at the changes to external factors since publication of the 2022 AMR that have had, or could have, an influence on the implementation of the Plan and therefore on development in the County Borough. These include changes to national policy or legislation; external conditions; and local considerations. The key policy changes are set out below.

Technical Advice Note (TAN) 15: Development, Flooding and Coastal Erosion

- 3.3 It had been the intention of Welsh Government for the updated version of TAN 15 to come into effect, along with the new Flood Map for Planning (FMfP), in June 2023, thereby replacing the previous version as well as the Development Advice Maps (DAMs). However, further consultation on the updated version took place between January and April 2023 which was followed by a written statement from the Minister for Climate Change, postponing publication of the new TAN until an as-yet-unspecified date (likely to be in 2024) due to the scale and complexity of the work involved to analyse consultation responses and make further changes. In terms of planning applications, while it remains the case that the current version of TAN 15 and the DAMs remain in effect, the more up-to-date information contained in the FMfP can be taken into account and regarded as a material consideration.

Conclusion

- 3.4 While the legislative and policy position has remained largely unchanged since publication of the 2022 AMR, the implications for the planning system with respect to flood risk and climate change are acknowledged. It is anticipated that the updated version of TAN 15 will be in effect before the end of the next monitoring period.
- 3.5 It should be noted that the previous AMR made reference to the South Wales Corporate Joint Committee (CJC), which, by the time of its publication, had already been established in law. However, preparation of the Strategic Development Plan (SDP) for the Cardiff Capital Region (CCR) is yet to commence and a number of years are therefore likely to elapse prior to its adoption. It is therefore incumbent upon the Council to continue to progress the 2nd Replacement LDP in order to give local effect to the policies enshrined in Future Wales, and to ensure a sound basis for decisions regarding development up to 2035.

4. Strategic Environmental Assessment/Sustainability Appraisal Monitoring

4.1 The results of the SEA monitoring process are set out in Appendix 2. It should be noted that the monitoring period for the 2023 AMR is 1 April 2022 – 31 March 2023. The findings of the assessment are included in the column headed 2023.

2023 SEA Monitoring Results

4.2 The findings of the SEA monitoring will change from year to year due to small changes derived from the vagaries of development and external factors. Consequently, an overview of the trends and overall picture will provide a more comprehensive and robust analysis of the effects of the LDP than any single year, which effectively will only provide a snapshot at a point in time.

4.3 There are 13 years of AMR results that need to be considered – the 2011 dummy run, AMR results from 2012 to 2022, and the most recently reported results for 2023. The key issues that need to be addressed are changes between 2022 and 2023 (representing the change during the most recent monitoring period), and changes between 2023 and the starting year (representing plan period change).

4.4 The first consideration is the number recorded for each type of result. Table 1 below sets out the SEA monitoring results by type and year:

Comparison of Effects													
	'11	'12	'13	'14	'15	'16	'17	'18	'19	'20	'21	'22	'23
XX	3	0	0	0	2	0	2	1	2	1	1	0	0
X	4	8	5	2	4	4	5	9	5	3	2	7	3
O	2	5	9	7	4	5	4	4	4	8	6	4	8
+	6	6	5	9	6	9	6	4	9	3	3	3	3
++	2	3	3	4	5	4	3	3	1	1	1	1	1
DNA	7	2	1	0	1	0	3	1	1	6	9	7	7
NM	1	1	2	3	3	3	2	3	3	3	3	3	3

Table 1: Comparison of Effects, Results Over Time

4.5 In 2023, no double negatives were recorded;

Three single negatives were recorded:

- **Housing** - the average house price to earnings ratio decreased from 1:6.05 to 1:6.01, though remains some distance from the target of 1:4.4;
- **Employment** – the percentage of working age people in employment fell from 72.3% to 71.9%, as opposed to a UK-wide increase from 74.8% to 75.6%;

- **Waste** – the percentage of municipal waste recycled was 59.68% - above the 40% target but a reduction from the previous year; the average amount of waste per household was 501.54kg – below the 750kg target but an increase on the previous year; and 41.62% of biodegradable waste was diverted from landfill, the remainder being in excess of the 35% target.

4.6 In terms of waste, the AMR targets on municipal recycling rates and waste production per household were comfortably met, and the reduction in the recycling rate is negligible – just over 2%. While the 35% target in diverting biodegradable waste to landfill has yet to be reached, there has been a dramatic reduction in the total tonnage of waste going to landfill – from 4,615 tonnes to 1,027 in the last two years.

4.7 Regarding the other areas where negative scores were realised, the 2nd Replacement LDP will seek to ensure that suitable sites are identified and brought forward for both residential and employment development, which will have a positive impact on those indicators highlighted above.

4.8 As in previous years, only one indicator recorded a double positive result - the protection of geologically important sites, as there has been no loss of land for Regionally Important Geological Sites (RIGS) or geological Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI).

4.9 Three single positives were recorded, relating to:

- Access to leisure facilities (no change in the area of useable land, but an increase in the number of people using leisure centres and playing pitches from 669,162 to 1,425,475;
- Reduction in noise, air, light and odour pollution, and improvement in air quality; and
- Protection and enhancement of important historic assets.

4.10 Appendix 2 sets out the trends of how the objective results have changed over time, and gives an indication of whether they are constant or whether they are changing significantly, and if so in which direction. A number of indicators have switched between positive, neutral and negative over time, sometimes displaying significant annual variation. The results are heavily influenced by single events and variances in the data, which can skew results from one year to another.

Assessment of Recent Changes (2022-23)

4.11 Following a slight shift towards negative effects in 2022, there has been some movement in favour of neutral ones in 2023, although there remain a number of indicators for which data was not available. No double negative scores were realised last year.

Assessment of Long Term Changes (2011-23)

4.12 The long-term comparison indicates a shift towards neutral effects, with four objectives each maintaining or realising positive changes, and three objectives realising negative ones (compared to eight positives and seven negatives in 2011). The positives are:

- **Access to leisure facilities** – the area of useable land per person has increased since 2012, as has the number of people using leisure centres and playing pitches;
- **Air, noise, light and odour pollution** – the number of recorded complaints for noise, light and odour pollution has fallen;
- **Protection of important historic assets** – no planning permission has been granted regarding Historic Parks and Gardens or other historic assets contrary to GGAT/Cadw

advice, and the number of listed buildings on the Buildings at Risk Register reached its lowest point in 2018 and has remained there;

- **Protection of geologically important sites** – no loss of land on sites designated as Regionally Important Geological Sites (RIGS) or geological SSSI.

4.13 The negatives are:

- **Housing** – this is based on the average earnings to house price ratio, which despite not having continued to grow, remains some distance from achieving the target (house prices remain six times average earnings);
- **Employment** – the percentage of working age people in employment fell from 72.3% to 71.9%, as opposed to a UK-wide increase from 74.8% to 75.6%;
- **Waste** – the percentage of municipal waste recycled was above the 40% target but a reduction from the previous year; the average amount of waste per household was below the 750kg target but an increase on the previous year; and the quantity of biodegradable waste is in excess of the 35% target.

Conclusion

4.14 While there has been no reduction in the number of positive effects since the last monitoring period, there has been a shift in favour of neutral effects at the expense of negative ones (the longer-term position shows a shift towards neutral effects against both positive and negative ones). Overall, however, there has been long-term variability and fluctuation, from which it is difficult to identify clear trends. This is due to the site-specific nature of certain indicators, external circumstances and the fact that many indicators are considered relative to national averages.

4.15 Whilst several indicators have shown significant variation since the publication of the first AMR, the position regarding others is also uncertain, due to the number for which data was not available this year. However, a few indicators stand out for particular mention:

- **Housing** – negative in five of the last six years;
- **Employment** – negative for the first time since 2020;
- **Leisure participation** – a return to positive after a negative score last year;
- **Waste** – negative since 2021.

4.16 However, caveats apply. The housing objective is based solely on house prices, not rental values or housing condition. The reduction of working age people in employment is negligible, representing only a 0.4% reduction, and remains higher than the corresponding figure for 2021. In terms of waste, the AMR targets on municipal recycling rates and waste production per household were comfortably met, and the reduction in the recycling rate is, again, negligible – just over 2%. While the 35% target in diverting biodegradable waste to landfill has yet to be reached, there has been a dramatic reduction in the total tonnage of waste going to landfill – from 4,615 tonnes to 1,027 in the last two years.

4.17 Despite this, these are key areas of importance for the 2nd Replacement LDP and will be central to the preparation of that plan, as well as the new integrated sustainability appraisal (ISA) framework that will be developed and utilised parallel to plan preparation itself. This process will seek to give effect in land use terms to complementary initiatives such as the Council's emerging Waste Strategy.

4.18 In terms of the remaining life of the adopted LDP, the Council will seek to continue to address the shortfall in the housing land supply through proactive means, yet ensuring that such proposals are sustainable within the context of local and national environmental policy, including through its role as sustainable drainage approval body (SAB).

5. LDP Monitoring

- 5.1 The 2019 AMR concluded that a review of the LDP was required. To this end, Council resolved in October 2019 to commence a review. Subsequently, a draft Review Report was prepared, which concluded that a revision of the LDP was necessary. The Review Report and accompanying draft Delivery Agreement underwent public consultation between January and March 2021, and approved by Council and Welsh Government in June 2021. Preparation of the 2nd Replacement LDP has, therefore, commenced and is continuing. A formal call for candidate sites took place between 1 July and 31 August 2021, and public consultation on the Pre-Deposit Plan (Preferred Strategy) was held between 19 October and 30 November 2022.
- 5.2 Until such time as the 2nd Replacement LDP is adopted, the Council will continue to use the adopted LDP, in conjunction with Future Wales and national policy and guidance, for the determination of planning applications. Therefore, it remains necessary to understand those adopted LDP policies that are effective, and those that are not.
- 5.3 This section provides a summary of: the results of the policy monitoring exercise; a summary of the triggered policies; and a short assessment of the issue. A recommendation for action for each triggered policy is set out in Appendix 3. Chapter 9 will consider the implications of these results and Chapter 10 will recommend what actions, if any, are necessary.
- 5.4 The statistical information relating to each of the indicators and factors is set out in the AMR Background Tables. These tables do not form part of the AMR and, as a result, they are not included in it. The strategic policies are considered against the monitoring framework to identify if any of the policies are not being implemented in accordance with the development strategy. A summary of the results for each policy are set out in table 2 below:

Strategic Policy Delivery		Performance
SP1	Development in the HOVRA	Green
SP2	Development in the NCC	Green
SP3	Development in the SCC	Grey
SP4	Settlement Strategy	Yellow
SP5	Settlement Boundaries	Yellow
SP6	Place Making	Green
SP7	Planning Obligations	Green
SP8	Minerals Safeguarding	Yellow
SP9	Waste Management	Green
SP10	Conservation of Natural Heritage	Yellow
SP11	Countryside Recreation	Green
SP12	Development of the Valleys Regional Park	Green
SP13	Leisure Centre in the HOVRA	Green
SP14	Total Housing Requirements	Green




Strategic Policy Delivery	Performance
SP15 Affordable Housing Target	
SP16 Managing Employment Growth	
SP17 Promoting Commercial Development	
SP18 Protection of the Strategic Leisure Network	
SP19 Transport Infrastructure Improvement	
SP20 Road Hierarchy	
SP21 Parking Standards	
SP22 Community, Leisure and Education Facilities	
Key	
	<i>Policy is being met or exceeded. No intervention required.</i>
	<i>Policy is not delivering as anticipated but is delivering sufficiently and does not require intervention measures.</i>
	<i>Policy is failing to deliver as anticipated and intervention measures should be considered.</i>

Table 2: Strategic Policy Performance

5.5 As in 2022, a number of strategic policies are not delivering as anticipated. Seven are identified as not requiring action, whilst one (and SP15 – Affordable Housing Target) is deemed as being in need of intervention. In previous years, SP3 – Development in the Southern Connections Corridor – was also regarded as requiring intervention, but the relevant data is unavailable this year (SP3 will be addressed later in the report in any event). However, 13 policies are being delivered in accordance with the strategy, though this includes some for which data, again, was not available.

6. Mandatory Indicators

- 6.1 The LDP Regulations and Development Plans Manual, Edition 3 set out those key indicators that should be included in monitoring frameworks (aside from local, contextual and SEA indicators). However, it was decided for consistency and comparison reasons that the 2016 AMR and subsequent AMRs will continue to include the original mandatory indicators. These indicators are:
- The housing land supply taken from the current Housing Land Availability Study (required by Regulation 37);
 - The number of net additional affordable and general market dwellings built in the LPA's area (required by Regulation 37);
 - The net employment land supply/development (ha/sq m.);
 - The amount of development, including housing, permitted on allocated sites in the development plan as a % of development plan allocations and as % of total development permitted (ha and units);
 - The average density of housing development permitted on allocated development plan sites;
 - The amount of new development (ha) permitted on previously developed land (brownfield redevelopment and conversions) expressed as a percentage of all development permitted;
 - The amount of major retail, office and leisure development (sq. m) permitted in town centres expressed as a percentage of all major development permitted (TAN 4);
 - The amount of development permitted in C1 and C2 floodplain areas not meeting all TAN 15 tests;
 - The amount of greenfield and open space lost to development (ha) which is not allocated in the development plan;
 - The amount of waste management capacity permitted expressed as a percentage of the total capacity required, as identified within the Regional Waste Plan (TAN 21) [not monitored];
 - The extent of primary land-won aggregates permitted in accordance with the Regional Technical Statement for Aggregates expressed as a percentage of the total capacity required as identified in the Regional Technical Statement (MTAN);
 - The capacity of Renewable Energy developments (MW) installed inside Strategic Search Areas by type (TAN 8) [not monitored].
- 6.2 The results for these indicators are set out in the Mandatory Indicators Table in the Background Tables document. There is no requirement for commentary in respect of these indicators.
- 6.3 Following the revocation of TAN 1, the first of the aforementioned indicators (relating to the Housing Land Availability Study) is no longer monitored. The Development Plans Manual now requires that the following indicators are monitored, which relate to the housing trajectory:
- The annual level of housing completions monitored against the anticipated annual build rate (AABR);
 - Total cumulative completions monitored against the anticipated cumulative completions rate.
- 6.4 However, the Manual is clear that for authorities who adopted their LDP prior to the publication of Edition 3, the average annual requirement (AAR) method should be used in preference to the AABR. Therefore, for the remainder of the lifetime of the adopted LDP, the AMR will monitor the two indicators above against the annual and cumulative requirements as specified in the trajectory.

- 6.5 The housing trajectory is set out in Appendix 1. It should be noted that the monitoring year 2020/21 was the last full year of the 15-year plan period. The trajectory, therefore, is included for reference only and no longer provides information on cumulative completions. Data is, however, provided on completions for subsequent years, plus forecast completions for a further five years, as this will form part of the evidence base for the 2nd Replacement LDP.
- 6.6 In accordance with the Development Plans Manual, a Housing Stakeholder Group has been set up to ensure completion figures are recorded correctly and to consider the timing and phasing of allocated LDP sites and sites with planning permission in respect of anticipated annual delivery rates.
- 6.7 Members of the Housing Stakeholder Group were consulted on the site-specific completions figure for 2023 and forecasts for future completions for the next five years in respect of allocated sites and sites with planning permission. The Group agreed the completions figure of 380 units.

7. Community Infrastructure Levy

- 7.1 The community infrastructure levy (CIL) is a system of charges that local authorities can choose to levy against new development in their areas. Different rates of charge are identified for different types of development, dependent upon how viable each type of development is. The revenue generated from CIL is then used to fund infrastructure that will support future planned development in the County Borough. CIL was introduced in the County Borough on 1 July 2014. It is a mandatory charge that is levied against all new qualifying development.
- 7.2 Regulation 62 of the Community Infrastructure Levy Regulations 2010 (as amended) requires a collecting authority (i.e. the Council) to publish an annual report in respect of CIL for every year when CIL receipts have been collected. This report is required to outline:
- The total amount of CIL receipts received;
 - The total amount of CIL receipts spent, including:
 - The amount spent on each item of infrastructure;
 - The amount passed to any local council (town or community council);
 - The amount eligible to be passed to areas not covered by a local council;
 - The amount passed to third parties to provide infrastructure;
 - The amount of CIL receipts recovered from any local council;
 - The total amount of CIL receipts that have been retained at the end of the reporting year;
 - Details of infrastructure payments accepted by the Council.
- 7.3 Given that the reporting period for CIL is the same as that used for the Annual Monitoring Report for the LDP (1 April to 31 March) it makes sense that the Annual CIL Report be incorporated into the Annual Monitoring Report for that year. This will be published on the Council's website in October, in accordance with the requirements for publishing the Annual CIL Report.
- 7.4 Table 3 sets out the summary of CIL receipts and expenditures for the 2022/2023 monitoring period. During this period a total of £255,243.02 in CIL receipts were received by the Council. A total of £18,771.06 was paid to five local councils (i.e. community/town councils) in accordance with the CIL Regulations. In addition to this a further £16,525.87 is being retained for use within those areas of the County Borough that are not covered by local councils:

Local Council	CIL Receipts 2022/2023	Local Council CIL 2022/2023	Outside Local Council coverage 2022/2023	Admin Fees 2022/2023	Surcharges 2022/2023
Aber Valley	£0.00	£0.00		0	
Argoed	£0.00	£0.00		0	
Bargoed	£0.00	£0.00		0	
Bedwas Trethomas & Machen	£57,386.59	£8,607.99		£3,071.83	£4,050.00
Blackwood	£0.00	£0.00		£0.00	
Caerphilly	£0.00	£0.00		£0.00	
Darran Valley	£0.00	£0.00		£0.00	

Local Council	CIL Receipts 2022/2023	Local Council CIL 2022/2023	Outside Local Council coverage 2022/2023	Admin Fees 2022/2023	Surcharges 2022/2023
Draethen, Waterloo & Rudry	£0.00	£0.00		£0.00	
Gelligaer	£0.00	£0.00		£0.00	
Llanbradach & Pwllypant	£0.00	£0.00		£0.00	
Maesycwmmwr	£31,282.23	£4,692.33		£1,659.74	£1,912.50
Nelson	£26,336.87	£3,950.53		£1,316.84	
New Tredegar	£0.00	£0.00		£0.00	
Penyrheol, Trecenydd & Energlyn	£5,811.21	£871.68		£290.56	
Rhymney	£0.00	£0.00		£0.00	
Risca East	£4,323.52	£648.53		£248.05	£637.50
Risca Town	£0.00	£0.00		£0.00	
Van	£0.00	£0.00		£0.00	
Outside CC /TC coverage	£110,172.34		£16,525.87	£6,175.13	£13,330.26
Total 2022/2023	£235,312.76	£18,771.06	£16,525.87	£12,762.20	£19,930.26
Cumulative Total	£4,661,409.55	£572,192.28	£127,019.23	£235,291.64	£44,421.92

Table 3: Community Infrastructure Levy Income and Expenditure Summary

- 7.5 The Council has delegated powers to the Regeneration Project Board to determine the priorities for its CIL spend in line with the Council's Strategic Priorities and CIL Regulation 123 List, for subsequent consideration by Cabinet. The Council has also delegated powers to the Regeneration Project Board to determine the priorities for CIL expenditure under £20,000 in non-community council areas, in consultation with ward member(s).
- 7.6 The Council has allocated £3,546,985 to strategic infrastructure projects, as set out in table 4:

Project	CIL Allocation	Date of Cabinet Decision	Status
Caerphilly Well-being Centre (match funding)	£3,000,000	29/6/22	Committed
Caerphilly Well-being Centre - Preparation of bids for LUF funding	£200,000	29/6/22	Completed
Pontymister Car Park	£46,985	19/10/22	Committed
Bedwas Bridge Highway Scheme	£300,000	14/12/22	Committed

Project	CIL Allocation	Date of Cabinet Decision	Status
Total	£3,546,985.00		

Table 4: Strategic CIL Allocations

7.7 The Council has reached agreement with all local councils that neighbourhood CIL payments will be made to the relevant community/town council by no later than 30 June each year. The relevant payments to the five community/town councils have been completed. Tables 5 and 6 detail any local council payments and spend:

Local Council	Local Council CIL Balance	CIL 2022/2023	CIL Spend 2022/2023	Remaining CIL Balance
Aber Valley	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
Argoed	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
Bargoed	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
Bedwas, Trethomas and Machen	£89,687.94	£8,607.99	£1,645.82	£96,650.11
Blackwood	£69,498.65	£0.00	£0.00	£69,498.65
Caerphilly	£18,072.45	£0.00	£8,328.31	£9,744.14
Darran Valley	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
Draethen, Waterloo and Rudry	£779.14	£0.00	£779.14	£0.00
Gelligaer	£7,627.77	£0.00	£3,315.86	£4,311.91
Llanbradach and Pwllpant	£85.75	£0.00	£85.75	0.00
Maesycwmmmer	£3,832.91	£4,692.33	£0.00	£8,525.24
Nelson	£0.00	£3,950.53	£0.00	£3,950.53
New Tredegar	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
Penyrheol, Trecenydd and Energlyn	£149,461.01	£871.68	£8,436.00	£141,896.69
Rhymney	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
Risca East	£6,864.60	£648.53	£6,864.60	£648.53
Risca Town	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
Van	£7576.94	£0.00	£302.69	£7,274.25
TOTAL	£353,487.16	£18,771.06	£29,758.17	£341,202.99

Table 5: Local Council CIL Payments and Spend

Local Council	Project	CIL spend
Bedwas, Trethomas and Machen	Knee rail at Sub Zero	£1,333.33
	Hedgehog Highway	£157.50
	Queens Jubilee Plaque	£154.99
	Total	£1,645.82
Caerphilly	Vehicle activated speed signs at Cwrt Rawlin Primary School	£5,828.31
	Public Toilets door entry equipment at Caerphilly Station	£2,500.00
	Total	£8,328.31
Draethen, Waterloo & Rudry	Defibrillator at Rudry School	£779.14
	Total	£779.14
Gelligaer	Hanging Baskets and Planters	£1,049.93
	Rail Planters x 3	£504.36
	Cigarette Bins x 2	£916.07
	Rail Planters x 6	£845.50
	Total	£3,315.86
Llanbradach	Repairs to picnic table at Llanbradach	£85.75
	Total	£85.75
Penyrheol, Trecenydd & Energlyn	Road markings at Penyrheol	£360.00
	2 bus stops in Hendredenny	£8,076.00
	Total	£8436
Risca East	Picnic tables at Risca Park, including concrete plinths	£6,864.60
	Total	£6,864.60
Van	Planting equipment	£302.69
	Total	£302.69

Table 6: Details of Local Council Spend 2022/23

7.8 Tables 7 and 8 details any payments and spend within areas that are not covered by local councils:

Ward	Ward CIL Balance	CIL 2021/2022	CIL Spend 2021/2022	Remaining CIL Balance
Abercarn	£570.00	£685.10	£0.00	£1,255.10
Crumlin	£5,151.34	£12,006.12	£0.00	£17,157.46

Ward	Ward CIL Balance	CIL 2021/2022	CIL Spend 2021/2022	Remaining CIL Balance
Newbridge	£1,580.35	£1,573.47	£0.00	£3,153.82
Cefn Fforest & Pengam	£11,196.91	£0.00	£0.00	£11,196.91
Penmaen	£60,109.64	£0.00	-£60,000	£109.64
Pontllanfraith	£25,776.00	£0.00	£0.00	£25,776.00
Crosskeys	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
Ynysddu	£6,109.12	£2,261.18	£0.00	£8,370.30
TOTAL	£110,493.36	£16,525.87	-£60,000.00	£67,019.23

Table 7: Wards with no Local Council Coverage - CIL Payments and Spend

Ward	Project	CIL Allocation	Date of Cabinet Decision	Status
Penmaen	Car parking provision at Oakdale Sports Pavilion	£60,000	29/6/22	Initial investigations ongoing
	Total	£60,000		

Table 8: Details of allocations in areas with no Local Council

- 7.9 In accordance with the CIL Regulations, the Council has taken £12,762.20 of the CIL receipts in admin fees to assist in covering the cost of implementing and operating the CIL. The admin fees amount to 5% of the total CIL receipts for the year.
- 7.10 It can be confirmed that no infrastructure payments have been received in lieu of CIL and no CIL receipts have been passed to third parties to provide infrastructure. As a result, the remaining amount of CIL receipts available for expenditure on infrastructure items is £291,362.55.
- 7.11 Use of the accumulated CIL receipts will be a key element of the funding proposals for the implementation of the Council's Wellbeing and Place Shaping framework.

8. Commuted Sums and Financial Payments within Section 106 Agreements

- 8.1 As part of the monitoring of policy SP7, data is collected on the number of applications where a section 106 agreement has been signed, requiring the provision of physical infrastructure and/or financial contributions needed to make a development acceptable in planning terms. This section sets out the financial contributions that have been secured during the 2022/23 monitoring year through the signing of section 106 agreements, together with information on the contributions that the Council has received from section 106 payments and commuted sums.
- 8.2 Table 9 sets out the amount of money secured through section 106 agreements in respect of financial payments and commuted sums. A commuted sum is a one-off payment of capital as a contribution towards the future maintenance of eligible assets to be adopted for the lifetime of the development. The rationale for seeking commuted sums for future maintenance and associated works is to ensure that the local authority has the financial resource to cover the upkeep and replacement of assets they adopt from developers.

Site	Payment type	Number of units	Amount Secured
Former Caerphilly Police Station, Mountain Road, Caerphilly	Transport contribution	45	£15,000
Plots 1-5 Ty Penywaun, Brynhoward Terrace, Oakdale	Off-site housing contribution	5	£67,512
Total			£82,512

Table 9: Commuted sums and financial payments agreed within a signed section 106 agreement

- 8.3 Table 10 sets out the amount received by the Council during 2022/23 for financial contributions agreed as part of section 106 agreements, and money received as commuted sums for highways operations:

Site	Payment type	Service Area	Amount Received
Y Cedrwydden, Blackwood	Commuted sum	Highways (block pavers)	£45,266.92
Mill Street, Risca	Commuted sum	Highways (drainage/culvert)	£20,448.51
Total			£65,715.43

Table 10: Commuted sums and S106 financial payments received

- 8.4 In January 2019, it became a requirement for new developments over 100 sq m to apply to the Council in its capacity as the sustainable drainage approval body (SAB) for the approval and adoption of drainage systems. As part of this, commuted sums would normally be required for the ongoing maintenance of these drainage systems. Table 11 sets out the amount received as commuted sums for the maintenance of sustainable drainage systems (SuDS):

Site	Payment type	Number of units	Amount Received
Chartist Garden Village (former Ty Pontllanfraith), Pontllanfraith	Commuted sum	125	£651,825
Albertina Road, Newbridge	Commuted sum	2	£9,104

Table 11: Commuted sums received for the maintenance of SuDS

9. Assessment Conclusions

- 9.1 The LDP Manual states “All LPAs with an adopted LDP are required to prepare an AMR...AMRs must be approved by the LPA and submitted to Welsh Government by 31 October of the respective year...The AMR should assess the extent to which the plan’s strategy and key policies, sites and infrastructure requirements are being delivered. Each AMR will be based on the results and commentary of the preceding year. This will enable trends to become clear, with more refined commentary and analysis. It will then be clear how policies and proposals are delivering year on year.”
- 9.2 This chapter considers the results of the monitoring exercise and identifies the policies that are not being implemented and the reasons why.

Are the LDP Objectives Being Achieved?

- 9.3 The Adopted LDP includes 24 objectives, which contribute towards the achievement of the Aims set out in the plan. The full list of the objectives, and their relative performance, is set out in Appendix 4.
- 9.4 Of the 24 objectives set out in the plan, 12 are being delivered as expected. Nine have made progress but are not being delivered as anticipated in the development strategy, while three are assessed as failing to deliver. Whilst the poor economic climate prevalent in the early part of the plan period depressed activity in the development industry as well as other commercial sectors, the impact of Brexit, the Covid-19 pandemic and the following macro-economic difficulties have been, and continue to be, the major global influences of the latter years of the plan. These factors, taken in the round over the lifetime of the plan, are likely to have had a detrimental effect on residential, commercial and employment development.
- 9.5 Objective 9 concerns housing delivery. The housing trajectory in Appendix 1 shows that, during the plan period, the number of dwellings constructed each year was consistently below the annual average requirement (AAR) of 575 dwellings per annum since 2008/09. The economic crash and subsequent recession had a significant impact on housebuilding across the County Borough and build rates did not recover to the levels delivered at the start of the plan period.
- 9.6 By the end of 2020/21, the cumulative total of dwellings that had been developed was considerably lower than the number of dwellings that the plan made provision for based on a straight-line AAR trajectory of 575 dwellings per annum. At that point, it would have been assumed that 8,625 dwellings would have been constructed. However, only 5,588 had been built, equating to 65% of the housing requirement. This represented a shortfall of 3,037 dwellings, or 35% below what should have been delivered.
- 9.7 In 2022/23, 380 units had been completed, an increase from the 303 in the previous year and significantly lower than the AAR previously employed by the housing trajectory. This includes development of sites such as Pandy Road, Bedwas; Hendredenny, Caerphilly; and Hawtin Park, Pontllanfraith, as well as housing association sites such as Winding Wheel Lane, Penallta; and Wingfield Crescent, Llanbradach.
- 9.8 Forecast completions are anticipated to drop to 226 in 2023/24, reflecting the development that is currently in progress, then variably increase and decrease in future years, though housing completions will then be monitored against the anticipated annual build rate [AABR] following adoption of the 2nd Replacement LDP. There is inevitably a degree of uncertainty

regarding any trajectory, especially given the backdrop of any potential long-term effects of Covid-19 and Brexit, as well as continuing inflationary pressure and a forecast of low economic growth, all of which will have implications for housing delivery. Whilst the forecast figures have been agreed by the Housing Stakeholder Group, it is acknowledged that they can only be an estimate at a given point in time.

- 9.9 Objective 17, relating to the County Borough's role as a commercial and employment centre, and objective 18 (providing and protecting a diverse portfolio of employment land for a variety of employment uses), have also been identified as not delivering, on the grounds of minimal take-up and a very low level of permissions having been granted during the monitoring period. The LDP has been relatively successful in respect of the development of employment sites and it is therefore not surprising that only a few sites remain. However, it is important that opportunities are explored through the development plan process to ensure that there will be a diverse portfolio of sites available in the future to support the County Borough's strategic position in respect of employment and commercial development, especially given its position within the national growth area as specified in Future Wales.
- 9.10 The position regarding objectives 9, 17 and 18 remains unchanged since 2019. It would be unrealistic to expect a development plan to deliver all of its objectives consistently and constantly through any plan period as external factors and fluctuations in development pressures will lead to anomalies. Given the economic climate has influenced development throughout the plan period (post adoption), it is not surprising that a number of the indicators have not been delivered as expected.
- 9.11 Whilst it largely remains the case that the LDP continues to meet its objectives, it should be borne in mind that SEA monitoring indicates a 'mixed bag' of positive and negative effects. There is, as noted, a high degree of variability regarding those indicators as well as the fact that they monitor social, economic and cultural effects as well as environmental ones.
- 9.12 Overall, the plan is generally being implemented successfully. However, the rate at which new housing is being delivered, and new economic and commercial development is taking place, remains low and requires intervention.

Are LDP Policies Being Implemented?

- 9.13 Table 3, in Chapter 5, sets out the performance of the strategic policies in meeting the LDP objectives. 13 of the 22 strategic policies have been recorded as delivering in accordance with the strategy.
- 9.14 Seven are identified as not delivering as anticipated but not requiring action. These are:
- SP4: Settlement Strategy
- 9.15 This indicator has triggered for the last few years due to forces beyond the LDP's control, rather than as a result of the policy failing. This situation has not worsened – consumer spending data, as measured by the most recent Shopper Attitude Survey, shows little change, thereby indicating resilience, and resident satisfaction is a mixed picture, where it has increased in Caerphilly, Risca and (marginally) Ystrad Mynach and declined in Bargoed and (significantly) Blackwood.
- 9.16 Commercial vacancy rates have not changed significantly in recent years, with the exception of Bargoed where the increase has been sufficient to trigger the indicator. In each of the five

town centres, vacancy rates fell last year albeit by a small margin. Although not back to pre-pandemic levels, footfall has again increased over the last twelve months and the County Borough's town centres continue to demonstrate their resilience.

SP5: Settlement Boundaries

- 9.17 SP5 sets the policy framework for the designation of settlement boundaries that aim to define where development would normally be allowed, to promote the full and effective use of urban land, prevent the coalescence of settlements and prevent inappropriate development in the countryside.
- 9.18 The policy has just one indicator that monitors the number of applications for urban forms of development (those not listed in Policy CW15, criterion C) that are permitted outside of the designated settlement boundaries. It should be noted that the trigger for this indicator is an absolute figure (zero permissions), to ensure that monitoring does not become too onerous to be effective, and has to occur consistently for three years.
- 9.19 The policy triggered in the 2017 AMR for the first time as urban forms of development had been located outside of settlement boundaries. Whilst the approval of applications outside of the settlement boundary is a matter of concern, these have primarily been linked to the housing land supply issue rather than a failure of the settlement boundary as a mechanism to prevent inappropriate development in the countryside.

SP8: Minerals Safeguarding

- 9.20 This policy seeks to ensure that the County Borough continues to produce its minerals requirements by safeguarding reserves and maintaining a 10-year land bank. This policy has triggered on one of its two indicators, relating to the yearly production of aggregates (based on usage) averaged across a three-year period. This Indicator has triggered in every AMR except 2016 and 2018, where the data for its monitoring was not available.
- 9.21 The indicator, and its trigger values, was set against prevailing production and consumption patterns that existed prior to the economic downturn and, therefore, the trigger values reflect more commercially buoyant times. The economic downturn has had the effect of significantly reducing demand for minerals and, given that the supply of minerals closely mirrors the demand for it, the production of minerals has also significantly reduced below the trigger level for the policy (though it has increased in each of the last two years). The Council's landbank is 41 years as of the most recent (2020) annual report, meaning that the policy is being delivered as anticipated, although the demand for minerals has reduced.

SP10: Conservation of Natural Heritage

- 9.22 This policy seeks to protect, conserve and enhance the natural heritage of the County Borough, and is monitored through five factors that address different designations of landscape quality and natural heritage protection. Two of these factors address natural heritage issues, one related to loss of SSSI land (no loss recorded) and one considered the loss of SINCLNR land. All of the factors under this policy have the ambitious trigger level of no loss of asset. These triggers are absolute and make no consideration for the nature of the proposed development (taking account of such each year would make the monitoring process excessively onerous). As a result, any development that affects the asset will trigger the policy.

- 9.23 The two proposals for which permission has been granted include the development of a visitor centre for Parc Penallta and retention of a residential garden. It is not considered that these permissions would result in harm.

SP16: Managing Employment Growth

- 9.24 This policy makes provision for economic growth during the plan period, identifying the amount of land allocated for employment through a range of employment sites. This policy is monitored through four indicators, two of which have triggered.
- 9.25 33.3% of employees are now recorded as being in part-time employment, which is slightly above the trigger level of 30% and a slight increase since last year. However, this reflects the norm for the plan period of the adopted LDP, where the percentage has been over 30% every year with the exception of 2022. By way of comparison, the corresponding figures for Wales and Great Britain are 35% and 31.9% respectively.
- 9.26 SP2 considers the take-up of land on allocated (EM1) employment sites for all uses, whereas SP16 considers the overall development of EM1 land for just class B uses. While no development has taken place in this monitoring period, 15.90 ha worth of permissions were granted on allocated and protected employment sites, an increase from the 5.74 ha in the year previous. Whilst the low rate of development for business uses is concerning, land does remain available in the County Borough, both for short-term opportunities and redevelopment proposals on existing sites.
- 9.27 It is anticipated that this low rate of development is as a result of external factors (Brexit, Covid, market conditions) rather than a sign of the policy failing. As was stated in previous AMRs, however, it is accepted that there is a need to address the County Borough's portfolio of employment land through the preparation of the 2nd Replacement LDP, as discussed in the following chapter.

SP17: Promoting Commercial Development

- 9.28 This policy is monitored through three factors, one of which has been triggered. The monitoring considers employment levels in commercial services, which have remained consistently above 40% for the last few years.
- 9.29 Also monitored is the level of commercial development on allocated sites (principal town and local centre development sites [CM4] and commercial opportunity areas [CM5]). There has been no take-up of CM5 sites since 2014, and no development of CM4 allocations since 2018. However, over 60% of CM4 sites (in terms of area) have been developed during the plan period, with planning permission having expired in other cases due to market-related factors. Whilst very little B1 development has taken place in commercial opportunity areas, they do contain existing town centre uses and this does not, by itself, imply failure of the policy when taken against the additional considerations referred to.

SP18: Protection of the Strategic Leisure Network

- 9.30 This policy seeks to maintain the existing leisure network, protecting it from inappropriate development. This is monitored through two indicators, one of which has triggered – as was the case in previous years. This indicator relates to the number of new play areas that have been delivered through S106 agreements.

- 9.31 The trigger level was set during more buoyant economic times. At the time of establishing the trigger point a number of facilities were delivered through S106 obligations tied to planning permissions, generally in conjunction with residential development. The reduction in new provision reflects the economic conditions and the low housing delivery rates, rather than providing an indication that the policy is failing.
- 9.32 This is further borne out by the fact that no play areas, and only small areas of informal open space, have been lost to development since the adoption of the LDP. This indicates that the policy is protecting the strategic leisure network.
- 9.33 Whilst the above policies are not delivering the objectives as anticipated, they are largely being affected by external factors that the adopted LDP has no control over. As a result, these policies are not considered to be failing.
- 9.34 One policy is identified as not delivering and requires intervention:

SP15: Affordable Housing Target

- 9.35 A further 32 affordable units have been delivered since the previous AMR. The 25% area has not triggered in the last three years. However, delivery rates in the 10% and 40% areas are both insufficient, at 0% and 53% respectively. This represents a decline since the previous year, in both cases. In addition, the 0% area has triggered for the first time since 2017, with 21.1% of all units here being affordable – considerably more than required.
- 9.36 Average house prices continue to rise which, when assessed against the 2009 Viability Study base level, will trigger that indicator.
- 9.37 Despite the rate of affordable housing delivery increasing in 2020 and remaining fairly consistent since then, only just over one third of the target identified within the LDP has been delivered. Whilst this is due to prevailing economic conditions in the earlier part of the plan period which impacted on overall housing delivery and viability, it still remains a matter of concern.
- 9.38 One policy was previously identified as requiring intervention, for which data is not available this year:

SP3: Development in the SCC

- 9.39 The strategy in the SCC seeks to consolidate development on brownfield land within existing settlement boundaries. A total of 76.9% of all development within settlement limits in this part of the County Borough was on brownfield land during 2021/22. In addition, 86% of total development within the SCC was on brownfield land over the same period. The 2022 AMR showed an increase in the number of housing completions on brownfield sites compared to the previous year, rising to 59.9% but still down on the 61% in 2019. This remained below the 88% trigger point and was due to ongoing development of greenfield sites such as the Pandy Road, Bedwas and Hendredenny, Caerphilly developments that were granted on appeal in previous years.
- 9.40 Whilst this issue concerns the SCC due to the location of those sites permitted on appeal, it is pertinent to the rest of the County Borough within the context of housing delivery more widely, as will be evident if and when other greenfield sites become the subject of housing applications, and possibly appeals. Conversely, while it is possible that the percentage of development taking place on brownfield land could increase (data availability permitting), this

could be accounted for by those greenfield sites that were the subject of developer interest having already been dealt with by the planning system and, in that regard, may not indicate a resolution of the issue of housing land availability.

- 9.41 Whilst TAN 1 was revoked in its entirety in March 2020, paragraph 6.2 of TAN 1, which regarded the five-year housing land supply as a material consideration in the determination of planning applications, was disapplied in 2018, instead putting the onus on “decision makers (i.e. local authorities) to determine the weight to be attributed to the need to increase housing land supply where a LPA has a shortfall”. This was noted in previous AMRs and gave rise to the recommendation that the Council should continue to proactively address the shortfall in housing delivery.
- 9.42 Research undertaken in respect of appeal decisions elsewhere in Wales by the planning consultancy Lichfields highlights that, since 2020, housing delivery remains an important consideration. In each of the cases looked at, the inspector has not rejected the housing need case, despite the requirement to demonstrate a five-year housing land supply having been revoked.
- 9.43 Planning and Environment Decisions Wales (formerly the Planning Inspectorate) continues to take the view that the under-delivery of housing remains a material consideration which needs to be taken into account in the determination of planning applications. Matters to be considered in determining the weight to be attributed to under-delivery include:
- The extent of the shortfall;
 - The length of time there has been a shortfall;
 - How soon the Council will be able to demonstrate through an adopted LDP that it will meet the area’s housing need.

10. Recommendations

- 10.1 This chapter addresses the steps that the Council intends to take to secure the implementation of the policies, and highlights the ongoing preparation of the 2nd Replacement LDP. It identifies any changes to parts of the plan that will need to be considered.
- 10.2 Previous AMRs have acknowledged that, despite substantial progress having been made in implementing the adopted LDP, a review of the LDP has taken place and preparation of the 2nd Replacement LDP has commenced. They recommended that the Council should continue to address the shortfall in the housing land supply through proactive means, including:
- Considering proposals for new residential development on their relative planning merits on a site-by-site basis and having due regard for the need to increase the housing land supply in line with national planning policy and guidance;
 - Lobbying Welsh Government to establish funding mechanisms to incentivise sites in low viability areas and promote remediation of suitable brownfield sites for development;
 - Utilising innovative funding models to bring forward Council-owned sites with viability issues;
 - Identifying schemes where funding opportunities could be exploited to deliver regeneration projects, including for housing and employment;
 - Prioritising affordable and new-build Council housing on brownfield sites to help preserve the natural environment;
 - Working to ensure new housing and other Council-led development schemes comply with high environmental standards to help address the climate emergency.
- 10.3 The Review Report and accompanying draft Delivery Agreement were made subject to public consultation between January and March 2021, and approved by Council, and subsequently Welsh Government, in June 2021, thereby committing the Council to the plan preparation timetable contained therein. A formal call for candidate sites took place between 1 July and 31 August 2021, and public consultation on the Pre-Deposit Plan (Preferred Strategy) took place between 19 October and 30 November 2022.

Housing

- 10.4 The AMR has again identified that one policy – SP15 (Affordable Housing Target) – and one objective (9: Ensure an adequate and appropriate range of housing sites are available in the most suitable locations) are not being delivered and require intervention.
- 10.5 It has not been possible for the adopted LDP to achieve its target of 8,625 dwellings, and at least 964 affordable dwellings, with the 15 year plan period elapsing at the end of 2021. However, the adopted LDP remains in effect until such time as the 2nd Replacement Plan is adopted. By the end of 2020/21, the number of completions was over 3,000 behind the cumulative average annual requirement (AAR) as set out in the housing trajectory.
- 10.6 Whilst the preparation of an up-to-date LDP is the appropriate means of addressing the housing shortfall in the medium to long term, the 2RLDP is in the early stages of preparation. Therefore, as in previous years, there remains a need to increase the housing land supply in the short term, utilising a number of direct interventions.
- 10.7 The under-delivery of housing will remain a material consideration in the determination of planning applications, and inspectors will continue to regard it as a significant material consideration, despite the revocation of TAN 1. Therefore, the previous recommendation

that proposals for residential development should be considered on their relative merits on a site-by-site basis, having regard to the need to increase the housing land supply, remains valid. The introduction in 2021 of Future Wales, and the implications for the County Borough of being part of a 'national growth area', are of key importance. Future Wales, as the highest level of the development plan in Wales, therefore has a direct role in the determination of planning applications.

- 10.8 The Council continues to attempt to increase the number of sites that are regarded as developable, and to this end, the recommendations made in previous AMRs remain appropriate. The Council continues to work closely with Welsh Government and the Cardiff Capital Region City Deal (CCRCD) to access funding mechanisms for the appropriation of brownfield sites and to incentivise sites in less viable areas, where remediation costs and the lack of viability are the two major barriers to development. Clearly, these will be vital considerations in the context of the preparation of the 2nd Replacement LDP, as all sites put forward will be required to demonstrate deliverability during the lifetime of that plan. In addition any assistance that can be offered by Welsh Government and CCRCD in terms of land reclamation and helping developers overcome viability gaps will be beneficial in terms of delivering a sustainable and geographically equitable LDP strategy.
- 10.9 In addition, the Council will continue to utilise innovative housing models to stimulate development for Caerphilly Homes and will continue to work with its RSL partners to bring forward sites that would otherwise not be developed. It will also continue to work proactively with the registered social landlords that operate within the County Borough to identify windfall and small sites suitable for the development of affordable housing.

Commercial and Employment

- 10.10 Objective 17, which concerns Caerphilly County Borough's role as a commercial and employment centre, and objective 18 (providing and protecting a diverse portfolio of employment land for a variety of employment uses) have again been identified as not delivering due to minimal take-up of employment land and the low level of permissions granted during the monitoring period. Mandatory indicator M3 shows that 38.4 ha of allocated employment land have been developed since the start of the plan period, just over a third of all employment land allocated in the LDP.
- 10.11 The adopted LDP allocates three employment sites in the Caerphilly Basin. To date, one of these sites has been built out (Western Industrial Estate) and a further site (Caerphilly Business Park) has been partially developed. Land availability within the Caerphilly Basin is, therefore, very limited. Whilst there is some opportunity for redevelopment on existing industrial estates, the lack of any significant sites for employment growth is a concern from a strategic and long-term perspective.
- 10.12 Masterplans for four areas within the County Borough (Caerphilly Basin, Ystrad Mynach, the Heads of the Valleys and the Lower Ebbw and Sirhowy Valleys) have been approved as supplementary planning guidance to the LDP, with the Greater Blackwood Masterplan being developed. These set out proposals for employment space; residential development; integrated transport hubs; business incubation and entrepreneurship; town centre regeneration; and tourism and cultural development. Whilst it is anticipated that initial investment will act as a catalyst, it is important that land is identified to complement and promote these objectives. Land availability is, therefore, a critical issue and the 2RLDP is the most appropriate means of addressing this.
- 10.13 Employment land does remain in the Mid Valleys Corridor and Heads of the Valleys, including Oakdale where Welsh Government is investing in infrastructure provision, as well as land

suitable for redevelopment on existing estates. However, the range of available sites needed to meet future business needs, and the policy framework that complements the portfolio of sites set out in the LDP will be a key area for the ongoing plan preparation process to address, especially in light of the County Borough's position within the Cardiff, Newport and the Valleys 'national growth area'.

Expiry of the Adopted LDP

- 10.14 In September 2020, the (then) Minister for Housing and Local Government issued clarification in respect of LDP expiry dates, stating that LDPs adopted prior to 4 January 2016 "will remain the LDP for determining planning applications until replaced by a further LDP." Whilst this eliminates the possibility of a local policy vacuum until such time as the 2nd Replacement LDP is adopted, it does not change the position regarding housing delivery highlighted in previous AMRs. Pressure will remain on the Council to grant permission for development in locations that may be contrary to the adopted LDP as a result of the continued under-delivery of housing, and this is an issue that Planning and Environment Decisions Wales will continue to regard as a significant material consideration when considering appeals of this nature.

Preparation of a SDP

- 10.15 Strategic Development Plans (SDPs) are intended to provide a robust framework for the delivery of the land use implications of existing City Deal proposals and to allow larger than local issues such as housing, employment and infrastructure, which cut across LPA boundaries, to be considered in an integrated and comprehensive way. The Planning (Wales) Act 2015 sets out the process for preparing a SDP.

- 10.16 Future Wales sets out those matters that a SDP should establish for its region:

- Spatial strategy;
- Settlement hierarchy;
- Housing provision and requirement;
- Gypsy and traveller need;
- Employment provision;
- Spatial areas for strategic housing, employment growth and renewable energy;
- Identification of green belts, green corridors and nationally important landscapes where required;
- Location of key services, transport and connectivity infrastructure;
- Framework for the sustainable management of natural resources and cultural assets;
- Ecological networks and opportunities for protecting or enhancing the connectivity of those networks and the provision of green infrastructure;
- Co-ordinated framework for mineral extraction and the circular economy, including waste treatment and disposal.

- 10.17 Regulations concerning the establishment of corporate joint committees (CJCs) and the preparation of SDPs have come into effect. The South East Wales CJC will comprise elected representatives of the ten local authorities (plus, for SDP purposes, the Brecon Beacons National Park) and will be responsible for preparing the region's SDP (previously the responsibility of the Strategic Planning Panel). The CJC will be responsible for its own budget and staff and will have subsidiary powers in relation to the exercise of its functions, as well as the economic well-being function set out in the Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021 (anything which it considers is likely to promote or improve the economic well-being of its area).

10.18 Whilst the new South East Wales CJC has been established in law, SDP preparation is yet to commence and it will not be adopted until the 2nd Replacement LDP is in place. It is therefore incumbent upon the Council to continue to progress the 2nd Replacement LDP, including for those matters which will ultimately be dealt with at the regional level by the SDP.

Conclusion

10.19 Preparation of the 2nd Replacement LDP fulfils one of the recommendations in previous AMRs. An earlier resolution was to seek the early commencement of a SDP. Whilst some time has elapsed, the necessary legislative and regulatory elements are in place to allow this to proceed, though SDP preparation is yet to commence. The adopted LDP will remain in effect for the purpose of determining planning applications until such time as the 2nd Replacement LDP is adopted.

10.25 In large part, the adopted LDP has been successful in terms of delivery of its objectives, as well as the policies that seek to give effect to its strategic approach. However, challenges remain. The lack of a five-year housing land supply in the past has led to pressures which have been clearly manifested through new greenfield development in the Southern Connections Corridor. Nonetheless, the under-delivery of housing remains a significant issue and, despite the revocation of TAN 1, continues to be taken seriously by planning inspectors through the appeals process. Therefore, those proactive measures identified in previous AMRs continue to be valid. Also, there remain concerns regarding the availability of employment land to fulfil aspirations for economic growth, and to meet the needs of business. The 2nd Replacement LDP is the most appropriate means of addressing these issues in terms of site allocations and land portfolios, as well as the accompanying policy implementation, within the context of the national policy framework set by Future Wales, and the County Borough's position within the 'national growth area'.

10.26 The 2023 AMR concludes and recommends that:

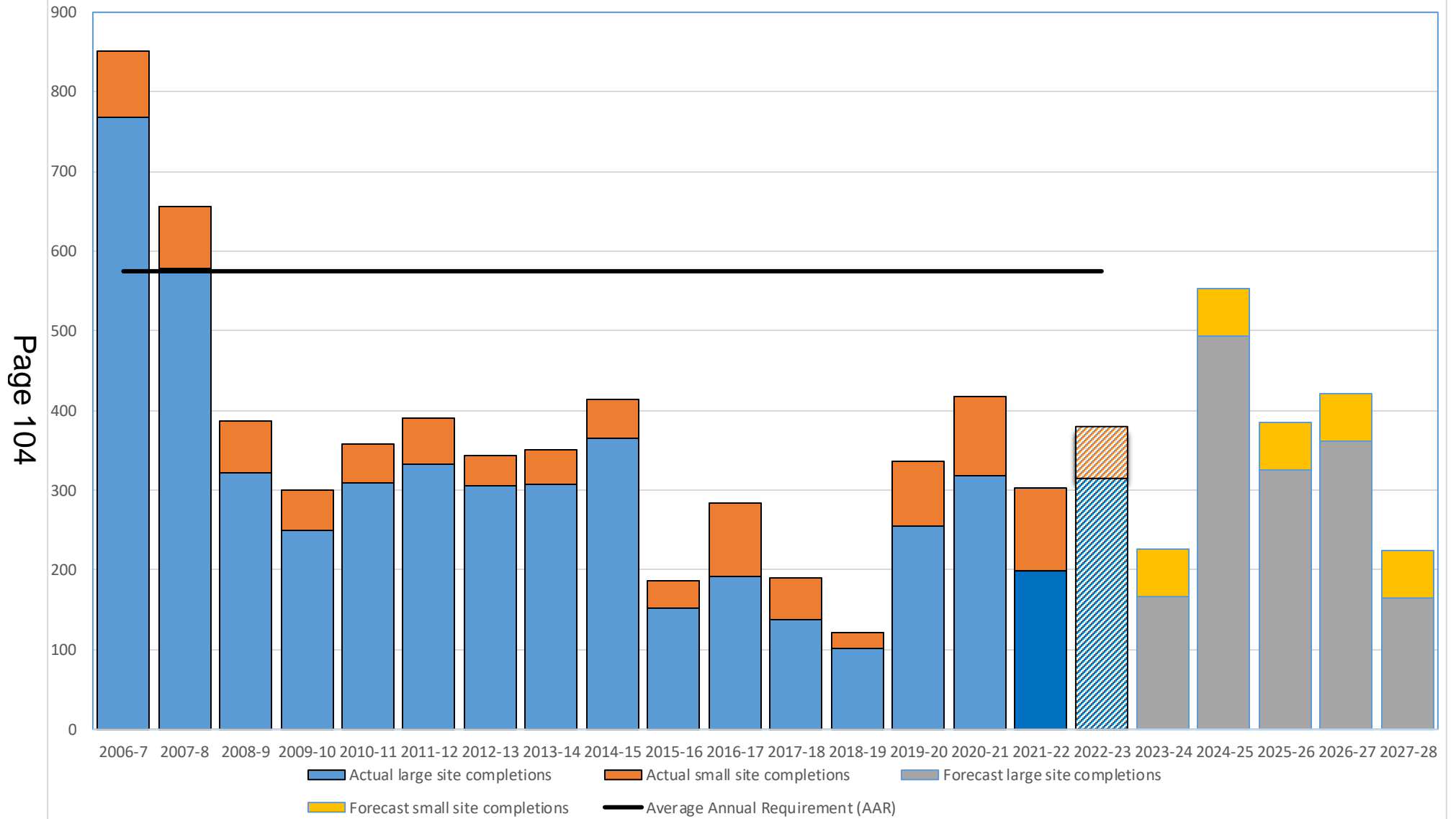
- R1 Substantial progress has been made in implementing the Caerphilly County Borough Local Development Plan, adopted 2010;**
- R2 Preparation of the 2nd Replacement Local Development Plan should continue, consistent with the processes and timetable set out within the approved Delivery Agreement or subsequent revisions thereof;**
- R3 In the period up to the adoption of the 2nd Replacement LDP, the Council will continue to address the shortfall in the housing land supply through proactive action, including:**
 - **Considering proposals for new residential development on their relative planning merits on a site-by-site basis and having due regard for the need to increase the housing land supply in line with national planning policy and guidance;**
 - **Lobbying Welsh Government to establish funding mechanisms to incentivise sites in low viability areas and promote remediation of suitable brownfield sites for development;**
 - **Utilising innovative funding models to bring forward Council owned sites with viability issues;**
 - **Identifying schemes where funding opportunities could be exploited to deliver regeneration projects, including for housing and employment;**
 - **Prioritising affordable and new-build Council housing on brownfield sites to help preserve the natural environment;**

- **Working to ensure new housing and other Council-led development schemes comply with high environmental standards to help address the climate emergency.**

Appendix 1: Housing Trajectory

	06-07	07-08	08-09	09-10	10-11	11-12	12-13	13-14	14-15	15-16	16-17	17-18	18-19	19-20	20-21	21-22	22-23
Remaining Years	15	14	13	12	11	10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	0	0
Total recorded completions	852	656	387	300	358	390	344	351	414	187	284	190	122	336	417	303	380
Annual requirement (based on straight line AAR)	575	575	575	575	575	575	575	575	575	575	575	575	575	575	575	575	575
Difference between actual completions and AAR	277	81	-188	-275	-217	-185	-231	-224	-161	-388	-291	-385	-453	-239	-158	-272	-195
Percentage difference	48.2	14.1	-32.7	-47.8	-37.7	-32.2	-40.2	-39.0	-28.0	-67.5	-50.6	-67.0	-78.8	-41.6	-27.5	-47	-34
Actual recorded completions on large sites during year	768	578	322	249	310	333	306	307	365	152	191	137	102	256	319	199	315
Actual recorded completions on small sites during year	84	78	65	51	48	57	38	44	49	35	93	53	20	80	98	104	65
Cumulative completions	852	1,508	1,895	2,195	2,553	2,943	3,287	3,638	4,052	4,239	4,523	4,713	4,835	5,171	5,588		
Cumulative requirement (AAR)	575	1,150	1,725	2,300	2,875	3,450	4,025	4,600	5,175	5,750	6,325	6,900	7,475	8,050	8,625		
Difference between cumulative completions and cumulative AAR	277	358	170	-105	-322	-507	-738	-962	-1,123	-1,511	-1,802	-2,187	-2,640	-2,879	-3,037		
Percentage difference	48.2	31.1	9.9	-4.6	-11.2	-14.7	-18.3	-20.9	-21.7	-26.3	-28.5	-31.7	-35.3	-35.8	-35.2		

Housing Trajectory (15 year plan period plus 7 years)



Forecast Completions – Five Years beyond Plan Period

	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28
Allocated sites - units under construction at 1st April 2023	8					
Windfall sites - units under construction at 1st April 2023	157					
Forecast completions - LDP sites		3	99	131	76	50
Forecast completions - Windfall sites		163	395	195	285	115
Forecast completions – Small sites		60	60	60	60	60
Total Forecast completions		*226	554	386	421	225

*Assumes units under construction in 22/23 will be included as completions in 23/24

Timing and Phasing of Allocated Sites

LDP Ref	Site Name	Settlement	LDP capacity	Plan App site capacity	Units remaining	Total Completed (as of 1st April 2023)	U/C	23-24	24-25	25-26	26-27	27-28	Beyond 5 years
HG 1.01	Land to the South of Merthyr Road	Princetown	140	140	138	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	138
HG 1.02	Land East of Llechryd Bungalow	Llechryd	39	39	39	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	39
HG 1.04	Lower Hill Street	Rhymney	10	8	8	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	8
HG 1.05	Maerdy Garage adj to Maerdy House	Rhymney	16	15	14	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	14
HG 1.06	Maerdy Crossing	Rhymney	57	57	57	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	57
HG 1.07	Former depot south of Pontlottyn Link Road	Pontlottyn	36	25	25	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	25
HG 1.09	Greensway	Abertysswg	28	28	28	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	28

LDP Ref	Site Name	Settlement	LDP capacity	Plan App site capacity	Units remaining	Total Completed (as of 1st April 2023)	U/C	23-24	24-25	25-26	26-27	27-28	Beyond 5 years
HG 1.10	Land south west of Carn Y Tyla Terrace	Abertysswg	133	133	131	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	131
HG 1.12	Land off Railway Terrace	Fochriw	147	147	147	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	147
HG 1.13	Land at Graig Rhymney	New Tredegar	30	30	30	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	30
HG1.14	Land adjacent to Abernant Road	Markham	82	82	80	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	80
HG1.15	Bedwellty Road	Aberbargoed	180	128	76	52	0	0	25	25	26	0	0
HG1.16	Land adjacent to Gelynos Avenue	Argoed	13	17	8	9	0	0	4	4	0	0	0
HG1.18	Aberbargoed Plateau	Aberbargoed	413	413	413	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	413
HG1.19	Bargoed Retail Plateau	Bargoed	48	48	48	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	48
HG1.21	Park Estate	Gilfach	53	53	53	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	53
HG1.22	Bedwellty Comprehensive School	Aberbargoed	74	55	6	49	5	1	0	0	0	0	0
HG1.26	Blackwood Ambulance Station	Blackwood	24	24	24	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	24
HG1.27	Pencoed Avenue	Cefn Fforest	65	34	18	16	0	0	0	0	0	0	18
HG1.28	Land east of Bryn Road	Cefn Fforest	24	24	24	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	24

LDP Ref	Site Name	Settlement	LDP capacity	Plan App site capacity	Units remaining	Total Completed (as of 1st April 2023)	U/C	23-24	24-25	25-26	26-27	27-28	Beyond 5 years
HG1.32	Tiryberth	Hengoed	173	173	173	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	173
HG1.33	Penallta Colliery	Ystrad Mynach	689	684	97	84	3	0	0	0	0	0	97
HG1.35	Land at New Road	Ystrad Mynach	18	18	18	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	18
HG1.38	Land to the east of Handball Court	Nelson	90	90	90	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	90
HG1.40	Land at Gellideg Heights	Maesycwmm er	137	137	137	0	0	0	45	0	0	0	92
HG1.42	Land west of Old Pant Road	Pantside	56	56	56	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	56
HG1.43	The Stores, Albertina Road	Newbridge	10	14	2	12	0	2	0	0	0	0	0
HG1.44	Land at Fields Park	Newbridge	80	80	80	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	80
HG1.46	Chris Bowen Garage	Newbridge	16	16	16	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	16
HG1.50	Land adjacent to Pen-y-Cwarel Road	Wyllie	56	56	56	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	56
HG1.52	Land at Station Approach	Risca	10	15	15	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	15
HG1.54	Eastern part of land adjacent to River Ebbw	Pontymister	48	48	48	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	48
HG1.55	Suflex Factory	Pontymister	88	65	65	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	65

LDP Ref	Site Name	Settlement	LDP capacity	Plan App site capacity	Units remaining	Total Completed (as of 1st April 2023)	U/C	23-24	24-25	25-26	26-27	27-28	Beyond 5 years
HG1.56	Tyn y Waun Farm	Machen	10	10	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	10
HG1.57	Waterloo Works	Waterloo	545	545	545	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	545
HG1.58	Former Petrol Filling Station, Newport Road	Trethomas	10	10	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	10
HG1.60	Bedwas Colliery	Bedwas	630	630	630	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	630
HG1.61	St James Primary School	Caerphilly	49	49	49			0	0	0	0	0	49
HG1.64	Cardiff Road/Pentrebane St	Caerphilly	127	127	127	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	127
HG1.65	Land between Van Road/Maes Glas, and the Railway	Caerphilly	62	103	75	28	0	0	0	75	0	0	0
HG1.69	Hendre Infants School	Caerphilly	16	16	16			0	0	0	0	0	16
HG1.70	Cwm Ifor Primary School	Caerphilly	46	19	0	19	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
HG1.71	Land east of Coedcae Road	Abertridwr	27	27	27	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	27
HG1.72	Windsor Colliery	Abertridwr	193	152	152	0	0	0	25	27	50	50	0
HG1.73	Land below Coronation Terrace	Senghenydd	12	12	12	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	12
				4653	3921	728	52	8	79	90	63	64	3569

Appendix 2: SA/SEA Monitoring Overview

Objective	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
To reduce the average resource consumption of each resident	X	DNA	NM	NM	NM	NM	NM	NM	NM	NM	NM	NM	NM
To improve the condition of housing and ensure the range of housing types are accessible to meet the needs of residents.	+	+	+	+	++	X	+	X	X	O	X	X	X
To reduce the incidence of crime	+	X	X	+	+	+	+	X	O	O	DNA	DNA	DNA
To improve educational achievement	XX	X	+	+	X	X	O	XX	XX	O	O	X	O
To allow equal opportunities for all	NM	NM	NM	NM	NM	NM	NM	NM	NM	NM	NM	NM	NM
To increase the percentage of people of working age in employment	XX	++	O	O	XX	+	+	X	+	X	O	O	X
To increase the wealth of individuals in CCBC	DNA	X	X	+	O	O	X	X	+	X	O	X	O
To ensure a sufficient range of employment sites are available	DNA	X	X	++	O	O	DNA	+	X	O	+	+	O
To improve the health of individuals	XX	X	O	++	O	+	XX	O	+	O	O	O	O
To retain the population of county borough to at least current levels and attain a more balanced demographic structure?	DNA	+	+	++	X	X	O	X	O	O	O	O	O

Objective	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
To allow all residents easy access to leisure facilities	DNA	+	++	+	++	++	++	+	O	+	DNA	X	+
To reduce air, noise, light and odour pollution and ensure air quality improves.	+	O	O	X	+	+	XX	O	XX	X	XX	+	+
To protect the landscape value of the most important landscapes in the county borough and maintain a clean and accessible environment to encourage a greater sense of belonging.	DNA	X	O	O	X	+	++	O	X	X	DNA	O	O
To protect the cultural identity of the county borough	DNA	+	X	O	+	+	O	++	+	O	+	X	O
To protect and enhance important historic assets	+	++	++	O	+	+	+	++	+	+	+	+	+
To protect aquifers and improve the quality and quantity of the water in our rivers and to reduce water consumption	++	O	DNA	O	++	+	DNA	DNA	DNA	DNA	DNA	DNA	DNA
To minimise the number of developments affected by flooding	X	O	O	+	X	X	X	X	X	DNA	DNA	DNA	DNA
To make the most efficient use of land and to reduce contamination and safeguard soil quantity, quality and permeability.	+	X	O	O	XX	O	X	X	X	XX	O	X	O
To protect geologically important sites and improve their accessibility	++	++	++	++	++	++	++	++	++	++	++	++	++

Objective	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
To reduce the amount of waste produced and increase the reuse of materials	+	+	+	+	DNA	++	+	O	+	O	X	X	X
To enhance the biodiversity of the county borough	O	O	O	+	O	O	X	+	+	DNA	DNA	DNA	DNA
To reduce the total amount of CO ₂ produced within the county borough each year	X	DNA	X	NM	NM	NM	NM	NM	NM	NM	NM	NM	NM
To reduce congestion by minimising the need to travel, encourage alternatives to the car and make best use of the existing transport infrastructure.	X	O	O	+	+	+	O	+	+	DNA	DNA	DNA	DNA
To increase the proportion of energy gained from renewable sources.	DNA	+	+	X	++	X	X	X	+	DNA	DNA	DNA	DNA
To improve the performance of material assets within the county borough	O	X	O	O	+	O	+	X	O	DNA	DNA	DNA	DNA

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Key	
Most, if not all indicators not meeting targets	XX
Overall balance of indicators not meeting targets	X
Offsetting positives and negatives realising a stable balanced position	O
Overall balance of indicators meeting targets	+
Most, if not all indicators meeting targets	++
The Objective could not be effectively assessed	DNA

Key	
Not Monitored	NM

Effect of Changes Over Time												
Change	2011-2012	2012-2013	2013-2014	2014-2015	2015-2016	2016-2017	2017-2018	2018-2019	2020-2021	2021-2022	2022-2023	2011-2023
Positive To Neutral Changes	2	1	1	4	1	2	2	1	2	0	1	1
Neutral to Negative Changes	0	0	1	3	0	3	2	2	0	2	1	0
Positive to Negative Changes	1	1	1	3	2	2	4	1	1	1	0	2
DNA To Negative Changes	3	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
Double Positive to Double Negative Changes	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Positive to Double Negative Changes	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
No Change (Negative)	1	3	0	0	2	2	4	4	1	1	2	0

	Effect of Changes Over Time												
Change	2011-2012	2012-2013	2013-2014	2014-2015	2015-2016	2016-2017	2017-2018	2018-2019	2020-2021	2021-2022	2022-2023		2011-2023
DNA To Neutral Changes	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0		5
Negative to DNA Changes	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0		1
Neutral to DNA Changes	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	3	0	0		2
Positive to DNA Changes	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	3	0	0		1
No Change (Neutral)	2	4	4	3	5	3	1	0	1	3	3		0
DNA To Positive Changes	3	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0		1
Negative to Neutral Changes	4	4	1	0	2	2	2	3	1	0	3		0
Neutral To Positive Changes	0	0	4	3	2	1	2	2	0	0	0		0
Negative To Positive Changes	1	1	3	2	2	1	1	3	1	1	1		0

Effect of Changes Over Time												
Change	2011-2012	2012-2013	2013-2014	2014-2015	2015-2016	2016-2017	2017-2018	2018-2019	2020-2021	2021-2022	2022-2023	2011-2023
Double Negative to Double Positive Changes	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
No Change (Positive)	4	7	6	5	8	6	3	5	3	3	2	3

Appendix 3: Triggered Policies

Policy	Issue		Comment	Consideration	Action Required
SP4	Factor 1	Annual footfall in two of the principal town centres	Footfall has increased since 2021, but remains below the trigger point for Bargoed and Caerphilly	Consumer spending remains resilient. Continuation of a positive trend since 2021	Town centres are a key consideration for 2RLDP
	Factor 2	Vacancy Rates in the principal town centres	Vacancy rates in Bargoed above the 20% trigger	Vacancy rate changes have been modest. Bargoed is the only town above the 20% trigger point. It is hoped the Heads of the Valleys Masterplan (approved as SPG) can help realise redevelopment opportunities in respect of Bargoed	No action required, but will form a consideration for the 2RLDP evidence base
	Factor 3	Percentage of residents satisfied with their town centres	Customer satisfaction below the 56.4% trigger point in Blackwood (38%)	Blackwood is the only town to trigger. Preparation of a Greater Blackwood Masterplan (to be approved as SPG) will assist in the identification of new commercial opportunities	No action required
	Factor 4	Percentage of money spent in County Borough retail centres as a total of total spend	Non-bulky goods only remains beneath the trigger (6th year)	Change since previous Shopper Attitude Survey is minor in respect of all three categories (convenience, bulky, non-bulky)	No action required, but will form a consideration for the 2RLDP evidence base
SP5	Factor 1	Number of applications for urban forms of development (not	Triggered for seventh straight year	Number of permissions is in single figures and primarily been linked to the housing land supply issue rather than a failure of the	No action required

Policy	Issue		Comment	Consideration	Action Required
		defined by criterion C, Policy CW15) located outside of settlement boundaries either approved by CCBC or allowed on appeal		settlement boundary as a mechanism to prevent inappropriate development in the countryside	
SP8	Factor 2	Average yearly usage of aggregates by the construction industry (averaged across the preceding 3 years)	Triggered in every year of the monitoring, apart from where data was not available	Minerals production is intrinsically aligned to minerals use (minerals are not produced if there is no market for them), which reduced dramatically as a result of the economic downturn and has not yet recovered in any substantive way. As a result mineral production has dramatically reduced to reflect this, although there has been a consistent increase since 2019	No action required
SP10	Factor 2	Number of approved applications that result in loss of area of SINC/LNR to development	Triggered five times in a row up to and including 2019, and again in 2021, 2022 and 2023. Number of permissions granted in 2023 is two	The two proposals that have been granted permission include development of a visitor centre for Parc Penallta and retention of a residential garden. It is not considered that this would result in harm	No action required
	Factor 3	Number of approved applications that result in compensatory provision	Neither of the above schemes offer compensatory provision	Visitor centre permission to adhere to supplementary ecological information submitted with the application. The residential garden relates to existing dwellings	No action required

Policy	Issue		Comment	Consideration	Action Required
SP15	Factor 1	Yearly affordable housing unit numbers delivered through the planning system as a percentage of total housing units (based on units built)	Triggered for the first time in the 0% area, for the eleventh straight year for the 10% area and sixth straight year for the 40% area. No longer triggered for the 25% area.	There has been a reduction since last year in the percentage of housing in the 10% and 40% areas that is affordable - a corollary of general house building being low. Low levels of development viability also impact on the level of affordable housing delivered. There has been a significant increase in the 0% area.	Action required to improve affordable housing delivery (2RLDP preparation and more short-term proactive measures)
	Factor 2	Average house price (over the base Viability Study 2009 level)	Triggered for the seventh year in 2022 as house prices continue to increase	In theory, the increase in house prices should mean that development should be more viable, and more affordable housing is delivered, but there are a number of factors that need to be considered on a site-by-site basis that influence this. Overall, there is a need to improve affordable housing delivery, and the increase in average house price would support this, rather than being a matter of concern	No action required

Policy	Issue		Comment	Consideration	Action Required
SP16	Factor 3	Number of employees in part time employment as a percentage of total employees in employment	Triggered nine consecutive times up to 2021, and again in 2023	The monitoring framework was set out prior to the economic downturn and reflects the more buoyant economic climate that existed. This factor is concerned with economic conditions which are outside the control of the development plan and does not indicate that the policy is failing	No action required

Policy	Issue		Comment	Consideration	Action Required
	Factor 4	Annual area of land developed for class B employment use	Triggered since 2020	<p>SP2 considers the take-up of land on allocated (EM1) employment sites for all uses, whereas SP16 considers the overall development of EM1 land for just class B uses. The figure in this monitoring period is 0.0 ha. Whilst this has been sufficient to trigger the indicator, in terms of planning permissions, 15.9 ha worth of permissions were granted on allocated and protected employment sites in the monitoring period, up from 5.74 ha in 2022. Whilst the low rate of development for business uses is concerning, land does remain available in the County Borough, both for short-term opportunities and redevelopment proposals on existing sites.</p> <p>It is anticipated that this low rate of development is as a result of the potential impact of Brexit in the short term, rather than a sign of the policy failing. However, it is accepted that there is a need to address the County Borough's portfolio of employment land through the preparation of the 2nd Replacement LDP</p>	None in respect of policy application, but employment land portfolio/delivery will be a consideration of 2RLDP preparation

Policy	Issue		Comment	Consideration	Action Required
SP17	Factor 3	Area of class B1 employment uses permitted within commercial opportunity areas, as a percentage of total designated area	Triggered for the last ten years in Caerphilly, eight years in Blackwood and last three years in Bargoed	There has been no take-up of CM5 sites (commercial opportunity areas) since 2014, and no development of CM4 allocations (town centre development sites) since 2018. However, over 60% of CM4 sites (in terms of area) have been developed during the plan period, with planning permission having expired in other cases due to market-related factors. Whilst very little B1 development has taken place in commercial opportunity areas, they do contain existing town centre uses and this does not, by itself, imply failure of the policy when taken against the additional considerations referred to	No action required
SP18	Factor 2	Number of planning applications that provide new formal play areas through S106 agreements	Triggered for the last eleven years	<p>As with other indicators, the trigger level was set during more buoyant economic times. At the time of establishing the trigger point a number of facilities were delivered through S106 obligations tied to planning permissions, generally in conjunction with residential development. The reduction in new provision reflects the economic conditions, rather than providing an indication that the policy is failing</p> <p>This is further borne out by the fact that no play areas, and only small areas of open space, have been lost to development since the adoption of the LDP. This indicates that</p>	No action required

Policy	Issue		Comment	Consideration	Action Required
				the policy is protecting the strategic leisure network	

Appendix 4: Performance against the LDP Objectives

LDP Objective		Commentary	Performance
1.	Accommodate sustainable levels of population growth.	The 2011 Census identified that the County Borough has already accommodated the population levels that had been predicted for the end of the plan period. Whilst the projected population levels have been met, the associated housing development required to ensure that this population is accommodated in the most sustainable way has not been delivered as expected.	
2.	Ensure that the County Borough is well served by accessible public open space and accessible natural green space.	The policies protecting and enhancing open and natural green space are performing well and the objective is being met.	
3.	Ensure the effective and efficient use of natural and built resources while preventing the unnecessary sterilisation of finite resources through inappropriate development.	Development in designated SINCs, SLAs and VILLs remains very limited in scale and is acceptable within those areas, though the proportion of development taking place on greenfield land has increased	
4.	Ensure that the environmental impact of	Those strategic policies relating to environmental protection are being met.	

LDP Objective		Commentary	Performance
	all new development is minimised.		
5.	Improve energy, waste and water efficiency while promoting environmentally acceptable renewable energy to maintain a cleaner environment and help reduce our impact on climate change.	Many of the measures used in addressing these issues are outside the scope of the LDP. However, whilst the policy framework is contributing toward the overall objective, SEA/SA monitoring has realised a slight positive shift over the course of this monitoring period, though data on water and energy efficiency is not presently available.	
6.	Encourage waste management based on a hierarchy of reduce, reuse, recovery (including material recycling, energy recovery and composting) and safe disposal.	Many of the measures used to realise the hierarchy lie outside of the remit of the LDP. However whilst the policy framework assists in delivering sustainable waste management, SEA monitoring has shown a negative shift in terms of waste reduction.	
7.	Encourage the re-use and / or reclamation of appropriate brownfield and contaminated land and prevent the incidence of further contamination and dereliction.	The majority of allocated brownfield sites in the NCC and SCC have been reclaimed and redeveloped. The policy framework is controlling development to ensure that further contamination does not take place. The objective is being met.	

LDP Objective		Commentary	Performance
8.	Concentrate new development in appropriate locations along existing and proposed infrastructure networks that are accessible to pedestrians, cyclists and to public transport in order to sustain and complement the role and function of individual settlements.	This principle underpins the development strategy for the LDP and the allocations have taken this issue fully into account. This issue is also a consideration set out in the policy framework against which development proposals are considered. This objective is being met.	
9.	Ensure an adequate and appropriate range of housing sites are available across the County Borough in the most suitable locations to meet the housing requirements of all sections of the population.	As outlined in objective 1 the projected population for the plan period has already been reached but an insufficient quantity of the required housing provision has been delivered. Whilst these low levels of housing development can be attributed to the economic climate leading to low development rates in the early part of the plan period, there is insufficient time remaining to address the significant shortfall. Furthermore, affordable housing is also not being delivered at the levels required. As a result, this objective is not being met.	
10.	Ensure that all new development is well designed and has regard for its surroundings in order to reduce the	Design is a key consideration in respect of development proposals and is an important element of the policy framework. SE/SA monitoring raises no issues in respect of design and crime related indicators are	

LDP Objective		Commentary	Performance
	opportunity for crime to occur.	realising positive outcomes. This objective is being met.	
11.	Identify, protect and, where appropriate enhance, valuable landscapes and landscape features and protect them from unacceptable development.	The plan has allocated landscapes for protection and these are protected through the policy framework. The SEA/SA monitoring realises positive outcomes for some landscape indicators, but there are some areas of concern and this needs to be monitored going forward.	
12.	Identify, protect and enhance sites of nature conservation and earth science interest and ensure the biodiversity of the County Borough is enhanced.	Policy SP10 – Conservation of Natural Heritage has triggered as part of this monitoring assessment. Whilst the amount of land being lost is very small, this remains an issue moving forward for the plan although, given the small areas of land in question, the objective is not being met as proposed at the moment.	
13.	Create appropriate new landscape and ecological features and habitats as an integral part of new development wherever appropriate.	This was assessed positively previously, though information is no longer forthcoming for several of the indicators used to monitor this.	
14.	Manage, protect and enhance the quality and quantity of the water	This issue has not received any negative impacts from the SEA/SA monitoring in the early part of the plan period, although the data	

LDP Objective		Commentary	Performance
	environment and reduce water consumption.	has not been available for the previous few AMRs.	
15.	Reduce the impact of flooding by ensuring that highly vulnerable development is directed away from areas of risk wherever possible.	SEA/SA monitoring has realised negative results for this issue previously. However, the indicators are based against a zero comparison and small areas can be affected by development and be acceptable as it is the use of the land that determines whether a site should not be utilised. Whilst small areas of land liable to flooding are subject to development, the proposed development is not unacceptable and, whilst the monitoring results have been negative previously, the objective is largely being met (as highly vulnerable development is not being permitted in the flood zones). However, data is not available this year.	
16.	Reduce congestion by minimising the need to travel, promoting more sustainable modes of transport and making the most efficient use of existing transport infrastructure.	The imbalance between population and residential/employment development is having knock-on effects for this issue, which has realised negative results recently. Whilst out-commuting has decreased, the number of road links without transport improvements has previously triggered (though data is unavailable this year).	
17.	Capitalise on Caerphilly's strategic position further developing its role as a	As in previous years, very little EM1 land has been developed and there remains significant concern about the level of economic	

LDP Objective		Commentary	Performance
	commercial and employment centre in the heart of the Valleys City Region with strong links to the Heads of the Valleys area and as the smart alternative for locating development to Cardiff and Newport.	development taking place in the County Borough and the availability of attractive sites.	
18.	Provide and protect a diverse portfolio of employment land for a variety of employment uses, focusing in particular on higher value employment opportunities and sites to meet local need, including waste management facilities.	Whilst a number of employment sites have been developed over the plan period, it is important that there continues to be a diverse portfolio of sites available to meet demand. Low take up rates raises concern about the suitability of the sites that remain undeveloped within the LDP.	
19.	Encourage the development of high quality, all season tourist attractions and tourist accommodation that complements the natural and built environment of the County Borough.	A total of 6 of the 9 allocations have been delivered, at least in part. As such this objective is being met.	

LDP Objective		Commentary	Performance
20.	Maximise the efficient use of the existing infrastructure and encourage the necessary improvements to the network to sustain necessary levels of development at appropriate locations across the County Borough.	Rail related developments have progressed well. Highway improvements have not been delivered as expected, although this is due to the low levels of development that is taking place, which provides funding for these improvements. Overall progress is being made but the objective is not being delivered as anticipated.	
21.	Protect and provide a wide range of community and health facilities which are appropriately located and easily accessible, and which meet the needs of all sections of the population.	The majority of allocations in the LDP either have either been delivered or have planning permission. This objective is being met.	
22.	Maintain the vitality, viability and character of the County Borough's town and village centres and re-establish them as a focus for economic activity and community pride.	While data indicates a decline in terms of footfall and vacancy rates from pre-pandemic levels, consumer spending data indicates little change overall and resident satisfaction has seen minor fluctuations (including increases) in most towns. Commercial development has been slow in recent years but town centres appear resilient.	

LDP Objective		Commentary	Performance
23.	Maintain, enhance and develop a hierarchy of town and village centres which are easily accessible, and which meet the needs of all sections of the population.	While data indicates a decline in terms of footfall and vacancy rates from pre-pandemic levels, consumer spending data indicates little change overall and resident satisfaction has seen minor fluctuations (including increases) in most towns. Commercial development has been slow in recent years but town centres appear resilient.	
24.	Protect and enhance the overall quality of the historic natural and built environment of the County Borough	SEA/SA monitoring has consistently realised strong positive outcomes for the historic environment with the policy framework protecting assets and the number of buildings at risk being reduced overall. The objective is being met.	

Appendix 5: Allocation Monitoring

Allocation		Developed	Planning App	Status/Comments
SP13	The Council will support the development of a leisure centre within the Heads of the Valleys Regeneration Area	Not Developed		No proposals for a leisure centre at present.
MW1.1	Cwmbargoed Disposal Point, north west of Fochriw	Not Developed		
HG1.1	Land to the South of Merthyr Road	Not Developed	P/05/0366, P/05/0295	Only 2 units complete. No planning applications submitted for remainder of site.
HG1.2	Land East of Llechryd Bungalow	Not Developed		
HG1.3	Old Barrel Store	Developed	06/0066/FULL	Completed 2012
HG1.4	Lower Hill Street	Not Developed	20/0472/NCC	Extension of time to commence approved 16/07/2020
HG1.5	Maerdy Garage adjacent to Maerdy House	Under Construction	16/1059/FULL	Permission granted March 2017 to carry out infrastructure works to create new access drives and footways to serve future residential development. Single unit under construction.
HG1.6	Maerdy Crossing	Not Developed	15/0528/NCC	Previous permission expired
HG1.7	Former depot south of Pontlottyn Link Road	Not Developed	19/0679/NCC	Outline permission for 25 dwellings granted 17/10/2019.
HG1.8	Heol Evan Wynne	Developed	P/06/0124	Completed 2012
HG1.9	Greensway	Not Developed		

Allocation		Developed	Planning App	Status/Comments
HG1.10	Land south west of Carn y Tyla Terrace	Not Developed		Previous permission expired
HG1.11	Land adjacent to Brynglas	Developed	07/0019/FULL	Completed 2013
HG1.12	Land off Railway Terrace	Not Developed		
HG1.13	Land at Graig Rhymney	Partially		Previous permission expired
HG1.14	Land adjacent to Abernant Road	Partially	14/0232/FULL, 16/0683/FULL	2 dwellings developed.
HG1.15	Bedwellty Road	Partially	P/06/0671 (Outline), 12/0090/RM (Phase 1), 21/0005/FULL	Phase 1 - developed, 4 self-build plots developed. Phase 2 – Outline permission granted June 2024.
HG1.16	Land adjacent to Gelynos Avenue	Partially	Outline P/04/0510, full for individual plots , 18/0525/FULL – erect two pairs of 3 bed semi-detached dwellings	Self build development
HG1.17	Aberbargoed and District Hospital	Developed	12/0594/FULL	Completed 2015
HG1.18	Aberbargoed Plateau	Not Developed		
HG1.19	Bargoed Retail Plateau	Not Developed		
HG1.20	YGG Cwm Rhymni	Developed	07/0719/FULL	Completed 2009.100% affordable housing

Allocation		Developed	Planning App	Status/Comments
HG1.21	Park Estate	Not Developed		
HG1.22	Bedwellty Comprehensive School	Under construction	18/1005/FULL	Phase 1 - 55 units and Phase 2 – 46 units, both under construction
HG1.23	Land within curtilage of the Pentwyn Inn	Developed	07/1166/FULL	Completed 2012. 100% affordable housing
HG1.24	Land off Brynhoward Terrace	Developed	10/0456/RM	Completed 2013
HG1.25	Allotment Garden, Llwyn on Lane	Developed	07/1455/RM	Completed 2011
HG1.26	Blackwood Ambulance Station	Partially	13/0589/FULL	Phase 1 – Ty Sirhowy redeveloped for 22 bed residential accommodation (use class C2) developed.
HG1.27	Pencoed Avenue	Partially	12/0707/RM (east)	Site to be developed in two phases. East site completed 2015. Infrastructure in place on western part of site. Permission for residential development has expired.
HG1.28	Land east of Bryn Road	Not Developed		
HG1.29	South of Thorncombe Road	Developed	13/0005/RM	100% affordable housing. Completed 2016
HG1.30	Land at Hawtin Park	Under construction	08/0752/OUT (East), 17/0142/RM, 17/0143/RM	Reserved matters application approved for east site and west site. Site under construction.
HG1.31	Oak Terrace	Developed	Developed	Completed 2015
HG1.32	Tir-y-berth	Not Developed		

Allocation		Developed	Planning App	Status/Comments
HG1.33	Penallta Colliery	Partially	P/99/0781; 18/0362/FULL	Redrow development and conversion of four listed buildings complete. One listed building conversion under construction, other have not commenced. Affordable Housing scheme (Winding Wheel Lane) completed.
HG1.34	Penallta Yard	Developed	12/0462/RM	Completed 2017
HG1.35	Land at New Road	Not Developed	14/0129/NCC	Application to extend condition for timeframe for submission of reserved matters approved 6-10-2015. Now expired
HG1.36	Land off Valley View	Developed	07/1211/FULL	Completed 2018
HG1.37	Greenhill Primary School	Developed	15/1258/FULL	Completed 2020
HG1.38	Land to the east of Handball Court	Not Developed		
HG1.39	Former Cattle Market Site	Developed	P/04/1216	Completed 2012
HG1.40	Land at Gellideg Heights	Not Developed	22/0269/NCC	Application to extend condition for timeframe for submission of reserved matters awaiting determination
HG1.41	Land at Ty Pwll	Developed	06/0421/FULL	Completed 2009
HG1.42	Land west of Old Pant Road	Not Developed		Previous permission expired
HG1.43	The Stores, Albertina Road	Under Construction	18/1009/RM	Phase 1 complete. Phase 2 under construction
HG1.44	Land at Fields Park	Not Developed		
HG1.45	Pennar Lane	Developed	07/0608/FULL	Completed 2011
HG1.46	Chris Bowen Garage	Not Developed		Previous permission expired

Allocation		Developed	Planning App	Status/Comments
HG1.47	Land west of the A467 and Afon Ebbw	Developed	08/1126/FULL	Completed 2014
HG1.48	Twyncarn House	Developed	08/0649/FULL	Completed 2010. 100% affordable housing
HG1.49	Land at Hillary Rise	Developed	07/0453/RSM	Completed 2018
HG1.50	Land adjacent to Pen-y-Cwarel Road	Not Developed		
HG1.51	Land north east of Llanarth Street	Developed	P/04/1557	Completed 2014
HG1.52	Land at Station Approach, Risca	Not Developed	17/0545/NCC	Application to extend condition for timeframe for submission of reserved matters approved 18-4-2019
HG1.53	Rom River	Developed	08/1144/FULL	Completed 2010
HG1.54	Eastern part of land adjacent to River Ebbw	Not Developed		
HG1.55	Suflex Factory	Not Developed	07/1524/FULL 13/0667/NCC	Application to extend condition for timeframe for submission of reserved matters approved 10-05-2018
HG1.56	Tyn y Waun Farm	Not Developed		Previous permission expired
HG1.57	Waterloo Works	Not Developed	P/06/0037	Application Refused
HG1.58	Former Petrol Filling Station, Newport Road	Not Developed		Previous housing permission expired. Now developed for an alternative use (retail)
HG1.59	The Grove	Developed	12/0898/FULL	100% affordable housing. Completed 2016
HG1.60	Bedwas Colliery	Not Developed		
HG1.61	St. James Primary School	Not Developed		Land no longer available for housing as Integrated Children's Centre remains on site in addition to school

Allocation		Developed	Planning App	Status/Comments
HG1.62	Land at Venosa Trading Estate	Developed	07/0447/FULL	Completed 2015
HG1.63	Land at Pontypandy Industrial Estate	Developed	10/0658/RSM (Phase 1), 12/0860/RM (Phase 2)	Completed 2019
HG1.64	Cardiff Road / Pentrebane Street	Not Developed		Permission expired
HG1.65	Land between Van Road / Maes Glas, and the Railway	Partially	10/0778/FULL (phase 1), 21/1090/rm	Phase 1 (Encon) 100% affordable housing completed; Phase 2 (Austin Grange) – reserve matters application approved.
HG1.66	Gas Works Site, Mill Road	Developed	11/0787/RM	Completed 2015
HG1.67	Caerphilly Miners Hospital	Developed	11/0410/FULL (phase 1); 14/0855/FULL	Phase 1 completed 2015; Phase 2 completed 2019
HG1.68	Castlegate	Developed	P/03/0926 (Outline), multiple full/RSM	Completed 2014
HG1.69	Hendre Infants School	Not Developed		
HG1.70	Cwm Ifor Primary School	Developed	16/0665/FULL	Completed 2022. 100% affordable housing.
HG1.71	Land east of Coedcae Road	Not Developed		
HG1.72	Windsor Colliery	Not Developed	22/0072/FULL	Application awaiting determination

Allocation		Developed	Planning App	Status/Comments
HG1.73	Land below Coronation Terrace	Not Developed	11/0630/NCC	Application approved June 2021
HG1.74	Jeremy Oils	Developed	P/04/0873, P/06/0695	Completed 2010
EM1.1	Land at Heads of the Valleys	Not Developed	09/0327/FULL; 15/0092/FULL	Full granted 2009 (wood storage shed); Full granted 2015 (refurbishment and development of adjoining land)
EM1.2	Ty Du	RM being implemented	07/0872/OUT; 16/0373/OUT; 17/0655/RM; 19/0572/RM	Full granted 2010 (B1); Granted 2017 (housing/B1); Granted 2017 (Infrastructure works); Granted 2019 (B1 units), nearing completion
EM1.3	Plateau 1, Oakdale Business Park	Partially Developed	09/0573/NCC; 15/0065/FULL	Full granted 2009 (flying model planes); Full granted 2015 (IG Doors); developed
EM1.4	Plateau 2, Oakdale Business Park	Not Developed	12/0649/FULL; 18/1058/FULL	Full granted 2013 (demo. track and media centre); not developed; Granted 2019 (B1)
EM1.5	Plateau 3, Oakdale Business Park	Developed	14/0814/LA	Granted (new school); developed
EM1.6	Plateau 4, Oakdale Business Park	Partially	07/0835/LA	Consent granted 2007 (B1)
EM1.7	Hawtin Park north	Not Developed	14/0007/FULL; 18/1073/FULL	Full granted 2014 (Erect porch); Granted 2019 (B8)
EM1.8	Hawtin Park south	Being Developed	08/0752/OUT;	Granted 2014 (housing/commercial);

Allocation		Developed	Planning App	Status/Comments
			14/0802/OUT 17/0142/RM; 17/0143/RM	Granted 2016; Granted 2017; Granted 2017
EM1.9	Dyffryn Business Park north	Developed	09/0365/FULL; 13/0778/FULL; 15/0064/FULL; 15/1175/FULL	Granted 2017 (B1/B2/B8); developed
EM1.10	Dyffryn Business Park south	Not Developed	18/1030/FULL	Granted 2019 (B1/B2/B8), not developed
EM1.11	Penallta Extension	Developed	P/99/0768; 15/0675/FULL	Full granted 2002 (housing/employment); Full granted 2016 (housing); developed
EM1.12	Land at Caerphilly Business Park	Partially	07/0849/OUT; 07/1518/FULL	Outline granted 2008 (business park); Full granted 2008; developed
EM1.13	Land at Trecenydd	Partially	13/0740/COU	Granted 2013 (change of use), implemented
EM1.14	Land at Western	Developed		Built out
CM4.1	The Lawn	Resource Centre Developed Industrial units being developed	09/0980/FULL 11/0140/FULL 18/0408/LA	Erect Caerphilly Integrated Health and Social Care Resource Centre Erect extension to previously approved Caerphilly Integrated Health and Social Care Resource Centre, ref no 09/0980/FULL, to provide pharmacy facility.

Allocation		Developed	Planning App	Status/Comments
				No proposals for a retail foodstore on this site at present. Permission granted for 15 small business industrial units (0.69 Ha site) in July 2018, being developed
CM4.2	Bargoed Retail Plateau	Retail Units developed	11/0259/OUT 19/0219/FULL	Redevelop including engineering works (cut and fill) and sewer diversions to facilitate erection of retail units (Use Class A1), restaurants and cafes (Use Class A3), financial and professional services (Use Class A2), Cinema (Use Class D2), residential Permission for pub/restaurant on remainder of plateau granted 2019, not developed
CM4.3	Former Cinema, Hanbury Square	Not Developed	06/0646/FULL	Previous permission for offices expired
CM4.4	Car Park Site, Rear of High Street	Not Developed	06/0507/OUT	Previous permission for offices expired
CM4.5	Gateway Site	Developed	11/0934/PCO	Erect freestanding restaurant (McDonalds) with associated drive thru, car parking and landscaping
CM4.6	Penallta Colliery	Not developed	10/0067/FULL	Construct purpose-built creche with associated external works expired
CM4.7	Former Palace Cinema	Developed	P/06/0046	Re-develop site for food store, retail and offices at ground floor and library at first floor
CM4.8	Adjacent to Lidl	Not developed		Permission for retail expired

Allocation		Developed	Planning App	Status/Comments
CM4.9	Foundry Site	Developed	08/0568/FULL	Erect Class A1 retail foodstore, petrol filling station and associated car parking, access, servicing, landscaping and flood alleviation scheme, together with new pedestrian footbridge and riverside walkway
CM4.10	Gallagher Retail Park Extension	Developed	P/05/1368FULL	Phase 3 Gallagher Retail Park, Crossways, Caerphilly
CM4.11	Gallagher Retail Park Redevelopment	Developed	06/0550/NCC	Vary Condition 4 attached to Planning permission P/05/1369 in terms of range of goods to be sold. Condition varied, site redeveloped for Tesco
CM4.12	Park Lane	Not developed		Site cleared, development options pending.
CM4.13	Cardiff Road	Not developed	06/0665/FULL 17/0617/COU, 17/0616/COU, 20/0285/COU	Permission lapsed Change of use permissions granted 2018, 2019, 2020
CM4.14	Castlegate	Developed	P/03/0926	Erect mixed use dev. of offices, hotel, P.H., inc. all engineering & building operations and landscaping
CM5.1	High Street, Bargoed	Not developed		
CM5.2	High Street, Blackwood	Not developed		
CM5.3	Castle Street To Piccadilly, Caerphilly	Not developed		
CF1.1	North of Rhymney Cemetery, Rhymney – Cemetery extension	Developed	14/0385/LA	Cemetery extension granted 2014; developed

Allocation		Developed	Planning App	Status/Comments
CF1.2	The Lawn, Rhymney – Health and Social Care Resource Centre / Further Education	Developed		
CF1.3	Bryn Awel Primary School, Rhymney – New school	Developed	P/05/0239	Completed
CF1.4	Fochriw Youth Centre, Fochriw – New youth centre	Not Developed		
CF1.5	Leisure Centre, New Tredegar – New youth centre	Not Developed		
CF1.6	Hanger 81, Aberbargoed – New youth centre	Not Developed		
CF1.7	Adjacent to Ysgol Bro Sannan, Aberbargoed – School extension	Not Developed		
CF1.8	Aberbargoed Primary School, Aberbargoed – School extension	Developed	10/0870/LA	Permission granted 2011
CF1.9	South of Aberbargoed Plateau, Aberbargoed – Fire station	Developed	11/0649/FULL	Permission granted 2011

Allocation		Developed	Planning App	Status/Comments
CF1.10	Hanbury Road Baptist Church, Bargoed – Library	Developed	09/0550/FULL 09/0551/LBC	Completed
CF1.11	Gilfach Street, Bargoed – Health centre	Developed	07/1373/COU	Completed
CF1.12	East of Gelligaer Cemetery, Gelligaer – Cemetery extension	Developed	11/0772/LA	Permission granted 2014; developed
CF1.13	Greenhill Primary School, Gelligaer – New school	Developed	09/0641/LA	Completed
CF1.14	Maesglas School, Gelligaer – GP surgery	Developed	08/1030/FULL	Permission granted 2011
CF1.15	Ysgol Penalltau, Ystrad Mynach – New school	Developed	P/06/0333	Completed
CF1.16	Oakfield Street, Ystrad Mynach – GP surgery	Not Developed		
CF1.17	Ystrad Fawr, Ystrad Mynach – Local General Hospital	Developed	P/06/0164 08/0118/RM	Completed
CF1.18	Memorial Hall and Institute, Newbridge – Library	Developed		Completed
CF1.19	Pantside, Newbridge – Community centre	Not Developed		

Allocation		Developed	Planning App	Status/Comments
CF1.20	Adjacent to Recreation Ground, Hafodyrynys – Community centre	Developed	08/0288/NCC	Completed
CF1.21	West/east of Abercarn Cemetery, Abercarn – Cemetery extensions	Developed		Completed
CF1.22	Pencerrig Street, Llanbradach – GP surgery	Developed	17/0936/FULL	Completed
CF1.23	Senghenydd Health Centre, Senghenydd – GP surgery	Not Developed		
CF1.24	Ysgol Ifor Bach, Senghenydd – New school	Developed	P/06/0298	Completed
CF1.25	Cwm Ifor Primary School, Caerphilly – New school	Developed	10/0750/LA	Completed
CF1.26	Adjacent to Penyrheol Cemetery, Caerphilly – Cemetery extension	Developed		Completed
CF1.27	Hendre Junior School, Caerphilly – School extension	Developed	12/0630/LA	Completed
CF1.28	St James Primary School, Caerphilly – New school	Developed	09/0706/LA	Completed

Allocation		Developed	Planning App	Status/Comments
CF1.29	Town Centre, Caerphilly – Library / Customer First Centre	Developed	06/0665/FULL	Full granted 2007 (mixed use)
CF1.30	Castlegate, Caerphilly – GP surgery / residential home for elderly	Developed	07/0305/FULL	Completed
CF1.31	Old Nantgarw Road, Caerphilly – New cemetery	Developed	16/0553/LA; 18/0556/NCC	Completed
CF1.32	Workmen’s Hall and environs, Bedwas – Cultural centre	Not Developed	07/0230/LBC	LBC granted 2007 (restoration of front elevation)
CF1.33	Former Bedwas Colliery, Bedwas – New school	Not Developed		
CF1.34	Former Cray Valley Paint Works, Waterloo – New school	Not Developed	P/06/0037	Application for residential and land for a school refused
CF1.35	Former Bus Station, Crosskeys – College extension	Developed	07/1279/FULL	Completed
CF1.36	Palace Cinema, Risca – Library	Developed	P/06/0046	Completed
CF1.37	South of Danygraig Cemetery, Risca – Cemetery extension	Developed	P/02/1182	Permission granted 2010; developed

Allocation		Developed	Planning App	Status/Comments
LE2.1	Former Markham Colliery, Markham	Not Developed	11/0565/COU	Permitted COU to form country park. Land partly acquired. Funding required.
LE2.2	Bedwas Community Park, Bedwas	Part Developed	n/a	Southern part of site (south of main road) is now developed as a riverside walk. The northern part is still to be developed.
LE4.1	North of Glan y Nant, Rhymney	Not developed		
LE4.2	Former McLaren Colliery, Abertysswg	Not developed	14/0009/RET to retain cabins for changing facilities	
LE4.3	Pont Bren, Deri	Not developed		Site is unlikely to come forward
LE4.4	Heol Fargoed, Bargoed	Not developed		
LE4.5	Former Bedwellty Comprehensive School, Aberbargoed	Developed		Site has been developed as playing pitches, with storage container for changing rooms.
LE4.6	South of Gilfach, Gilfach	Not developed		Site is an informal play area, with MUGA and basketball hoop.
LE4.7	Pantside, Newbridge	Not developed	10/0801/FULL to provide engineering for new pitches – Refused 17/03/2011	Site is unlikely to come forward for playing pitches as the area has been developed as a wildlife corridor and is now known as 'Pantside Community Woodland Park'.
LE4.8	Adjacent to Ysgol Penalltau, Ystrad Mynach	Not developed		

Allocation		Developed	Planning App	Status/Comments
LE4.9	Former Hospital, Ystrad Mynach	Site Developed		Application for demolition of hospital site submitted November 2011. New Centre of Excellence constructed and completed May 2014. Site is now operational.
LE4.10	Land off Penallta Road, Ystrad Mynach	Part Developed		Part of site being used as allotment. Remainder of site yet to be developed.
LE4.11	Llanbradach Plateau, Llanbradach	Not developed		
LE4.12	Former Bedwas Colliery, Bedwas	Not developed		
LE4.13	Adjacent to Bedwas Comprehensive School, Bedwas	Developed	P/05/1223	Community/sports hall developed.
LE4.14	Adjacent to St Cenydd School, Caerphilly	Not developed		Site now a MUGA and so unlikely to become sports hall.
LE4.15	Castlegate, Caerphilly	Developed		Site is now a Junior Playing pitch
TM1.1	Parc Bryn Bach, Rhymney / Tredegar	Not developed		
TM1.2	Winding House, New Tredegar	Developed	5/5/87/0962 5/5/93/0761 P/05/1135 08/0721/LA	Erection of extension to form Museum Erect extension for Interpretation centre Erect extension and demolish existing annexe Erect Artwork
TM1.3	Llancaiach Fawr and environs, Nelson	Developed	12/0825/LA	Complete

Allocation		Developed	Planning App	Status/Comments
TM1.4	Maesycwmmmer Mill, Maesycwmmmer	Not developed		
TM1.5	Rhymney Riverside Walk, Rhymney – Cefn Mably	Partially		
TM1.6	Monmouthshire and Brecon Canal, Crumlin Arm	Not Developed		EU funding applied for as a regional proposal.
TM1.7	Nantcarn Valley, Cwmcarn	Partially	13/0148/FULL 13/0614/LA 14/0613/FULL 15/0260/NOTF 15/0392/NOTF 16/0079/NOTF	Applications to increase the number of Mountain bike trails have been completed. Some parts of forest are closed due to the felling of Larch crops infected by Phytophthora ramorum.
TM1.8	Rhymney Riverside Walk, Rhymney - Cefn Mably	Partially		
TM1.9	Caerphilly Castle Grounds, Caerphilly	Complete	18/0370/FULL	Create a new attraction – Gilbert's Maze
TR1.1	Rhymney Valley Linear Cycle Route - Heads of the Valleys to Bedwas / Caerphilly, HOV	Complete		Sections of route from HOV46 at Bute Town to Rhymney Comprehensive completed.

Allocation		Developed	Planning App	Status/Comments
TR1.2	Completion and Extension of Cycle Route NCN 46	Partially.		Part of link being progressed as part of the HOV A465 Trunk Road works by WG included in the side road orders for delivery post 2019.
TR1.3	Bargoed Country Park to Bowen Industrial Estate	Outline design developed		No progress on scheme. CCBC are currently undertaking statutory Active Travel review, routes can be amended.
TR1.4	Extension to the Sirhowy Valley Cycle Route	Outline design developed		No progress on scheme. CCBC are currently undertaking statutory Active Travel review, routes can be amended.
TR1.5	Local Links to Bargoed Town Centre	Partially		No progress on scheme. CCBC are currently undertaking statutory Active Travel review, routes can be amended.
TR1.6	Link from Fochriw to NCN 46 via Rhaslas Pond	Not Developed		No progress on scheme.
TR1.7	Local Cycle Link from Argoed to Oakdale	Partially		One of two routes completed.
TR1.8	Rhymney Valley Linear Cycle Route - Heads of the Valleys to Bedwas / Caerphilly, Northern	Feasibility work developed		Included in draft Active Travel Integrated Network Map (different route alignment shown than that in LDP proposals map)
TR1.9	Network Links from Blackwood / Pontllanfraith	Not Developed		Some sections included in Active Travel Integrated Network Map.
TR1.10	Newbridge / Crumlin to Crosskeys and Sirhowy	Not Developed		Some sections included in Active Travel Integrated Network Map.

Allocation		Developed	Planning App	Status/Comments
	Valley / Pontllanfraith Cycle Link			
TR1.11	Local Links from Crumlin	Partially		Scheme not progressed.
TR1.12	Local Link from Penallta to Ystrad Mynach	Developed		INMC24 delivered.
TR1.13	Rhymney Valley Linear Cycle Route - Heads of the Valleys to Bedwas / Caerphilly, Southern	Not Developed		Initial feasibility report looking at route options completed.
TR1.14	Caerphilly Basin Radial Routes	Partially		Some routes completed e.g. Senghenydd to Caerphilly town centre. Others still to be delivered.
TR1.15	Link from Crosskeys NCN47 to Newbridge	Not Developed		
TR2.1	Cwmbargoed rail line between Ystrad Mynach and Bedlinog	Not Developed		
TR3.1	Nelson	Not Developed		
TR3.2	Crumlin	Feasibility work developed		Welsh Government progressing scheme development.
TR3.3	Energlyn / Churchill Park	Developed		Station opened December 2013.
TR4.1	Rhymney	Developed		Completed July 2014.

Allocation		Developed	Planning App	Status/Comments
TR4.2	Bargoed	Developed		Bargoed Park and Ride official opening November 2009.
TR4.3	Pengam	Developed		Pengam Park and Ride official opening June 2013.
TR4.4	Llanbradach	Not Developed		Scheme currently being progressed with WG. WeiTAG Stage 2 Study completed.
TR5.1	A467 Newbridge to Crosskeys	Not Developed		Study commenced.
TR5.2	A467 Newbridge to Crumlin	Not Developed		
TR5.3	A472 Ystrad Mynach to Nelson	Developed		All improvements required for Ty Du development have been delivered.
TR5.4	Newbridge Interchange	Not Developed		
TR5.5	A472 Crown Roundabout to Cwm Du Roundabout	Not Developed		No progress on wider scheme described in TR 5.5, but improvements to the southern section completed as part of the Ysbyty Ystrad Fawr development. Options report complete.
TR6.1	Tafwys Walk	Not Developed		
TR6.2	Trecenydd Roundabout	Developed		Works completed October 2011.
TR6.3	Pwllypant Roundabout	Developed		Works completed November 2018.
TR6.4	Bedwas Bridge Roundabout	Not Developed		WeiTAG Stage 2 Study ongoing.
TR6.5	Piccadilly Gyrotory	Not Developed		
TR6.6	Penrhos to Pwllypant	Not Developed		
TR6.7	Pwllypant to Bedwas	Not Developed		

Allocation		Developed	Planning App	Status/Comments
TR7.1	Cwm Du Junction / Maesycwmmer Junction	Developed		Highway improvements to support the Ysbyty Ystrad Fawr development complete
TR7.2	Bedwas Colliery Access Road	Not Developed		
TR8.1	A469 Bargoed and A4049 Aberbargoed to Rhymney	Not Developed		A469 New Tredegar to Pontllytyn Highway Resilience Feasibility Option Appraisal Report completed July 2016. WeITAG Stage 2 Study ongoing.

Agenda Item 11



CIVIC DIARY ENGAGEMENTS

5th July – 27th September 2023

July

- 8th Caerphilly Community Chorus' Summer Concert, Vanguard Centre
- 10th Mayor's Parlour Visit, Young Enterprise Awards
- 14th End of Year Awards Ceremony, Markham Primary School
- 18th Shrek the Musical, Blackwood Comprehensive School
- 21st Golden Anniversary Presentation
- 21st Celtic Gold Refurbishment Opening, Caerphilly
- 21st Mayor's Parlour Visit, Abercarn Scouts
- 26th Open Day, Min y Mynydd Garden Project

August

- 5th 100th Birthday Presentation
- 10th 104th Birthday Presentation
- 15th Community Volunteers Wales Visit, Risca
- 19th 999 Open Day, Caerphilly Fire Station
- 20th Bargoed and District Art Society Annual Exhibition, Llancaiach Fawr
- 28th Pontygwindy Allotments Open Day

September

- 2nd Little Cheese
- 4th Gwent Police Pass Out Parade, Llanhilleth Miners' Institute
- 7th Opening of Pepe's Store, Caerphilly
- 17th Classic Car and Bus Open Day, BTM Community Council (Deputy Mayor)
- 17th Closing of WILKO Store in Blackwood
- 18th PeoplePlus, Bargoed

20 th	GAVO Awards, Blackwood Miners' Institute
21 st	Mynyddislwyn Choir Annual Concert, Blackwood Miners' Institute
23 rd	Icelandic Horse Society of Great Britain, Dan-y-Graig
24 th	Monmouthshire Civic Service, Priory Church of St Mary
25 th	Launch of Christmas Card Competition, Penllwyn Primary School
27 th	Council