

Pecyn Dogfennau Cyhoeddus

Penallta House,
Tredomen Park,
Ystrad Mynach,
Hengoed CF82 7PG

Tŷ Penallta,
Parc Tredomen,
Ystrad Mynach,
Hengoed CF82 7PG



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Am unrhyw ymholiad yn ymwneud â'r agenda hwn cysylltwch â Emma Sullivan
(Rhif Ffôn: 01443 864420 Ebst: sullie@caerphilly.gov.uk)

Dyddiad: Dydd Mercher, 28 Medi 2022

Bydd y cyfarfod hwn yn cael ei ffrydio'n fyw ac yn cael ei recordio a bydd ar gael i'w weld ar wefan y Cyngor, ac eithrio trafodaethau sy'n ymwneud ag eitemau cyfrinachol neu eithriedig. Felly, bydd delweddau/sain yr unigolion sy'n siarad ar gael yn gyhoeddus i bawb trwy'r recordiad ar wefan y Cyngor: www.caerffili.gov.uk

Mae croeso i chi ddefnyddio'r Gymraeg yn y cyfarfod, mae angen o leiaf 3 diwrnod gwaith o rybudd os byddwch chi'n dymuno gwneud hynny. Bydd gwasanaeth cyfieithu ar y pryd yn cael ei ddarparu ar gais.

I bwy bynnag a fynno wybod,

Bydd cyfarfod y **Cyngor** yn cael ei gynnal yn y Siambr, Tŷ Penallta a thrwy Microsoft Teams ar **Dydd Mawrth, 4ydd Hydref, 2022** am **5.00 pm** i ystyried materion a gynhwysir yn yr agenda canlynol. Gall aelodau'r Cyhoedd neu'r Wasg fynychu'n bersonol yn Nhŷ Penallta neu gallant weld y cyfarfod yn fyw drwy'r ddolen ganlynol: <https://civico.net/caerphilly>

Yr eiddoch yn gywir,

Christina Harrhy
PRIF WEITHREDWR

AGENDA

Tudalennau

- 1 I dderbyn ymddiheuriadau am absenoldeb
- 2 Cyhoeddiadau'r Maer.

A greener place Man gwyrddach



3 I dderbyn deisebau o dan Reol Gweithdrefn 28(3).

4 Cyflwyno Gwobrau.

5 Datganiadau o Ddiddordeb.

Atgoffi'r Cynghorwyr a Swyddogion o'u cyfrifoldeb personol i ddatgan unrhyw fuddiannau personol a/neu niweidiol mewn perthynas ag unrhyw eitem o fusnes ar yr agenda hwn yn unol â Deddf Llywodraeth Leol 2000, Cyfansoddiad y Cyngor a'r Cod Ymddygiad ar gyfer Cynghorwyr a Swyddogion.

I gymeradwyo a llofnodi'r cofnodion canlynol:-

6 Cyngor 19eg Gorffennaf 2022.

1 - 8

7 I dderbyn ac i ateb cwestiynau a dderbyniwyd o dan Reol Gweithdrefn 10(4).

Cwestiwn i Aelodau Cabinet dros Wastraff, Hamdden a Mannau Gwyrdd, y Cyngorydd C. Morgan, gan y Cyngorydd A. Leonard

A all yr Aelod Cabinet dros Wastraff, Hamdden a Mannau Gwyrdd esbonio beth ydy'r Cyngor yn mynd i'w wneud i warchod ein blodau gwyllt naturiol a bioamrywiaeth pryfed, yn ogystal â chyflwyno trefn fwy cyfeillgar o dorri gwair?

I dderbyn ac ystyried yr adroddiad(au) canlynol:-

8 Uwchgynllun Ebwy Isaf a Chwm Sirhywi.

9 - 150

9 Adroddiad Monitro Blynyddol Cynllun Datblygu Lleol Bwrdeistref Sirol Caerffili Hyd At 2021 (Gan gynnwys yr Adroddiad Ardoll Seilwaith Cymunedol Blynyddol).

151 - 238

10 Adroddiad Alldro Refeniw Dros Dro ar gyfer 2021/22.

239 - 260

11 Datganiad Ymholiadau Archwilio Cymru 2021/2022.

261 - 274

12 Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol Caerffili. - Argyfwng Costau Byw.

275 - 284

I nodi'r adroddiad canlynol a ystyriwyd yn eitem frys gan y Cabinet: -

13 Adolygiad Canolfannau Dydd - Cyflwyniad gan y Contractwr.

285 - 290

Nodi'r eitem ganlynol a ystyriwyd fel eitem frys ac eithriedig yn y Cabinet:-

14 Tynnu'n ôl o Dy Pontygwindy (Uned 7 Cwrt De Clare, Ystâd Ddiwydiannol Pontygwindy). (Eithriedig)

291 - 298

Cylchrediad:

Pob Aelod a Swyddog Priodol

SUT FYDDWN YN DEFNYDDIO EICH GWYBODAETH

Bydd yr unigolion hynny sy'n mynychu cyfarfodydd pwyllgor i siarad/roi tystiolaeth yn cael eu henwi yng nghofnodion y cyfarfod hynny, weithiau bydd hyn yn cynnwys eu man gweithio neu fusnes a'r barnau a fynegir. Bydd cofnodion o'r cyfarfod gan gynnwys manylion y siaradwyr ar gael i'r cyhoedd ar wefan y Cyngor ar www.caerffili.gov.uk ac eithrio am drafodaethau sy'n ymwneud ag eitemau cyfrinachol neu eithriedig.

Mae gennych nifer o hawliau mewn perthynas â'r wybodaeth, gan gynnwys yr hawl i gael mynediad at wybodaeth sydd gennym amdanoch a'r hawl i gwyno os ydych yn anhapus gyda'r modd y mae eich gwybodaeth yn cael ei brosesu.

Am wybodaeth bellach ar sut rydym yn prosesu eich gwybodaeth a'ch hawliau, ewch i'r [Hysbysiad Preifatwydd Cyfarfodydd Pwyllgor Llawn](#) ar ein gwefan neu cysylltwch â Gwasanaethau Cyfreithiol drwy e-bostio griffd2@caerffili.gov.uk neu ffoniwch 01443 863028.

Gadewir y dudalen hon yn wag yn fwriadol



CYNGOR

COFNODION Y CYFARFOD AML-LEOLIAD A GYNHALIWYD YN SIAMBR TŶ PENALLTA A THRWY MICROSOFT TEAMS DDYDD MAWRTH, 19 GORFFENNAF 2022 AM 5.00PM

YN BRESENNOL:

Y Cyngorydd E.M. Aldworth – Maer
Y Cyngorydd M. Adams – Dirprwy Faer

Y Cynghorwyr:

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

Ynghyd â:-

C. Harrhy (Prif Weithredwr), R. Tranter (Pennaeth Gwasanaethau Cyfreithiol a Swyddog Monitro), D. Street (Cyfarwyddwr Corfforaethol Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol a Thai), R. Edmunds (Cyfarwyddwr Corfforaethol Addysg a Gwasanaethau Corfforaethol), M.S. Williams (Cyfarwyddwr Corfforaethol yr Economi a'r Amgylchedd), S. Pugh (Rheolwr Cyfathrebu), N. Taylor-Williams (Prif Swyddog Tai), K. Cole (Prif Swyddog Addysg), L. Allen (Prif Gyfrifydd Grŵp), L. Lane (Pennaeth Gwasanaethau Democrataidd a Dirprwy Swyddog Monitro), E. Sullivan (Uwch Swyddog Gwasanaethau Pwyllgor)

Hefyd yn Bresennol: -

G. Rees (Ysgol Gynradd Cwm Ifor), M. Lewis ac L. Jarvis (Ysgol Gyfun Martin Sant), D. Biddle, L. Jolliffe, C. Mason, K. Sprackling-Jones, Lee Pinney, M. Osborn, R. Holden ac C. Edwards

TREFNIADAU RECORDIO, FFILMIO A PHLEIDLEISIO

Atgoffodd y Prif Weithredwr bawb a oedd yn bresennol fod y cyfarfod yn cael ei ffrydio'n fyw, ac y byddai recordiad ar gael yn dilyn y cyfarfod ar wefan y Cyngor – [Cliciwch yma i'w wyllo](#). Dywedodd y byddai penderfyniadau'n cael eu gwneud drwy Microsoft Forms.

1. YMDDIHEURIADAU AM ABSENOLDEB

Cafwyd ymddiheuriadau am absenoldeb gan y Cynghorwyr C. Elsbury, G. Enright, S. Kent, L. Phipps, D. Price, J. Rao, J. Scriven, S. Skivens.

2. CYHOEDDIADAU'R MAER

Cadarnhaodd y Maer ei bod, ers ei hurddo, wedi cyflawni nifer eithaf sylweddol o ddiwyddiadau yn cynrychioli Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol Caerffili. Cyfeiriwyd yn benodol at ei phresenoldeb mewn cynhyrchiad o Legally Blonde yn Ysgol Gyfun Martin Sant. Cyfeiriodd y Maer yn arbennig at gi'r ysgol, 'Marty', a gymerodd ran mewn dwy rôl yn y cynhyrchiad rhagorol.

3. CAEL DEISEBAU O DAN REOL GWEITHDREFN 28(3)

Nid oedd unrhyw ddeisebau.

4. CYFLWYNO GWOBRAU

Gwobrau Ysgol ac Addysg 2022 y South Wales Argus

Mynegodd yr Aelod Cabinet dros Addysg ei phleser o gael croesawu Gareth Rees o Ysgol Gynradd Cwm Ifor a Lee Jarvis o Ysgol Gyfun Martin Sant, a gafodd lwyddiant yn ddiweddar yng Ngwobrau Ysgol ac Addysg y South Wales Argus, a gynhaliwyd ym mis Ebrill eleni.

Enillodd Ysgol Gynradd Cwm Ifor Wobr Ysgol Gynradd y Flwyddyn, gyda 3 aelod staff hefyd yn ennill yng nghategori Gwobr yr Ail Ffilltir. Enillodd Ysgol Gyfun Martin Sant gategori Gwobr Ysgol Uwchradd y Flwyddyn, gan fynd ymlaen hefyd i ennill Gwobr Ysgol y Flwyddyn. Rhoddwyd gwybod i'r Cyngor bod Lee Jarvis wedi ennill Gwobr Pennaeth y Flwyddyn hefyd. Cydnabu'r gwobrau hyn waith caled pob aelod o staff, a weithiodd gyda'i gilydd er budd eu holl ddisgyblion. Gofynnodd yr Aelod Cabinet i'r Cyngor ymuno â hi i ddiolch iddyn nhw am eu hymroddiad a'u hymrwymiad i ddarparu addysg ragorol ac annog disgyblion i wneud eu gorau bob amser.

Croesawodd y Maer Mr Jarvis a Mr Reed i'r Cyngor a gofynnodd i Aelodau ymuno â hi i'w llongyfarch ar waith rhagorol y ddwy ysgol hyn a'u llongyfarch nhw ar y campau rhagorol hyn.

Gwobrau Exemplar GeoPlace 2022

Mynegodd yr Aelod Cabinet dros Gynllunio a Diogelu'r Cyhoedd ei phleser o gael croesawu 2 dîm o'r Awdurdod sydd wedi cael eu gwobrwyo yng Ngwobrau Exemplar GeoPlace 2022. Rhoddwyd gwybod i'r cyngor bod y Tîm Rheoli Cyfeiriadau, yn cynnwys Lee Pinney, Myra Osborn a Rachel Holden, wedi ennill Gwobr Blatinwm ar gyfer Data Cyfeiriadau a, hefyd, rhoddwyd Gwobr Blatinwm i'r Uwch Beiriannydd Gweithrediadau Cymwysiaid, Kathryn Sprackling-Jones, am Reoli Data Strydoedd.

Croesawodd y Maer Lee Pinney, Myra Osborn, Rachel Holden a Kathryn Sprackling-Jones i'r Cyngor a gofynnodd i'r Aelodau ymuno â hi i'w llongyfarch nhw ar waith eithriadol y Tîm rhagorol hwn.

Gwobr Regina Kibel 2021

Mynegodd yr Aelod Cabinet dros Gynllunio a Diogelu'r Cyhoedd ei phleser o gael croesawu Daniel Biddle o'r Tîm Gwasanaethau Masnachol mewn Safonau Masnach, y dyfarnwyd Gwobr Regina Kibel 2021 iddo. Hysbyswyd y Cyngor fod Daniel wedi ennill cymhwyster Diploma Ymarferwr Safonau Masnach (Cam 2) ar Fframwaith Cymhwysedd Proffesiynol y Sefydliad Safonau Masnach Siartredig ym mis Gorffennaf 2021, gan gyflawni'r marc cyfartalog uchaf ymhlith ei gymheiriaid. Dymagamp aruthrol, yn enwedig o gofio'r heriau a wynebodd ef a llawer o bobl eraill, gyda diffyg addysgu wyneb yn wyneb sylweddol yn ystod y pandemig.

Croesawodd y Maer Mr Biddle i'r Cyngor a gofynnodd i Aelodau ymuno â hi i longyfarch Daniel ar ei lwyddiant.

Cystadleuaeth Genedlaethol Cogydd Ysgol y Flwyddyn LACA

Mynegodd yr Aelod Cabinet dros Addysg ei phleser o gael croesawu Clair Edwards, Cogydd Ysgol yn Ysgol Gynradd Rhiw Syr Dafydd, a ddaeth yn drydydd yng nghystadleuaeth genedlaethol Cogydd Ysgol y Flwyddyn LACA.

Cynghorwyd y Cyngor fod Clair, yn y rownd derfynol, wedi gweini Sgiwer Selsigen Quorn ludiog fendigedig yn y dosbarth 'Grab and Go', yna bara chapatti wedi'i lenwi, wedi'i weini gyda reis blodfresych â garlleg a choriander, a gorffennodd y pryd gyda phwdin mefus a leim blasus tu hwnt.

Croesawodd y Maer Clair i'r Cyngor a gofynnodd i Aelodau ymuno â hi i longyfarch Clair ar y gamp arbennig hon.

5. DATGANIADAU O FUDDIANT

Ni chafwyd unrhyw ddatganiadau o fuddiant ar ddechrau nac yn ystod y cyfarfod.

6. COFNODION – Y CYNGOR – 12 EBRILL 2022

PENDERFYNWYD cymeradwyo cofnodion y Cyngor a gynhaliwyd ar 12 Ebrill 22 (cofnodion 1-10) fel cofnod cywir.

7. COFNODION – Y CYNGOR BLYNYDDOL 19 MAI 2022

Yn amodol ar ddiwygiad i Aelodau'r Panel Apeliadau, sef y dylai ei gyfansoddiad gynnwys y Cynghorwyr B. Miles, W. Williams, a G. Enright, a nodi bod y Cynghorydd P. Leonard wedi'i hepgor o'r Ymddiheuriadau am Absenoldeb, cynigiwyd ac eiliwyd cymeradwyo cofnodion cyfarfod 19 Mai 2022 fel cofnod cywir.

PENDERFYNWYD cymeradwyo cofnodion y Cyngor Blynyddol a gynhaliwyd ar 19 Mai 2022 (cofnodion 1-21) fel cofnod cywir.

8. CAEL AC ATEB CWESTIYNAU A RODDWDYD O DAN REOL GWEITHDREFN 10(4)

Cwestiwn i'r Aelod Cabinet dros Gyllid a Pherfformiad, y Cynghorydd E. Stenner, gan y Cynghorydd K. Etheridge.

Ymateb gan yr Aelod Cabinet dros Gyllid a Pherfformiad i'r Cynghorydd K. Etheridge

Byddai bai arnaf pe na bawn i'n sôn pam mae'r gronfa hon wedi cael ei thanwario. Fel yr esboniwyd yng nghyfarfod Pwyllgor Cyswllt y Sector Gwirfoddol ar 23 Mehefin 2022, mae sawl rheswm pam na fyddai rhai wardiau wedi manteisio ar eu hawl i Gronfa Ymrymuso'r Gymuned. Rhaid i ni gofio na wnaeth llawer o'n grwpiau gwirfoddol gyfarfod yn ystod y pandemig ac, yn sicr, roedd byd newydd yn eu cyfarch nhw wrth ddod allan o bandemig byd-eang. Ni fu newid i feini prawf y gronfa. Bydd pob Aelod yn gwybod nawr bod bwriad cynnal tri seminar i gynorthwyo Aelodau hen a newydd, gyda gwybodaeth i'w helpu wrth ymgysylltu â grwpiau cymunedol i roi gwybod pa fuddion y gall yr arian hwn ei gynnig. Fodd bynnag, rhaid i mi bwysleisio nad yw'r un gymuned wedi colli arian, bydd unrhyw danwario'n cael ei ddwyn ymlaen i'r flwyddyn

bresennol ac rwy'n hyderus y bydd yr holl Gynghorwyr yn gweithio'n galed, gan ymgysylltu â'u cymunedau dros y misoedd i ddod. Caiff y gronfa ei monitro'n rheolaidd a bydd Swyddogion wrth law i roi unrhyw gyngor y gall Aelodau ddymuno'i gael.

Cwestiwn i'r Aelod Cabinet dros Ffyniant, Adfywio a Newid yn yr Hinsawdd, y Cynghorydd J. Pritchard gan y Cynghorydd A. McConnell.

A all yr Aelod Cabinet dros Ffyniant, Adfywio a Newid yn yr Hinsawdd esbonio beth sy'n cael ei wneud i gynorthwyo busnesau a chanol trefi?

Ymateb gan yr Aelod Cabinet dros Ffyniant, Adfywio a Newid yn yr Hinsawdd i'r Cynghorydd A. McConnell.

Mae angen i ni wneud yn siŵr ein bod yn gwneud popeth posibl i gynorthwyo busnesau a gwella canol ein trefi. Ar anterth Covid, fe wnaethon ni sicrhau fod cyfanswm gwerth £64m o grantiau cysylltiedig â Covid yn cael eu dosbarthu gan y Tîm Busnes, Menter ac Adnewyddu. Yn sgil diddymu'r cyfyngiadau, mae angen i ni newid ein ffocws trwy amrywiaeth o fesurau gwahanol.

Rydyn ni wedi newid ein dull o ymgysylltu â busnesau. Yn lle cyfarfodydd Grwpiau Rheoli Canol y Dref gynt, rydyn ni bellach yn cynnal digwyddiadau brecwast/gyda'r nos sy'n canolbwyntio ar rannu gwybodaeth a chyfleoedd rhwydweithio. Trwy gynnal y digwyddiadau'r tu hwnt i'r diwrnod gwaith, mae perchnogion/cynrychiolwyr busnes yn fwy tebygol o allu mynychu heb effeithio ar weithredu eu busnes. Cynhelir y digwyddiadau mewn lleoliadau mwy hygyrch i fasnachwyr ym mhob tref unigol. Hyd yn hyn, rydyn ni wedi cyfarfod â masnachwyr o Ystrad Mynach a Choed Duon. Bydd Bargod, Caerffili a Rhisga yn dilyn yn fuan. Rwyf wedi trefnu cyfarfodydd â swyddogion ar ôl y digwyddiadau, fel y gallaf ôl-drafod y pwyntiau gweithredu a godwyd yn y cyfarfodydd. Hefyd, rwyf wedi gallu rhoi diweddariad i rai o'r busnesau a'r cynghorwyr lleol a fynychodd y cyfarfodydd.

Mae cael presenoldeb mwy gweledol yng nghanol y dref yn bwysig. Felly, rwy'n falch y byddwn ni'n cyflogi Rheolwr Canol Trefi a staff cymorth fis nesaf. Mae parhau i ymgysylltu â busnesau o ddydd i ddydd yn rhywbeth y mae arweinwyr corfforaethol a gwleidyddol y weinyddiaeth hon yn canolbwyntio arno.

Er bod ymgysylltu â busnes yn bwysig, felly hefyd y mae buddsoddi. Trwy'r Gronfa Ffyniant Gyffredin, rydyn ni wedi penderfynu gwneud rhai ymyriadau wedi'u targedu yng nghanol ein trefi. Fis diwethaf, cytunodd y Cabinet i sefydlu Timau Ymateb Trefol i ddelio â materion archwilio canol trefi yn y pum prif ganol tref. Hefyd, fe gytunom ni i greu cyllideb weithredol i Dimau Ymateb Trefol. Bydd hyn yn sicrhau bod mwy o adnoddau'n cael eu darparu i'r rheng flaen, lle mae trigolion yn ymweld yn rheolaidd.

Fis diwethaf, cytunodd y Cabinet i ehangu Cronfa Fenter Caerffili yn sylweddol. Bydd y buddsoddiad ychwanegol o £1 miliwn i fusnesau'n golygu bod mwy o fusnesau'n gallu cael gafael ar y cyllid grant i gynorthwyo eu datblygiad nhw, sy'n arbennig o hanfodol yn ystod y cyfnod hwn o bwysau costau a chwyddiant cynyddol.

Mae angen i'n dull ni o gynorthwyo busnesau a gwella canol ein trefi fod yn gysylltiedig. Mae hyn yn golygu peidio â bod ofn gwneud penderfyniadau a chael gweledigaeth glir o'n nod ni yn y tymor byr, canol a hwy.

ADRODDIADAU SWYDDOGION

9. HYSBYSIAD O GYNNIG – TORIADAU'R LLYWODRAETH

Ystyriwyd yr hysbysiad o gynnig a ddaeth oddi wrth y Cynghorydd Sean Morgan.

Nodwyd bod y Maer wedi cytuno i'r Cyngor ddelio â'r cynnig heb iddo gael ei ystyried yn y lle cyntaf mewn pwyllgor trosolwg a chraffu er mwyn bwrw ymlaen â busnes.

Gofynnodd y cynnig i'r Cyngor ysgrifennu i Lywodraeth y Deyrnas Unedig ar ran Aelodau Etholedig i ofyn am gynnydd llawn mewn cymorth cyllid i Awdurdodau Lleol, yn gymesur â chynnydd termau real i staff, er mwyn adfer rhywfaint o gynaliadwyedd i'r system. Oherwydd heb broffesiynoldeb ac ymroddiad ein staff, ni fyddai gwasanaethau'r Cyngor y mae ein trigolion yn dibynnu arnyn nhw'n cael eu darparu.

I gynorthwyo ei gynnig, amlinellodd y Cynghorydd Morgan gefndir y cynnig a gofynnodd i'r Cyngor nodi bod y Gymdeithas Llywodraeth Leol wedi amlygu gostyngiad yng nghyllid Llywodraeth y Deyrnas Unedig o bron 60% i Awdurdodau Lleol yng Nghymru a Lloegr rhwng 2010 a 2020. Dros y ddwy flynedd ddiwethaf, Cynghorau sydd wedi arwain y ffordd yn yr ymdrechion yn erbyn pandemig Covid-19, gan ddarparu amrywiaeth enfawr o wasanaethau a chymorth i gymunedau, gan beri risg iddyn nhw eu hunain yn aml, ac maen nhw wedi dangos pa mor anhepgor yw Llywodraeth Leol. Ond mae hyn hefyd wedi arwain at gynnydd enfawr mewn gwariant a cholli incwm ac, wrth i ni ddod allan o'r pandemig, mae angen mwy o gymorth ariannol o lawer ar Awdurdodau Lleol ac ysgolion gan San Steffan.

Mae gweithlu Llywodraeth Leol wedi wynebu blynyddoedd o gyfyngiadau ar gyflog ac, erbyn hydref 2017, roedd cyflogau'r sector cyhoeddus ar ei hôl hi o gymharu â chyflog y sector preifat am waith tebyg. Gyda staff yn wynebu'r argyfwng costau byw gwaethaf mewn cenhedlaeth, mae llawer yn wynebu dewis rhwng bwyd neu wres.

Amlygodd y Cynghorydd Morgan fod yr Cyd-undebau Llafur yn cefnogi'r hysbysiad o gynnig.

Rhoddodd y Cynghorydd Whittle, Arweinydd Grŵp Plaid Cymru, wybod i'r Cyngor y byddai ei Grŵp yn cefnogi'r hysbysiad o gynnig, ond meddyliodd tybed a oedd llythyr yn gynrychiolaeth ddigon cryf i'w gwneud oherwydd gellid ei anwybyddu'n hawdd. Cynigiodd y Cynghorydd Whittle y byddai dirprwyaeth hollbleidiol i Lundain yn ffordd well o symud hwn yn ei flaen ac awgrymodd y gellid cysylltu â Chymdeithas Llywodraeth Leol Cymru i arwain dirprwyaeth o'r fath i Lundain ar ran pob un o'r 22 Awdurdod. Cydnabu'r Aelod na ellid gwarantu cyfarfod wyneb yn wyneb â'r Gweinidog, ond y byddai'n sicr yn dangos cryfder y teimlad cyffredin.

Cadarnhaodd y Cynghorydd Etheridge, fel Arweinydd Grŵp yr Aelodau Annibynnol, y byddai ei Grŵp hefyd wedi cefnogi'r cynnig yn ffurfiol pe bai wedi cael ei gyflwyno i bob grŵp ac y bydden nhw'n cefnogi ei gynigion.

Diolchodd y Cynghorydd Morgan i'r Arweinwyr Grŵp a'r Aelodau am eu cefnogaeth a theimlai mai llythyr yn y lle cyntaf oedd y ffordd orau o ddechrau o ran dirprwyaeth. Pe ellid trefnu cyfarfod â'r Gweinidog wedyn, yna gellid ystyried dirprwyaeth drawsbleidiol bryd hynny.

Trwy Microsoft Forms a chadarnhad llafar ac, wrth nodi bod 57 o blaid ac 1 yn ymatal, datganwyd bod y cynnig wedi'i dderbyn gan y mwyafrif a oedd yn bresennol.

PENDERFYNWYD bod yr Hysbysiad o Gynnig yn cael ei gefnogi.

10. CYNLLUN BUSNES Y CYFRIF REFENIWTAI 2022/23

Nododd y Cyngor fod y Pwyllgor Craffu Tai ac Adfywio eisoes wedi ystyried yr adroddiad ar 15 Mawrth 2022 a bod y Cabinet wedi'i ystyried ar 23 Mawrth 2022.

Ystyriwyd yr adroddiad, a roddodd wybod i'r Cyngor am y gofyniad blynyddol i gyflwyno Cynllun Busnes y Cyfrif Refeniw Tai i Lywodraeth Cymru a cheisiodd gymeradwyaeth y Cyngor i ymestyn cap y Cyfrif Refeniw Tai ar fenthycia i £90M er mwyn caniatáu i'r rhaglen adeiladu newydd fynd yn ei blaen.

Cynghorwyd Aelodau fod yn rhaid cyflwyno'r Cyfrif Refeniw Tai i Lywodraeth Cymru fel rhan o'r cyflwyniad am grant cyllid y Lwfans Atgyweirio Mawr. Nodwyd y byddai methu â chyflwyno Cynllun Busnes hyfyw'n rhan o'r cynllun yn cael ei ystyried fel methiant i gydymffurfio â meini prawf grant y Lwfans Atgyweirio Mawr ac y byddai'r grant yn cael ei dynnu'n ôl, yn ôl pob tebyg. Nododd y Cyngor fod y Cynllun Busnes yn gynllun 30 mlynedd hirdymor ar gyfer rheoli asedau'r sefydliad a chyllido'r buddsoddiadau angenrheidiol. Mae'n elfen allweddol o sicrhau rheolaeth hirdymor effeithiol ar Stoc Tai'r Cyngor, a chynnal a chadw'r Stoc hwnnw, ac yn ei hanfod, mae'n rhagolwg ariannol sy'n dibynnu ar dybiaethau allweddol sy'n nodi'r adnoddau a'r cyllid gofynnol i fodloni Safon Ansawdd Tai Cymru a chynnal y safon honno o hynny ymlaen.

Nodwyd bod y proffil benthycia wedi'i ddiwygio yn 2019 i gynnwys cyllid ar gyfer drafft cyntaf rhaglen adeiladu newydd uchelgeisiol y Cyngor. Yn sgil cyflawni targed bodloni Safon Ansawdd Tai Cymru ar gyfer yr holl stoc cymwys, roedd yn gyfle perffaith i roi gwybod am Gynllun Busnes y Cyfrif Refeniw Tai a pharhau i wneud hynny'n flynyddol o hyn ymlaen wrth i'r Cyngor symud ymlaen i ddatblygu ei stoc tai cymdeithasol ei hun. Mae hyn wedi dod yn fwy pwysig o ystyried yr anwadalarwydd yn y farchnad o ran costau deunyddiau, cyflenwadau ac adnoddau llafur, a allai effeithio'n sylweddol ar ymrwymadau adeiladu newydd a'r agenda datgarboneiddio uchelgeisiol.

Cynghorwyd y Cyngor fod y lefel fenthycia yn £75 miliwn ar hyn o bryd, sef £45 miliwn yn ôl amcan ar gyfer Safon Ansawdd Tai Cymru a £30 miliwn ar gyfer y buddsoddiad cychwynnol mewn cynyddu'r cyflenwad tai, ond nodwyd bod hyn yn debygol o gynyddu £11.5 miliwn wrth i nifer yr adeiladau arfaethedig gynyddu i 175 o gymharu â'r cynllun blaenorol.

Ceisiwyd eglurhad ynghylch yr effaith y byddai'r model rhent byw yn ei chael ar denantiaid Caerffili, yn enwedig y rhai ag incwm isel na fydden nhw'n cael budd-dâl tai ac a allai weld cynnydd o 83% mewn rhent, a mynegwyd pryder bod llawer o deuluoedd Caerffili yn byw mewn tlodi oherwydd yr argyfwng costau byw personol, gyda rhai'n dibynnu ar fanciau bwyd ac yn gorfod dewis rhwng rhent, gwres a bwyd. Holodd yr Aelod ai'r model rhent byw yw'r dull gorau sydd ar gael ac a ellid rhoi cynnig ar hyn yn y lle cyntaf fel arbrawf dros gyfnod penodol, i weld a oedd yn gweithio.

Cadarnhaodd yr Aelod Cabinet dros Dai y byddai'n hapus i anfon manylion llawn y model rhent byw at yr Aelod ar ôl y cyfarfod a chadarnhaodd bod y cynnig i fabwysiadu'r model rhent byw wedi cael cefnogaeth drawsbleidiol yn y cam craffu.

Cyfeiriwyd at adran 5.5 yr adroddiad a bod Cartrefi Caerffili'n defnyddio dull model a fabwysiadwyd gan Capita; gofynnodd yr Aelod am gopi o'r crynodeb o'r achos busnes. Yna, cyfeiriodd yr Aelod at adran 5.12 yr adroddiad, a gyfeiriodd at y cyngor gan Lywodraeth Cymru fod awdurdodau lleol yn defnyddio 2% fel cyfradd chwyddiant nodweddiadol a mynegodd pryder o ystyried y cynnydd anwadal mewn chwyddiant sydd i'w weld ar hyn o bryd.

Cadarnhaodd yr Aelod Cabinet y byddai'n anfon yr wybodaeth honno at yr Aelod yn dilyn y cyfarfod.

Yna, ceisiwyd eglurhad ynghylch y costau ynni blynyddol amcangyfrifedig ar gyfer y system tai goddefol newydd y mae'r Cyngor wedi'i chyflwyno yn ei gartrefi newydd, gan y byddai hyn yn

cynnig fforddiadwyedd ynni mawr ei angen. Cyfeiriodd yr Aelod Cabinet at gartrefi newydd a adeiladwyd yn Nhretomos yn ddiweddar a chadarnhaodd fod y dyfynbris ar gyfer cost gwresogi blynyddol un o'r fflatiau hynny rhwng £90 a £100. Er, darparwyd y ffigur hwn rhyw flwyddyn yn ôl.

Cynigiwyd ac eiliwyd bod yr argymhellion yn adroddiad y Swyddog yn cael eu cymeradwyo a, thrwy Microsoft Forms, cytunwyd yn unfrydol ar hyn.

PENDERFYNWYD cymeradwyo'r estyniad i gap y Cyfrif Refeniw Tai ar fenthyca i £90M er mwyn caniatáu i'r rhaglen adeiladu newydd fynd yn ei blaen.

Daeth y cyfarfod i ben am 18:00 pm

Wedi'i gymeradwyo fel cofnod cywir ac yn amodol ar unrhyw ddiwygiadau neu gywiriadau y cytunir arnyn nhw ac a gofnodir yng nghofnodion y cyfarfod a gynhelir ar 4 Hydref 2022, fe'u llofnodwyd gan y Maer.

MAER

Gadewir y dudalen hon yn wag yn fwriadol



COUNCIL – 4TH OCTOBER 2022

SUBJECT: LOWER EBBW AND SIRHOWY VALLEYS MASTERPLAN

REPORT BY: CORPORATE DIRECTOR, ECONOMY AND ENVIRONMENT

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1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To advise members on the main issues identified by respondents during the public consultation exercise carried out between 19 January 2022 and 2 March 2022 on the Draft Lower Ebbw and Sirhowy Valleys Masterplan.
- 1.2 To approve the amended Lower Ebbw and Sirhowy Valleys Masterplan as Supplementary Planning Guidance to the Adopted Caerphilly County Borough Local Development Plan up to 2021 as a tool for guiding regeneration activity in the Lower Ebbw and Sirhowy Valleys.

2. SUMMARY

- 2.1 On 12 January 2022, Cabinet approved the publication of the Draft Lower Ebbw and Sirhowy Valleys Masterplan (Masterplan) for the purposes of a formal, six-week public consultation process. The consultation period began on 19 January 2022 and ended on 2 March 2022.
- 2.2 Twenty-seven representations were received during this period. The Report of Public Consultation (ROC) considers the issues raised, provides officer responses and makes recommendations. The ROC is included as Appendix 1 to this report.
- 2.3 The main issues raised in the consultation responses were:
 - Potential for tourism beyond Cwmcarn Forest Drive (at Sirhowy Valley Country Park and, more generally, in the Lower Sirhowy Valley, for example);
 - Making town centres safer for people walking, wheeling or cycling;
 - Promotion of the area's industrial heritage;
 - Reusing empty buildings;
 - Protection of natural and semi-natural environments.
- 2.4 These issues have been addressed in the ROC. As a result of the responses received, several changes are proposed to the Masterplan (see the ROC for details).
- 2.5 Minor typographical changes and updates are included in the amended document (see Appendix 2) but are not set out in the ROC.

3. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 That the Council consider the representations received as part of the public consultation exercise and endorse the officer recommendations set out in the ROC.
- 3.2 That the Council formally approves the Lower Ebbw and Sirhowy Valleys Masterplan as Supplementary Planning Guidance to the Adopted Caerphilly County Borough Local Development Plan and as a tool for guiding regeneration activity in the Lower Ebbw and Sirhowy Valleys.

4. REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS

- 4.1 To provide a policy basis for the future development and regeneration of the Lower Ebbw and Sirhowy Valleys.

5. THE REPORT

Background

- 5.1 Caerphilly County Borough and the wider Cardiff Capital Region is in a period of transformative change. The need for a strategy to coordinate regeneration initiatives and capitalise on funding streams is urgent to maximise the potential benefits to the County Borough.
- 5.2 The signing of City Deal and the Cardiff Capital Region Investment Fund signalled an unprecedented investment of £1.2 billion, to support the region's economic growth. The investment fund will continue to be used to take forward a wide range of projects and schemes that contribute toward economic growth.
- 5.3 The County Borough's regeneration strategy, 'A Foundation for Success', was approved in July 2018 and this was intended to provide the strategic framework for regeneration activity up to 2023. However, the Strategic Vision for the Regeneration of the County Borough was clouded throughout 2020 by 2 significant events Covid-19 and Brexit and the significant economic impact of both continues to persist. In response the Strategy was formally supplemented in December 2021 by A Foundation for Success - Delivering Prosperity after Covid.
- 5.4 The Lower Ebbw and Sirhowy Valleys Masterplan is one of five masterplans that cover the county borough to provide a more detailed outline of the regeneration opportunities in their respective areas.
- 5.5 The Lower Ebbw and Sirhowy Valleys' employment base and tourist economy present real opportunities for economic renewal and growth. The Masterplan seeks to integrate the strong employment, retail, tourism and recreational base to realise added benefit for economic recovery and growth.
- 5.6 The Masterplan sets out a development strategy and framework for delivering these outcomes and will form the basis for bids from funding streams for projects in the area.
- 5.7 Council resolved to commence a full review of the Local Development Plan on 23 October 2019. Decisions about investment and development opportunities in the Masterplan will inform the evidence base of the 2nd Replacement Caerphilly County Borough Local Development Plan.

Public Consultation Exercise

- 5.8 A public consultation exercise was carried out between 19 January 2022 and 2 March 2022.
- 5.9 Consultation emails were sent to all elected members, community councils within the Masterplan area, MSs and MPs.
- 5.10 Posters and consultation documents were displayed in libraries across the county borough, and the consultation was advertised on the Council's website and social-media channels.

Key Issues Raised

- 5.11 Twenty-seven representations were received during the consultation period. The ROC considers the issues raised, provides officer responses and makes recommendations. The ROC is included as Appendix 1 to this report.
- 5.12 Respondents were asked to comment on the Vision, Strategic Objectives, Development Strategy and site-specific proposals, and the responses have been grouped in the ROC to reflect this.
- 5.13 The main issues raised in the responses are:
- Potential for tourism beyond Cwmcarn Forest Drive (at Sirhowy Valley Country Park and, more generally, in the Lower Sirhowy Valley, for example);
 - Making town centres safer for people walking, wheeling or cycling;
 - Promotion of area's industrial heritage;
 - Reusing empty buildings;
 - Protection of natural and semi-natural environments.
- 5.14 Representations were also made about littering, antisocial behaviour, active travel, development in Abercarn and Cwmcarn, and the need for housing, among other things.
- 5.15 Most respondents supported the Vision, the Strategic Objectives and the Development Strategy. Many of the proposals were supported; however, respondents also suggested some changes and additional projects.

Conclusion

- 5.16 The ROC sets out each of the issues with an officer response and a recommendation for any amendments or action. All the proposed amendments have been included in the amended Masterplan (see Appendix 2).

6. ASSUMPTIONS

- 6.1 Delivery of individual proposals contained within the Masterplan will depend on financial constraints and the implementation of related initiatives e.g. UK Levelling Up Fund, South Wales Metro, Active Travel Fund. Funding sources identified to date are set out in Section 7 of the Masterplan.
- 6.2 It is assumed that private-sector investment will be required for the implementation of some proposals, and for facilitating the delivery of schemes involving key sites.
- 6.3 All representations received have been considered through the appended ROC.

7. SUMMARY OF INTEGRATED IMPACT ASSESSMENT

- 7.1 The Masterplan sets out a series of broad projects and proposals that will deliver a vision for the Masterplan area. A key underlying theme of the Masterplan is to reduce inequality, particularly through the generation of new job opportunities through enhancements in the existing employment base, the tourist economy and the town centre and foundational economies. The Masterplan also seeks to increase accessibility throughout the Masterplan area making it easier for everyone to access their required services and facilities.
- 7.2 The Masterplan identifies broad level projects and proposals and the IIA has not identified any adverse impacts in respect of these. As the proposals come forward to implementation the detailed projects will also be the subject of IIA which will identify any impacts and propose mitigation as appropriate where more details are known.
- 7.3 Overall, the Lower Ebbw and Sirhowy Valleys Masterplan does not give rise to any issues in respect of the integrated impact assessment.

[Link to full Integrated Impact Assessment](#)

8. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1 Funding sources (where known) for specific projects are identified in Section 7 of the Masterplan. Decisions on the funding and delivery of specific projects will be made by Cabinet, on the basis of the Council's Corporate Priorities and recommendations of the Regeneration Project Board.

9. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1 There are no personnel implications.

10. CONSULTATIONS

- 10.1 The consultees listed below have been consulted on the report and their views have been incorporated accordingly.

11. STATUTORY POWER

- 11.1 Local Government Act 2000

Author: Mark Stringer, Planning Officer (Strategic Planning)

Consultees:

Councillor Carol Andrews, Cabinet Member for Education & Communities
Councillor Patricia Cook, Vice Chair of Housing and Regeneration
Scrutiny Committee
Councillor Shayne Cook, Cabinet Member for Housing
Councillor Elaine Forehead, Cabinet Member for Social Care
Councillor Nigel George, Cabinet Member for Corporate Services and
Property (also Risca East ward member)
Councillor Adrian Hussey (Newbridge)
Councillor Leeroy Jeremiah (Newbridge)
Councillor Gary Johnston (Newbridge)
Councillor Jan Jones (Ynysddu)

Councillor Arianna Leonard (Risca East)
 Councillor Phillipa Leonard, Cabinet Member for Planning & Public Protection (also Risca East ward member)
 Councillor Chris Morgan, Cabinet Member for Waste, Leisure & Green Spaces
 Councillor Sean Morgan, Leader
 Councillor Bob Owen (Risca West)
 Councillor Denver Preece (Abercarn)
 Councillor James Pritchard, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Prosperity, Regeneration and Climate Change
 Councillor Janine Reed (Ynysddu)
 Councillor Julian Simmonds, Cabinet Member for Highways & Transportation (also Crosskeys ward)
 Councillor Eluned Stenner, Cabinet Member for Finance & Performance
 Councillor Andrew Whitcombe, Chair of Housing and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee (also Abercarn ward member)
 Councillor Ceri Wright (Risca West)
 Christina Harrhy, Chief Executive
 Richard Edmunds, Corporate Director Education & Corporate Services
 David Street, Corporate Director Social Services & Housing
 Mark S Williams, Corporate Director Economy and Environment
 Keri Cole, Chief Education Officer
 Lynne Donovan, Head of People Services
 Steve Harris, Head of Finance and S.151 Officer
 Robert Hartshorn, Head of Public Protection, Community & Leisure Services
 Rhian Kyte, Head of Regeneration & Planning
 Marcus Lloyd, Head of Infrastructure
 Robert Tranter, Head of Legal Services & Monitoring Officer
 Clive Campbell, Transportation Engineering Manager
 Anwen Cullinane, Senior Policy Officer – Equalities, Welsh Language and Consultation
 Allan Dallimore, Regeneration Services Manager
 Claire Davies, Private Sector Housing Manager
 Phil Griffiths, Green Space Strategy and Cemeteries Manager
 Mike Headington, Green Spaces and Transport Services Manager
 Jared Lougher, Sport and Leisure Development Manager
 Liz Lucas, Head of Customer and Digital Services
 Jeff Reynolds, Sport & Leisure Facilities Manager
 Sue Richards, Head of Education Planning & Strategy
 Ryan Thomas, Planning Services Manager

Background Papers:
 None.

Appendices:
 Appendix 1 Report of Public Consultation
 Appendix 2 Amended Lower Ebbw and Sirhowy Valleys Masterplan

Gadewir y dudalen hon yn wag yn fwriadol

Draft Lower Ebbw and Sirhowy Valleys Masterplan Report of Public Consultation

Introduction

This report follows a six-week period of public consultation on the Draft Lower Ebbw and Sirhowy Valleys Masterplan. It summarises the issues raised and sets out officers' observations and recommendations.

Public consultation exercise

A six-week period of public consultation took place between Wednesday 19 January 2022 and Wednesday 2 March 2022.

Consultation emails were sent to a range of stakeholders, including public-sector organisations, equality-related groups, MSs, MPs, all CCBC elected members, town and community councils and neighbouring authorities.

Posters were displayed in the town centres of Newbridge and Risca/Pontymister, and the consultation was advertised on the Council's website and social media channels.

27 representations (22 in response to the online questionnaire, five by email) were received.

The questionnaire asked respondents to state their postcodes, and 13 of the 20 (65%) (online) who answered the question lived in the Masterplan area.

Respondents were asked to comment on the Vision, Strategic Objectives and Development Strategy of the Masterplan. They were also invited to comment on site-specific proposals and to suggest additional proposals. Only those projects on which representations were made have been included within the report.

Equalities Impact Assessment

In line with the Council's Equalities Monitoring procedures, respondents were asked whether their answers were affected by any of the following: age, disability, ethnic origin, gender, gender reassignment, marital status, religious belief or non-belief, use of Welsh language, BSL or other languages, nationality or responsibility for any dependents.

One respondent stated that they had a disability.

One respondent wrote that:

An equality impact assessment should be made the basis of detailed plans rather than the strategic vision document.

One respondent wrote that:

All the proposals will affect people in various ways however those affected should be given consideration and their objections dealt with honestly and care. However we need positive change quickly.

Sections of questionnaire

Q4 Is the ‘vision’ sensible and realistic?

Responses: 22
 Yes: 15 (68%)
 No: 7 (32%)

The following representations were made about the ‘vision’ statement:

Observation number	Source of observation	Observation	Officer response	Recommendation
1	Questionnaire/email	‘Bland and generic.’ ‘Lacking in substance.’ ‘Vision’ statement is generic. ‘Vision’ too weak on tourism – example: should promote ‘Raven Way’ walk to ‘asset-rich walking pensioners’ [Raven Walk is a 12-mile circular walk above the Sirhowy and Ebbw valleys].	The vision sets out how the area will be at the end of the Masterplan period, when the projects have been implemented. It does not set out how the vision is to be achieved. That is the role of the Masterplan framework.	No change.
2	Questionnaire	Too little emphasis on tourism beyond Cwmcarn Forest Drive: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need more hotels, hostels, B&Bs, holiday homes, and so on. • More potential for activity-based tourism 	This is not the purpose of the ‘vision’. The framework sets out the overarching aim of linking tourist, leisure and recreation activities into one marketable product.	No change.

Observation number	Source of observation	Observation	Officer response	Recommendation
		(for example, Raven Walk and mountain biking).		
3	Questionnaire	Does the area need more housing? Can it even accommodate more housing?	Many of the housing sites in the Masterplan appear in the Local Development Plan, which was adopted in 2010. The building of new houses/flats would be compatible with national policy (the borough is in a national growth area identified in Future Wales). Planning obligations (improvements to infrastructure, for example) would be sought in accordance with adopted policy and guidance.	No change.
4	Questionnaire	Too little emphasis on the Lower Sirhowy Valley.	The Lower Sirhowy Valley is repeatedly mentioned in the Masterplan. The main settlements, however, are in the Lower Ebbw Valley.	No change.
5	Questionnaire	Some projects correspond to allocations in the out-of-date LDP.	The LDP is still the adopted development plan, and its allocations remain in force.	No change.
6	Questionnaire	Masterplan should say how the natural and semi-natural environments will be protected.	The LDP, not the Masterplan, sets out policies on this topic.	No change.
7	Questionnaire	Need to prevent, or at least reduce the frequency and severity of, antisocial behaviour.	Enforcement issues are beyond the scope of the Masterplan.	No change.

Q6 Do you agree with the strategic objectives?

Responses: 22

Yes: 15 (68%)

No: 7 (32%)

The following representations were made about the strategic objectives:

Observation number	Source of observation	Observation	Officer response	Recommendation
8	Questionnaire	'Providing affordable housing whilst promoting a tourism culture that gives preferential treatment to a buy to let short term market is directly at odds with people trying to find realistic rental opportunities in the area. It also restricts affordable stock for first time buyers.'	As in many areas of planning and regeneration, a sensible balance must be struck. A successful tourism sector and a varied housing stock are not necessarily hostile to one another.	No change.
9	Questionnaire	Should pay more attention to Abercarn and Cwmcarn, both of which have received less investment than either Newbridge or Risca.	The Masterplan observes the adopted LDP's settlement hierarchy. Risca is a 'principal town', and Newbridge is a 'local centre'. Other settlements will have projects, too, but the Masterplan must give priority to the largest and/or most populous places.	No change.

Observation number	Source of observation	Observation	Officer response	Recommendation
10	Questionnaire	Not strong enough on tourism. Too much emphasis on CFD. Raven Walk and Sirhowy Valleys Country Park (SVCP), among others, should receive more attention.	Objective C covers tourism in general. Even objective D, which relates mainly to Cwmcarn Forest Drive and the Monmouthshire & Brecon Canal, refers to 'other attractions'. No need to mention other attractions by name in the strategic objectives.	No change.
11	Questionnaire	Lacking in substance.	The objectives relate directly to substantive issues, so it is unclear how there is a lack of substance.	No change.
12	Questionnaire	Masterplan doesn't pay enough attention to links to the Sirhowy Country Park and Mynyddislwyn from Cwmcarn Forest Drive - pertinent to walking and mountain biking. Active travel in the master plan area is disjointed and many connectivity links are unsafe.	The active-travel network is being reviewed, and the Masterplan mentions the importance of allowing people to move safely throughout area.	No change.
13	Questionnaire	CFD and mountain biking: Mountain biking is the primary attraction to Cwmcarn and the lower Sirhowy Valley for locals and visitors. However, the off-piste trails are the main attraction and not the traditional cross-country and downhill trails. This needs to be recognised and harnessed.	The Masterplan makes it clear that Cwmcarn Forest Drive is not a destination for cyclists only. It supports proposals that will	Paragraph 6.33 be redrafted to read as follows: <i>Future changes may include:</i>

Observation number	Source of observation	Observation	Officer response	Recommendation
			<p>broaden its appeal still further.</p> <p>The Cwmcarn Forest Masterplan (CFM), which sets out the detailed projects for the Forest Drive, Consequently, it is appropriate to include the relevant information from the CFM in this Masterplan. Paragraph 6.33 of this Masterplan should be amended to reflect this information.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Establishing the lake as the focal point of the site (major landscaping scheme, new picnic areas, seating, BBQ facilities, sculpture, access ramps, planting, decking, bridge, parking)</i> • <i>New parking at the pit wheel (34 spaces additional spaces further up the valley, with a new footpath providing access to the lake)</i> • <i>Three additional lodges to complete the installation on the lodge field</i> • <i>Twrch Trail Loop: additional five to seven kilometres of MTB single-track bike trail to allow riders to stay</i>

Observation number	Source of observation	Observation	Officer response	Recommendation
				<p><i>on the mountain longer</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>The expansion of the site on to a 47-acre 'freehold enclave';</i> • <i>Additional tourist accommodation;</i> • <i>A forest coaster;</i> • <i>A treetop pathway and such 'adrenaline activities' as a swing, a bungee jump, a zip line and a helter skelter;</i> • <i>An improved visitor centre.</i>
14	Questionnaire	Ynsyddu Hotel needs official signposts on/from main road and cycle path.	This would be considered under the aim of making the attractions and accommodation a single product.	No change.
15	Questionnaire	Sirhowy Valley needs more leisure facilities for residents (outdoor gym equipment, skate park, mountain-bike skills area, BMX pump track).	No detailed proposals have been presented to the council, and they do	No change.

Observation number	Source of observation	Observation	Officer response	Recommendation
			not appear in current plans for the Sirhowy Valley Country Park, since the emphasis is on the area's industrial heritage.	

Q8 Do you agree with the development strategy?

Responses: 22

Yes: 15 (68%)

No: 7 (32%)

The following representations were made about the development strategy:

Observation number	Source of observation	Observation	Officer response	Recommendation
16	Questionnaire	No focus on villages of Abercarn and Cwmcarn.	See response to observation 9.	No change.
17	Questionnaire	Nothing about activities for young adults.	The Masterplan seeks to protect and enhance community facilities in general. No project is aimed at a specific group of people.	No change.
18	Questionnaire	Why is a Welsh-medium school needed? The feeder schools teach children mainly in English.	Council statement in consultation report on Ysgol Gymraeg Cwm Gwyddon: <i>Proposals have been prioritised based on a number of factors including building condition, pupil projection and local and national drivers, however, the delivery of the curriculum and the</i>	No change.

Observation number	Source of observation	Observation	Officer response	Recommendation
			<p><i>Educational agenda remains at the core. The Welsh Language (Wales) Measure 2011, the School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013 and the Legislation (Wales) Act 2019, provide a series of standards and places a statutory duty on the Council to assess the demand for Welsh medium education in the area. One of the key standards is a requirement to develop a 5-year Welsh language strategy, with the aim of increasing the number of Welsh speakers and which will enable us to facilitate the use of the Welsh Language within the county borough. The Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) sets out Caerphilly's</i></p>	

Observation number	Source of observation	Observation	Officer response	Recommendation
			<p><i>commitment to the Promotion of Welsh language and the provision of quality, attractive educational facilities. Within the WESP we are striving to stimulate demand for Welsh medium education, which we know is more sustainable for families if education provision is expanded in line with childcare available. We identified a need to invest in Ysgol Gymraeg Cwm Gwyddon, meeting the increasing demand for education through the medium of Welsh and developing shared and co-located facilities. It is this aspiration that is driving this proposal.</i></p> <p>See link below for full report:</p>	

Observation number	Source of observation	Observation	Officer response	Recommendation
			Cwm-Gwyddon-Consultation-Report-2020.aspx (caerphilly.gov.uk)	
19	Questionnaire	Employment sites – need to take a long-term view on industries and how each site might serve the local area.	The Masterplan does not seek to impose certain types of industries on areas. The use classes allow flexibility within specified limits, and the LDP has policies on changes in the use of ‘employment’ sites.	No change.
20	Questionnaire	‘Meaningless council-speak’.	No examples of ‘council-speak’ have been identified.	No change.

Q10 Do you have any comments to make on specific proposals?

33 responses.

The following representations were made about specific proposals:

Observation number	Proposal	Source of observation	Observation	Officer response	Recommendation
21	A1: Land next to Bridge Street, Newbridge	email	Consider project A1 (land next to Bridge Street) as place for a visitors' centre.	Paragraph 6.2 should be amended to reflect the observation.	Paragraph 6.2 be amended to read as follows: <i>This site is inside the defined settlement boundary. Depending on the risk of flooding, it might be suitable for a job-creating use, housing, a community use, a tourism use, a riverside playground and park, or even a mix of uses.</i>
22	B3: Brooklands, Brookland Road, Pontymister	Questionnaire	Consider Brooklands, Brookland Road, Pontymister, as a base for the town council.	Paragraph 6.9 should be amended to reflect the observation.	Paragraph 6.9 amended to read as follows:

Observation number	Proposal	Source of observation	Observation	Officer response	Recommendation
					<p><i>This site is in the defined settlement and forms part of the council's social services and educational facilities. Redevelopment options might include housing (including sheltered housing), offices, a community facility or a small hotel.</i></p>
23	B4: Caetwmpym Park, Newbridge	Questionnaire	Against any proposal that would increase traffic near Caetwmpym Park, Newbridge.	Acknowledge opposition to heavier traffic near Caetwmpym Park. The council would consider ways of preventing congestion and parking problems before it organised or permitted events in the park. A balance between traffic management and economic activity must be struck.	No change.

Observation number	Proposal	Source of observation	Observation	Officer response	Recommendation
24	B6: Town Centre Environmental and Accessibility Enhancements	Questionnaire	Make town centres safer for people walking and cycling. Risca and Newbridge compare badly with Abergavenny, for example	The Masterplan supports the creation of people-friendly town centres.	No change.
25	C3: Waunfawr Park, Crosskeys	Questionnaire	How much can be done with Waunfawr Park? Will it really become an attraction?	Waunfawr Park could be a venue for events that attract local people and visitors alike. The frequency and scale of events would, of course, need to be compatible with the park and its surroundings.	No change.
26	C4: Pioneer Hotel, Cwmfelinfach	Questionnaire	Support reuse/redevelopment/refurbishment of Pioneer Hotel	Support noted.	No change.
	C4: Pioneer Hotel, Cwmfelinfach	email	Pioneer Hotel should be kept as a hotel – Masterplan sounds too eager for it to be turned into flats.	Project C4 (Pioneer Hotel) mentions several possible uses of the building. The key issue is bringing the building back into beneficial use.	No change.
27	C5: Sirhowy Valley Country Park; C6: Ynys	Questionnaire	Need to make sure that additional visitors do not harm environment through erosion and litter.	Erosion and littering would be considered in the preparation of	No change.

Observation number	Proposal	Source of observation	Observation	Officer response	Recommendation
	Hywel Countryside Centre; D1: Cwmcarn Forest Drive; and D2: Monmouthshire Brecon Canal			detailed plans for sites.	
28	C6: Ynys Hywel Activity and Nature Centre, SVCP	Questionnaire	Ynys Hywel Activity Centre – owners alleged to have closed an entrance/access point that local people have used for many years.	Officers will investigate the access issue near Ynys Hywel Activity Centre.	No change.
29	C6: Ynys Hywel Activity and Nature Centre, SVCP	Questionnaire	Ynys Hywel Activity and Nature Centre hasn't been open for over 2 years and currently don't know what their future plans are. This is a private owned non council run business that cannot be used in the Masterplan as there is no influence the council has.	Noted.	Delete project from Masterplan.
30	D1: Cwmcarn Forest Drive	Questionnaire	Would like to see some form of discount/leisure card for local people so that the area is still use able and open to local families.	This suggestion has been noted and has been passed on to the relevant officers for their consideration.	No change.
31	D1: Cwmcarn Forest Drive	Questionnaire	Suspicion that many who visit Cwmcarn Forest Drive come and	The framework seeks to link all attractions	No change.

Observation number	Proposal	Source of observation	Observation	Officer response	Recommendation
			go in a single day. Should be more supporting/peripheral businesses (such as those that you'd find at and near a ski resort).	together and develop new ones that will improve the overall tourism offer. The Masterplan supports economic activity in many forms. New businesses that overlap with activities at CFD would be compatible with the Masterplan's vision and objectives. No detailed proposals have been submitted for inclusion in the Masterplan.	
32	D1: Cwmcarn Forest Drive	Questionnaire	Need to protect the historic environment – example: Twmbarlwm (scheduled monument) – any plans for CFD need to protect Twmbarlwm – discuss with Cadw and NRW?	Specific plans for Cwmcarn Forest Drive have been developed and implemented with the support of Cadw and Natural Resources Wales. Heritage assets would also be protected through the formal application process if planning	No change.

Observation number	Proposal	Source of observation	Observation	Officer response	Recommendation
				permission is required.	
33	D1: Cwmcarn Forest Drive	Questionnaire	Need to reduce or stop off-road use of motorbikes and quad bikes – blight on CFD.	This is an enforcement issue. A Masterplan cannot prevent or reduce the off-road use of motorcycles and quad bikes.	No change.
34	D2: Monmouthshire and Brecon Canal	Questionnaire	Brecon and Monmouthshire Canal: support for plans, especially creation of link to Torfaen.	Support noted.	No change.
35	E2: Active Travel	Questionnaire	Support for active travel – cyclists, especially, should be able to avoid main/arterial roads.	Support noted.	No change.
36	F5: Newbridge Leisure Centre	email	Newbridge Leisure Centre: 'basically a school swimming pool' – public cannot swim during the day in term time?	At the time of writing, the pool timetable permitted members of the public to swim at varying times between 6.30 a.m. and 10 p.m., whether during term time or school holidays. In addition to the swimming pool, Newbridge Leisure Centre has a health	No change.

Observation number	Proposal	Source of observation	Observation	Officer response	Recommendation
				<p>suite, a multi-purpose sports hall and a full-size artificial-turf pitch.</p> <p>Also, in November 2018, the Cabinet endorsed a 10-year Sport & Active Recreation Strategy (SARS) that identified Newbridge Leisure Centre as one of four strategically located leisure centres across the county borough.</p>	
37	n/a	Questionnaire	Need more emphasis on converting buildings into hotels, hostels, holiday homes, and so on.	A key element of maximising tourism is the provision of, and support for, accommodation. The LDP has policies on finding new uses for vacant buildings.	No change.
38	n/a	Questionnaire	Should say something about improving water quality of rivers (old mine works and badly connected sewerage).	These issues are beyond the scope of the Masterplan, which is a framework	No change.

Observation number	Proposal	Source of observation	Observation	Officer response	Recommendation
				for the economic recovery and growth. The council and its partners will continue to look at these issues, however.	
39	n/a	Questionnaire	Need a strategy on roadside litter.	This issue is beyond the scope of the Masterplan, which is a framework for the economic recovery and growth. The council and its partners will continue to look at this issue, however.	No change.
40	n/a	Questionnaire	Improve appearance of Abercarn and promote its industrial heritage	These aims are compatible with the Masterplan, but no detailed projects are ready to be included in the document.	No change.
41	n/a	Questionnaire	Improve environments for wildlife and fish.	Biodiversity would be protected through the formal planning process. The Masterplan mentions the importance of the natural environment, but it is not a policy	No change.

Observation number	Proposal	Source of observation	Observation	Officer response	Recommendation
				document. It cannot introduce new policies on ecology or stipulate that certain things should be done.	

Q14 Are there any additional proposals that should be included in the Masterplan?

13 responses.

The following representations were made about additional proposals:

Observation number	Source of observation	Observation	Officer response	Recommendation
42	Questionnaire	Improve roads.	<p>Planning Policy Wales (Edition 11, February 2021) says that:</p> <p><i>The Welsh Government is committed to reducing reliance on the private car and supporting a modal shift to walking, cycling and public transport. Delivering this objective will make an important contribution to decarbonisation, improving air quality, increasing physical activity, improving the health of the nation and realising the goals of the Well-being of Future Generations Act.</i></p> <p>The highway authority and/or Welsh</p>	No change.

Observation number	Source of observation	Observation	Officer response	Recommendation
			Government must identify and oversee improvements to public highways. The Masterplan merely sets out a strategy and identifies possible (re)development projects. Planning obligations would be sought through formal planning procedures.	
43	Questionnaire	Traffic-calming measures in Newbridge.	The Council does not currently have any plans for traffic-calming measures in Newbridge, but it has already used contrasting paving at various locations. If a need for traffic-calming measures should arise, the Council will consider the position at that time.	No change.
44	Questionnaire	Removal of litter.	See response to observation 39.	No change.
45	Questionnaire	Charging points for electric vehicles.	The Masterplan recognises the importance of creating charging points for electric vehicles.	No change.

Observation number	Source of observation	Observation	Officer response	Recommendation
46	Questionnaire	Stop, or at least reduce the frequency and severity of, antisocial behaviour.	This issue is beyond the scope of the Masterplan, which is a framework for the economic recovery and growth.	No change.
47	Questionnaire	'Development opportunities' for young people.	The Masterplan seeks to protect and enhance community facilities in general.	No change.
48	Questionnaire	Something for Wattsville – perhaps a woodland path?	The Masterplan does not prevent the creation of a woodland path, but there are not currently detailed proposals to develop one. Incidentally, Sirhowy Valley Country Park is in the same valley.	No change.
49	Questionnaire	Flood-prevention scheme for Waunfawr Park.	The Masterplan is not a policy document. It should not propose flood-prevention schemes for specific sites.	No change.
50	Questionnaire	Mountain-biking area/facility between Wyllie and Ynysddu.	One of the principles of the Masterplan Framework is the enhancement of the tourist/leisure offer throughout the area. A facility of this type would	No change.

Observation number	Source of observation	Observation	Officer response	Recommendation
			be compatible with the Masterplan.	
51	Questionnaire	Improve access to Twmbarlwm and the SAM at its summit.	<p>One of the principles of the Masterplan Framework is the enhancement of the tourist/leisure offer throughout the area.</p> <p>Specific plans for improved access will be considered through more detailed projects. For example, the Cwmcarn Forest Masterplan (written by Tomorrow's Tourism) discusses existing access points and walking routes. It also says that 'additional walking routes could be considered that link between specific view-points and/or localised areas of interest within the Park'. Improved access to Twmbarlwm</p>	No change.

Observation number	Source of observation	Observation	Officer response	Recommendation
			would certainly be consistent with the aims of the Lower Ebbw and Sirhowy Valleys Masterplan.	
52	email	Risca cuckoo – some people would like to see this moved to a more prominent location.	Townscape improvements will be considered through more detailed projects that are in accordance with the Masterplan.	No change.

Q15 Do you have additional comments?

11 responses.

Observation number	Source of observation	Observation	Officer response	Recommendation
53	Questionnaire	Residents should be consulted on specific projects.	Residents will be consulted on projects as they are brought forwards.	No change.
54	Questionnaire	Tourism economy depends largely on dry weather. The area gets a lot of rain. What happens in wet weather?	Those who wish to run tourism businesses are best placed to decide how the weather might affect their livelihoods.	No change.
55	Questionnaire	Some elderly people are excluded from an increasingly technology-based society.	Though non-digital methods were used in its consultation period, the Masterplan cannot resist changes in society and technology.	No change.
56	Questionnaire	Improve 'historic knowledge' of the area (events, industries, sports heroes, teams).	Pontywaun Garden Suburbs are identified as an attraction. Other projects that might make people more aware of local history would accord with the Masterplan.	No change.
57	Questionnaire	Masterplan is repetitive.	Noted.	No change.

Observation number	Source of observation	Observation	Officer response	Recommendation
58	Questionnaire	Why does the area need more housing?	See response to observation 3.	No change.
59	Questionnaire	Sirhowy Valley Country Park should be identified and promoted as a tourist attraction. It has more to offer than the canal.	Sirhowy Valley Country Park is identified as a tourist attraction (see project C5).	No change.
60	Questionnaire	Reuse empty buildings.	Broadly speaking, reusing empty buildings would accord not only with the Masterplan's objectives but with national and local planning policy.	No change.
61	Questionnaire	Advertise links to valleys-wide cycle paths.	These paths are identified on the Council's Integrated Network Map (Active Travel). They are important links between the attractions and will be included in promotion and marketing of the tourism/leisure offer.	No change.
62	Questionnaire	Cwmcarn Forest Drive – narrow – some drivers do not leave safe gaps when overtaking cyclists (against the Highway Code) – should have a separate cycle lane.	Cwmcarn Forest Masterplan (Tomorrow's Tourism) has been approved by the Council and sets	No change.

Observation number	Source of observation	Observation	Officer response	Recommendation
			out detailed proposals (including potential changes to access arrangements) for the Forest Drive.	
63	Questionnaire	Mistakes in the Future Wales 'Ways of Working' section.	Section A1.3 reflects the position prior to the consultation on the draft Masterplan. This should now be updated to the current position. As a result Section A1.3 should be redrafted.	<p>Paragraph A1.3 be redrafted to read as follows:</p> <p><i>The Masterplan has been prepared in line with the five ways of working:</i></p> <p>Involvement – <i>The Masterplan proposals are subject to consultation with the local community and have been developed through engagement with such stakeholders as ward members and community councillors.</i></p> <p>Collaboration – <i>The development of the Masterplan has drawn on the expertise from key</i></p>

Observation number	Source of observation	Observation	Officer response	Recommendation
				<p><i>representatives across local authority departments, including Planning, Regeneration, Housing, Engineering and Countryside. The delivery of the projects identified within the Masterplan will involve collaboration between the public, private and third sectors, and the Council will work closely with these partners to deliver schemes in a collaborative manner.</i></p> <p>Long term – <i>The objectives identified, and the projects that will deliver these objectives, are part of a longer-term vision of enhancing the role of the</i></p>

Observation number	Source of observation	Observation	Officer response	Recommendation
				<p><i>Masterplan area. The Masterplan recognises the need for development to support economic growth but recognises that this development should be of a sustainable nature, both in terms of its purpose and its location.</i></p> <p>Integration – <i>The Masterplan projects will help to deliver several objectives of A Foundation for Success (as set out within Section 7 of this document), as well as proposals contained within the adopted Local Development Plan. They will also deliver against the Council’s own well-being objectives by identifying projects that will lead to job</i></p>

Observation number	Source of observation	Observation	Officer response	Recommendation
				<p><i>creation and training opportunities, promote more healthy and active lifestyles and reduce the carbon footprint through improved Active Travel routes and facilities locally.</i></p> <p>Prevention – <i>The Masterplan seeks to improve local quality of life so that existing problems do not get any worse and so that any future problems will be manageable.</i></p>
64	Questionnaire	None of the strategic objectives relates to the 'Future Generations' goal of a 'resilient Wales'. What can be done?	'Resilient Wales' goal – development proposals will have to accord with the adopted LDP and national planning policy. The Masterplan is not a policy document and cannot introduce policies on biodiversity.	No change.

Observation number	Source of observation	Observation	Officer response	Recommendation
65	email	'Masterplan' is a misleading title. The document is a 'summary study of potential project opportunities'.	This document is part of a series of 'Masterplans' which contribute to the delivery of A Foundation for Success - the Council's regeneration Strategy.	No change.
66	email	Not clear what makes the Masterplan area a distinct area in the borough.	The Masterplan areas were identified several years ago. The Masterplan explains that the area consists of two valleys. Also, the area's employment sites, tourist attractions and leisure facilities are similar in nature.	No change.
67	email	Too little analysis of the area – document should say more about economy, landscape, history, culture, Welsh language, and so on.	The Masterplan is not intended to be a record of the current character of the area. It is a regeneration document.	No change.
68	email	How does the Masterplan fit in with other policy documents?	This is explained in the introduction (see paragraphs 1.1 to 1.9).	No change.
69	email	Demography – how will Masterplan help to attract people to the area? How will it help to	The Masterplan will help to attract people to the area by stimulating	No change.

Observation number	Source of observation	Observation	Officer response	Recommendation
		solve such problems as 'low growth' and an ageing population?	economic activity. The issues of low growth/ an ageing population etc, will be addressed through the 2nd Replacement Local Development Plan which is currently in preparation.	
70	email	Masterplan mentions scarcity of developable land but doesn't go into much detail. How might the flooding problems be solved?	Flood alleviation works have been completed in Risca /Pontymister, but this does not completely alleviate the issues of flood risk throughout the Masterplan area. This is part of the reason there is little developable land in the area. All proposals will need to comply with national and local flood risk policy.	No change.
71	email	List of projects – not clear who will be responsible for these, when they will happen, which ones will be treated as priorities, and so on.	Many of the projects involve private land. The council cannot make people (re)develop the sites. A list of priorities would	No change.

Observation number	Source of observation	Observation	Officer response	Recommendation
			not change the situation.	
72	email	What needs to be done to unlock 'stalled' sites?	Welsh Government initiatives, such as the Development Bank of Wales, the Stalled Sites Fund, and the Land for Housing scheme, may form part of the funding mechanisms for projects in the area.	No change.
73	email	Putting projects in such categories as 'housing' and 'employment' may go against place-making principles.	In a formal planning assessment, development proposals are considered against place-making principles. It makes sense to put similar proposals in categories. The categories do not prevent developers from considering a mix of uses.	No change.
74	email	Disappointed that the initiatives listed in the Crumlin Arm Action Plan (Caerphilly County Borough Council 2015) have not been carried forward into this plan.	Project D2 covers improvements to the Crumlin Arm of the canal. Specific projects will be set out in more	No change.

Observation number	Source of observation	Observation	Officer response	Recommendation
			detailed documents, one example of which is the Crumlin Arm Action Plan. There is no need to restate detailed projects in this Masterplan.	
75	email	Other than those already funded and mostly implemented via The Canal Adventure Triangle there appear to be no new initiatives relating to the canal within this Masterplan.	Improvements to the canal will be considered as more detailed projects are brought forwards.	No change.
76	email	Previous idea: marina and associated hotel at former quarry at The Darran.	Because navigation on the canal is currently limited, a proposal for a marina is not feasible. In general terms, however, the Masterplan seeks an improved tourist economy, an important part of which is accommodation. If circumstances at the canal should change, the Masterplan will offer broad support for tourism-related development.	No change.

Observation number	Source of observation	Observation	Officer response	Recommendation
77	email	Suggestion: 'For example with the potential for synergy with the Cwmcarn Forest Drive the section of canal from its current terminus at Pontywaun to the blockage at Darren Road could be used for navigation. A trip boat and/or restaurant boat could operate along this section.'	See response to observation 76.	No change.
78	email	Suggestion: 'small mooring basin with an associated café and facilities such as boat electricity charging point and water and waste disposal facilities, which would allow a trip boat to operate'. – possible locations: near Cwmcarn Aqueduct or further south.	See response to observation 76.	No change.
79	email	Suggestion: turning head or 'winding hole' should be created in same location as above and at the end of Whysoms Wharf, [Darran] Road.	See response to observation 76.	No change.
80	email	Problem: lack of water during dry weather – council should 'investigate additional sources of water such as mountain streams, and/or the enlargement of the Cwmcarn Forest Drive Lake and its use as a feeder reservoir for the canal in times of drought'.	Noted.	No change.
81	email	Para. 2.7: No mention of: SVCP; 'heritage site'; cycle track that runs from Newport to Pembroke (going through Risca, Crosskeys and SVCP).	Whilst paragraph 2.7 references the Valley's Country Park, it could include reference to the national cycle route. The paragraph should	Paragraph 2.7 be amended to read as follows: <i>The area has a strong leisure and tourism offer, being</i>

Observation number	Source of observation	Observation	Officer response	Recommendation
			be amended to reflect this.	<p><i>home to the nationally significant tourist attraction of Cwmcarn Forest Drive, the Crumlin arm of the Monmouthshire and Brecon Canal, and the prestigious Newbridge Memorial Hall and Institute. The area also contains significant leisure opportunities including several public parks, Sirhowy Valley Country Park, two leisure centres, open commons, walking trails, and a cycle track (National Cycle Network Route 47) that runs from Newport to Pembroke (going through Risca, Crosskeys and Sirhowy Valley Country Park).</i></p>

Observation number	Source of observation	Observation	Officer response	Recommendation
82	email	<p>Para. 2.9: Bus service in Lower Sirhowy is hourly, not half-hourly.</p> <p>How does the council propose to improve it? Lower Sirhowy, not just the Ebbw valley, needs an 'improved evening and night-time service'.</p>	<p>Noted. The area has an hourly bus service.</p> <p>The Masterplan would support not only improvements to bus services but the use, and improvement of, active-travel routes.</p>	<p>Paragraph 2.9 now reads:</p> <p><i>The Lower Sirhowy Valley lacks a railway line but has an hourly bus service. Overall, its public-transport links to other parts of the borough are weaker than those of the Ebbw Valley.</i></p>
83	email	Masterplan should say more about the area's heritage sites.	Para. 6.24 mentions SVCP's heritage assets. It is not necessary to discuss specific heritage assets in detail.	No change.
84	email	'Challenges' section should mention unemployment (higher than average).	Ward-level evidence from 2011 Census does not suggest that involuntary/unwanted unemployment is a significant problem in the Masterplan area.	No change.
85	email	Topography should be seen not as a challenge but as an opportunity for tourism (walking, cycling, climbing, water-based activities).	The opportunities created by topography are implicit in the document. Cwmcarn Forest Drive, for	No change.

Observation number	Source of observation	Observation	Officer response	Recommendation
			instance, is popular because of its topography. At the same time, it is reasonable to point out that topography limits certain types of development in the Masterplan area.	
86	email	Opportunities: cycle routes 47 and 465; shape landscape with NRW ('tree harvesting' project); what evidence suggests that people will travel from International Convention Centre to Masterplan area?	<p>The Masterplan neither proposes nor manages long-distance cycle routes (national routes are the responsibility of Sustrans). Instead, it seeks to promote transport routes in the area to improve connectivity and accessibility.</p> <p>In addition, the Masterplan promotes the tourist offer in the county borough and seeks to attract visitors from a wider area.</p>	No change.
87	email	What will Masterplan do about ageing population and movement of young people to other areas?	The local development plan is the document	No change.

Observation number	Source of observation	Observation	Officer response	Recommendation
			that must consider this issue.	
88	email	'Competition from larger retail and leisure centres – this is not a threat as this the way that society has been moving it means that town centre[s] are not shopping centres anymore and need to adapt.'	Officers maintain that this is a threat. The Masterplan draws attention to the threat and suggests proposals that may help town centres to adapt to changing circumstances.	No change.
89	email	No detail of new tourist attractions – what might they be?	The Masterplan provides a framework to realise new and enhanced tourist attractions as and when opportunities arise. It neither specifies nor predicts the nature of future attractions but provides the environment for them to come forward.	No change.
90	email	Too many references to '240,000 visitors' to CFD – also, who are they? Are they local people repeatedly visiting the place?	This is a major attraction and warrants significant mention throughout the Masterplan. Detailed tourist information has been sourced for the	No change.

Observation number	Source of observation	Observation	Officer response	Recommendation
			improvement proposals, and the patronage is a combination of local and external people.	
91	email	Should mention 'valley regional parks work at Cwmcarn and Penallta and desire to link the 2 parks using Sirhowy Valley Country Park'.	Project E2 (Active Travel) makes it clear that active-travel routes should connect various parts of the Masterplan area, and project C5 (SVCP) mentions a route between Sirhowy Valley Country Park and Penallta. The Council's Active Travel Network Map identifies routes that provide links to the various parts of the Valleys Regional Park.	No change.
92	email	NRW wants to direct those visiting CFD to SVCP, too – why isn't this mentioned?	This is covered by the principle of linking the Masterplan area's attractions and marketing them as a package.	No change.
93	email	Section 4.2: Marketing shouldn't be a 'campaign' – it should be an ongoing exercise.	Officers will change the wording and emphasis.	Throughout the document, 'marketing campaign'

Observation number	Source of observation	Observation	Officer response	Recommendation
				has been replaced with 'marketing exercise'.
94	email	Section 5.9: The area doesn't already have a 'strong tourism base'.	The tourism base is relatively strong but can be enhanced.	No change.
95	email	Too much emphasis on CFD and 'downhill cycling' – other places can also help the local economy.	The Masterplan makes it clear that Cwmcarn Forest Drive is not a destination for cyclists only. It supports proposals that will broaden its appeal still further. The Masterplan seeks to promote economic activity throughout the Masterplan area.	No change.
96	email	'Vision' for Sirhowy Valley Country Park: 'from a document produced by the council in 2018, which has not been enacted upon'.	The Masterplan will help to bring about the council's 'vision' of Sirhowy Valley Country Park.	No change.
97	email	Lower Sirhowy: 'There are already conversations with Council, NRW, and Cadw about the short term and long-term options of Lower Sirhowy which have not been brought into the "Masterplan".'	No formal strategy has been prepared yet.	No change.

Observation number	Source of observation	Observation	Officer response	Recommendation
98	email	Abercarn is not mentioned much in this "Masterplan" except to put housing on a historic school site. I suppose that means demolition?	See response to observation 9. The Masterplan merely identifies Ysgol Gymraeg Cwm Gwyddon as a redevelopment opportunity. A planning application would be required for the redevelopment of the site and this would include detailed plans for the development, including identifying any demolition.	No change.
99	email	You write, "due to demand in housing" but who would demand a house in Abercarn when there is nothing of substance there?	New housing is needed throughout the county borough. A significant new private sector housing site was developed near Abercarn in 2014 evidencing demand for housing in this area.	No change.
100	email	The only parks for children I know of in Abercarn are hidden out of sight. One, at the top of Llanfach, one, over at the distillery and one up against a mountain out of sight in West End.	One of the key principles of the Masterplan is to improve connectivity	No change.

Observation number	Source of observation	Observation	Officer response	Recommendation
			and accessibility between assets in the Masterplan area, as well as seeking a comprehensive promotion of all assets to increase awareness and accessibility.	
101	email	When Caerphilly took over from Islwyn, funding was spent entirely over there for a long time. Then some funding was spent on Blackwood and Risca and Cwmcarn Scenic. In all this time, Abercarn has been overlooked.	The Masterplan does not prevent people from proposing development in Abercarn. Funding has been allocated for, projects outside Caerphilly.	No change.
102	email	Instead of spending £4million on Cwmcarn Scenic Drive, couldn't the Scenic Drive be extended into Abercarn for instance?	Proposals at Cwmcarn Forest Drive are in conjunction with Natural Resources Wales, Welsh Government and several Public Services Board partners. The benefits of development will probably be felt beyond Cwmcarn Forest Drive.	No change.

Observation number	Source of observation	Observation	Officer response	Recommendation
103	email	We have extensive mountain range on the Rhsyg and I'm sure there must be a way to drive over that direction from Cwmcarn Scenic route.	See response to observation 102.	No change.
104	email	We could also have an entry point from Abercarn to drive toward Cwmcarn via scenic route. Nice surprise when they reach Cwmcarn.	See response to observation 102.	No change.
105	email	My other thought is why isn't anyone promoting these areas to the film and drama industry for use?	Welsh Government and all local authorities in the area would like to see this happen. At the time of writing, however, no specific proposals had been brought to the council.	No change.
106	email	And Ysgol Gwyddon could be a fantastic use of building for the film industry or maybe it could be used for people who wish to do evening classes in art, pottery, learning Welsh, cake decorating, St John's ambulance. These classes used to take place in Newbridge school many years ago and was cancelled but many people attended.	See response to observation 105.	No change.

Gadewir y dudalen hon yn wag yn fwiadol

Appendix 2

Draft Lower Ebbw and Sirhowy Valleys
Masterplan

Post-consultation draft (August
2022)

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1. Introduction

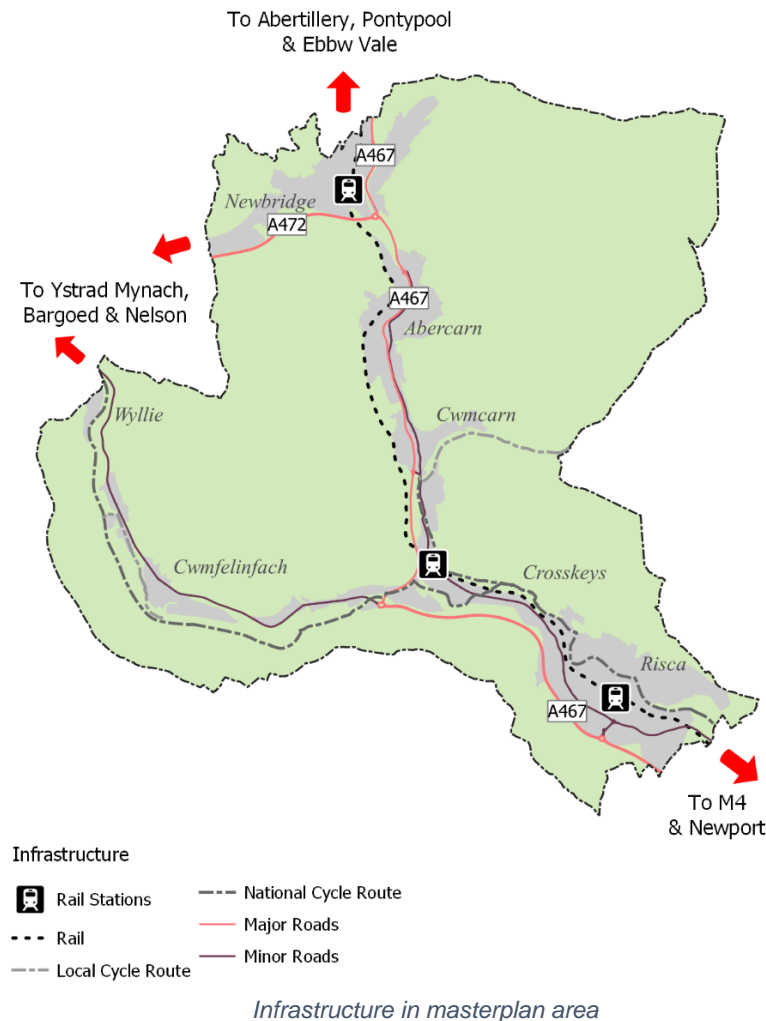
- 1.1 This masterplan sets out the future development and regeneration opportunities proposed for the Lower Ebbw and Sirhowy Valleys. It seeks to facilitate significant change in order to promote communities, strengthen the economy and improve the quality of life of people who live, work, and spend time in this area.
- 1.2 The masterplan provides a comprehensive framework for the future of the Lower Ebbw and Sirhowy Valleys. It is flexible and can adapt to changing economic and market conditions and meet the requirements and aspirations of both the private and public sectors through regular review. The masterplan is designed to be reviewed every five years, in line with the regeneration strategy, 'A Foundation for Success'. It is recognised that, while there are some projects that can be delivered within the short to medium term, there are longer term projects and aspiration which are reflected in this masterplan as part of the holistic approach to the regeneration of the area.
- 1.3 There is an exciting opportunity to facilitate significant change through the Cardiff Capital Region City Deal (CCRCD), which will provide resources to unlock significant economic growth in the region, delivering jobs and private sector investment. Whilst CCRCD seeks to relieve pressure on Cardiff as its regional city, it also seeks to promote growth in smaller towns and industrial communities in order to rebalance social justice and prosperity. This masterplan seeks to provide a direction of travel to ensure a transition towards economic and social success.
- 1.4 The City Deal Investment Fund will also facilitate the delivery of the South East Wales Metro. And, whilst the Ebbw Vale railway line is not included in this round of Metro improvements, improvements to bus services, which provide a high level of accessibility throughout the area, are part of the overall package. Future phases of Metro development will include a review of the Ebbw Vale line and will look at reinstating the link to Newport and consider the issue of increasing services on this line.
- 1.5 The masterplan has been prepared within the context of the adopted Caerphilly County Borough Local Development Plan (LDP), which sets out the Council's land use objectives for the County Borough, but it also sets out longer term goals to ensure that the momentum of change also extends well into the next decade. Many of the projects identified in this masterplan are aligned to proposals contained within the adopted LDP. The LDP is currently being reviewed to provide the policy framework to control development in future years. Furthermore, relevant proposals may also be included within a Strategic Development Plan for the Cardiff Capital Region. The masterplan will therefore need to be reviewed to take into account the relevant policies and proposals contained within the different tiers of development plans as they emerge.
- 1.6 The masterplan has been prepared in the context of the overarching regeneration strategy for the County Borough, 'A Foundation for Success' as well as the economic development strategy 'Delivering Prosperity'. 'A Foundation for Success' sets out four key themes that need to be addressed:

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

- 1.7 The masterplan discusses development in general but also identifies sites that should be protected, developed or redeveloped. It supports housing proposals in sustainable locations and seeks to promote the area as a significant place for business, leisure, education and tourism. It also seeks to create prosperous town and village centres that provide the services and facilities that residents want and improve accessibility between them and the many other destinations in the masterplan area (such as the Cwmcarn Forest Drive and the network of public and country parks).
- 1.8 Three of the five masterplans that sit under 'A Foundation for Success' have been prepared and approved and these are:
- The Caerphilly Basin Masterplan
 - The Ystrad Mynach Masterplan
 - The Heads of the Valleys Regeneration Area Masterplan
- 1.9 The last of the five masterplans, the Mid-Valleys Masterplan, is also in preparation and will follow closely behind this masterplan in progressing towards approval. It is anticipated that the final two masterplans will be approved by the Council in the summer of 2022. 'A Foundation for Success' and its associated masterplans will provide the basis for capturing and maximising regeneration and grant funding opportunities to improve the county borough.

2. The Study Area

- 2.1 The masterplan area is in the eastern half of the county borough. The 2011 Census identified that the masterplan area had a total population just over 30,000, with just over 10% of the population living in the Lower Sirhowy Valley and the remaining population living in the Lower Ebbw Valley.
- 2.2 The masterplan area comprises 22 Lower Super Output Areas (LSOAs), two of which are within the bottom 25% of LSOAs in terms of deprivation in Wales. As such the masterplan area is not considered to be one that has a significant issue in terms of deprivation although there are pockets of deprivation in the area.
- 2.3 The Adopted LDP identifies strategy areas within the county borough that address the different characteristics of those areas. The LDP identifies the Southern Connections Corridor (SCC), which covers the southern end of the county borough, including much of the area covered by this masterplan, and the Northern Connections Corridor (NCC), which includes Newbridge. Therefore, the masterplan area comprises parts of both the SCC and the NCC. Whilst the LDP strategy has identified different issues and approaches to the two strategy areas, this masterplan focusses on the area as a single cohesive area.
- 2.4 The masterplan area consists of the principal town of Risca/Pontymister and the settlements of Abercarn, Brynawel, Crosskeys, Cwmcarn, Cwmfelinfach, Full Moon, Newbridge, Panside, Pontywaun, Ynysddu, Wattsville, and Wyllie. It also comprises the wards of Abercarn, Crosskeys, Newbridge, Risca West, Risca East, and Ynysddu.

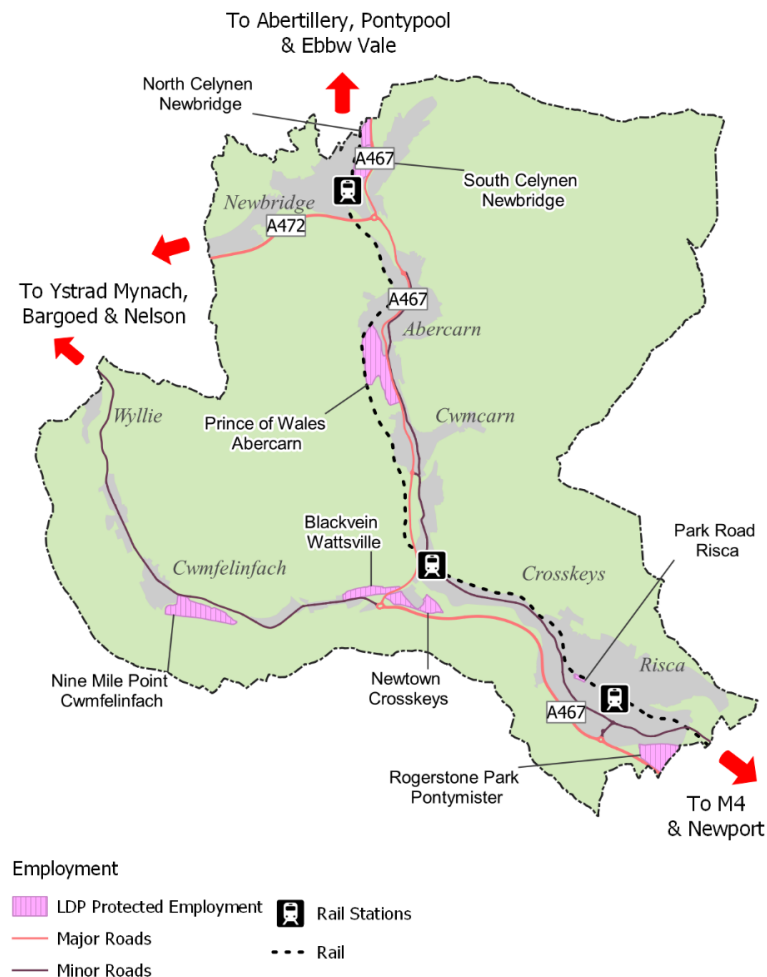


2.5 The masterplan area contains a significant amount of employment land making this an important economic area. The main employment sectors in the area are manufacturing, wholesale/retail, education, public administration and human health. The LDP protects 8 employment sites within the area, namely South Celynen (Newbridge Road) and North Celynen (North of access road) in Newbridge, Prince of Wales in Abercarn, Newtown in Crosskeys, Park Road in Risca, Rogerstone Park in Pontymister, Nine Mile Point in Cwmfelinfach, and Blackvein in Wattsville (these have a combined area of roughly 83 hectares).

2.6 The area contains one Principal Town Centre in Risca/Pontymister, and this is the main destination for shoppers in the area in terms of food shopping, whilst Newport is the primary destination for bulky goods. In addition, the area includes the Local Centre of Newbridge and neighbourhood centres of Cwmcarn, Abercarn and Crosskeys.

2.7 The area has a strong leisure and tourism offer, being home to the nationally significant tourist attraction of Cwmcarn Forest Drive, the Crumlin arm of the Monmouthshire and Brecon Canal, and the prestigious Newbridge Memorial Hall and Institute. The area also contains significant leisure opportunities including several public parks, Sirhowy Valley Country Park, two leisure centres, open commons, walking trails, and a cycle track (National Cycle Network Route 47) that runs from Newport to Pembroke (going through Risca, Crosskeys and Sirhowy Valley Country Park).

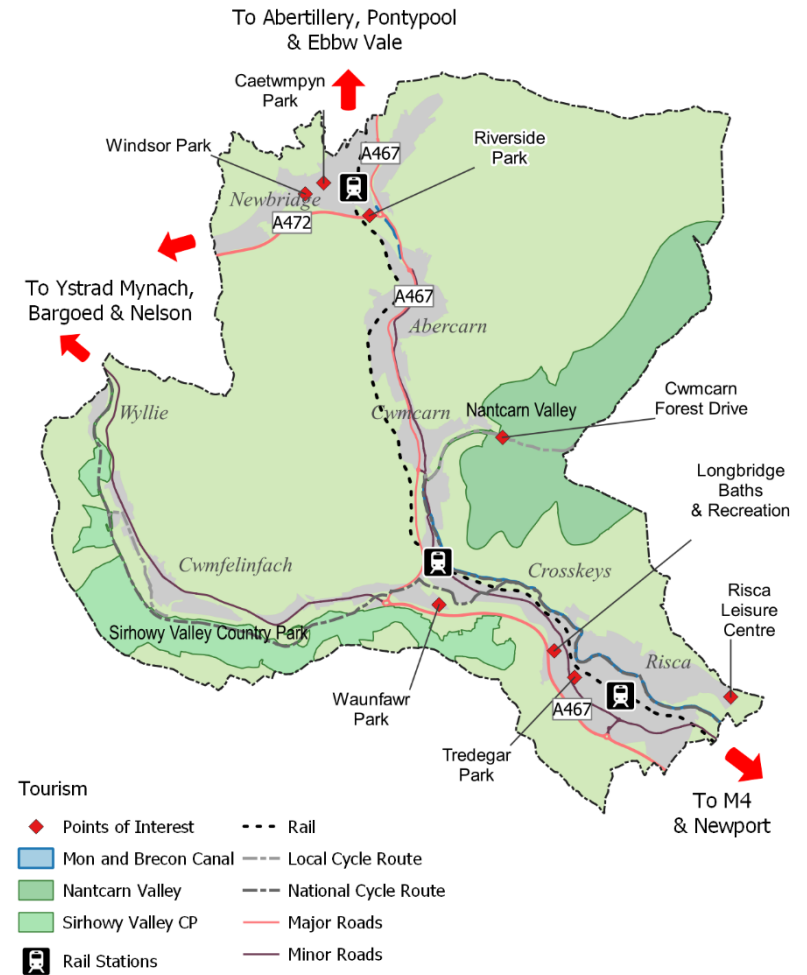
2.8 From Monday to Saturday, the Ebbw Valley has an hourly rail service, but services on Sunday are infrequent and poorly co-ordinated. Stations at Newbridge, Crosskeys and Risca & Pontymister serve the line. In addition, there are frequent bus services that run through this valley that provide a robust public transport system that improves accessibility to destinations within and outside the masterplan area. Future improvements as part of the Metro Plus programme include proposals to reinstate the rail line to Newport station and reviewing the potential for



Protected employment sites in masterplan area

improving the number of services that can be accommodated on this line, potentially moving from two services an hour to four.

2.9 The Lower Sirhowy Valley lacks a railway line but has an hourly bus service. Overall, its public-transport links to other parts of the borough are weaker than those of the Ebbw Valley.



Tourist attractions in masterplan area

3. The Context

3.1 In providing the context to the masterplan it is important to understand the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats that currently exist within the Lower Ebbw and Sirhowy Valleys.

Strengths

- There is a strong employment base with a wide range of business sectors spread throughout the area.
- There is a strong tourism offer that includes Cwmcarn Forest Drive, the Monmouthshire and Brecon Canal and the Newbridge Memorial Hall and Institute.
- Strong retailing cores with resilient town centres based upon independent outlets.
- Well-performing principal retail centre at Risca with a wide range of independent outlets.
- The Ebbw Valley has excellent public transport links with three rail stations and regular and frequent bus services through the Ebbw Valley.
- Located within a dramatic natural and semi-natural environment.
- Set within a high-quality landscape that is protected for its value.
- The area contains the Sirhowy Valley Country Park providing excellent recreation, leisure and lifelong learning opportunities.
- The area contains two leisure centres that provide excellent facilities for formal leisure.
- The area contains several public parks that provide space for informal recreation and benefits to the well-being of residents.
- Cwmcarn Forest Drive, with its world class mountain bike facilities, is located within the area, providing significant formal and informal recreation opportunities.
- There are several Welsh medium schools located in the area, helping to promote and grow the Welsh language.
- A new library, resource centre and customer-first facility are in the former Palace Cinema in Risca, providing valuable services to residents.

- Flood alleviation works have recently been completed addressing issues of flooding in the Risca area.

Challenges

- Higher than Welsh average number of people employed in manufacturing sector, which is vulnerable to the impacts of recession.
- Several large individual employment sites have been lost in recent years.
- There are limited development and redevelopment opportunities due to topography and flood risk issues.
- The Lower Sirhowy Valley is not served well by public transport, with only 1 service route operating an hourly service.
- The Ebbw Valley rail line currently only goes to Cardiff, rather than its historic route to Newport.
- Communities in the Lower Sirhowy Valley are isolated from much of the county borough and have few services.
- Nearly 10% of the population is in bad or very bad health (source: 2011 census).
- Many town-centre businesses are in small, old premises.
- Some parts of the town centres look dated.
- Some areas of public open space are tucked away or otherwise underused as assets.
- Uneven demand for industrial and office sites.
- Large and prominent brownfield sites remain undeveloped.
- Too few signs directing people to local attractions.
- Lack of a major hotel and few other types of tourist accommodation.

Opportunities

- More flexible approach to land uses in town centre.

- Create more lively streets by making space for temporary uses, pop-up stalls, markets, events in town centre.
- Improved rail services under South Wales Metro.
- Links to valleys-wide cycle-path network.
- International Convention Centre Wales, Celtic Manor (visitors create demand for accommodation, entertainment and hospitality) is a 22-minute drive from the Principal Town of Risca.
- Possible restoration of the Monmouthshire and Brecon Canal.
- New sources of regeneration funding (for example, Cardiff Capital Region, UK Government Levelling Up Fund).
- South Wales Metro.

Threats

- Post-shutdown recession (possibility of job losses and cuts to public services, including transport).
- Further shutdowns and physical-distancing requirements.
- Competition from larger retail and leisure centres (including out-of-town shops).
- Internet shopping.
- Flood risk.
- Less regeneration funding may be available (UK no longer a member of the EU).
- Size of population (a 2020 forecast suggests that the county's population may increase by only one percent between 2018 and 2028).
- Ageing population.

4. Vision for the Lower Ebbw and Sirhowy Valleys

- 4.1 The principal centre of Risca/Pontymister and the local centre of Newbridge are in the Lower Ebbw and Sirhowy Valleys. Development and redevelopment in this area will need to capitalise on its position as a sub-regional employment centre, with a significant tourist and retail/commercial economy, set within outstanding landscape with a wide variety of informal and formal recreation opportunities. A Vision and a series of Strategic Objectives have been identified, based on the analysis set out in Section 3, that seek to address the masterplan area's threats and weaknesses, by maximising the positive impact of its strengths and taking advantage of its opportunities. The vision for the masterplan area is:

“The Lower Ebbw and Sirhowy Valleys masterplan area will capitalise on its position as a significant employment, retail, tourism and recreation centre, to be a vibrant place in which people will choose to live, work and spend their free time.

The area will provide housing that meets local housing needs through the redevelopment of derelict and vacant land, where possible.

The area will provide a wide range of employment opportunities based on a broadening of the employment base through more efficient use of existing employment sites and the redevelopment of sites and town centres for retail, service and commercial employment opportunities.

The main centres of Risca and Newbridge will be vibrant and attractive places that people will go to for recreation and relaxation as well as for shopping and accessing services. This will be done through diversification, redevelopment and environmental improvement that will provide a wider range of services and create an environment that will encourage the night-time and foundational economy.

The tourist economy will be strengthened through significant improvements to its main tourist attractions and through increased accessibility and interpretation that will make access between the attractions, the town centres and other destinations easier for all and will publicise and inform people of these links to maximise the benefits for the overall economy of the area.

The area will continue to be an attractive place to live, set in a quality landscape with integrated landscape, parks and the Sirhowy County Park providing a network of recreational spaces that will provide a range of opportunities for informal recreation and leisure, providing increased quality of life and well-being.”

4.2 The vision for the masterplan will be supported by a series of strategic objectives outlined below that will drive its delivery and translate directly into a series of projects and actions that:

A. Protect and enhance the Masterplan area’s status as a sub-regional employment centre by:

- ***Protecting established employment sites***
- ***Redeveloping under-used or vacant employment land***
- ***Diversifying uses in town centres***
- ***Improving the tourist offer by enhancing existing and developing new tourist attractions***
- ***Strengthening links between schools, colleges and employers***

With the limitations imposed by the area’s topography and flood risk issues it is important to maximise all employment opportunities. Maintaining and protecting the existing employment sites, redeveloping vacant and underused land and taking opportunities presented in other sectors of the economy are key elements in establishing this.

B. Reinforce the role of the masterplan area’s two main town centres as service centres by creating attractive, accessible and busy destinations offering a wide mix of daytime and night-time uses and services.

With retailing facing ever-increasing pressures from changing habits and the internet, it is essential that action is taken to diversify the uses within the two main centres to provide a wider retail and service offer that will prolong stays and encourage uses that will establish and reinforce the night-time economy and create lively streets that attract visitors to the centres.

C. Promote and enhance the tourist economy by diversifying and increasing the tourist product, providing opportunities for the development of tourist accommodation and linking tourism assets together and with town centres and recreation and leisure opportunities.

Tourism is a key sector of the local economy. Diversifying the offer and enhancing the overall tourist product can only be good for the area. A key element of this is interpretation and linking tourist destinations to other attractions such as the main town centres, the country park and the many informal and formal leisure facilities that are present throughout the area. Strengthening these links will create a wider visitor spend that will assist in enhancing the overall economy of the area. There is a pressing requirement for the provision of accommodation to facilitate tourist overnight visits.

D. Diversify and improve the offer at Cwmcarn Forest Drive and improve interpretation and links between it and Monmouthshire and Brecon Canal, the town centres and other attractions

Cwmcarn Forest Drive is one of the major tourist attractions in the county borough, realising approximately 240,000 visitor trips every year. The Council is committed to enhancing the tourist offer at Cwmcarn to make it an adventure destination. To maximise the benefit of increasing visitors to the area it is essential that they are aware that Risca/Pontymister town centre is a short distance away and that the canal, which is also an attraction, provides a direct connection between the two. Additional interpretation is required to publicise the other attractions in the area and the frequent bus services that provide a high degree of accessibility between them.

E. Improve accessibility to masterplan area's services and attractions both internally to the masterplan area and farther afield

This is a key measure to maximising the benefit of linking attractions and destinations (for example, Cwmcarn Forest Drive, Sirhowy Valley Country Park, Monmouthshire & Brecon Canal, and the town centres). The Ebbw Valley is already served by a frequent bus service and there are three stations serving the Ebbw Vale passenger rail service to Cardiff. It is important, therefore, to increase accessibility through active travel to complement the existing longer distance transport provision and to increase accessibility to the Lower Sirhowy Valley and the Country Park. Making the masterplan area more accessible will stimulate social and economic activity and create a fairer, more inclusive community.

F. Promote the health and well-being of residents and visitors by protecting and enhancing accessible community facilities, including libraries and sport-and-leisure facilities

The masterplan area contains several formal and informal leisure and recreation facilities that are well spread across the area. These facilities can improve the well-being and health of residents and visitors, and protecting and enhancing them will increase their social, cultural, environmental and physical benefits to residents and visitors alike.

G. Provide housing that will meet local housing needs through the redevelopment of derelict and vacant land where possible

Owing to topography and flood-risk issues in the area, there is little suitable land for new housebuilding. Consequently, opportunities for the redevelopment of vacant or underused sites should be taken appropriately.

H. Promote the area's attractions as a group of connected places to be enjoyed by local people and visitors alike

Signs and promotional material (traditional and electronic), clear and consistent in their design, should encourage local people and visitors to use active-travel routes and public transport to explore the area's attractions, such as Cwmcarn Forest Drive, Monmouthshire and Brecon Canal, Waunfawr Park, Sirhowy Valley Country Park, the town centres, and Newbridge Memo. (The details of the marketing exercise would be considered as part of a separate project.)

5. Development Strategy

- 5.1 This section will set out the development strategy in the masterplan area. Specific sites will be considered in the next section ('The Masterplan Framework').

Employment and Skills

- 5.2 The masterplan area contains eight employment sites that are protected for employment use in the Adopted LDP. The sites are identified as secondary sites, suitable to accommodate general industrial uses (Use Classes B1, B2 and B8). The sites are:
- Rogerstone Park in Pontymister
 - Park Road in Risca
 - Newtown in Crosskeys
 - Prince of Wales in Abercarn
 - Blackvein in Wattsville
 - Nine Mile Point in Cwmfelinfach
 - North Celynen (Newbridge Road) in Newbridge
 - North Celynen (North of site access road) in Newbridge.
- 5.3 These sites provide over 80 hectares of employment opportunities and it is essential that the protection for these sites is continued in the 2nd Replacement LDP, which is currently being prepared. Whilst these sites need to be protected to retain their employment status, it is also important that they be allowed to develop and evolve to meet the future needs of business and a flexible approach towards their development and redevelopment should be taken.
- 5.4 There is an ongoing requirement for SME (small and medium-sized enterprises) and starter business units throughout the county borough and the masterplan area shares this need. However, there is also a real emerging need for employment land to allow for the expansion of existing indigenous industries and for existing industries seeking to relocate into the county borough. Whilst the masterplan area shares these requirements, the topography of the area combined with the constraints on land resulting from the flood risk issue, means that there is little, if any, land suitable for future employment development.

- 5.5 However, the masterplan seeks to support the employment base of the area by increasing accessibility, improving the overall environment of the area and by targeting integrated ancillary and foundational economy projects that will collectively improve the economy and provide additional employment opportunities.
- 5.6 Support is available throughout the borough from the CCBC Employability Team, which helps people not only to find placements and sustainable employment but to gain work-related skills and qualifications. Support is available to those in work who require upskilling and to anyone who is under-employed.

Foundational economy

- 5.7 The Welsh Government states that:

‘The foundational economy consists of basic services and products. People rely on these services and products and they keep us safe, sound and civilised. Examples of the foundational economy are:

- care and health services
- food
- housing
- energy
- construction
- tourism
- retailers on the high street.’

- 5.8 The area includes the Principal Town Centre of Risca/Pontymister and the Local Town Centre of Newbridge as well as neighbourhood retailing in many of the other settlements in the area. During the COVID-19 restrictions the Risca/Pontymister Principal Town Centre has been shown to be the most resilient of the county borough’s five Principal Towns because it has the highest proportion of local independent traders, rather than being reliant on regional or national multiples, which have suffered significant closures during this period. The position in Newbridge is similar.
- 5.9 The area has a strong tourism base, headed by Cwmcarn Forest Drive, which is a nationally important tourist attraction for Wales and the County Borough. The Council seeks to build on the tourist economy by promoting the diversification of the activities on offer at Cwmcarn and by seeking to integrate and interpret the attractions within the area and beyond as a single

combined offer, producing linked trips from the tourist attractions to the retail centres and to the other leisure facilities that are present.

- 5.10 A key issue facing the local tourist industry is an acute shortage of overnight tourist and business accommodation. Whilst Caerphilly county borough currently has 127 accommodation facilities, both serviced and non-serviced, over double the number present in 2013, this delivers just 2.8% of the visitor spend that takes place in the county borough. Identifying opportunities for the provision of further tourist accommodation must be a key priority for the Masterplan, as well as linking these to the tourist and leisure offer in the area.

Town centres

- 5.11 Risca is the main centre for services within the area but the commercial function of the area is largely overshadowed by its close proximity to Newport and to some extent Blackwood. The shops are predominantly small independent retailers, giving Risca the feel of a market town. The former Palace Cinema has been redeveloped into a Library and Customer First facility whilst preserving the historic façade of the building. The town benefits from having the large Tredegar Grounds Park located at its heart, providing a popular area for informal recreation and a purpose-built event site.
- 5.12 Risca has several potential development sites which offer a variety of opportunities which will aid the sustainability of a diverse local economy. The strategic objective for Risca is to exploit the town's relationship with Newport and the wider Cardiff Capital Region and target much needed housing, employment and tourism growth. Coupled with existing tourism attractions in the locality at Cwmcarn Forest, Sirhowy Country Park and the Monmouthshire & Brecon Canal, there is significant development potential for the area. The vision for Risca is to create a safe, people friendly, desirable and attractive place to shop and visit, with a high-quality public realm and integrated multi-functional green spaces. An economically strong centre which has embraced change and diversified to meet the changing needs of the area, with a wide range of facilities and services, including new independent shops, enhanced cultural provision and a family-focused evening economy which satisfies the demands of the resident population and increasing visitors to the area.
- 5.13 Newbridge is the second largest town within the area. It comprises a small town centre serving local needs, but it serves an important role in providing leisure and community facilities, particularly Newbridge Memo & Library, Newbridge Leisure Centre, Newbridge Rugby Football Club Ground, Bowling Green, and the Comprehensive School. Newbridge benefits from a strategic location along the A469 transport corridor and by virtue of this location it relates to other towns and villages along this route rather than settlements to the west.
- 5.14 The masterplan seeks to improve the town centres for local people and visitors alike. There is a current trend towards extending the hours of vitality for centres by stimulating and promoting uses that will extend activity into the evening to create

a more vibrant night-time economy. In addition to this it is also important to diversify the offer within each of the centres to provide different experiences and services so that people will spend more dwell-time in them. These changes will require a significant amount of flexibility to deliver and will also require improvements to the town centre environment to make staying longer a more attractive proposition.

- 5.15 A key issue for both town centres will be improved linkages to the existing tourist attractions and the leisure facilities that are in the area.
- 5.16 Therefore, the Council, with its partners and the private sector, will seek to diversify both town centres to facilitate the night-time economy and to engender longer stays for multiple purposes. It will also try to simplify journeys between town centres, leisure facilities and tourist attractions.

Recreation and leisure

- 5.16 The area has an excellent provision of formal and informal recreation and leisure facilities that cater for all sectors of society. Formal facilities include the Sirhowy Valley Country Park, nine formal public parks (Tredegar Park, for example, is in the centre of Risca), sports pitches, bowling greens, smaller green spaces (for example, Glan-y-Nant Memorial Garden, Cwmfelinfach, which is protected by Fields in Trust), skate parks, kick-walls, playgrounds, Multi-Use Games Areas, tennis courts and two leisure centres that offer a wide range of activities and classes. The masterplan will seek to link these facilities together to provide an integrated set of facilities that will benefit visitors and improve the quality of life for residents.

Cwmcarn Forest Drive

- 5.17 The area is home to Cwmcarn Forest Drive, which is already a significant tourist attraction in bringing in approximately 240,000 visitors to the area in 2019. It is an adventure destination based on its environment and its world-class mountain-biking courses. The Council and Natural Resources Wales have overseen a multi-million-pound investment programme. Consultants Tomorrow's Tourism prepared the Cwmcarn Forest Masterplan with the aim of developing the county borough's 'visitor economy'. After a public consultation period, the Cwmcarn Forest Masterplan was adopted by the Council in June 2022. It is envisaged that it will allow Cwmcarn Forest to drive the wider regeneration of the area, linked to Risca town centre.
- 5.18 The masterplan will supplement this with projects aimed at increasing the visibility of this facility at other tourist and leisure facilities and through accessibility improvement through the active travel network to expand the scope of active travel beyond the site to link to important external attractions such as the Risca/Pontymister and Newbridge town centres and the Monmouthshire and Brecon Canal.

Transport and connectivity

- 5.19 The masterplan area comprises two valleys that are slightly different in their transport provision. The Ebbw Valley is served by the Ebbw Vale railway line and has frequent bus services. The Ebbw vale line runs through the length of this valley, and the area has railway stations at Newbridge, Crosskeys and Risca & Pontymister. An hourly service runs between Cardiff Central and Ebbw Vale. The reinstatement of a second line, together with changes to the track bed and the creation of passing loops, might allow the service to run four times an hour.
- 5.20 In the Ebbw Valley, a bus service runs every 15 minutes. The service uses the old main roads through all the settlements and so it services all the settlements in the valley providing links between central Newport and Blackwood. The service provides decent accessibility throughout the area during the day, although the reduction in services in the evening and night reduces accessibility for the night-time economy.
- 5.21 The Lower Sirhowy Valley lacks a railway line and has slightly less frequent bus services. Overall, its public-transport links to other parts of the borough are weaker than those of the Ebbw Valley.

Active travel

- 5.22 The term ‘active travel’ refers to ‘purposeful’ journeys made on foot, in wheelchairs or on bicycles. The destination of an ‘active-travel journey’ might be a workplace, a school (or college or university), a shop, a bus or railway station, a leisure facility or a tourist attraction. Welsh Government’s aim is to maximise the number of short trips made through active travel. The masterplan area already has some active-travel routes, and these have been identified, along with potential improvements to the network, in the Council’s active travel plan. The Active Travel Plan is currently the subject of review, with the potential to include new proposals that can deliver the aspirations set out in this masterplan.
- 5.23 The active travel network is the key instrument in making the destinations within the masterplan area accessible and therefore this is a key element in delivering the overall vision for the area. Active travel will underpin the projects set out in the masterplan framework (see section 6) and will link key locations to help in developing an integrated economy based on the town centres and the tourist and leisure attractions in the area.
- 5.24 The masterplan will set out proposals to improve connectivity between these assets and to improve accessibility throughout the area.

Tourism

- 5.25 A significant element in the economy of the masterplan area is tourism and tourism-related activities. Cwmcarn Forest Drive is the cornerstone of tourism in the area. The Sirhowy Valley Country Park, the Newbridge Memorial Hall & Library and the western arm of the Monmouthshire and Brecon Canal also contribute to the overall tourist offer of the area and of the county borough.
- 5.26 Whilst the tourist economy in the masterplan area is strong there are several issues that need to be addressed to strengthen it. There is a need for greater integration between the various offers and between the destinations and local centres and leisure facilities. Tourist accommodation is scarce throughout the county borough. In the masterplan area, Ynysddu Hotel has the potential to be very popular with walkers and mountain-bikers, but Cwmcarn Forest Drive cannot yet accommodate many overnight trips. The attractions themselves can be enhanced and diversified to strengthen their individual offers.

Community facilities

- 5.27 Community facilities are those facilities directly related to the communities in the masterplan area and include libraries, community centres, doctor and dental surgeries and schools. Community facilities are key elements in the well-being of residents and improving these facilities will improve the quality of life for residents as well as those that visit and work in the area. Recent developments in Risca/Pontymister have seen the former cinema turned into a library and community resource centre and the restoration of the Memorial Hall and Institute in Newbridge has brought back a theatre space that adds to the cultural richness of the area.
- 5.28 Education is also a key factor in the well-being of residents, providing the qualifications for residents to seek work and to improve and change their skill sets through life-long learning. Crosskeys College sits at the top of the education tree in the Masterplan area offering GCSE and A level courses as well as other skills-based and higher education courses. Cwmcarn High school has now been demolished and opportunities exist to improve the education provision in the area, through the provision of a new Welsh-medium secondary school.
- 5.29 The council's Adult Education Service (main office/centre in Oxford House, Risca) recognises the value of learning throughout life and remains committed to providing a wide range of educational opportunities to all learners. The service aims at meeting the needs of individuals and local communities and encouraging lifelong learning through partnership with other education providers. The service uses funding from the Welsh Government to fund courses of learning delivered in a range of locations across the county borough. The service works with other organisations to offer a range of learning opportunities.

Housing

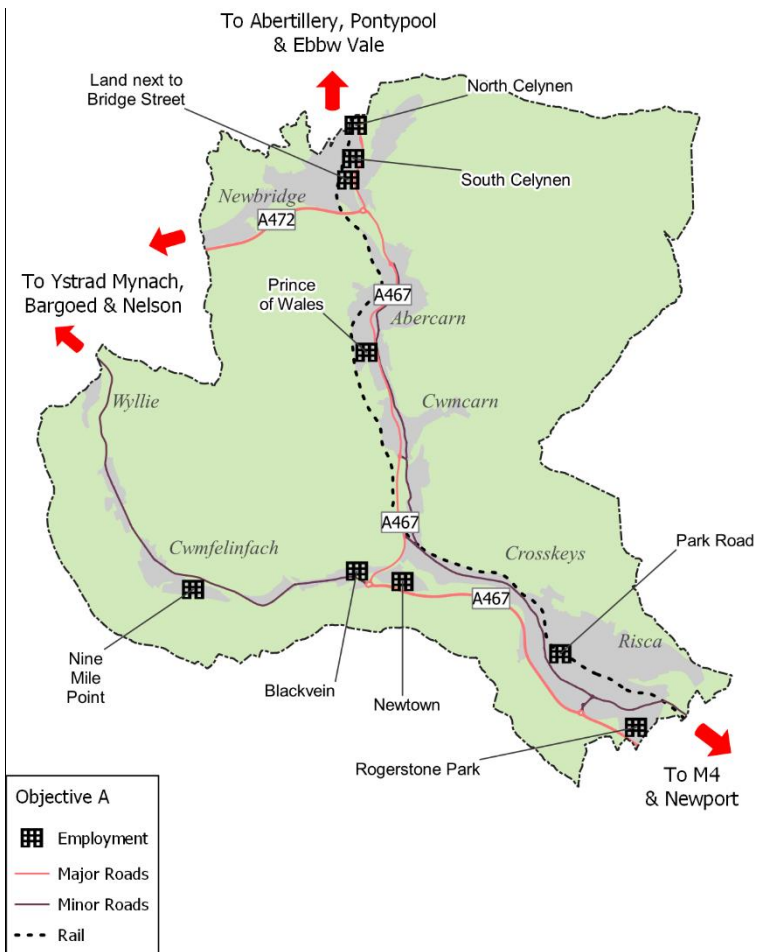
- 5.30 This area is highly constrained by its topography and flood issues and this severely restricts the amount of land that can be developed. Whilst demand for housing remains high in this area, it is likely to be met through redevelopment opportunities rather than through significant new land release.

6. The Masterplan Framework

6.1 This section sets out site-specific proposals that will help the Council to achieve its vision for the area. Many of the projects are interrelated and the implementation of some of these projects will be dependent upon, or will be developed together with, other projects. In addition to this a key element of the development strategy (see section 5) is the co-ordination and linking of different destinations and projects and as such the projects set out in the section are an overall package of measures rather than individual standalone projects.

A. Protect and enhance the Masterplan area's status as a sub-regional employment centre by:

- **Protecting established employment sites;**
- **Redeveloping under-used or vacant employment land;**
- **Diversifying uses in town centres;**
- **Improving the tourist offer by enhancing existing and developing new tourist attractions; and**
- **Strengthening links between schools, colleges and employers.**



Protected employment sites and potential job-creating redevelopment projects (see list below)

A1 - Land Next to Bridge Street, Newbridge

6.2 This site is inside the defined settlement boundary. Depending on the risk of flooding, it might be suitable for a job-creating use, housing, a community use, a tourism use, a riverside playground and park, or even a mix of uses.

Development principles:

- Make the most of a site near the town centre and the railway station
- Make the most of the riverside location
- A job-creating use or a community-oriented use might be preferred to housing
- May be possible to create a small amount of green infrastructure
- Reuse previously developed land

A2 - North Celynen, Newbridge

- 6.3 This piece of land, a protected employment site in the LDP (see policy EM2.14), is only a car park and might be suitable for an extended or additional employment use.

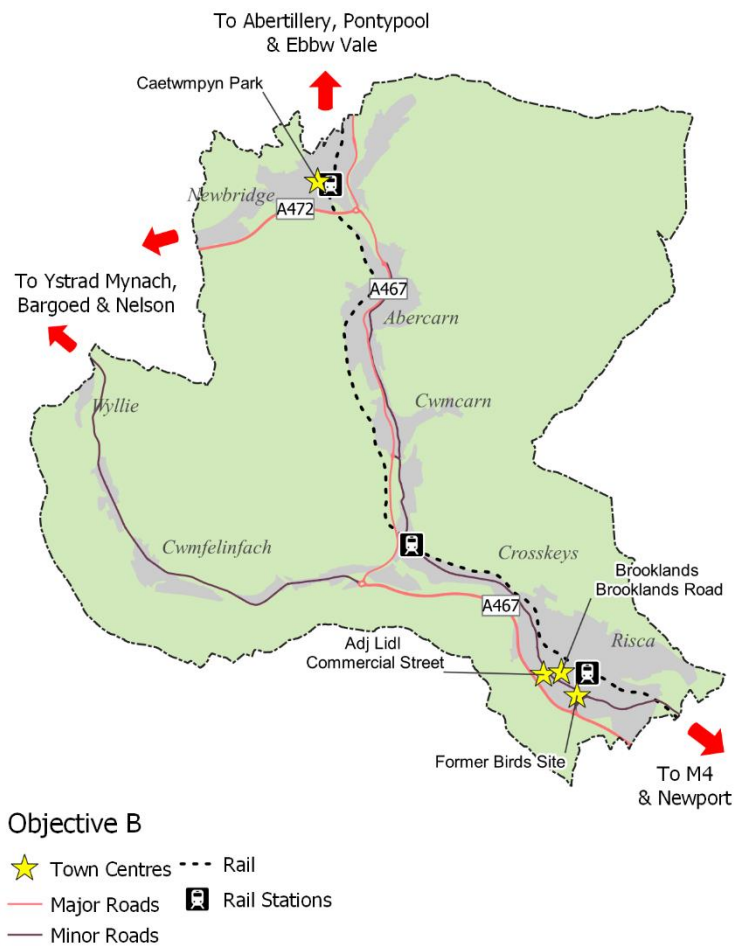
Development principles:

- Reuse previously developed land
- May be able to give priority to more prestigious job-creating uses
- Safe and convenient active-travel routes between the site, nearby housing estates and the town centre

A3 – Protect and Redevelop existing Employment Sites

- 6.4 The Adopted LDP has identified eight employment sites for protection under policy EM2. These sites cover over 80 hectares of land and provide a wide range of employment opportunities. It is essential that these sites be protected and redeveloped if land should become under-utilised or vacant to ensure that land for economic development remains available.

B. Establish the two main town centres as attractive, accessible and busy destinations offering a wide mix of daytime and night-time uses and services.



Redevelopment opportunities in town centres (see list below)

B1 - Land next to Lidl, Commercial Street, Pontymister

This site is allocated in the LDP (see policy CM4.8) for a retail/town centre use. Development of the site would improve the retail mix in the town, strengthen it as a shopping location and provide a greater element of choice to shoppers; all of which should maintain and enhance the viability and vitality of the centre.

6.5 Depending on the level of flood risk, this site may still be suitable, in principle, for commercial development.

Development principles:

- Create jobs and stimulate economic activity within the town centre
- Help to sustain defined settlement and defined town centre

B2 – Former Bird Site, Pontymister

6.6 This site is located to the rear of Commercial Street, directly at the southern entrance of the town centre and within the main commercial core of the town. It is a visually prominent brownfield site jointly owned by the Council and a private developer (the Bird Group of Companies).

6.7 The 1.36ha brownfield site comprises of three distinct parcels of land situated adjacent to each other. To the west of the Bird-owned land parcel sits a large flat brownfield site that is owned by Caerphilly County Borough Council (CCBC). A smaller parcel of CCBC land at the north-eastern corner of this site consists of a flat landscaped area. The site formerly housed a factory, public car park and nursery (now demolished). Part of the site may be reinstated as a car park.

6.8 The site is constrained by flood issues that could curtail the range of uses adopted on the site. The council are seeking funding to undertake a study to determine the most appropriate redevelopment opportunities to achieve the overall aim of creating an attractive, sustainable and ‘fit for purpose’ tourism-focused town centre development that will complement and add value to Cwmcarn Forest Drive and the Monmouthshire and Brecon Canal.

Development principles:

- Significant well-being and employment opportunities for a range of enterprises and sectors, including retail, leisure, tourism and recreation
- Creation of a major new regional visitor destination point

- Leisure-focused development to boost the town centre catchment and help strengthen the existing night- time economy and add value to the visitor experience.
- Stimulate wider commercial development on other sites within the town centre
- To assist in developing the tourism offer in the town, linking it to both the Canal and nationally important Cwmcarn Forest attraction

B3 – Brooklands, Brooklands Road, Risca

6.9 This site is in the defined settlement and forms part of the council’s social services and educational facilities. Redevelopment options might include housing (including sheltered housing), offices, a community facility or a small hotel.

Development principles:

- Reuse of previously developed land
- Potential to diversify uses in the town centre, potentially providing much needed tourist accommodation.
- Redevelopment would need to address access and flood risk issues.
- Potential to create jobs

B4 - Caetwmpyn Park, Newbridge

6.10 Caetwmpyn Park is a marvellous public park and open space located on the northern western side of Newbridge town centre. The park offers informal recreation as an area of peace and tranquility from the more active town centre. However, it also has the potential to be an area for community events and activities.

6.11 Despite the park’s recreational potential, there is no signage or integration of the park in the town centre. As a result, visitors are not necessarily aware of the presence of the park and the opportunities it presents. A programme of signage is required, and the presence of the park needs to be publicised as part of the attraction that the town centre offers. In addition to this, local improvements to the park, including a new entrance on Tynewydd Terrace, should be considered to enhance the qualities and accessibility of the park.

B5 – Diversifying Uses

- 6.12 Risca/Pontymister and Newbridge town centres have both performed better than other centres in the county borough during the pandemic and that is mainly due to the high number of independent local retailers that they both contain. Whilst the centres have been performing well, their performance can certainly be improved. This could be achieved through a more flexible application of planning policy to allow commercial and community uses in vacant town centre premises that have previously been restricted or prevented by policy in order to maintain the retail cores of the town centres. Retailing generally has been declining across the country due to changing shopping patterns and the increased use of online shopping. Consequently, it is essential that the town centres be able to diversify to offer a wider range of services and facilities for visitors. A good example of such diversification was the redevelopment of the cinema in Risca/Pontymister into the library and resource centre. Moving forward facilitating the diversification of premises to uses that would broaden and strengthen the night-time economy and enable commercial employment opportunities, including offices and services, will be considered more favourably as and when opportunities arise.
- 6.13 The Council will seek to address the issue of vacant buildings in town centres and is currently pursuing an enforcement action plan to require unit owners to improve their properties and to seek new operators. The Council are also in the process of introducing new parklets in Risca town centre to enable traders to extend their trading area outside.
- 6.14 Before the pandemic, several town-centre events were held in Tredegar Park, and the Council intends to organise more such events once the remaining coronavirus-related restrictions have been lifted.

B6 – Risca/Pontymister and Newbridge Town Centre Environmental and Accessibility Enhancements.

- 6.15 While both town centres have been performing well during the restrictions there are improvements that can be made to the overall environment in the town centres that can assist in making them more attractive, increase dwell time and enhance the potential for the night-time economy.
- 6.16 The Council are therefore currently seeking funding for a place-shaping report for Risca/Pontymister Town Centre which will make recommendations on development and redevelopment opportunities, diversification and environmental improvements to create a place with its own strong identity.
- 6.17 Improving the accessibility to, and the environment of, the centres will make them more attractive to visitors and will provide an impetus to the redevelopment and diversification opportunities that present themselves in the town centres. Several areas could benefit from environmental and accessibility improvements in both town centres and these include:

Risca

- Junction of Newport Road, Mill Street, B4591 and Commercial Street, Pontymister
- Footway next to Texaco filling station, Pontymister
- Commercial Street, Pontymister
- Path between Commercial Street and Tesco, Pontymister
- Tredegar Grounds (Risca Park), Risca
- Junction of Tredegar Street and Dan y Graig Road, Risca

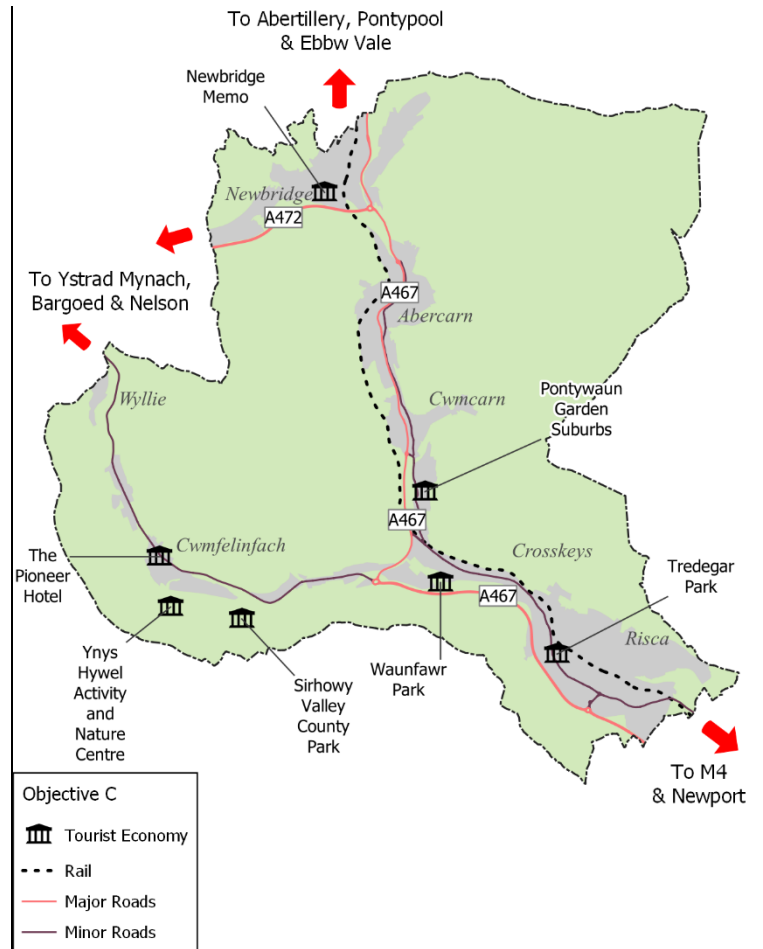
Newbridge

- Public lavatories, High Street
- Newbridge Labour Club, North Road
- Victoria Terrace
- Footway near One Stop, High Street
- Outside the Newbridge pub, High Street
- North Road (leading to High Street)
- A467
- Bridge Street
- Junction of Newbridge Leisure Centre and Bridge Street
- Links Between the Railway Station (town centre) and Newbridge Leisure Centre

6.18 The main routes into the town centres should also be made more attractive to, and convenient for, walkers, wheelers and cyclists. Improvements might include wider footways, segregated cycleways, new pedestrian crossings, and street layouts that discourage people from driving.

C. Promote and enhance the tourist economy by diversifying and increasing the tourist product, providing opportunities for the development of tourist accommodation and linking tourism assets together and with town centres and existing recreation and leisure opportunities.

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Tourist attractions (existing and potential) (see list below)

C1 - Newbridge Memorial Hall and Institute ('Memo'), Newbridge

- 6.19 Newbridge Memorial Hall and Institute ('Memo') has been the subject of significant investment in the recent past, which has brought this impressive building back to use as an Institute and theatre, hosting shows and events.
- 6.20 The 'Memo' is a significant facility in promoting the night-time economy in Newbridge and complementary uses should be encouraged in the town centre to broaden the night-time offer. It should also be linked to other night-time economy drivers, including Risca/Pontymister Town centre and evening activities at Cwmcarn Forest Drive, as part of an overall promotional campaign that provides information on all the Area's attractions and links them together as a more cohesive product.

C2 - Tredegar Grounds (Risca Park), Risca

- 6.21 Tredegar Grounds is a significant landscaped park accessed directly off the main street in the town centre. It provides the opportunity for informal and formal leisure opportunities and has the potential to provide a location for a wide range of tourist and retail-related events that would complement the overall town centre and tourist offer. The park could be enhanced with additional facilities and attractions.

Development Principles

- All activities should give due consideration to the residents in the immediate area who may be affected by noise or activities.
- Any new facilities should be in keeping with the park and its setting.

C3 - Waunfawr Park, Crosskeys

- 6.22 A nine-hectare site, Waunfawr Park has sports pitches, a historic bandstand, a thriving community garden and several other recreational facilities. In 2011, it was given the Green Flag Award, which recognises well-managed parks and green spaces. The park has scope to hold tourist and other events that could improve the visitor attraction offer. Whilst the park is a short distance from the rail station in Crosskeys, visitors are not provided with any information or directions advising of the presence of the park. Improvements in the active travel links between the park and the rail station in Crosskeys and with the Risca/Pontymister town centre would significantly improve the accessibility of this valuable recreational asset.

C4 - Pioneer Hotel, Cwmfelinfach

- 6.23 The Pioneer Hotel, a grade-II listed building, is in the centre of the village of Cwmfelinfach. As the name suggests the former use of this building was as a hotel, although this use ceased many years ago. The property is in private ownership and the owner has undertaken some works to the listed building without consent and an enforcement notice has been issued to remedy these works. The building would lend itself to conversion to flats, but the location of the building is unlikely to attract significant interest from the housing market. The reinstatement of the tourist accommodation use in this building would obviously meet the overall aspirations for the masterplan and contribute to the tourist offer in the Lower Sirhowy Valley. There is also the potential to provide a mixed-use conversion, comprising an element of business commercial space along with tourist accommodation or limited flatted accommodation.

Development principles:

- The historic interest of the building needs to be preserved and used as part of any conversion
- Reuse previously developed land
- Potential to create jobs and contribute to the tourist economy

C5 - Sirhowy Valley Country Park

- 6.24 The Sirhowy Country Park is good for walking and cycling, and it has a wide range of wildlife and heritage assets to discover. It is based on the principle of transport links, both old and new, with the former Tredegar to Newport Docks rail line running through the length of the country park and cycle routes for walkers and cyclists to use that can take them to another of Caerphilly's country parks at Penallta via the National Cycle Network Route 47. In addition to its transport assets, the park offers several different environments, from the managed woodlands on the mountainsides to the water environment of the Sirhowy River. The park is an important part of both the Valleys Regional Park and the network of council-managed open spaces. It has the potential to attract even more visitors than it does now. Ongoing environmental improvements include the felling of diseased trees, the planting of replacement and new trees, and the carrying out of 'carbon sequestration'. Other plans include the creation of a café and a bicycle-hire facility and the use of farm buildings for education, interpretation and community activities.
- 6.25 The Council has developed a vision for the park that sets out the philosophy for improving the country park. This Vision states:

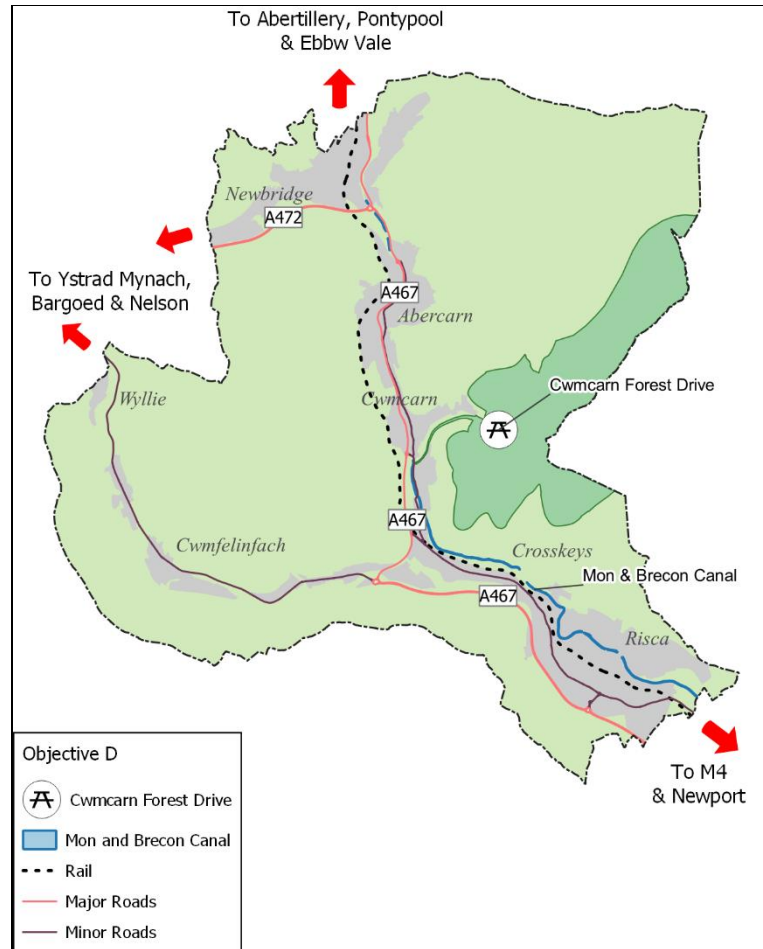
The development philosophy is to improve the appearance and the experience of using the site through landscape management and encourage greater usage of the areas of the park away from the railway including links into the wider landscape. It is also to increase the links with the local community especially in providing appropriate community facilities and local resource related trade outlets.

The emphasis of this site should be informal, 'extensive' activities based around the spine of the railway. Ynys Hywel farm is a suitable centre from which to manage the landscape and this function could be combined with public interaction via a link with the main car park, where commercial and park centre activity should be encouraged or facilitated.

C6 – Pontywaun Garden Suburbs, Pontywaun

- 6.29. Pontywaun Garden Suburbs, part of the 'garden city' movement, was built in several phases after the First World War. The historic part of the suburbs is designated as a conservation area, and nearly all the buildings in that area are listed. The suburbs should be promoted as a tourist attraction in walking distance of Cwmcarn Forest Drive and Crosskeys.

D. Diversify and improve the tourism and adventure offer at Cwmcarn Forest Drive and improve interpretation and links between it and Risca and Newbridge town centres and the Monmouthshire and Brecon Canal.



Cwmcarn Forest Drive and Monmouthshire & Brecon Canal (see list below)

D1 - Cwmcarn Forest Drive

- 6.30 Cwmcarn Forest Drive is a tourist attraction of sub-regional importance attracting approximately 240,000 visitors a year. The drive contains several attractions including world class mountain biking trails, extensive walking paths, a forest drive with picnic spots and play areas, mountain biking, orienteering and water-based activities through Caerphilly Adventures and an adventure playground.
- 6.31 The Council and Natural Resources Wales have overseen the preparation of a multi-million-pound investment programme via the development of the Cwmcarn Forest Masterplan which was approved by the Cabinet in June 2022. The key aim is to capitalise on Cwmcarn Forest, consolidating the site as a key regional destination and tourism hub, whilst also providing significant benefits for the local community in terms of informal recreation, health, leisure and intergenerational activity. CCBC aims to develop Cwmcarn into a 'cost neutral' and environmentally sustainable hub for outdoor activity within a scenic natural setting that offers an authentic and local experience, whilst adding value to the local and regional economy. The elements that are seen to be important for Cwmcarn Forest to deliver are also important for the wider County Borough, notably:
- Growing the visitor economy to CCB for the broader benefit of the community;
 - Raising the profile of CCB as a place to live, work and visit;
 - Providing jobs and income for local people;
 - Environmental enhancement and protection of core resources;
 - Financial benefits to the Councils concerned;
 - Drive the wider regeneration of the area, including Risca town centre.
- 6.32 The Cwmcarn Forest Masterplan builds on recent improvements and developments on site, including the:
- Installation of six new luxury lodges
 - Construction of a new family cycling cross country trail for all abilities
 - Improvements to the footpath network
 - New kitchen refit and new front of house servery and equipment

- Improvement of visitors' centre (removal of old decking, laying of coloured tarmac, creation of new seating area and new toddlers play area)
- Creation of a new adventure play area just below the lake
- Installation of six charging points for EV cars in the main car park
- Refurbishment of the complete forest drive attraction and the provision of play areas, picnic areas, toilets, car parks and an enhanced road surface
- Public Art installation to introduce the legends and the history and folklore of a buried giant (possibly the body of Bran from The Mabibogion) and buried treasure that is, according to legend, guarded by a swarm of bees at Twmbarlwm

6.33 Future changes may include:

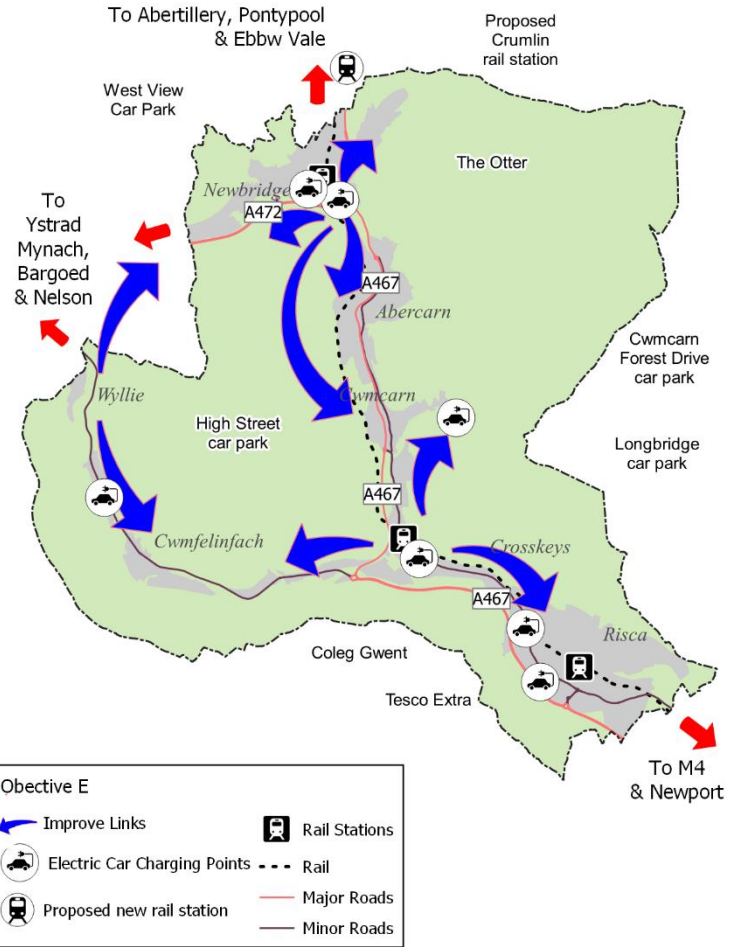
- Establishing the lake as the focal point of the site (major landscaping scheme, new picnic areas, seating, BBQ facilities, sculpture, access ramps, planting, decking, bridge, parking)
- New parking at the pit wheel (34 spaces additional spaces further up the valley, with a new footpath providing access to the lake)
- Three additional lodges to complete the installation on the lodge field
- Twrch Trail Loop: additional five to seven kilometres of MTB single-track bike trail to allow riders to stay on the mountain longer
- The expansion of the site on to a 47-acre 'freehold enclave';
- Additional tourist accommodation;
- A forest coaster;
- A treetop pathway and such 'adrenaline activities' as a swing, a bungee jump, a zip line and a helter skelter;
- An improved visitor centre.

6.34 Once the investment options have been prepared and made the subject of wider community involvement, they will be implemented in accordance with a delivery plan when finance is available.

D2 - Monmouthshire and Brecon Canal

- 6.35 The Monmouthshire and Brecon Canal was constructed over 200 years ago and was built as part of the industrial revolution to carry coal, iron and limestone from where they were mined down to Newport Docks.
- 6.36 The canal is an important recreational asset that runs through the area, providing cyclists and pedestrians with a dedicated path linking the settlements in the Ebbw Valley. It can enhance the tourist economy by linking tourist and service attractions together.
- 6.37 Caerphilly County Borough Council, together with Torfaen County Borough Council, and in conjunction with the Monmouthshire, Brecon & Abergavenny Canals Trust, have been successful with a European Regional Development Fund bid to improve the facilities on the canal in both Caerphilly and Torfaen and to develop physical links and key connections between Torfaen and Caerphilly across Mynydd Maen and Twmbarlwm. This is known as the Canal Adventure Triangle.
- 6.38 The main elements of these improvements within the masterplan area are focused on the Crumlin arm and the key outcome of this work is to enhance the tourism/leisure offer of Cwmcarn within the region and implement infrastructure improvements to the Canal.
- 6.39 The re-opening of sections of the Monmouthshire & Brecon canal could attract more visitors, create more jobs and lead to greater spending in the area.

E. Improve accessibility to masterplan area's services and attractions both internally to the masterplan area and farther afield.



Ease of movement sought (active travel and public transport) (see list below)

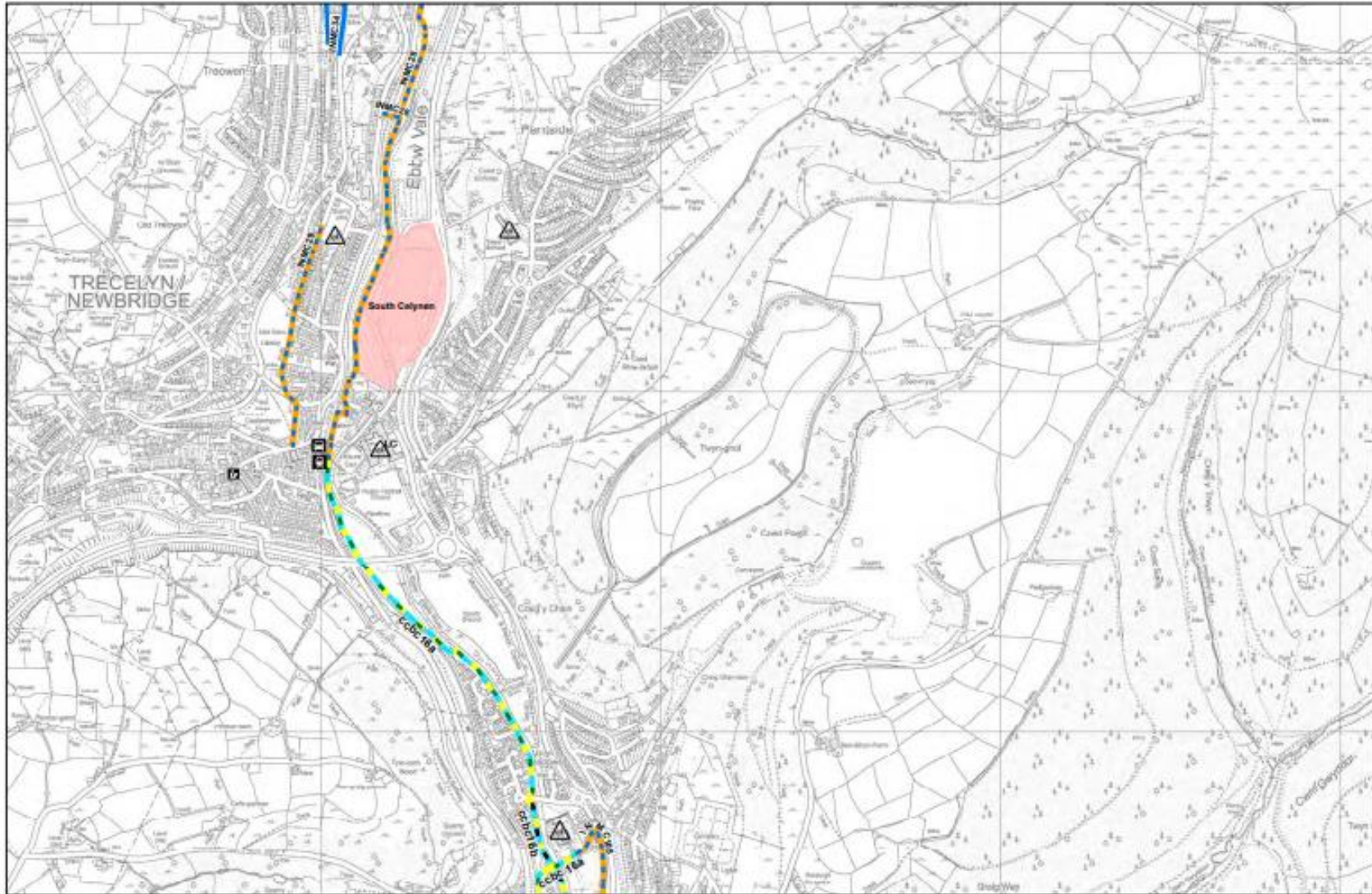
E1 – Metro and Metro Plus Improvements to the Ebbw Valley rail line

- 6.40 Currently this line operates an hourly passenger service to Cardiff, which stops at the three stations in Newbridge, Crosskeys and Risca & Pontymister, accounting for over 350,000 trips annually. Providing a direct link to Newport, rather than Cardiff, gives this line a unique selling point, as the Rhymney Valley line only serves Cardiff. Consequently, the reinstatement of services to Newport is a critical part of broadening the catchment for the Masterplan area and increasing visitor trips. To accommodate this, work would need to be done to the track and signals on the southern end of the line outside of the masterplan area.
- 6.41 In addition to this there are aspirations to increase the level of service on the line to a half-hourly or even quarter-hourly service (like the Rhymney Valley Line). This would require laying new track to provide passing loops (for the half hourly service) or relaying much of the second track to allow the 15-minute service.

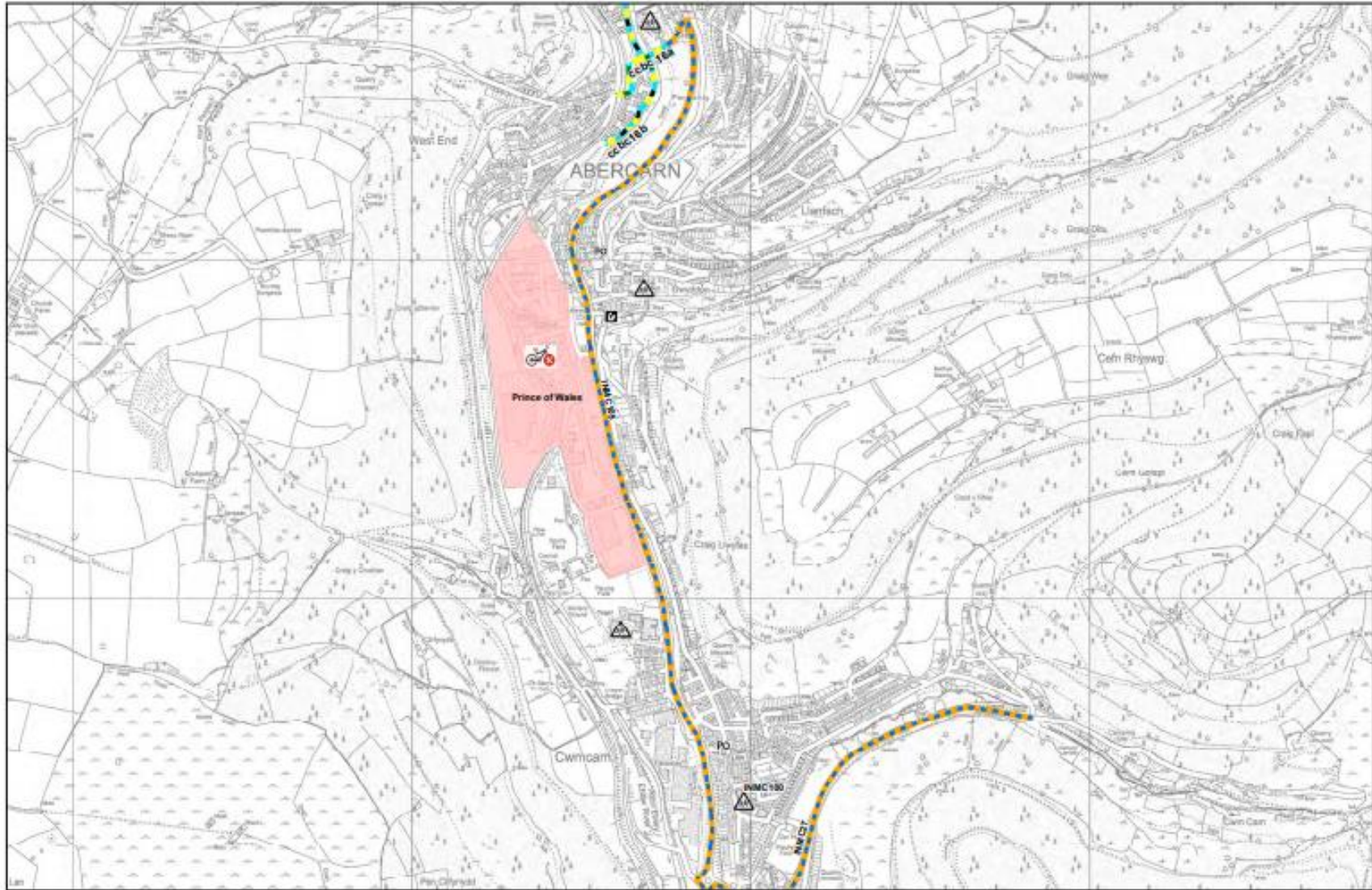
E2 - Active Travel

- 6.42 Active travel covers walking and cycling routes for everyday journeys, including to school, to work, to shops and to access services, such as health or leisure centres. Active travel routes are important for promoting healthier lifestyles and for increasing connectivity and accessibility. The development strategy for the masterplan area is based upon linking attractions, town centres, and employment to provide a cohesive package that will promote the economy of the area and increase the tourist economy.
- 6.43 The Council has a duty to prepare an Active Travel Integrated Network Map (INM) that shows all the active travel routes in the county borough. The first version of the INM was published in 2015. At the time of writing, the INM had reached the third stage of a review. An updated proposals map will be submitted to Welsh Government no later than 31 December 2021.
- 6.44 The council will undertake a further stage in the consultation process that will seek views on new routes that should be provided through the active travel programme. Once this stage is complete the INM will be reviewed and the new proposals will be identified. The current INM routes are shown in the plans below.

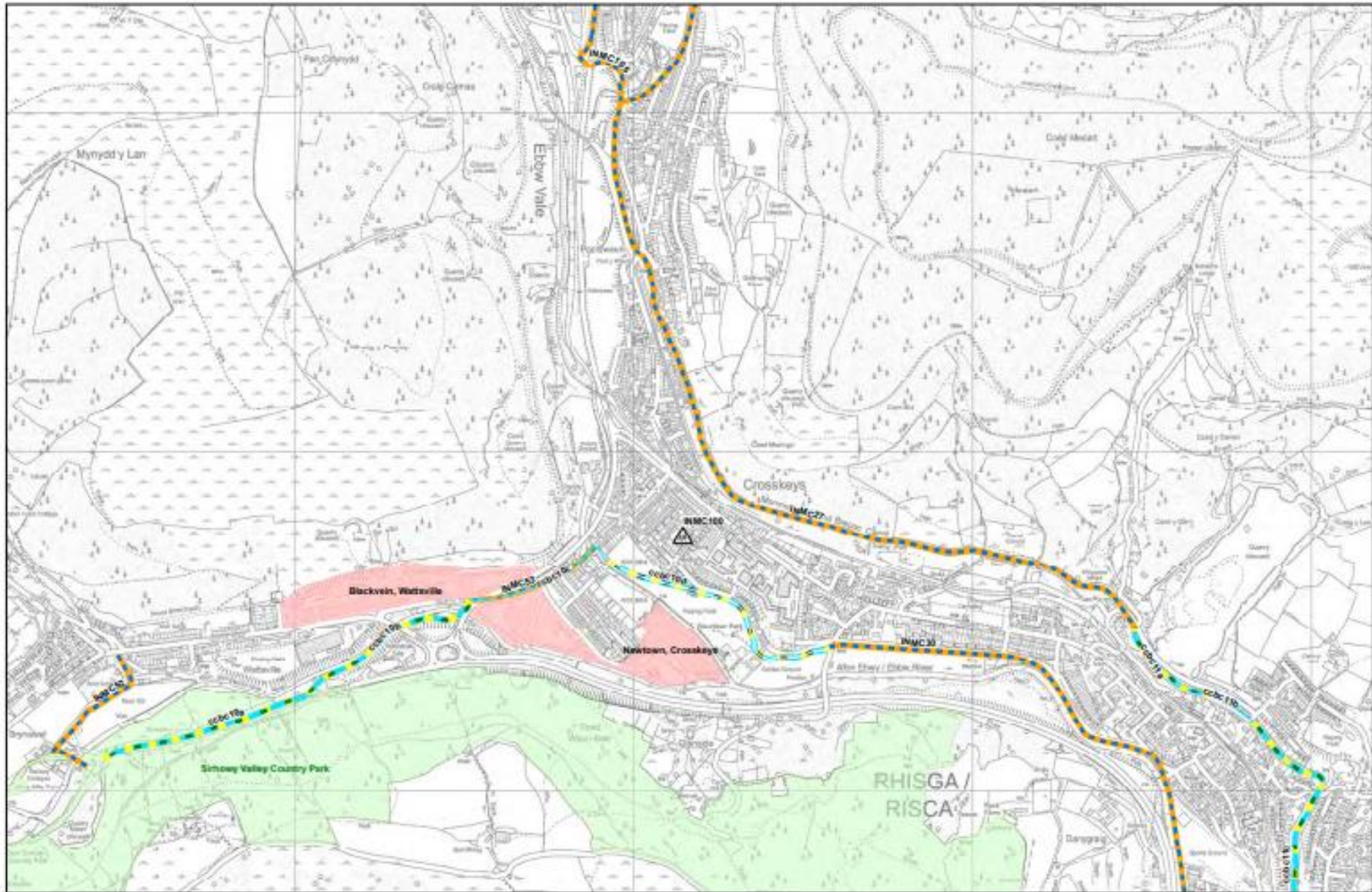
[Active travel routes, current and proposed, in the Newbridge and Panside area](#)



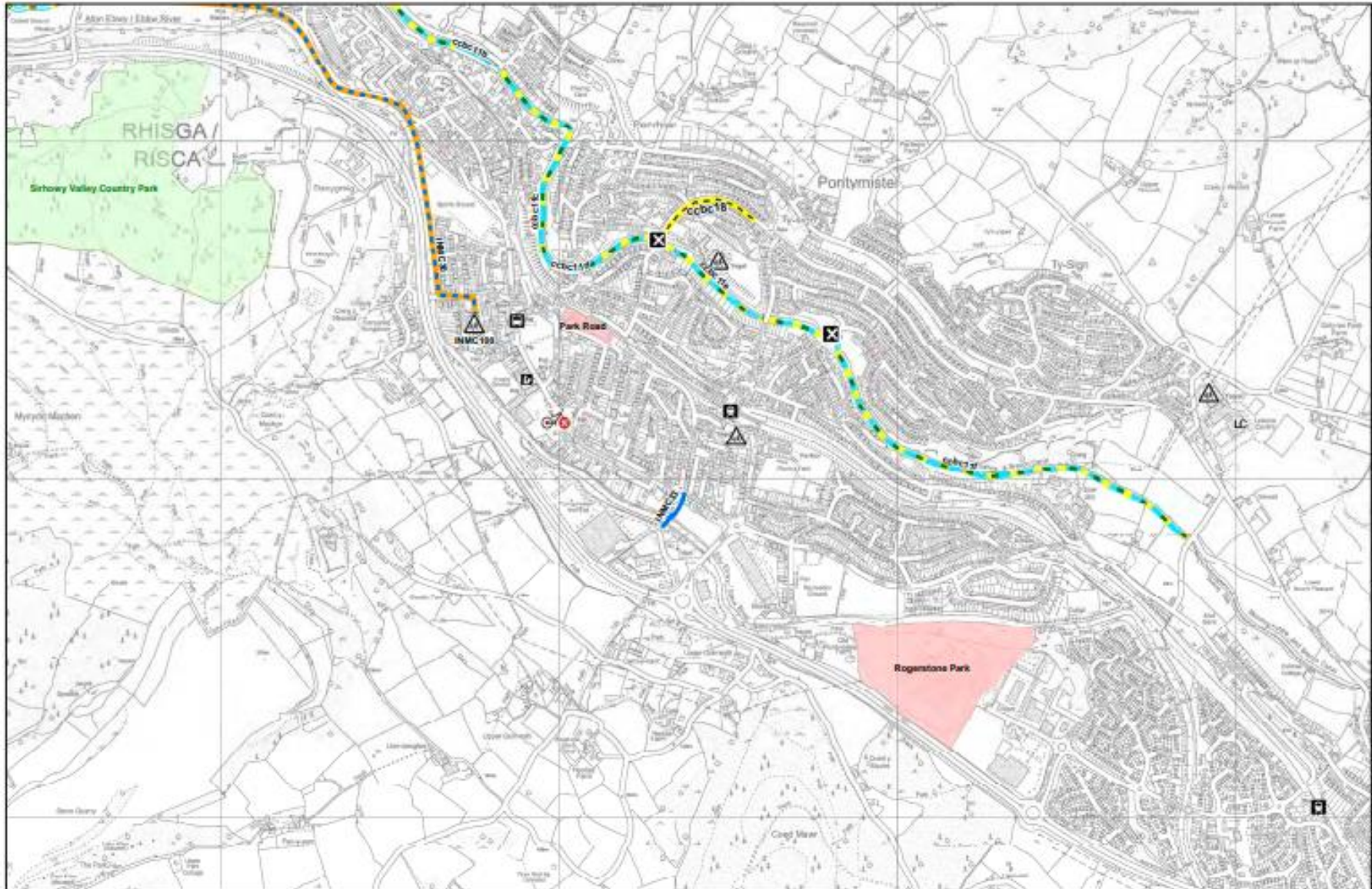
Active travel routes, current and proposed, in the Abercarn and Cwmcarn Area



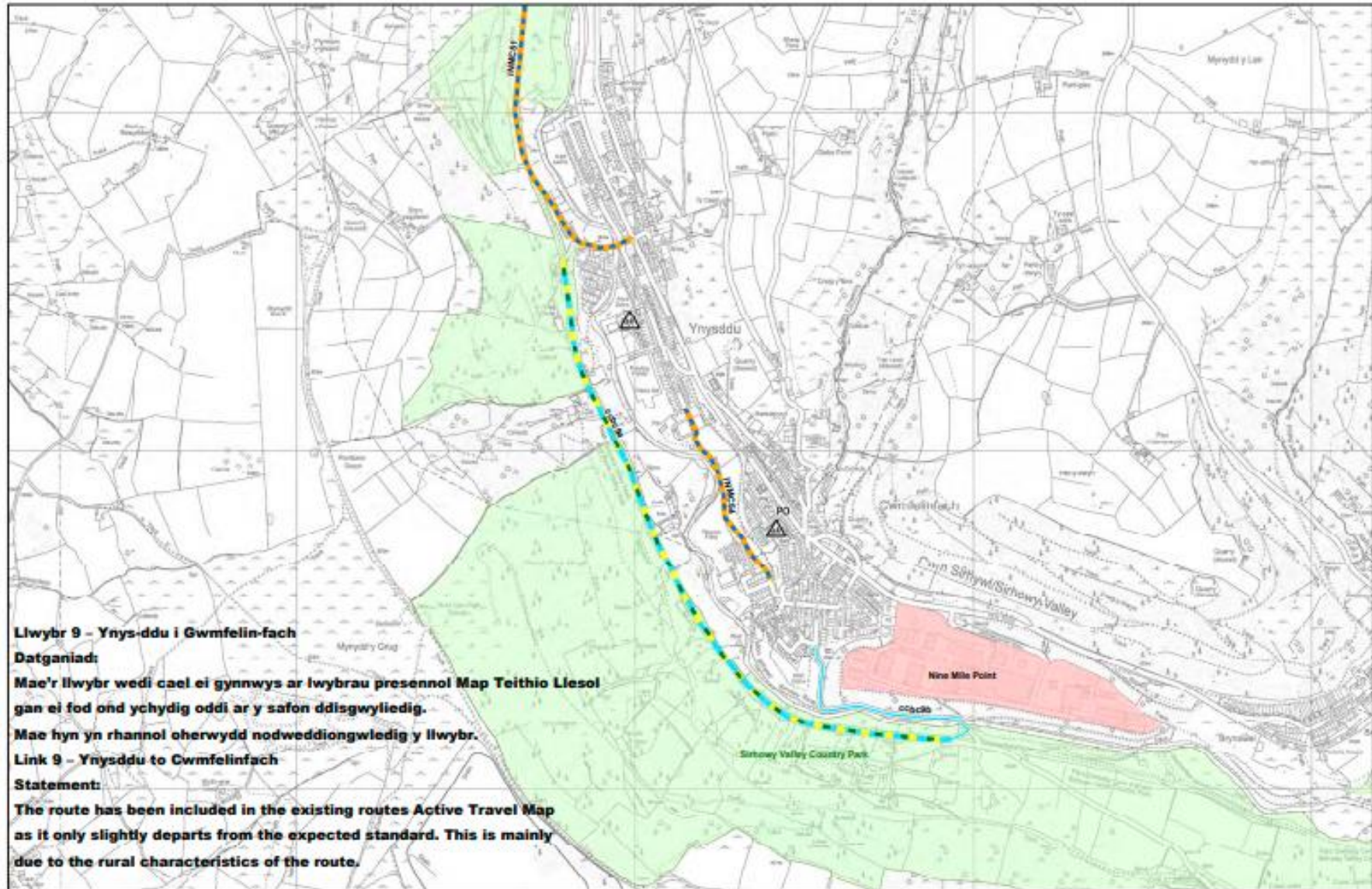
Active travel routes, current and proposed, in the Crosskeys and Wattsville area



Active travel routes, current and proposed, in the Risca/Pontymister area



Active travel routes, current and proposed, in the Cwmfelinfach and Ynysddu Area



E3 - Accessibility

- 6.45 The masterplan area needs safe and convenient walking, wheeling and cycling routes between housing estates, public open spaces, railway stations, schools, colleges, town centres, major employment sites and tourist attractions to meet its development strategy of integration of offer to visitors and residents. Whilst there are no specific proposals in the INM at the current time, the following links and improvements will be considered as part for the stage 3 consultation on the review of the INM:
- Improve accessibility to Risca/Pontymister town centre through radial routes
 - Improve links between Rica/Pontymister town centre and:
 - The railway station
 - Cwmcarn Forest Drive
 - Sirhowy Valley Country Park
 - Improve accessibility to Newbridge town centre through radial routes
 - Improve links between Newbridge town centre and:
 - Cwmcarn Forest Drive
 - Sirhowy Valley Country Park
 - Pantside
 - Improve the links between Newbridge and Risca
 - Improve links between Wyllie and Newbridge
 - Improve links between Wyllie and Risca
 - Improve links between Crosskeys and Pontymister

E4 – Bus Services

- 6.46 As outlined in the area summary, the Ebbw Valley is well served by bus transport, with a through service operating every 15 minutes running from Blackwood to Newport. The Lower Sirhowy Valley has an hourly bus service. Improvements in the

frequencies of services should be sought throughout the day in the Lower Sirhowy Valley and to evening and night-time services in the Ebbw Valley.

E5 – Railway Station Improvements

- 6.47 The rail stations are focal points in the towns within which they are located providing hubs for sustainable transport. However, whilst Newbridge station is located within the town centre and is highly visible, Crosskeys station is located at a significantly higher level than the main street through the town and Risca station is separated from the town centre to such an extent that unless you knew there was a station it would not be apparent that Risca had a station.
- 6.48 All three stations would benefit from wider integration into the centres and from environmental improvements that would improve their entrances and the routes to get to them. The Metro improvements include a placemaking element that seeks to improve the environment of stations on the network, making them more attractive to users and promoting the Metro as a mode of transport. Improvements to the station environments and integration with the town centres should be sought as part of the Metro placemaking agenda.

E6 – Extension of Newbridge Park & Ride

- 6.49 Due to their locations and the local topography, there is no scope for extending park and ride provision at either Risca/Pontymister or Crosskeys with significant and costly interventions that are likely to include property acquisition. However, the Council are current exploiting opportunities to secure land to provide an extension of the existing limited park and ride provision associated with the station. The site would need to be a short walk from the station but should be capable of providing a significant increase in park and ride provision for this station.

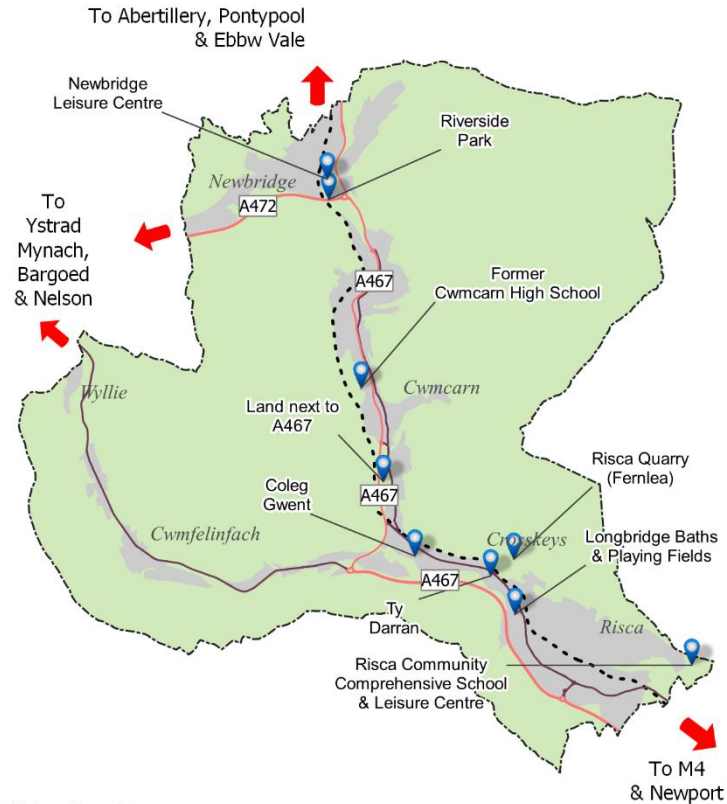
E7 - Electric Vehicles

- 6.50 Welsh government policy seeks to encourage the use of electric vehicles over fuel drive ones. As such it will be necessary to develop a network of vehicle charging points to facilitate this change and enable these vehicles to be used in the area. The area already has several sites where electric vehicle charging points are available, and these are:
- West View car park, Newbridge
 - The Otter, Newbridge

- Cwmcarn Forest Drive Visitor Centre car park
- Coleg Gwent, Crosskeys Campus
- Longbridge car park, Risca
- Tesco Extra, Risca
- High Street car park, Ynysddu

6.51 To meet its climate change targets the council will need to ensure that more electric vehicle charging points are provided where the opportunities arise. In addition to this the council will also investigate the potential to promote electric bicycle use throughout the masterplan area, through the provision of parking and charging infrastructure and the scope and potential to introduce an electric bike rental scheme to facilitate onward trips from stations to destinations (electric bikes available through a scheme with Caerphilly Adventurers at Cwmcarn Forest Drive will be an important part of this).

F. Promoting the health and well-being of residents and visitors by protecting and enhancing accessible community facilities, including sport and leisure facilities.



Objective F

-  Community Facilities
-  Rail Stations
-  Rail
-  Major Roads
-  Minor Roads

Community facilities (existing, approved and potential) (see list below)

F1 - Riverside Park, Newbridge

6.52 This site, whilst being located outside of the defined settlement boundary has potential to be developed into a formal park for informal recreation. Its location beside the river and the mature existing landscape the park is set within form a great basis for developing a useable area of space for informal recreation. The area could be landscape and informal facilities such as picnic areas could be provided. The potential also exists to create a feature entrance over the river.

Development principles:

- Attractive landscaping
- Space for recreation
- Active-travel links to town centre, housing estates and, if possible, other areas of public open space
- Encourage people to visit town centre

F2 - Risca Quarry, Fernlea, Risca

6.53 This disused quarry area is within reasonable walking distance of Risca town centre. The site proves a unique open area due to its landform and regenerated landscape, providing the opportunity for informal recreation. Suggestions for the future use of the quarry include formal recreational uses such as a zip line and adventure camping.

Development principles:

- Create public open space
- Increase the site's ecological value
- Reuse previously developed land
- Increase tourism offer

F3 - Longbridge Baths and playing fields, Risca

6.54 The site has recently been the subject of a planning application for the demolition of the baths building and the pavilion (not all the buildings on the site) and the provision of a new changing facility with car parking (see 20/0494/LA).

- 6.55 Further to this, the council has recently approved a planning application (21/0210/LA) to demolish the changing block, the vacant accommodation on the first floor together with the single-storey block containing the plant room and vacant rooms, the swimming pool pit, the pool promenade and the associated plant room and grass over and refurbish the remaining single storey changing rooms and showers.
- 6.56 Additional facilities might enhance the recreational and leisure offer of this site. These might include formal play equipment, a picnic area, a coffee/refreshment outlet and space for visiting traders or events.

F4 - Former Cwmcarn High School, Cwmcarn

- 6.57 The Former Cwmcarn High School was closed and demolished because of falling demand for places. The cleared site provides a perfect opportunity for the Council to rationalise its education provision and the current proposals for the site include the relocation of Ysgol Gymraeg Cwm Gwyddon, Abercarn, into a new built facility on the site. This is currently programmed to open in September 2023.

F5 - Newbridge Leisure Centre, Newbridge

- 6.58 Newbridge Leisure Centre, a well-used facility, has recently been refurbished. In the past, however, it has given rise to increasing issues regarding car parking on the site. Project B6, above, includes a proposal to improve the signage and environment of the link between the rail station and the leisure centre to encourage greater active travel access to the leisure centre. However, the Council is also proposing to change the existing 3G pitch into an additional car parking facility and create a full sized 3G pitch on land on the south side of the A472.

F6 - Risca Community Comprehensive School and Risca Leisure Centre, Pontymister

- 6.59 This site already provides recreation facilities, but the Council is proposing to build new 3G pitches on this site to enhance the existing leisure and education provision.

F7 – Coleg Gwent, Crosskeys

- 6.60 Coleg Gwent, Crosskeys, should continue be protected and promoted as a community facility.

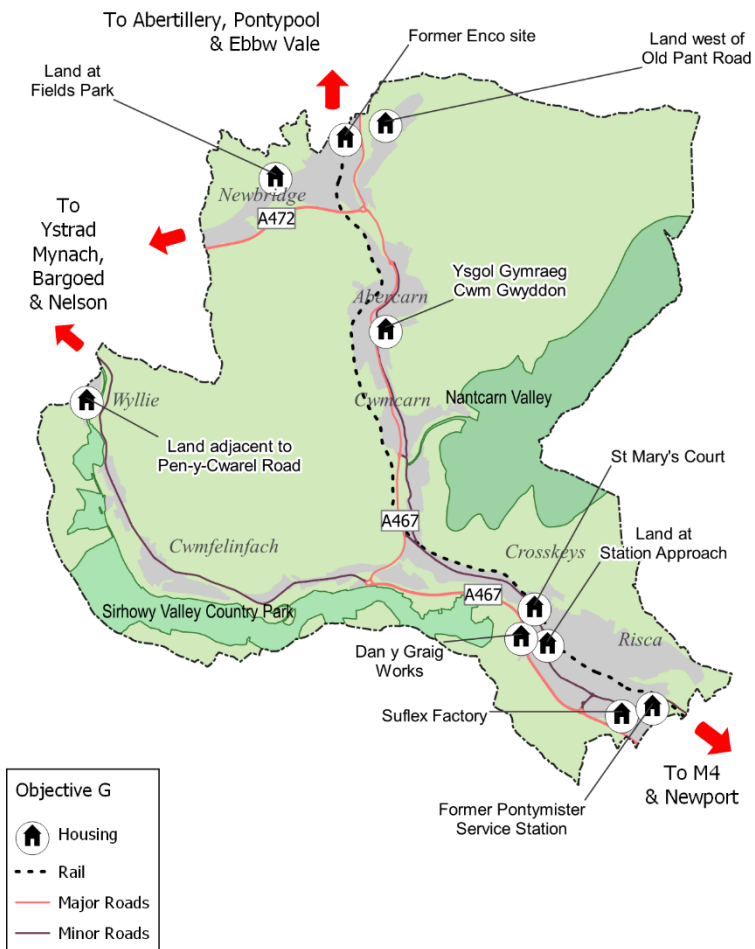
F8 – Land next to A467, Pontywaun

- 6.61 Two pieces of undeveloped land are next to the Ebbw River, the A467 and the village of Pontywaun. The western piece is in Flood Zone 3, and the eastern piece in Flood Zone 2, but it might be possible to use the site as a ‘water-compatible’ public open space (without an equipped play area).

F9 – Babell Chapel (Capel y Babell), Cwmfelinfach

- 6.62 Babell Chapel (Capel y Babell) was built in 1827 and has been a Grade II listed building since 1972. The poet Islwyn (the bardic name of William Thomas, born in Ynysddu in 1832) is buried in the chapel cemetery. The chapel has recently been converted into a community arts venue and now has an artist-in-residence.

G. Provide housing that will meet local housing needs through the redevelopment of derelict and vacant land where possible



Potential housing sites (see list below)

- 6.63 The topography of the masterplan area, in conjunction with the restrictions imposed by flood risk, mean there is little land available that is acceptable for housing development. The lack of land means that meeting the housing demand in the Masterplan area is a significant issue. The reality is that sites in this are likely to be difficult to find and develop and as such this Masterplan does not include any 'new' sites for housing, rather it focuses on redevelopment sites, sites that have planning permission and sites that have been allocated in the Adopted LDP.

G1 – Land West of Old Pant Road, Panside (HG1.42 Adopted LDP)

- 6.64 An undeveloped site in the settlement of Panside, covered in scrub, grass and mature deciduous trees some of which are the subject of Tree Preservation Orders. It is positioned between existing residential areas lying to the south of Ellesmere Court and southwest of Hazelwood Road. At 2.2 Hectares the site could accommodate around 55 dwellings.

Development principles:

- Efficient use of land (high-density development)
- Help to meet local demand for housing
- Improve local townscape

G2 - Land at Fields Park, Newbridge (HG1.44 Adopted LDP)

- 6.65 This site located to the north of Gilboa Road and to the east of Fields Park, Newbridge. The land slopes in an easterly direction, steeply in parts. The northern part of the site comprises grazing land edged by mature trees, whilst the southern part of the site incorporates the former railway land which runs from Fields Park Road to the rear of Homeleigh, Newbridge. At approximately 2.3 hectares the site could accommodate in the region of 80 dwellings.

Development principles:

- Efficient use of land (high-density development)
- Help to meet local demand for housing
- Improve local townscape

G3 - Land adjacent to Pen-y-Cwarel Road, Wyllie (HG1.50 Adopted LDP)

6.66 A greenfield site located on the western edge of Wyllie, which would represent a natural rounding off of the settlement. The site is bordered to the north and east by residential development with open countryside and woodland to the west. The site slopes gently up the valley site from east to west and comprises mostly scrubland and trees. The site is crossed by public sewers, which may restrict the density of any development. The site could be accessed either from the south of the site off Pen-y-Cwarel Road, subject to the provision of footways, or via the boundary from The Avenue, although additional land would need to be acquired. At 1.6 hectares the site could accommodate around 55 dwellings.

Development principles:

- Efficient use of land (high-density development)
- Help to meet local demand for housing
- Improve local townscape

G4 - Land at Station Approach, Risca (HG1.52 Adopted LDP)

6.67 The site is an area of disused land formerly a route of a railway line and related buildings. The site is located to the east of Tredegar Street with access from Park Road. There are commercial properties to the west at a lower level, houses to the south and the recently opened Ebbw Valley railway line to the east. At just over half a hectare the site can accommodate around 10 dwellings.

Development principles:

- Reuse previously developed land
- Efficient use of land (high-density development)
- Help to meet local demand for housing
- Improve local townscape

G5 - Suflex Factory, Pontymister (HG1.55 Adopted LDP)

6.68 Project F4 identifies the Council proposals to relocate this school into a new purpose-built facility on the former Cwmcarn This is a brownfield site formerly used for manufacturing and office use. To the east there are recreational grounds and to the

west is an existing residential estate. The River Ebbw forms the southern-most boundary to the site. The two access points into the existing site are acceptable to serve the existing development. At 2.1 hectares the site could accommodate around 80 dwellings. From June 2023, the site will be in Flood Zones 2 and 3 and a 'TAN 15 Defended Zone'. This means that a development proposal, including one for housing, would have to pass the justification test set out in Welsh Government Technical Advice Note 15: Development, flooding and coastal erosion (most recently published edition: December 2021).

Development principles:

- Reuse previously developed land
- Efficient use of land (high-density development)
- Help to meet local demand for housing
- Improve local townscape

G6 - Ysgol Gymraeg Cwm Gwyddon, Abercarn

6.69 Project F4 identifies the Council proposals to relocate this school into a new purpose-built facility on the former Cwmcarn High School site. As a result of the relocation the site of the existing school would become vacant. The site is within the settlement of Abercarn and, as such, would have a general presumption in favour of redevelopment for housing. The site is approximately 0.25 hectares in area and could accommodate 9 or 10 dwellings.

Development principles:

- Reuse previously developed land
- Efficient use of land (high-density development)
- Help to meet local demand for housing
- Improve local townscape

G7 – Former Enco site, North Road, Newbridge

6.70 The site is a former industrial site, although it is not part of a larger industrial or business park estate. The site is located within the settlement of Newbridge and, as such, the redevelopment of this site for housing would have a general presumption in favour. The site could accommodate approximately 55 dwellings.

Development principles:

- Reuse previously developed land
- Efficient use of land (high-density development)
- Help to meet local demand for housing
- Improve local townscape

G8 - Dan y Graig Works, Dan y Graig Lane, Risca

6.71 This site is in the defined settlement boundary. Outline planning permission (18/0286/OUT) for 22 dwellings was granted in August 2019. The site has yet to be developed, but the permission will not expire until August 2024. The site remains suitable, in principle, for housing.

Development principles:

- Reuse previously developed land
- Efficient use of land (high-density development)
- Help to meet local demand for housing

G9 - Former Pontymister Service Station, Newport Road, Pontymister

6.72 This site is located within the settlement of Pontymister. Planning permission has been granted for the erection of 18 affordable flats (see applications 19/0010/FULL and 20/0635/NCC).

Development principles:

- Reuse previously developed land
- Efficient use of land (high-density development)

- Help to meet local demand for housing
- Improve local townscape

G10 - St Mary's Court, St Mary Street, Risca

6.73 This site, if it should become vacant, might be suitable, in principle, for housing of various kinds (including sheltered housing), a care home or a community facility.

Development principles:

- Help to meet local demand for housing and/or create a community facility
- Reuse previously developed land
- Efficient use of land (high-density development)
- Improve local townscape

G11 – Ty Darran, Cromwell Road, Risca

6.74 This site was formerly the site of a residential care home which closed in 2010. The site has remained unused since that time due to flood issues that affected the site. The Risca flood alleviation scheme has largely removed these issues and the council are currently looking to bring the site forward for affordable and/or sheltered housing.

Development principles:

- Reuse previously developed land
- Help to meet local demand for housing
- Improve local townscape

H. Promote the area's attractions as a group of connected places to be enjoyed by local people and visitors alike

6.75 This is an area-wide proposal covering several attractions. Signs will be put up at and between places of interest, drawing people's attention to active-travel routes and public-transport services. The details of the marketing exercise will be considered as part of a separate project.

7. Delivering and implementing change

7.1 The table below sets out the projects identified in Section 7 of the report, together with the expected outputs that the project will deliver and how these proposals will address the objectives of 'A Foundation for Success'. The table identifies the indicative costs of each scheme and highlights any funding that has been secured to date. It should be noted that many of these projects are at an embryonic stage and, as such, the outputs and costs can only be estimated.

Masterplan strategic objective	Project/opportunity	Description	Expected/indicative output(s)	Objectives of regeneration strategy met	Funding secured and potential costs
<p>A. Protect and enhance the Masterplan area's status of a sub-regional employment centre through protecting existing employment sites and increasing employment through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The redevelopment of under-used or vacant employment land - The diversification of uses throughout the main town centres - Improving the tourist offer by enhancing existing and developing new tourist attractions - Strengthening links between schools, colleges and employers. 	A1. Land next to Bridge Street, Newbridge	Job-creating use, housing, a riverside playground and park, or even a mix of uses	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Improved built environment - Additional jobs - New housing - Community facility/public open space 	<p>SB2: Supporting economic growth and innovation</p> <p>SQL3: Active Place Making</p> <p>SQL5: Improve the delivery of new housing and diversify housing across all tenures</p>	TBC

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Masterplan strategic objective	Project/opportunity	Description	Expected/indicative output(s)	Objectives of regeneration strategy met	Funding secured and potential costs
	A2. North Celynen, Newbridge	Extended or additional employment use.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Improved built environment - Additional jobs 	SB2: Supporting economic growth and innovation	TBC
	A3. Protect and redevelop existing employment sites	Protect and redevelop sites if land becomes under-utilised or vacant in order that the employment function in the Masterplan remains strong.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Protected jobs - Additional jobs 	SB2: Supporting economic growth and innovation	TBC
B. Establish the two main town centres as attractive, accessible and busy destinations offering a wide mix of daytime and night-time uses and services.	B1. Land to Lidl, Pontymister	Commercial development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Additional jobs - increased footfall and spending in town centre 	SB2: Supporting economic growth and innovation SQL3: Active Place Making SQL7: Refocus on town centres to serve the needs of residents and business	TBC
	B2. Former Bird site, Pontymister	Well-being and employment opportunities for a range of enterprises and sectors, including retail, leisure, recreation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Additional jobs - Improved streetscape - Stimulate economic activity 	SB2: Supporting economic growth and innovation SQL3: Active Place Making SQL7: Refocus on town centres to serve	TBC

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Masterplan strategic objective	Project/opportunity	Description	Expected/indicative output(s)	Objectives of regeneration strategy met	Funding secured and potential costs
				the needs of residents and business	
	B3. Brooklands, Brookland Road, Pontymister	Might be suitable for a hotel, housing or a 'B1' business use (offices, research and development, light industry)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Stimulate economic activity - Improve streetscape - Increase footfall in town centre 	SB2: Supporting economic growth and innovation SQL3: Active Place Making SQL4: Maximise the tourism potential of the County Borough to become an established tourism destination SQL7: Refocus on town centres to serve the needs of residents and business	TBC
	B4. Caetwmpyn Park, Newbridge	Potential to offer informal recreation, as well as being a potential area for events/activities and offering an area of peace and tranquility from the more active town centre	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Programme of signage - Presence of the park needs to be publicised as part of the attraction that the town centre offers - Potential for a new access onto Tynewydd Terrace 	SQL3: Active Place Making SQL4: Maximise the tourism potential of the County Borough to become an established tourism destination SQL7: Refocus on town centres to serve the needs of residents and business	TBC

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Masterplan strategic objective	Project/opportunity	Description	Expected/indicative output(s)	Objectives of regeneration strategy met	Funding secured and potential costs
	B5. Diversifying uses	More liberal view towards allowing commercial and community uses in vacant town centre premises that have previously been restricted or prevented in order to maintain the retail cores of the town centres	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Broaden and strengthen the night-time economy - Commercial employment opportunities, including offices and services, in existing retail units should be considered more favourably 	<p>SB2: Supporting economic growth and innovation</p> <p>SQL3: Active Place Making</p> <p>SQL4: Maximise the tourism potential of the County Borough to become an established tourism destination</p> <p>SQL7: Refocus on town centres to serve the needs of residents and business</p>	TBC
	B6. Risca/Pontymister and Newbridge Town Centre Environmental and Accessibility Enhancements	Increase accessibility and improve the built environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Town centres more attractive and convenient for pedestrians 	<p>SQL3: Active Place Making</p> <p>SQL4: Maximise the tourism potential of the County Borough to become an established tourism destination</p>	TBC
C. Promote and enhance the tourist economy by diversifying and increasing the tourist product, providing opportunities for the development of tourist accommodation and linking tourism assets together and with town centres and recreation	C1. Newbridge Memorial Hall ('Memo') and Institute, Newbridge	Should be linked to other night-time economy drivers, including Risca/Pontymister Town centre and evening time activities at Cwmcarn Forest Drive, as part of an overall promotional campaign that provides information on all the	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - More visitors to Newbridge and the rest of the masterplan area - Additional demand for accommodation and hospitality - Stimulate social and cultural activity 	<p>SB2: Supporting economic growth and innovation</p> <p>SQL2: Improve access to culture, leisure and the arts</p> <p>SQL4: Maximise the tourism potential of the County Borough to</p>	TBC

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Masterplan strategic objective	Project/opportunity	Description	Expected/indicative output(s)	Objectives of regeneration strategy met	Funding secured and potential costs
and leisure opportunities		Masterplan Area's attractions and links them together as a more cohesive product.		become an established tourism destination SQL7: Refocus on town centres to serve the needs of residents and business	
	C2. Tredegar Grounds (Risca Park), Risca	Promote park as a venue for events and provide space for mobile or 'pop-up' hospitality businesses. Formal and informal leisure opportunities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - More visitors to Risca and Pontymister - Additional demand for hospitality - Stimulate social and cultural activity 	SB2: Supporting economic growth and innovation SQL2: Improve access to culture, leisure and the arts SQL4: Maximise the tourism potential of the County Borough to become an established tourism destination SQL7: Refocus on town centres to serve the needs of residents and business	TBC
	C3. Waunfawr Park, Crosskeys	Hold more events and create more small-scale hospitality opportunities. Improve active-travel links between park, Crosskeys railway station and Risca town centre.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - More visitors to Crosskeys, Risca and Pontymister - Additional demand for hospitality and accommodation - Stimulate social and cultural activity 	SB2: Supporting economic growth and innovation SQL2: Improve access to culture, leisure and the arts SQL4: Maximise the tourism potential of the County Borough to	TBC

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Masterplan strategic objective	Project/opportunity	Description	Expected/indicative output(s)	Objectives of regeneration strategy met	Funding secured and potential costs met
				become an established tourism destination SQL7: Refocus on town centres to serve the needs of residents and business	
	C4. Pioneer Hotel, Cwmfelinfach	Restore and reuse as a food-and-drink business, a hotel or a mixed-use facility, perhaps with flats on the upper floors.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Stimulate economic activity - Improve streetscape - Protect a heritage asset - Stimulate social activity - Draw visitors to the masterplan area - May help to meet local housing need 	SB2: Supporting economic growth and innovation SQL3: Active Place Making SQL4: Maximise the tourism potential of the County Borough to become an established tourism destination SQL5: Improve the delivery of new housing and diversify housing across all tenures	TBC
	C5. Sirhowy Valley Country Park	Environmental improvements and additional facilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Stimulate economic activity - Protect an important landscape - Stimulate social activity - Promote physical activity - Draw visitors to the masterplan area 	SP8: Support interventions to improve health SQL1: Managing the natural heritage and its resources appropriately by balancing the needs of development against the protection of the landscape and the need to conserve and enhance biodiversity	TBC

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Masterplan strategic objective	Project/opportunity	Description	Expected/indicative output(s)	Objectives of regeneration strategy met	Funding secured and potential costs met
				<p>SQL2: Improve access to culture, leisure and the arts</p> <p>SQL4: Maximise the tourism potential of the County Borough to become an established tourism destination</p>	
	C6: Pontywaun Garden Suburbs	Protect, enhance, promote	- Promote as a tourist attraction in walking distance of Cwmcarn Forest Drive and Crosskeys	<p>SQL2: Improve access to culture, leisure and the arts</p> <p>SQL4: Maximise the tourism potential of the County Borough to become an established tourism destination</p>	TBC
D. Diversify and improve the offer at Cwmcarn Forest Drive and improve interpretation and links between it and Risca town centre and the Monmouthshire Brecon and Abergavenny Canal	D1. Cwmcarn Forest Drive, Cwmcarn	Environmental improvements and additional facilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Stimulate economic activity - Protect an important landscape - Stimulate social activity - Promote physical activity - Draw visitors to the masterplan area 	<p>SP8: Support interventions to improve health</p> <p>SQL1: Managing the natural heritage and its resources appropriately by balancing the needs of development against the protection of the landscape and the need to conserve and enhance biodiversity</p> <p>SQL2: Improve access to culture, leisure and the arts</p>	Match funding of £1.2 million has been secured internally to support a bid to the Levelling up Fund for £12 million.

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Masterplan strategic objective	Project/opportunity	Description	Expected/indicative output(s)	Objectives of regeneration strategy met	Funding secured and potential costs
				SQL4: Maximise the tourism potential of the County Borough to become an established tourism destination	
	D2. Monmouthshire and Brecon Canal	<p>Improve the facilities on the canal in both Caerphilly and Torfaen and to develop physical links and key connections between Torfaen and Caerphilly across Mynydd Maen and Twmbarlwm. This is known as the Canal Adventure Triangle.</p> <p>Re-opening of sections of the Monmouthshire & Brecon canal.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Stimulate economic activity - Protect an important landscape - Stimulate social activity - Promote physical activity - Draw visitors to the masterplan area 	<p>SP8: Support interventions to improve health</p> <p>SQL1: Managing the natural heritage and its resources appropriately by balancing the needs of development against the protection of the landscape and the need to conserve and enhance biodiversity</p> <p>SQL2: Improve access to culture, leisure and the arts</p> <p>SQL4: Maximise the tourism potential of the County Borough to become an established tourism destination</p>	<p>Relining works at Pontywaun/Cwmcarn section: funding obtained in 2018.</p> <p>Re-opening of sections of the Monmouthshire & Brecon canal: TBC</p>

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Masterplan strategic objective	Project/opportunity	Description	Expected/indicative output(s)	Objectives of regeneration strategy met	Funding secured and potential costs
E. Improve accessibility to masterplan area's services and attractions both internally to the masterplan area and farther afield.	E1. Metro and Metro Plus improvements	Reinstatement of services to Newport. aspirations to increase the level of service on the line to a half-hourly or even quarter hourly service (like the Rhymney Valley Line).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - More rail passengers - Less congestion on roads 	CPP2: Promote Public Transport Integration and Connectivity	TBC
	E2. Active travel	Improve walking, wheeling and cycling routes in the masterplan area	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Promote physical activity - Improve links between important places -Less congestion on roads 	SP8: Support interventions to improve health SQL2: Improve access to culture, leisure and the arts SQL3: Active Place Making	TBC
	E3. Accessibility	Improve walking, wheeling and cycling routes in the masterplan area	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Promote physical activity - Improve links between important places -Less congestion on roads 	SP8: Support interventions to improve health SQL2: Improve access to culture, leisure and the arts SQL3: Active Place Making	TBC
	E4. Bus services	Increase frequency and range of bus services to give more people an	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Less congestion on roads 	CPP2: Promote Public Transport Integration and Connectivity	TBC

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Masterplan strategic objective	Project/opportunity	Description	Expected/indicative output(s)	Objectives of regeneration strategy met	Funding secured and potential costs
		alternative to driving (or being driven)			
	E5. Railway-station improvements	Wider integration into town centres and environmental improvements that would improve their entrances and the routes to get to them	- Improved townscape	SQL3: Active Place Making CPP2: Promote Public Transport Integration and Connectivity	TBC
	E6. Extension of Newbridge park and ride	Extension of park-and-ride facility	- More rail passengers - Less congestion on roads	SQL2: Improve access to culture, leisure and the arts SQL3: Active Place Making	TBC
	E7. Electric vehicles	Develop a network of vehicle charging points. Promote use of electric bicycles	- Greater use of electric vehicles - Improved local air quality	n/a	TBC
F. Promoting the health and well-being of residents and visitors by protecting and enhancing accessible community facilities, including sport and leisure facilities.	F1. Riverside Park, Newbridge	Informal recreation area, with attractive landscaping and a picnic area	- Stimulate social activity - Promote physical activity - Draw visitors to the masterplan area	SQL3: Active Place Making SP8: Support interventions to improve health SQL2: Improve access to culture, leisure and the arts	TBC
	F2. Risca Quarry, Fernlea, Risca	Area for green infrastructure and recreation	- Stimulate social activity	SQL3: Active Place Making	TBC

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Masterplan strategic objective	Project/opportunity	Description	Expected/indicative output(s)	Objectives of regeneration strategy met	Funding secured and potential costs
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Promote physical activity - Draw visitors to the masterplan area 	<p>SP8: Support interventions to improve health</p> <p>SQL2: Improve access to culture, leisure and the arts</p>	
	F3. Longbridge Baths and playing fields, Risca	New changing rooms; consider installing, or allowing the creation of, play equipment, picnic benches, a coffee shop and space for visiting traders	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Improve a community facility - Stimulate social activity - Stimulate economic activity - Promote physical activity 	<p>SP8: Support interventions to improve health</p> <p>SQL2: Improve access to culture, leisure and the arts</p> <p>SQL3: Active Place Making</p> <p>SB2: Supporting economic growth and innovation</p> <p>SB3: Creating an environment that nurtures business</p>	TBC
	F4. Former Cwmcarn High School, Cwmcarn	Purpose-built Welsh-medium school (facilities to be open to the public)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Create new community facility 	<p>SP8: Support interventions to improve health</p> <p>SQL2: Improve access to culture, leisure and the arts</p> <p>SQL3: Active Place Making</p>	Funded through the 21st Century Schools Programme at a cost of roughly £9m.

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Masterplan strategic objective	Project/opportunity	Description	Expected/indicative output(s)	Objectives of regeneration strategy met	Funding secured and potential costs met
	F5. Newbridge Leisure Centre, Newbridge	Consider turning the existing three-quarter 3G pitch into a car park and creating a full-sized 3G pitch on the south side of the A472	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Create new community facility - Promote physical activity 	<p>SP8: Support interventions to improve health</p> <p>SQL2: Improve access to culture, leisure and the arts</p>	TBC
	F6. Risca Community Comprehensive School and Risca Leisure Centre, Pontymister	Build 3G sports pitches	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Create new community facility - Promote physical activity 	<p>SP8: Support interventions to improve health</p> <p>SQL2: Improve access to culture, leisure and the arts</p>	TBC
	F7: Coleg Gwent, Crosskeys	Protect and promote as community facility	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Greater education attainment - Stronger links between education and industry 	<p>SP2: Raising educational attainment</p> <p>SP3: Reducing worklessness</p> <p>SB6: Improve the links between business, schools and education & training providers</p>	TBC
	F8: Land next to A467, Pontywaun	Use for less vulnerable forms of development, such as public recreation areas.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Create new community facility - Promote physical activity 	<p>SP8: Support interventions to improve health</p> <p>SQL2: Improve access to culture, leisure and the arts</p>	TBC
	F9. Babell Chapel (Capel y Babell), Cwmfelinfach	Protect and promote as a community facility	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Stimulate social activity 	<p>SQL2: Improve access to culture, leisure and the arts</p>	TBC

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Masterplan strategic objective	Project/opportunity	Description	Expected/indicative output(s)	Objectives of regeneration strategy met	Funding secured and potential costs
G. Provide housing that will meet local housing needs through the redevelopment of derelict and vacant land where possible	G1. Land West of Old Pant Road, Pantside, (H1.42 Adopted LDP)	Housing	- Help to meet local demand for housing - Possibility of on-site community facilities	SQL3: Active Place Making SQL5: Improve the delivery of new housing and diversify housing across all tenures	TBC
	G2. Land at Fields Park, Newbridge (H1.44 Adopted LDP)	Housing	- Help to meet local demand for housing - Possibility of on-site community facilities	SQL3: Active Place Making SQL5: Improve the delivery of new housing and diversify housing across all tenures	TBC
	G3. Land adjacent to Pen-y-Cwarel Road, Wyllie	Housing	- Help to meet local demand for housing - Possibility of on-site community facilities	SQL3: Active Place Making SQL5: Improve the delivery of new housing and diversify housing across all tenures	TBC
	G4. Land at Station Approach, Risca (H1.52 Adopted LDP)	Housing	- Help to meet local demand for housing - Possibility of on-site community facilities	SQL3: Active Place Making SQL5: Improve the delivery of new housing and diversify housing across all tenures	TBC
	G5. Suflex Factory, Newport Road, Pontymister	Housing	- Help to meet local demand for housing - Possibility of on-site community facilities	SQL3: Active Place Making SQL5: Improve the delivery of new housing and diversify housing across all tenures	TBC

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Masterplan strategic objective	Project/opportunity	Description	Expected/indicative output(s)	Objectives of regeneration strategy met	Funding secured and potential costs
	G6. Ysgol Gymraeg Cwm Gwyddon, Abercarn	Housing	- Help to meet local demand for housing - Possibility of on-site community facilities	SQL3: Active Place Making SQL5: Improve the delivery of new housing and diversify housing across all tenures	TBC
	G7. Former Enco site, North Road, Newbridge	Housing	- Help to meet local demand for housing - Possibility of on-site community facilities	SQL3: Active Place Making SQL5: Improve the delivery of new housing and diversify housing across all tenures	TBC
	G8. Dan y Graig Works, Dan y Graig Lane, Risca	Housing	- Help to meet local demand for housing - Possibility of on-site community facilities	SQL3: Active Place Making SQL5: Improve the delivery of new housing and diversify housing across all tenures	TBC
	G9. Former Pontymister Service Station, Newport Road, Pontymister	Housing	- Help to meet local demand for housing - Possibility of on-site community facilities	SQL3: Active Place Making SQL5: Improve the delivery of new housing and diversify housing across all tenures	TBC
	G10. St Mary's Court, St Mary Street, Risca	Housing	- Help to meet local demand for housing - Possibility of on-site community facilities	SQL3: Active Place Making SQL5: Improve the delivery of new housing and diversify housing across all tenures	TBC

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Masterplan strategic objective	Project/opportunity	Description	Expected/indicative output(s)	Objectives of regeneration strategy met	Funding secured and potential costs
	G11. Ty Darran, Cromwell Road, Risca	Build affordable and/or sheltered housing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Help to meet local demand for housing - Improve the townscape 	<p>SQL3: Active Place Making</p> <p>SQL5: Improve the delivery of new housing and diversify housing across all tenures</p>	Caerphilly Homes to develop the site.
H. Promote the area's attractions as a group of connected places to be enjoyed by local people and visitors alike	Area-wide proposal covering several attractions	Marketing exercise to encourage local people and visitors to use active-travel routes and public transport to explore the area's attractions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Increase in social activity - Increase in economic activity - More visitors to town centres and other attractions - Increase in active travel - More passengers on public transport 	<p>SQL3: Active Place Making</p> <p>SP8: Support interventions to improve health</p> <p>SQL2: Improve access to culture, leisure and the arts</p> <p>SQL4: Maximise the tourism potential of the County Borough to become an established tourism destination</p> <p>CPP2: Promote Public Transport Integration and Connectivity</p>	TBC

Appendix 1: Well-being of Future Generations Goals

A1.1 The masterplan has been written with the seven well-being goals of the Well-Being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 in mind. The following assessment identifies the goal, or goals, relevant to each strategic objective.

A1.2 Development in the masterplan area should:

A. Protect and enhance the Masterplan area's status of a sub-regional employment centre by:

- Protecting existing employment sites
- Redeveloping under-used or vacant employment land
- Diversifying uses in town centres
- Improving the tourist offer by enhancing existing and developing new tourist attractions; and
- Strengthening links between schools, colleges and employers

B. Establish the two main town centres as attractive, accessible and busy destinations offering a wide mix of daytime and night-time uses and services

C. Promote and enhance the tourist economy by diversifying and increasing the tourist product, providing opportunities for the development of tourist accommodation and linking tourism assets together and with town centres and recreation and leisure opportunities

D. Diversify and improve the offer at Cwmcarn Forest Drive and improve interpretation and links between it and Risca town centre and the Monmouthshire Brecon and Abergavenny Canal

E. Improve accessibility to masterplan area's services and attractions both internally to the masterplan area and farther afield

F. Promote the health and well-being of residents and visitors by protecting and enhancing accessible community facilities, including sport and leisure facilities

- G. Provide housing that will meet local housing needs through the redevelopment of derelict and vacant land where possible
- H. Promote the area's attractions as a group of connected places to be enjoyed by local people and visitors alike

National well-being goals:

Goal	Description of the Goal	How it will be achieved via the Masterplan
A prosperous Wales	An innovative, productive and low-carbon society which recognises the limits of the global environment and therefore uses resources efficiently and proportionately (including acting on climate change); and which develops a skilled and well-educated population in an economy which generates wealth and provides employment opportunities, allowing people to take advantage of the wealth generated through securing decent work.	<i>Relevant Strategic Objectives: A, B, C</i> A: Protecting employment sites and, so far as possible, helping to create new jobs. B: Supporting a mix of economically productive uses in town centres. C: Improving tourist attractions and encouraging visitors to see other parts of the masterplan area.
A resilient Wales	A nation which maintains and enhances a biodiverse natural environment with healthy, functioning ecosystems that support social, economic and ecological resilience and the capacity to adapt to change (for example climate change).	n/a
A healthier Wales	A society in which people's physical and mental well-being is maximised and in which choices and behaviours that benefit future health are understood.	<i>Relevant Strategic Objectives: F, H</i> F: Protecting and enhancing accessible community facilities, including sport and leisure facilities. H: Promote active travel throughout the masterplan area.

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Goal	Description of the Goal	How it will be achieved via the Masterplan
A more equal Wales	A society that enables people to fulfil their potential no matter what their background or circumstances (including their socioeconomic background and circumstances).	<p><i>Relevant Strategic Objectives: A, B, E, F</i></p> <p>A: Protecting jobs and helping to create new ones.</p> <p>B: Stimulating economic activity in the town centres, which are relatively easy to reach for most people.</p> <p>E: A safe and accessible built environment should allow everybody to participate in public life.</p> <p>F: Making sure that everybody can gain access to important services and facilities.</p>
A Wales of cohesive communities	Attractive, viable, safe and well-connected communities.	<p><i>Relevant Strategic Objectives: E, F</i></p> <p>E: A safe and accessible built environment should allow everybody to participate in public life.</p> <p>F: Making sure that everybody can gain access to important services and facilities.</p>
A Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language	A society that promotes and protects culture, heritage and the Welsh language, and which encourages people to participate in the arts, sports and recreation.	<p><i>Relevant Strategic Objective: C, F, H</i></p> <p>C: A healthy tourism industry can increase demand for cultural enterprises such as festivals, theatres and music venues.</p> <p>F: Making sure that everybody can gain access to important services and facilities. Also, enhanced Welsh Medium Learning environment will improve lifelong learning opportunities for members of the Community to strengthen and safeguard the</p>

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Goal	Description of the Goal	How it will be achieved via the Masterplan
		promotion of the Welsh Language, Culture and heritage. H: Promote active-travel routes between tourist attractions.
A globally responsible Wales	A nation which, when doing anything to improve the economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales, takes account of whether doing such a thing may make a positive contribution to global well-being.	<i>Relevant Strategic Objective: E</i> E: Good active-travel and public-transport networks might help to reduce the use of polluting motor vehicles. The positive effects of this could spread beyond the county.

A1.3 The masterplan has been prepared in line with the five ways of working:

Involvement – The masterplan proposals are subject to consultation with the local community and have been developed through engagement with such stakeholders as ward members and community councillors.

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

Long term – The objectives identified, and the projects that will deliver these objectives, are part of a longer-term vision of enhancing the role of the masterplan area. The masterplan recognises the need for development to support economic growth but recognises that this development should be of a sustainable nature, both in terms of its purpose and its location.

Integration – The masterplan projects will help to deliver several objectives of *A Foundation for Success* (as set out within Section 7 of this document), as well as proposals contained within the adopted Local Development Plan. They will also deliver against the Council’s own well-being objectives by identifying projects that will lead to job creation and training opportunities, promote more healthy and active lifestyles and reduce the carbon footprint through improved Active Travel routes and facilities locally.

Prevention – The masterplan seeks to improve local quality of life so that existing problems do not get any worse and so that any future problems will be manageable.

Appendix 2: Assessment of Site-Specific Proposals against the National Well-Being Goals and the CCBC Well-Being Objectives

A2.1 This appendix provides an initial assessment of the projects identified within the Masterplan against the national well-being goals and the Council's well-being objectives, as set out within the Corporate Plan 2018-2023. The national well-being objectives are set out in Appendix 2, and the corporate objectives are set out below. It should be noted that many of the projects identified are at an embryonic stage and therefore a detailed analysis of the relationship between proposals and the well-being goals and objectives cannot be undertaken at this stage.

A2.2 Caerphilly CBC well-being objectives:

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

Project	Description	Masterplan objective	National well-being goal	CCBC well-being goal
A1. Land next to Bridge Street, Newbridge	Job-creating use, housing, a riverside playground and park, or even a mix of uses.	A, F, G	- A prosperous Wales - A more equal Wales - A Wales of cohesive communities	- Enabling employment - Address the availability, condition and sustainability of homes throughout the county borough and provide advice, assistance or

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Project	Description	Masterplan objective	National well-being goal	CCBC well-being goal
				support to help improve people's well-being
A2. North Celynen, Newbridge	Extended or additional employment use.	A	- A prosperous Wales - A more equal Wales	- Enabling employment
A3. Protect and redevelop existing employment sites	Protect and redevelop sites if land becomes under-utilised or vacant in order that the employment function in the Masterplan remains strong.	A	- A prosperous Wales - A more equal Wales	- Enabling employment
B1. Land to Lidl, Pontymister	Commercial development	A, B	- A prosperous Wales - A more equal Wales	- Enabling employment
B2. Former Bird site, Pontymister	Well-being and employment opportunities for a range of enterprises and sectors, including retail, leisure, recreation	A, B	- A prosperous Wales - A more equal Wales - A Wales of cohesive communities	- Enabling employment - Support citizens to remain independent and improve their well-being
B3. Brooklands, Brookland Road, Pontymister	Might be suitable for a hotel, housing or a 'B1' business use (offices, research and development, light industry)	A, B, C, G	- A prosperous Wales - A Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language	- Enabling employment - Address the availability, condition and sustainability of homes throughout the county borough and provide advice, assistance or support to help improve people's well-being
B4. Caetwmpyn Park, Newbridge	Potential to offer informal recreation, as well as being a potential area for events and offering an area of	B, F	- A prosperous Wales - A more equal Wales - A Wales of cohesive communities	- Support citizens to remain independent and improve their well-being

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Project	Description	Masterplan objective	National well-being goal	CCBC well-being goal
	peace and tranquility from the more active town centre			
B5. Diversifying uses	More liberal view towards allowing commercial and community uses in vacant town centre premises that have previously been restricted or prevented in order to maintain the retail cores of the town centres	A, B, F	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A prosperous Wales - A more equal Wales - A Wales of cohesive communities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Enabling employment - Support citizens to remain independent and improve their well-being
B6. Risca/Pontymister and Newbridge Town Centre Environmental and Accessibility Enhancements	Increase accessibility and improve the built environment	B, E	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A more equal Wales - A Wales of cohesive communities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Support citizens to remain independent and improve their well-being
C1. Newbridge Memorial Hall ('Memo') and Institute, Newbridge	Continue to promote it as a venue for events and entertainment. It has the potential to create demand for accommodation and hospitality in or near Newbridge.	B, C, F	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A prosperous Wales - A Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Enabling employment
C2. Tredegar Grounds (Risca Park), Risca	Promote park as a venue for events and provide space for mobile or 'pop-up' hospitality businesses. Consider creating additional facilities and attractions.	B, F	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A prosperous Wales - A Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Creating a county borough that supports a healthy lifestyle in accordance with the Sustainable Development Principle within the Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015
C3. Waunfawr Park, Crosskeys	Hold more events and create more small-scale hospitality opportunities. Consider creating additional facilities and attractions.	B, F	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A prosperous Wales - A Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Creating a county borough that supports a healthy lifestyle in accordance with the Sustainable Development Principle within the Wellbeing of Future

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Project	Description	Masterplan objective	National well-being goal	CCBC well-being goal
				Generations (Wales) Act 2015
C4. Pioneer Hotel, Cwmfelinfach	Restore and reuse as a food-and-drink business, a hotel or a mixed-use facility, perhaps with flats on the upper floors.	A, C, G	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A prosperous Wales - A Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language - A Wales of cohesive communities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Enabling employment - Address the availability, condition and sustainability of homes throughout the county borough and provide advice, assistance or support to help improve people's well-being
C5. Sirhowy Valley Country Park	Environmental improvements and additional facilities	C, F	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A prosperous Wales - A resilient Wales - A healthier Wales - A Wales of cohesive communities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Creating a county borough that supports a healthy lifestyle in accordance with the Sustainable Development Principle within the Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015
C6. Pontywaun Garden Suburbs	Protect and promote as a place of historic interest and as a tourist attraction	A, C	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A prosperous Wales - A Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language 	n/a
D1. Cwmcarn Forest Drive, Cwmcarn	Environmental improvements and additional facilities	A, C, D, F, H	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A prosperous Wales - A resilient Wales - A healthier Wales - A Wales of cohesive communities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Enabling employment - Creating a county borough that supports a healthy lifestyle in accordance with the Sustainable Development Principle within the Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015

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Project	Description	Masterplan objective	National well-being goal	CCBC well-being goal
D2. Monmouthshire and Brecon Canal	Re-opening of section(s) of the Monmouthshire & Brecon canal	A, C, D, F, H	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A prosperous Wales - A resilient Wales - A healthier Wales - A Wales of cohesive communities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Enabling employment - Creating a county borough that supports a healthy lifestyle in accordance with the Sustainable Development Principle within the Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015
E1. Metro and Metro Plus improvements	Reinstatement of services to Newport. aspirations to increase the level of service on the line to a half-hourly or even quarter hourly service (like the Rhymney Valley Line).	E	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A prosperous Wales - A resilient Wales - A Wales of cohesive communities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Promote a modern, integrated and sustainable transport system that increases opportunity, promotes prosperity and minimises the adverse impacts on the environment
E2. Active travel	Improve walking, wheeling and cycling routes in the masterplan area	E	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A more equal Wales - A Wales of cohesive communities - A healthier Wales 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Creating a county borough that supports a healthy lifestyle in accordance with the Sustainable Development Principle within the Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 - Promote a modern, integrated and sustainable transport system that increases opportunity, promotes prosperity and minimises the adverse impacts on the environment

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Project	Description	Masterplan objective	National well-being goal	CCBC well-being goal
E3. Accessibility	Improve walking, wheeling and cycling routes in the masterplan area	E	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A more equal Wales - A Wales of cohesive communities - A healthier Wales 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Creating a county borough that supports a healthy lifestyle in accordance with the Sustainable Development Principle within the Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 - Promote a modern, integrated and sustainable transport system that increases opportunity, promotes prosperity and minimises the adverse impacts on the environment
E4. Bus services	Increase frequency and range of bus services to give more people an alternative to driving (or being driven)	E	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A more equal Wales - A Wales of cohesive communities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Promote a modern, integrated and sustainable transport system that increases opportunity, promotes prosperity and minimises the adverse impacts on the environment
E5. Railway-station improvements	Wider integration into town centres and environmental improvements that would improve their entrances and the routes to get to them	E	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A Wales of cohesive communities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Promote a modern, integrated and sustainable transport system that increases opportunity, promotes prosperity and minimises the adverse impacts on the environment
E6. Extension of Newbridge park and ride	Extension of park-and-ride facility	E	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A Wales of cohesive communities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Promote a modern, integrated and sustainable transport system that increases opportunity, promotes prosperity and

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Project	Description	Masterplan objective	National well-being goal	CCBC well-being goal
				minimises the adverse impacts on the environment
E7. Electric vehicles	Develop a network of vehicle charging points. Promote use of electric bicycles	E	- A Wales of cohesive communities	- Promote a modern, integrated and sustainable transport system that increases opportunity, promotes prosperity and minimises the adverse impacts on the environment
F1. Riverside Park, Newbridge	Informal recreation area, with attractive landscaping and a picnic area	F	- A healthier Wales - A Wales of cohesive communities	- Creating a county borough that supports a healthy lifestyle in accordance with the Sustainable Development Principle within the Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015
F2. Risca Quarry, Fernlea, Risca	Area for green infrastructure and recreation	F	- A healthier Wales - A Wales of cohesive communities	- Creating a county borough that supports a healthy lifestyle in accordance with the Sustainable Development Principle within the Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015
F3. Longbridge Baths and playing fields, Risca	New changing rooms; consider installing, or allowing the creation of, play equipment, picnic benches, a coffee shop and space for visiting traders	F	- A Wales of cohesive communities - A healthier Wales	- Support citizens to remain independent and improve their well-being - Creating a county borough that supports a healthy lifestyle in accordance with the Sustainable Development Principle within the Wellbeing of Future

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Project	Description	Masterplan objective	National well-being goal	CCBC well-being goal
				Generations (Wales) Act 2015
F4. Former Cwmcarn High School, Cwmcarn	Purpose-built Welsh-medium school (facilities to be open to the public)	F	- A Wales of cohesive communities	- Improve education opportunities for all
F5. Newbridge Leisure Centre, Newbridge	Consider turning the existing three-quarter 3G pitch into a car park and creating a full-sized 3G pitch on the south side of the A472	F	- A Wales of cohesive communities - A healthier Wales	- Creating a county borough that supports a healthy lifestyle in accordance with the Sustainable Development Principle within the Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015
F6. Risca Community Comprehensive School and Risca Leisure Centre, Pontymister	Build 3G sports pitches	F	- A Wales of cohesive communities - A healthier Wales	- Creating a county borough that supports a healthy lifestyle in accordance with the Sustainable Development Principle within the Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015
F7. Coleg Gwent, Crosskeys	Protect and promote as a community facility.	F	- A Wales of cohesive communities	- Improve education opportunities for all
F8. Land next to A467, Pontywaun	Use for less vulnerable forms of development, such as public recreation areas.	F	- A Wales of cohesive communities - A healthier Wales	- Creating a county borough that supports a healthy lifestyle in accordance with the Sustainable Development Principle within the Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015

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Project	Description	Masterplan objective	National well-being goal	CCBC well-being goal
F9. Babel Chapel (Capel y Babel), Cwmfelinfach	Protect and promote as a community facility.	F	- A Wales of cohesive communities	- Creating a county borough that supports a healthy lifestyle in accordance with the Sustainable Development Principle within the Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015
G1 – 11 (all housing projects)	New housing	G	- A more equal Wales - A Wales of cohesive communities	- Address the availability, condition and sustainability of homes throughout the county borough and provide advice, assistance or support to help improve people's well-being
H. Promote area's attractions as a group of connected places	Signs and promotional material encouraging people to use active-travel routes and public transport services to explore area's attractions.	H	- A prosperous Wales - A Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language - A healthier Wales	- Creating a county borough that supports a healthy lifestyle in accordance with the Sustainable Development Principle within the Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015

Gadewir y dudalen hon yn wag yn fwiadol



COUNCIL – 4TH OCTOBER 2022

SUBJECT: CAERPHILLY COUNTY BOROUGH LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN UP TO 2021 – ANNUAL MONITORING REPORT 2022 (INCLUDING THE ANNUAL COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE LEVY REPORT)

REPORT BY: CORPORATE DIRECTOR FOR ECONOMY AND ENVIRONMENT

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1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 For members to consider the findings and recommendations of the Caerphilly County Borough Local Development Plan 2022 Annual Monitoring Report and to recommend that the 2022 Annual Monitoring Report be approved by Council.
- 1.2 To recommend that the 2022 Annual Monitoring Report be submitted to the Welsh Government by 31 October 2022, 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 2021 – 31 March 2022 and must be submitted to Welsh Government by the end of October 2022.
- 2.2 An overview of the LDP monitoring data for the 2022 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 a low of 122 units in 2018/19 to 417 in 2020/21, but dropped to 303 in 2021/22 (the latter figure will not feed through into the LDP monitoring indicators until the 2023 AMR, though it will be factored into the housing trajectory);
 - Whilst there is no longer a housing land supply figure, the 303 units delivered in 2021/22 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. While the final nine months of the plan period fall within the 2021/22 monitoring year, it is necessary for the sake of consistency for this AMR to cover the same 15 year period. Therefore, it was not proposed to adjust the annual housing requirement to reflect a different period, and the trajectory only

provides information on cumulative completions up to the end of the 2020/21 monitoring year. In terms of cumulative completions, there was a deficit of over 3,000 units compared to the cumulative requirement at the end of 2020/21;

- The average house price in the County Borough has risen to £175,694. For the first time since the adoption of the LDP, this is now more than six times average earnings;
- Unemployment fell to 3.8% (from 4.5%), though the number of people in employment also fell to 83,600 (from 84,600);
- Nearly 6 ha worth of planning permission was granted on employment land during 2021/22 (allocated and safeguarded sites) though development of allocated sites (EM1) has stagnated;
- Commercial vacancy rates in four of the five principal town centres have decreased, though not markedly, and remained constant in Caerphilly. The rates for Caerphilly and Ystrad Mynach remain below 10% 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 increased since the previous year, though remains below pre-pandemic levels.

2.3 The 2022 AMR includes the monitoring statement for the Council's implementation of its community infrastructure levy (CIL). Just over £1.08 million was collected in revenue during 2021/22, whilst £127k has been passed to town and community councils during this time. £3.56 million was available to the Council to deliver appropriate infrastructure as of 1 April 2022.

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) is due to commence.

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;
- Further unplanned development may be allowed on appeal in the short-term.

2.6 The 2022 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;
- 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 through the Regeneration Project Board 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 2022 Annual Monitoring Report.
- 3.2 That the 2022 Annual Monitoring Report (including the Annual Community Infrastructure Levy Report) be submitted to the Welsh Government before the deadline of 31 October 2022.

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 2022 Annual Monitoring Report.

5. THE REPORT

- 5.1 The Council formally adopted the Caerphilly County Borough Local Development Plan (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 2022 AMR monitors the period 1 April 2021 to 31st March 2022. It is required to be submitted to WG by 31 October 2022.
- 5.2 The 2022 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 2022 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 In June 2023, the existing version of TAN 15 will be superseded by an updated version – entitled Development, Flooding and Coastal Erosion – in order to ensure that the planning system recognises the threat of, and takes action to adapt to, the likely effects of climate change. A new Flood Map for Planning (FMfP) is already available online and will replace the Development Advice Maps (DAMs) presently used for planning purposes. Development plans being prepared will need to be in accordance with the new TAN. A strategic flood consequences assessment (SFCA) will be the local planning authority's principal source of evidence in respect of flood risk and Welsh Government expects new, or updated, SFCAs to be undertaken. In terms of planning applications, while the DAMs remain in effect until June 2023, the more up-to-date information contained in the FMfP can be regarded as a material consideration.

Regional Policy Context

Corporate Joint Committees and Strategic Development Plans Regulations

5.5 Regulations concerning the establishment of corporate joint committees (CJCs) and the preparation of SDPs – specifically, the South East Wales Corporate Joint Committee Regulations 2021 in respect of the South East Wales region – 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 assume the role of preparing the region's SDP (previously the responsibility of the Strategic Planning Panel).

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 negative ones, which is also true of the longer term position. 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 2022 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 a low of 122 units in 2018/19 to 417 in 2020/21, but dropped to 303 in 2021/22 (the latter figure will not feed through into the LDP monitoring indicators until the 2023 AMR, though it will be factored into the housing trajectory);
 - Whilst there is no longer a housing land supply figure, the 303 units delivered in 2021/22 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. While the final nine months of the plan period fall within the 2021/22 monitoring year, it is necessary for the sake of consistency for this AMR to cover the same 15 year period. Therefore, it was not proposed to adjust the annual housing requirement to reflect a different period, and the trajectory only provides information on cumulative completions up to the end of the 2020/21 monitoring year. In terms of cumulative completions, there was a deficit of over 3,000 units compared to the cumulative requirement at the end of 2020/21;
 - The average house price in the County Borough has risen to £175,694. For the first time since the adoption of the LDP, this is now more than six times average earnings;
 - Unemployment fell to 3.8% (from 4.5%), though the number of people in employment also fell to 83,600 (from 84,600);
 - Nearly 6 ha worth of planning permission was granted on employment land during 2021/22 (allocated and safeguarded sites) though development of allocated sites (EM1) has stagnated;
 - Commercial vacancy rates in four of the five principal town centres have decreased, though not markedly, and remained constant in Caerphilly. The rates

for Caerphilly and Ystrad Mynach remain below 10% 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 increased since the previous year, though remains below pre-pandemic levels.

5.11 Regarding housing, 303 units were completed in 2021/22, a reduction from the 417 in the previous year and significantly lower than the annual average requirement set out in the housing trajectory. Several large sites are currently being developed (including Hawtin Meadows in Pontllanfraith, Pandy Road in Bedwas, Hendredenny in Caerphilly and the former Bedwellty School site in Aberbargoed) as well as housing association schemes at Cwm Ifor Primary School, Caerphilly and Eastview Terrace, Bargoed. 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 until 2024. 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 2021, 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 2021, 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, the 15 year plan period elapsed at the end of 2021. While the final nine months of the plan period fall within the 2021/22 monitoring year, it is necessary for the sake of consistency for this AMR to cover the same 15 year period. Therefore, it was not proposed to adjust the annual housing requirement to reflect a different period, and the trajectory only provides information on cumulative completions up to the end of the 2020/21 monitoring year.

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 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 £1,008,764.68 in CIL receipts were received by the Council. A total of £127,335.21 was paid to six local councils in accordance with the CIL Regulations. In addition to this a further £23,704.66 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 £50,438.26 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 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. Given the above, the remaining amount of CIL receipts that were available at 31 March 2022 for expenditure on infrastructure items was £3,564,144.43.

5.22 The Regulations also require all local councils in receipt of CIL revenue to prepare annual reports on their CIL income and expenditure, for inclusion in the Annual CIL Report. The annual local council CIL reports are set out in Appendix 5 of the AMR Report.

5.23 **Conclusion and Recommendations**

- 5.24 The 2022 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 2022 remains deficient when assessed against the annual requirement set out in the housing trajectory. SP3 (Development in the Southern Connections Corridor) is also failing as it measures the percentage of development taking place on brownfield land. This is due to greenfield sites such as Hendredenny, Caerphilly and Pandy Road, Bedwas where development remains ongoing.
- 5.25 It has not been possible for the adopted LDP 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.
- 5.26 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 until 2024. Therefore, there remains a need to increase the housing land supply in the short term, utilising a number of direct interventions.
- 5.27 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’.
- 5.28 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’.
- 5.29 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 until the 2nd Replacement LDP is in place. It is therefore incumbent upon the Council to continue to progress the 2nd Replacement LDP as per the Delivery Agreement, including for those matters which will ultimately be dealt with at the regional level by the SDP.
- 5.30 The 2022 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;
- 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 through the Regeneration Project Board 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 the 2nd Replacement LDP will be adopted in late 2024 as per the timetable set out in the Delivery Agreement, which has been approved by Council and Welsh Government, and that this 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 2021 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

Author: Ian Mullis, Planning Officer, mullii@caerphilly.gov.uk

Consultees: Cllr. Philippa Leonard, Cabinet Member for Planning and Public Protection; philippaleonard@caerphilly.gov.uk;
Cllr. Andrew Whitcombe, Chair – Housing and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee, andrewwhitcombe@caerphilly.gov.uk;
Cllr. Patricia Cook, Vice Chair – Housing and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee, patriciacook@caerphilly.gov.uk;
Christina Harrhy, Chief Executive, harrhc@caerphilly.gov.uk;
Mark S. Williams, Corporate Director for Economy and Environment, willims@caerphilly.gov.uk;
Robert Tranter, Head of Legal Services, trantrj@caerphilly.gov.uk;
Lynne Donovan, Head of People Services, donovl@caerphilly.gov.uk;
Stephen Harris, Head of Financial Services, harrisr@caerphilly.gov.uk;
Rhian Kyte, Head of Regeneration and Planning, kyter@caerphilly.gov.uk;
Marcus Lloyd, Head of Infrastructure, lloydm1@caerphilly.gov.uk;
Shaun Couzens, Chief Housing Officer, couzes@caerphilly.gov.uk;
Robert Hartshorn, Head of Public Protection, Community and Leisure Services, hartsr@caerphilly.gov.uk;
Keri Cole, Chief Education Officer, colek@caerphilly.gov.uk;
Ryan Thomas, Planning Services Manager, thomaar@caerphilly.gov.uk;
Clive Campbell, Transportation Engineering Manager, campbc@caerphilly.gov.uk;
Allan Dallimore, Regeneration Services Manager, dallia@caerphilly.gov.uk;
Mike Headington, Green Spaces and Transport Services Manager, headim@caerphilly.gov.uk;
Philip Griffiths, Green Space Strategy and Cemeteries Manager, griffpm@caerphilly.gov.uk;
Kath Peters, Corporate Policy Manager, peterk@caerphilly.gov.uk

Appendices:

Appendix 1 - Caerphilly County Borough Local Development Plan Annual Monitoring Report 2021

Appendix 1

**Caerphilly County Borough
Local Development Plan up to 2021**

**Annual Monitoring Report 2022
(including the
Annual Community Infrastructure Levy Report)**

1 April 2021 – 31 March 2022

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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).
- 1.2 Due to the requirement to publish an AMR being waived during the Covid-19 pandemic, the previous (ninth) AMR covered a two-year period (1 April 2019 – 31 March 2021). This, the tenth AMR, covers the period 1 April 2021 – 31 March 2022 and must be submitted to Welsh Government by the end of October 2022.
- 1.3 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.
- 1.4 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.
- 1.5 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) is due later in 2022.
- 1.6 The 2022 AMR will address the following:
 - A summary of the key findings in respect of the SA/SEA monitoring for the period 1 April 2021 to 31 March 2022;
 - A summary of the key findings in respect of the strategy policies for the monitoring period 1 April 2021 to 31 March 2022;
 - 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 tenth AMR to be prepared for the Caerphilly County Borough Local Development Plan up to 2021 (LDP) and it monitors the period from 1 April 2021 to 31 March 2022. The Council is required to submit the 2021 AMR to WG by 31 October 2022.
- 2.3 Monitoring of the plan indicates that the following policies triggered in 2022, having also done so in 2021:
- 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, despite having done so in 2021:
- SP19: Transport Infrastructure Improvements;
 - SP20: Road Hierarchy.
- 2.5 The 2022 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 slight shift towards negative 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 2022 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 2022 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 a low of 122 units in 2018/19 to 417 in 2020/21, but dropped to 303 in 2021/22 (the latter figure will not feed through into the LDP monitoring indicators until the 2023 AMR, though it will be factored into the housing trajectory);
 - Whilst there is no longer a housing land supply figure, the 303 units delivered in 2021/22 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, though 2021/22 is considered subsequent to it for the purposes of providing information on cumulative completions as set out within the housing trajectory. In terms of cumulative completions, there was a deficit of over 3,000 units compared to the cumulative requirement at the end of 2020/21;
 - The average house price in the County Borough has risen to £175,694. For the first time since the adoption of the LDP, this is now more than six times average earnings;

- Unemployment fell to 3.8% (from 4.5%), though the number of people in employment also fell to 83,600 (from 84,600);
 - Nearly 6 ha worth of planning permission was granted on employment land during 2021/22, though development of allocated sites (EM1) has stagnated;
 - Commercial vacancy rates in four of the five principal town centres have decreased, though not markedly, and remained constant in Caerphilly. The rates for Caerphilly and Ystrad Mynach remain below 10% 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 increased since the previous year, though remains below pre-pandemic levels.
- 2.8 The 2022 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 £1.08 million was collected in revenue during 2021/22, whilst £127k has been passed to town and community councils during this time. £3.56 million was available to the Council to deliver appropriate infrastructure as of 1 April 2022.
- 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) is due to commence.
- 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 in 2021, 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 2022 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;**
- 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 through the Regeneration Project Board 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 2021 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 In June 2023, the existing version of TAN 15 will be superseded by an updated version – Development, Flooding and Coastal Erosion – in order to ensure that the planning system recognises the threat of, and takes action to adapt to, the likely effects of climate change. A new Flood Map for Planning (FMfP) is already available online and will replace the Development Advice Maps (DAMs) presently used for planning purposes. Development plans being prepared will need to be in accordance with the new TAN. A strategic flood consequences assessment (SFCA) will be an LDP’s principal source of evidence in respect of flood risk and Welsh Government expects new, or updated, SFCAs to be undertaken. In terms of planning applications, while the DAMs remain in effect until June 2023, the more up-to-date information contained in the FMfP can be regarded as a material consideration.

Corporate Joint Committee and Strategic Development Plan Regulations

- 3.4 Regulations concerning the establishment of corporate joint committees (CJCs) and the preparation of SDPs – specifically, the South East Wales Corporate Joint Committee Regulations 2021 in respect of the South East Wales region – 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 assume the role of 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).

Conclusion

- 3.5 Important changes to legislation and national policy have, since publication of the 2021 AMR, either come into effect or will shortly do so, which will have a significant influence on the planning policy framework and preparation of the 2nd Replacement LDP. While the change regarding TAN 15 has yet to take effect, the implications for the planning system with respect to flood risk and climate change are acknowledged.
- 3.6 Whilst the new South East Wales CJC has been established in law, SDP preparation 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 as

per the Delivery Agreement 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 2021 AMR is 1 April 2021 – 31 March 2022. The findings of the assessment are included in the column headed 2022.

2022 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 12 years of AMR results that need to be considered – the 2011 dummy run, AMR results from 2012 to 2021, and the most recently reported results for 2022. The key issues that need to be addressed are changes between 2021 and 2022 (representing the change over the most recent monitoring period), and changes between 2022 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												
Result	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
XX	3	0	0	0	2	0	2	1	2	1	1	0
X	4	8	5	2	4	4	5	9	5	3	2	7
O	2	5	9	7	4	5	4	4	4	8	6	4
+	6	6	5	9	6	9	6	4	9	3	3	3
++	2	3	3	4	5	4	3	3	1	1	1	1
DNA	7	2	1	0	1	0	3	1	1	6	9	7
NM	1	1	2	3	3	3	2	3	3	3	3	3

Table 1: Comparison of Effects, Results Over Time

4.5 In 2022, no double negatives were recorded;

Seven single negatives were recorded:

- **Housing** – the average house price to earnings ratio increased from 1:5.02 to 1:6.05, moving further from the target of 1:4.4;
- **Education** – the percentage of pupils achieving five GCSE grade A*-C passes (or equivalent) fell from 59.7% three years earlier to 50.6% (though the disparity between the Welsh average dropped from 7.3% to 3.2%), and the percentage of the population with NVQ2 qualifications (or higher) fell from 71.4% to 71%;

- **Wealth** – though average earnings increased, the disparity between the County Borough and the UK national average widened;
- **Leisure participation** – there were just over 669,000 visitors to leisure centres and playing pitches, compared to over 1.6 million two years previously (due to some venues being closed during the Covid-19 pandemic, and others repurposed as vaccination centres);
- **Cultural identity** – 16.9% of schoolchildren are in Welsh medium education, a reduction from 20.2%;
- **Making efficient use of land** – there were 4.65 ha of development on grade 1, 2 or 3a agricultural land, and only 40% of new residential development took place on brownfield land;
- **Waste** – the percentage of municipal waste recycled was 61.92% - above the 40% target but a reduction from the previous year; the average amount of waste per household was 472.5kg – below the 750kg target but an increase on the previous year; and just over 45% 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 – less than 1%. 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 199 in the last monitoring period.

4.7 Regarding the other areas where negative scores were realised, the 2nd Replacement LDP will seek to ensure that policy initiatives such as 21st Century Schools and the Council’s Sport and Active Recreation Strategy are given effect in land use terms, enabling the planning system to contribute to the implementation of identified priorities. The same is true of bringing forward suitable sites for residential development.

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:

- Availability of employment sites (reduction in vacancy rates to 11.3% from 13.2%);
- Reduction in noise, air, light and odour pollution, and improvement in air quality (previously negative); 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 \(2021-22\)](#)

4.11 Following a slight shift towards positive effects in 2019 which was maintained in 2021, there has been some movement back in favour of negative ones in 2022, although there remain a number of indicators for which data was not available. No double negative scores were realised last year, in contrast to the previous monitoring period.

Assessment of Long Term Changes (2011-22)

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

- **Availability of employment sites** – whilst the vacancy rate in identified employment floorspace has fluctuated from 29% in 2012, it is 11.3% in 2022;
- **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 2017 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 has continued to grow (house prices are now six times average earnings);
- **Educational achievement** – the percentage of pupils achieving five GCSE grade A*-C passes (or equivalent) has fallen (though the disparity between the Welsh average has also reduced), as well as the percentage of the population with NVQ2 qualifications (or higher);
- **Wealth** – though average earnings increased, the disparity between the County Borough and the UK national average widened;
- **Leisure participation** – the number of visitors to leisure centres and playing pitches has declined compared to two years previously;
- **Cultural identity** – a reduction in the proportion of schoolchildren in Welsh medium education;
- **Making efficient use of land** – the rate of development on grade 1-3 agricultural land has increased, and the percentage of development on brownfield land remains below the 77.9% target;
- **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 negative ones, which is also true of the longer-term position. 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 2021 and remains so this year;

- **Educational achievement** – negative in 2018 and 2019, neutral in 2020 and 2021 and negative this year;
- **Leisure participation** – negative for the first time this year;
- **Landscape protection** – negative in 2019 and 2020, in the DNA category last year and neutral this year;
- **Air, noise, light and odour pollution** – positive for the first time since 2016;
- **Cultural identity** – negative for the first time this year;
- **Making efficient use of land** – a return to negative after a neutral score last year.

4.16 However, caveats apply. While educational achievement indicators suggest a drop in the level of key stage 4 qualifications, the disparity between local pass rates and the Welsh average has also reduced. The housing objective is based solely on house prices, not rental values or housing condition, while the making efficient use of land objective does not have access to data relating to the land reclamation indicators. The number of visitors to leisure centres was reduced as a result of some venues being closed during the Covid-19 pandemic, and others repurposed as vaccination centres. Wage rates, relative to the UK national average, depend on all manner of external factors, though the planning system clearly has a role in making sites available that can contribute to improving local economic conditions.

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 21st Century Schools programme and the Council's Sport and Active Recreation Strategy, and to identify sites for development that are compliant with well-being legislation and Welsh Government's renewed emphasis on placemaking as set out in Future Wales and PPW 11.

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) is due later in 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 8 will consider the implications of these results and Chapter 9 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 3 below:

Strategic Policy Delivery		Performance
SP1	Development in the HOVRA	Green
SP2	Development in the NCC	Green
SP3	Development in the SCC	Red
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
SP15	Affordable Housing Target	Red




Strategic Policy Delivery	Performance
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	
<p>Key</p> <p> Policy is being met or exceeded. No intervention required.</p> <p> Policy is not delivering as anticipated but is delivering sufficiently and does not require intervention measures.</p> <p> Policy is failing to deliver as anticipated and intervention measures should be considered.</p>	

Table 3: Strategic Policy Performance

5.5 As in 2021, a number of strategic policies are not delivering as anticipated. Seven are identified as not requiring action, whilst two (SP3 – Development in the Southern Connections Corridor; and SP15 – Affordable Housing Target) are deemed as being in need of intervention. However, 13 policies are being delivered in accordance with the strategy – an improvement on the 11 in 2021 (though this includes two for which data 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 for the 2021/22 monitoring year 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 and previous monitoring against housing targets as part of successive AMRs were based on an annual requirement of 575 units per annum over 15 years. Subsequent legal advice indicated that for adopted LDPs that did not specify an exact end date for the plan, the plan period would be considered to finish at the end of the calendar year specified. In the case of Caerphilly, this was 31st December 2021. As a result, the first 9 months of the 2021/22 monitoring year are technically within the adopted LDP plan period. However, it is important that monitoring is undertaken consistently across the years. As previous AMRs were based on 15 years rather than 15 years 9 months, it is not proposed to pro-rata the 2021/22 completions or adjust the annual housing requirement to reflect a different time period. The trajectory, therefore, only provides information on cumulative completions up to the 2020/21 monitoring year. Data is, however, provided on completions for the 2021/22 year, plus forecast completions for a further 5 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 2022 and forecasts for future completions for the next 5 years in respect of allocated sites and sites with planning permission. The Group agreed the completions figure of 303 units. There were no sites where the forecast for future completions were not agreed by the group. The Group also did not raise concerns about the approach for the Housing Trajectory to reflect a 15-year period rather than 15-year, 9-month period.

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 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 4 sets out the summary of CIL receipts and expenditures for the 2021/2022 monitoring period. During this period a total of £1,008,764.68 in CIL receipts were received by the Council. A total of £127,335.21 was paid to six local councils in accordance with the CIL Regulations. In addition to this a further £23,704.66 is being retained for use within those areas of the County Borough that are not covered by local councils:

Local Council	CIL Receipts 2021/2022	Local Council CIL 2021/2022	Outside Local Council coverage 2021/2022	Admin Fees 2021/2022	Surcharges 2021/2022
Aber Valley	£0.00	£0.00		0	
Argoed	£0.00	£0.00		0	
Bargoed	£0.00	£0.00		0	
Bedwas Trethomas & Machen	£9,233.74	£1,206.49		£461.71	£1,190.50
Blackwood	£461,301.58	£69,195.24		£23,065.08	
Caerphilly	£9,142.32	£1,371.35		£457.12	
Darran Valley	£0.00	£0.00		£0.00	
Draethen, Waterloo & Rudry	£5,194.24	£779.14		£259.71	

Local Council	CIL Receipts 2021/2022	Local Council CIL 2021/2022	Outside Local Council coverage 2021/2022	Admin Fees 2021/2022	Surcharges 2021/2022
Gelligaer	£25,415.84	£3,812.37		£1,270.79	
Llanbradach & Pwllpant	£0.00	£0.00		£0.00	
Maesycwmmmer	£12,506.03	£1,875.91		£625.30	
Nelson	£0.00	£0.00		£0.00	
New Tredegar	£0.00	£0.00		£0.00	
Penyrheol, Treceunydd & Energlyn	£324,088.76	£48,613.32		£16,204.44	
Rhymney	£0.00	£0.00		£0.00	
Risca East	£0.00	£0.00		£0.00	
Risca Town	£0.00	£0.00		£0.00	
Van	£3,851.10	£481.39		£192.56	£641.85
Outside CC /TC coverage	£158,031.07		£23,704.66	£7,901.55	
Total 2021/2022	£1,008,764.68	£127,335.21	£23,704.66	£50,438.26	£1,832.35
Cumulative Total	£4,450,588.45	£553,421.22	£110,493.36	£222,529.44	£24,491.66

Table 4: Community Infrastructure Levy Income and Expenditure Summary

- 7.5 The Council has recently 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 in non-community council areas in consultation with the ward member(s), and for approval of schemes in non-community council areas of under £20,000.
- 7.6 To date, the Council has not allocated any of the CIL receipts to infrastructure projects and during the 2021/2022 financial year there were no schemes approved in the non-Community Council areas. 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. Given the above, the remaining amount of CIL receipts available for expenditure on infrastructure items is £3,564,144.43. 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.
- 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 six community/town councils have been completed. Tables 5 and 6 detail any local council payments and spend:

Local Council	Local Council CIL Balance	CIL 2021/2022	CIL Spend 2021/2022	Remaining CIL Balance
Aber Valley	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
Argoed	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00

Local Council	Local Council CIL Balance	CIL 2021/2022	CIL Spend 2021/2022	Remaining CIL Balance
Bargoed	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
Bedwas, Trethomas and Machen	£141,941.80	£1,206.49	£53,460.35	£89, 687.94
Blackwood	£303.41	£69,195.24	£0.00	£69,498.65
Caerphilly	£22,821.10	£1,371.35	£6,120.00	£18,072.45
Darran Valley	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
Draethen, Waterloo and Rudry	£0.00	£779.14	£0.00	£779.14
Gelligaer	£3,815.40	£3,812.37	£0.00	£7,627.77
Llanbradach and Pwllypant	£3580.75	£0.00	£3,495.00	£85.75
Maesycwmmmer	£50,633.98	£1,875.91	£48,676.98	£3832.91
Nelson	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
New Tredegar	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
Penyrheol, Trecenydd and Energlyn	£100,847.69	£48,613.32	£0.00	£149,461.01
Rhymney	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
Risca East	£6,864.60	£0.00	£0.00	£6,864.60
Risca Town	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
Van	£7,095.55	£481.39	£0.00	£7576.94
TOTAL	£334,323.53	£127,335.21	£108,257.33	£263,713.47

Table 5: Local Council CIL Payments and Spend

Local Council	Project	CIL spend
Bedwas, Trethomas and Machen	Timber knee rail fencing, Newport Road	£3,097.00
	Emergency roof repairs, Bedwas Workmens Hall	£39,085.64
	Benches and knee rail, Upper Glyn Gwyn	£3,486.00
	Timber post and clearance, Newport Road	£3,097.00
	3 x planters	£1,827.16
	Ball walls at Upper Glyn Gwyn	£1,097.24
	Defibrillator	£1,230.00
	Bins, Machen Welfare	£540.31
	Total	£53,460.35

Local Council	Project	CIL spend
Caerphilly	Floodlights at St Martin's Church	£6,120.00
	Total	£6,120.00
Llanbradach	Benches, bin, picnic table and hard standings	£3,495.00
	Total	£3,495.00
Maesycwmmmer	Bench	£3,676.98
	Outdoor Gym	£15,000.00
	Skate Park	£30,000.00
	Total	£48,676.98

Table 6: Details of Local Council Spend 2021/22

7.8 Table 7 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	£0.00	£0.00	£570.00
Crumlin	£3,831.62	£1,319.72	£0.00	£5,151.34
Newbridge	£1,580.35	£0.00	£0.00	£1,580.35
Cefn Fforest	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
Pengam	£11,196.91	£0.00	£0.00	£11,196.91
Penmaen	£60,109.64	£0.00	£0.00	£60,109.64
Pontllanfraith	£4,214.01	£21,561.99	£0.00	£25,776.00
Crosskeys	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
Ynysddu	£5,286.17	£822.95	£0.00	£6,109.12
TOTAL	£86,788.70	£23,704.66	£0.00	£110,493.36

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

- 7.9 In accordance with the CIL Regulations, the Council has taken £50,438.26 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. Given the above, the remaining amount of CIL receipts available for expenditure on infrastructure items is £3,564,144.43 as of 31 March 2021.
- 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 2021/22 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 8.1 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
Ty Mawr, Croespenmaen	Drainage (pre-SAB)	50	£126,218.33
Winding Wheel Lane, Penallta	Drainage (pre-SAB)	48	£6,827.96
Wingfield Crescent, Llanbradach	Drainage (pre-SAB)	30	£105,849.34
Hawtin Park, Pontllanfraith (Phase 3)	Drainage (pre-SAB)	190	£34,065.79
Total			£272,961.42

Table 8.1: Commuted sums and financial payments agreed within a signed section 106 agreement

- 8.3 Table 8.2 sets out the amount received by the Council during 2021/22 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
Hendredenny, Caerphilly	S106 contribution	Highways	£135,637.43
Total			£135,637.43

Table 8.2: 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 8.3 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	Commutated sum	125	£651,825
Bedwellty Field (former Bedwellty Comprehensive School), Pengam	Commutated sum	46	£433,676

Table 8.3 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 and the Covid-19 pandemic 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 the number of dwellings that have been constructed each year has been consistently below the annual average requirement (AAR) of 575 dwellings per annum for every year since 2008-9. The economic crash and subsequent recession have had a significant impact on housebuilding across the County Borough and build rates have not recovered to the levels delivered at the start of the plan period.
- 9.6 While the adopted LDP plan period elapsed at the end of 2021, the 2021/22 monitoring year is being considered to provide information on cumulative completions for the housing trajectory. At 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 this point in the plan period (15 years), 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 that would have been expected by that point. This was a shortfall of 3,037 dwellings, or 35% below what should have been delivered, with only 8 months left of the plan period.
- 9.7 In 2021/22, 303 units had been completed, a reduction from the 417 in the previous year and significantly lower than the AAR. Several large sites are currently being developed (including Hawtin Meadows in Pontllanfraith, Pandy Road in Bedwas, Hendredenny in Caerphilly and the former Bedwellty School site in Aberbargoed) as well as housing association schemes (Cwm Ifor Primary School, Caerphilly and Eastview Terrace, Bargoed).

- 9.8 Forecast completions are anticipated to increase to 625 in 2023/24, reflecting the development that is currently in progress, then drop beneath the AAR in future years, though it is expected that the 2nd Replacement LDP will be adopted in late 2024/early 2025, and that housing completions will then be monitored against the anticipated annual build rate [AABR]. 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 over the next twelve months, 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, and as in 2019, 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 four of the five town centres, vacancy rates fell last year albeit by a small margin, and remained constant in Caerphilly. Although not back to pre-pandemic levels, footfall has 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. The Council's landbank is still in excess of 50 years, 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 erection of four dwellings and the installation of a temporary haul road in the vicinity of Hawtin Park Industrial Estate. As the haul road is temporary and the housing proposal relates to the infilling of land already subject to more comprehensive residential development, it is not considered that this would result in additional 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, one of which has triggered.
- 9.25 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 0.7 ha. However, 5.74 ha worth of permissions were granted on allocated and protected employment sites in the monitoring period, an increase from the 4.91 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.
- 9.26 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 the previous AMR, 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

- 9.27 This policy is monitored through three factors, two of which have been triggered. The monitoring considers employment levels in commercial services, which have remained consistently above 40% for the last few years.
- 9.28 It also monitors the number of commercial/retail developments permitted outside of the principal town centre boundaries. While the number this year (four) has been sufficient to trigger, it includes developments such as a takeaway café; erection of a Covid-compliant seating area at an existing social club; and ancillary development at an existing supermarket.
- 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 Two policies are identified as not delivering and require intervention. They are:

SP3: Development in the SCC

- 9.35 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 last year, rising to 59.9% but still down on the 61% in 2019. This remains below the 88% trigger point and is 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.
- 9.36 Whilst this issue concerns the SCC at the present time 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.
- 9.37 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.
- 9.38 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.
- 9.39 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.

SP15: Affordable Housing Target

- 9.40 There has been improvement regarding this indicator since the previous AMR with a further 36 affordable units have been delivered since then. Consequently, it now only triggers on three of four points.
- 9.41 While the 25% area has not triggered in the last two years, there has only been a marginal improvement in the 10% affordable housing area (an increase from 0% to 4.5%). Delivery in the 40% area also remains below the 25% trigger (22.6%).
- 9.42 Average house prices continue to rise which, when assessed against the 2009 Viability Study base level, will trigger that indicator.
- 9.43 Despite the increase in affordable housing delivery since 2019, 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 significant concern.

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 The 2021 AMR acknowledged that, despite substantial progress having been made in implementing the adopted LDP, a review of the LDP had taken place and preparation of the 2nd Replacement LDP had commenced. It also 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 through the Regeneration Project Board 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) is due to commence.

Southern Connections Corridor

- 10.4 The 2022 AMR process has identified that one policy – SP3 (Development in the SCC) – is not being delivered as anticipated and requires intervention. However, the reason that this policy is seen to be failing is down to the number of dwellings for which planning permission has been granted on greenfield sites outside settlement limits. Consequently, it makes sense to consider this within the more general issue of housing delivery.

Housing

- 10.5 The 2022 AMR has 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. This is despite the fact that SP14 (Total Housing Requirements) is now being met, which was not the case in 2019, due to the higher number of completions and the fact that it is assessed against a low annual trigger point. However, when assessed against the annual requirement set out in the housing trajectory, the number of completions realised in 2022 remains deficient.

- 10.6 It has not been possible for the adopted LDP to achieve its target of 8,625 dwellings, and at least 964 affordable dwellings, over the plan period. While the 15 year plan period elapsed at the end of 2021, the 2021/22 AMR is considered for monitoring purposes. 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.
- 10.7 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 will not be adopted until 2024. Therefore, as in 2019 and 2021, there remains a need to increase the housing land supply in the short term, utilising a number of direct interventions.
- 10.8 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.
- 10.9 The Council continues to attempt to increase the number of sites that are regarded as developable, and to this end, the recommendations made in 2019 and 2021 remain appropriate. The Council continues to work closely with Welsh Government and the Cardiff Capital Region City Deal (CCRCDC) 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 CCRCDC 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.
- 10.10 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

- 10.11 As in 2021, 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 also been identified as not delivering due to minimal take-up of employment land and the low level of permissions granted during the monitoring period.
- 10.12 The situation is very similar to 2021. Mandatory indicator M3 indicates that 38.4 ha of allocated employment land (0.7 ha increase since 2021) have been developed since the start of the plan period, just over a third of all employment land allocated in the LDP. A total of 24.6 ha of this land have been developed for business uses and a number of sites have been

developed for other uses (including a new school on Plateau 3, Oakdale and housing at Hawtin Park and Penallta).

- 10.13 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.
- 10.14 Identification of Caerphilly and Ystrad Mynach as a 'strategic hub' by the Ministerial Taskforce for the South Wales Valleys, and the expansion of the Tech Valleys programme into the northern part of the County Borough, have the potential to provide opportunities. Masterplans for these three areas have been approved as supplementary planning guidance to the LDP, which 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.
- 10.15 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

- 10.16 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 Local Planning Authority 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 SPD

- 10.17 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.
- 10.18 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.

10.19 Welsh Government undertook consultation in late 2020 on the tabling of regulations concerning the establishment of Corporate Joint Committees (CJCs) and the preparation of SDPs. These – specifically, the South East Wales Corporate Joint Committee Regulations 2021 in respect of the Cardiff Capital Region – have since 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).

10.20 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 in accordance with the approved Delivery Agreement, including for those matters which will ultimately be dealt with at the regional level by the SDP.

10.22 There will be a requirement to review the 2nd Replacement LDP four years after its adoption, by which time a SDP should be in place. In this instance, any further replacement LDP will take the form of a LDP ‘Lite’, which will be required to be in general conformity with the SDP and not duplicate any of that document’s strategic policies. In essence, LDP ‘Lites’ are intended as allocations documents, giving effect to regionally determined levels of provision and policy positions.

Conclusion

10.23 Preparation of the 2nd Replacement LDP continues, in accordance with the approved Delivery Agreement. This 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.

10.24 The adopted LDP will remain in effect for the purpose of determining planning applications until such time as the 2nd Replacement LDP is adopted. While there is no threat of a policy vacuum at the local level, local policy as set out in the adopted LDP will need to be considered in the context of Future Wales, given its development plan status.

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 the 2019 and 2021 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'.

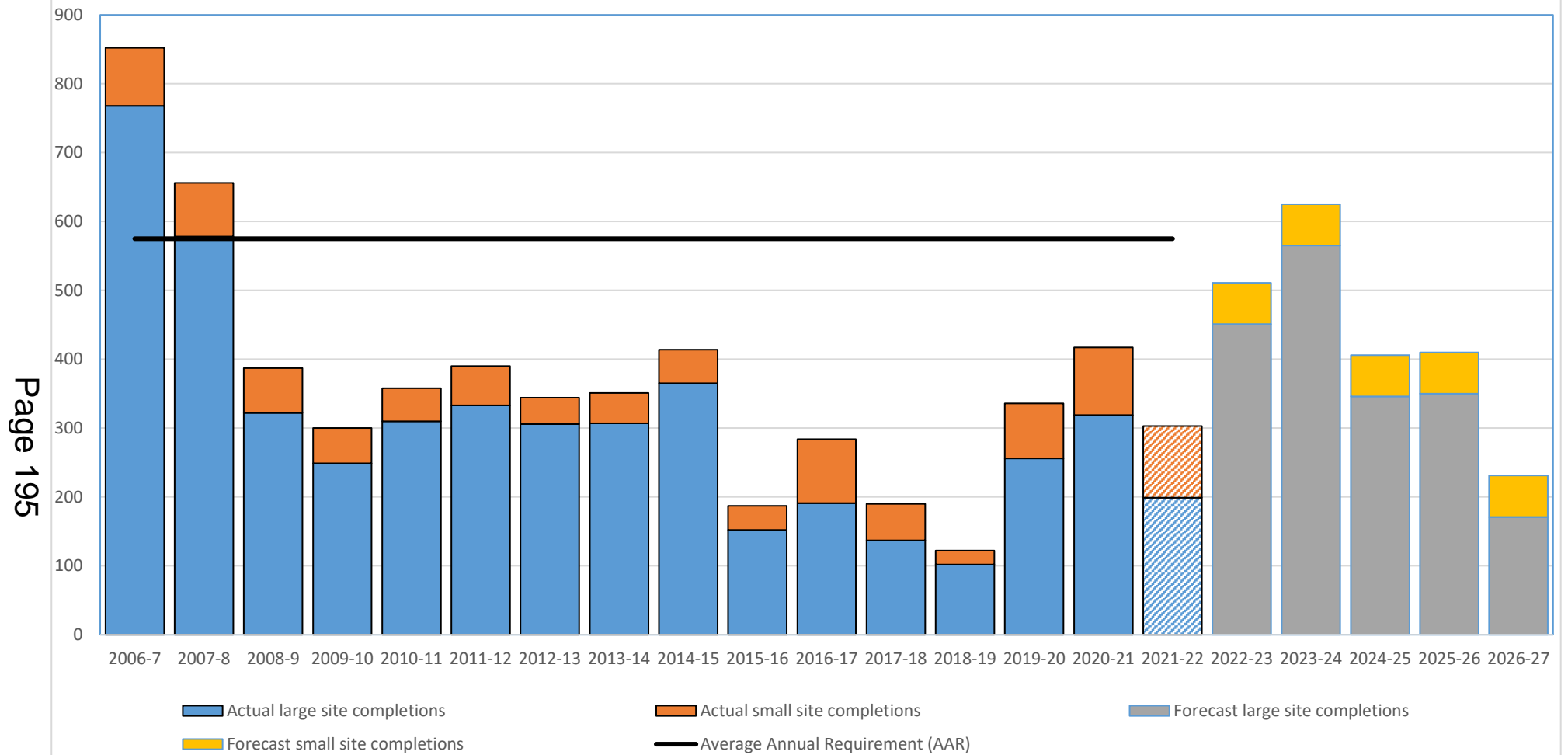
10.26 The 2021 AMR concludes and recommends that:

- 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;**
- 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 through the Regeneration Project Board 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
Remaining Years	15	14	13	12	11	10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	0
Total recorded completions	852	656	387	300	358	390	344	351	414	187	284	190	122	336	417	303
Annual requirement (based on straight line AAR)	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
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
Actual recorded completions on large sites during year	768	578	322	249	310	333	306	307	365	152	191	137	102	256	319	199
Actual recorded completions on small sites during year	84	78	65	51	48	57	38	44	49	35	93	53	20	80	98	104
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 6 years)



Forecast Completions – Five Years beyond Plan Period

	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
Allocated sites - units under construction at 1st April 2022	52					
Windfall sites - units under construction at 1st April 2022	225					
Forecast completions - LDP sites		8	79	90	63	64
Forecast completions - Windfall sites		166	486	256	287	107
Forecast completions – Small sites		60	60	60	60	60
Total Forecast completions		511*	625	406	410	231

*Assumes units under construction in 21/22 will be included as completions in 22/23

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 2022)	U/C	22-23	23-24	24-25	25-26	26-27	Beyond 5 years after the end of the plan period
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	0	1	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 2022)	U/C	22-23	23-24	24-25	25-26	26-27	Beyond 5 years after the end of the plan period
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	0	25	25	26	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	0	6	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 2022)	U/C	22-23	23-24	24-25	25-26	26-27	Beyond 5 years after the end of the plan period
HG1.32	Tiryberth	Hengoed	173	173	173	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	173
HG1.33	Penallta Colliery	Ystrad Mynach	689	684	145	536	51	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 2022)	U/C	22-23	23-24	24-25	25-26	26-27	Beyond 5 years after the end of the plan period
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	74	29	0	0	30	44	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	153	153	0	0	0	0	17	38	38	60
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

Sites completed prior to 1 April 2022 have not been included.

Appendix 2: SA/SEA Monitoring Overview

Objective	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
To reduce the average resource consumption of each resident	X	DNA	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
To reduce the incidence of crime	+	X	X	+	+	+	+	X	O	O	DNA	DNA
To improve educational achievement	XX	X	+	+	X	X	O	XX	XX	O	O	X
To allow equal opportunities for all	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
To increase the wealth of individuals in CCBC	DNA	X	X	+	O	O	X	X	+	X	O	X
To ensure a sufficient range of employment sites are available	DNA	X	X	++	O	O	DNA	+	X	O	+	+
To improve the health of individuals	XX	X	O	++	O	+	XX	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
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	+

Objective	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
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
To protect the cultural identity of the county borough	DNA	+	X	O	+	+	O	++	+	O	+	X
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
To minimise the number of developments affected by flooding	X	O	O	+	X	X	X	X	X	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
To protect geologically important sites and improve their accessibility	++	++	++	++	++	++	++	++	++	++	++	++
To reduce the amount of waste produced and increase the reuse of materials	+	+	+	+	DNA	++	+	O	+	O	X	X
To enhance the biodiversity of the county borough	O	O	O	+	O	O	X	+	+	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

Objective	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
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
To increase the proportion of energy gained from renewable sources.	DNA	+	+	X	++	X	X	X	+	DNA	DNA	DNA
To improve the performance of material assets within the county borough	O	X	O	O	+	O	+	X	O	DNA	DNA	DNA

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
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		2011-2022
Positive To Neutral Changes	2	1	1	4	1	2	2	1	2	0		0
Neutral to Negative Changes	0	0	1	3	0	3	2	2	0	2		0
Positive to Negative Changes	1	1	1	3	2	2	4	1	1	1		3
DNA To Negative Changes	3	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1		3
Double Positive to Double Negative Changes	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0		0
Positive to Double Negative Changes	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		0
No Change (Negative)	1	3	0	0	2	2	4	4	1	1		0
DNA To Neutral Changes	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1		2

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		2011-2022
Negative to DNA Changes	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0		2
Neutral to DNA Changes	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	3	0		2
Positive to DNA Changes	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	3	0		1
No Change (Neutral)	2	4	4	3	5	3	1	0	1	3		0
DNA To Positive Changes	3	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0		1
Negative to Neutral Changes	4	4	1	0	2	2	2	3	1	0		0
Neutral To Positive Changes	0	0	4	3	2	1	2	2	0	0		0
Negative To Positive Changes	1	1	3	2	2	1	1	3	1	1		0
Double Negative to Double	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		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		2011-2022
Positive Changes												
No Change (Positive)	4	7	6	5	8	6	3	5	3	3		3

Appendix 3: Triggered Policies

Policy	Issue		Comment	Consideration	Action Required
SP3	Factor 2	Percentage of total new housing development on Brownfield land	Only 59.9% of new housing development was on brownfield land in 2022 (trigger point 88%)	This is expected due to the development of greenfield sites for housing, granted on appeal	Action required to increase the supply of sustainably located housing land within settlement limits
SP4	Factor 1	Annual footfall in three of the principal town centres	Footfall has increased since 2021, but remains below the trigger point	This is expected as a result of ending of Covid-19 restrictions. However, consumer spending remains resilient	Changes to permitted development regs may help. 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	No action required

Policy	Issue	Comment	Consideration	Action Required	
			assist in the identification of new commercial opportunities		
	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 defined by criterion C, Policy CW15) located outside of settlement boundaries either approved by CCBC or allowed on appeal	Triggered for sixth 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 settlement boundary as a mechanism to prevent inappropriate development in the countryside	No action required
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	No action required

Policy	Issue		Comment	Consideration	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 and 2022. Number of permissions granted in 2022 is two	The four proposals that have been granted permission include four dwellings (on an otherwise developed site) and installation of a temporary haul road close to Hawtin Park Industrial Estate. 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	Both permissions covered by a wider-scale outline permission. Ecological mitigation included within the outline permission	No 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 tenth straight year for the 10% area and fifth straight year for the 40% area. No longer triggered for the 25% area.	Whilst there has been improvement since 2019, affordable housing is not being delivered at the required rates – a corollary of general house building being low. Low levels of development viability also impact on the level of affordable housing delivered	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 sixth 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	No action required

Policy	Issue		Comment	Consideration	Action Required
				would support this, rather than being a matter of concern	
SP16	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 0.7 ha. Whilst this has been sufficient to trigger the indicator, in terms of planning permissions, 5.74 ha worth of permissions were granted on allocated and protected employment sites in the monitoring period, up from 4.91 ha in 2021. Whilst this is a reduction from the 12 ha in 2019 and 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 Covid restrictions and 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 2	Number of commercial/retail development permitted outside designated principal town centre boundaries	Triggered since 2020	While the number this year (four) has been sufficient to trigger, it includes developments such as a takeaway café; erection of a Covid-compliant seating area at an existing social club; and ancillary development at an existing supermarket, none of which need be located within town centres	No action required
	Factor 3	Area of class B1 employment uses permitted within commercial opportunity areas, as a percentage of total designated area	Triggered for the last nine years in Caerphilly, seven years in Blackwood and in 2021 and 2022 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 ten years	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	No action required

Policy	Issue		Comment	Consideration	Action Required
				<p>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 the policy is protecting the strategic leisure network</p>	

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 only 65% 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. SEA/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 4 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: Local Council CIL Payments and Spend

Local Council	Local Council CIL Balance	CIL 2021/2022	CIL Spend 2021/2022	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	£141,941.80	£1,206.49	£53,460.35	£89, 687.94
Blackwood	£303.41	£69,195.24	£0.00	£69,498.65
Caerphilly	£22,821.10	£1,371.35	£6,120.00	£18,072.45
Darran Valley	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
Draethen, Waterloo and Rudry	£0.00	£779.14	£0.00	£779.14
Gelligaer	£3,815.40	£3,812.37	£0.00	£7,627.77
Llanbradach and Pwllpant	£3580.75	£0.00	£3,495.00	£85.75
Maesycwmmmer	£50,633.98	£1,875.91	£48,676.98	£3832.91
Nelson	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
New Tredegar	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00

Local Council	Local Council CIL Balance	CIL 2021/2022	CIL Spend 2021/2022	Remaining CIL Balance
Penyrheol, Trecenydd and Energlyn	£100,847.69	£48,613.32	£0.00	£149,461.01
Rhymney	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
Risca East	£6,864.60	£0.00	£0.00	£6,864.60
Risca Town	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
Van	£7,095.55	£481.39	£0.00	£7,576.94
TOTAL	£334,323.53	£127,335.21	£108,257.33	£263,713.47

Details of Local Council Spend 2021/22

Local Council	Project	CIL spend
Bedwas, Trethomas and Machen	Timber knee rail fencing, Newport Road	£3,097.00
	Emergency roof repairs, Bedwas Workmens Hall	£39,085.64
	Benches and knee rail, Upper Glyn Gwyn	£3,486.00
	Timber post and clearance, Newport Road	£3,097.00
	3 x planters	£1,827.16
	Ball walls at Upper Glyn Gwyn	£1,097.24
	Defibrillator	£1,230.00
	Bins, Machen Welfare	£540.31
	Total	£53,460.35
Caerphilly	Floodlights at St Martin's Church	£6,120.00
	Total	£6,120.00

Local Council	Project	CIL spend
Llanbradach	Benches, bin, picnic table and hard standings	£3,495.00
	Total	£3,495.00
Maesycwmmmer	Bench	£3,676.98
	Outdoor Gym	£15,000.00
	Skate Park	£30,000.00
	Total	£48,676.98

Wards with no Local Council Coverage, CIL Payments and Spend

Ward	Ward CIL Balance	CIL 2021/2022	CIL Spend 2021/2022	Remaining CIL Balance
Abercarn	£570.00	£0.00	£0.00	£570.00
Crumlin	£3,831.62	£1,319.72	£0.00	£5,151.34
Newbridge	£1,580.35	£0.00	£0.00	£1,580.35
Cefn Fforest	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
Pengam	£11,196.91	£0.00	£0.00	£11,196.91
Penmaen	£60,109.64	£0.00	£0.00	£60,109.64
Pontllanfraith	£4,214.01	£21,561.99	£0.00	£25,776.00
Crosskeys	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
Ynysddu	£5,286.17	£822.95	£0.00	£6,109.12
TOTAL	£86,788.70	£23,704.66	£0.00	£110,493.36

Appendix 6: 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		
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		

Allocation		Developed	Planning App	Status/Comments
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. Full application for 76 units awaiting determination.
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
HG1.21	Park Estate	Not Developed		
HG1.22	Bedwellty Comprehensive School	Under construction	18/1005/FULL	Full permission for 55 units granted 21-3-2019. 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.

Allocation		Developed	Planning App	Status/Comments
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		
HG1.33	Penallta Colliery	Partially	P/99/0781; 18/0362/FULL	Redrow development and conversion of three listed buildings complete. One listed building conversion under construction, other have not commenced. Affordable Housing scheme access off Winding Wheel Lane under construction.
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

Allocation		Developed	Planning App	Status/Comments
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
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
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),	Completed 2019

Allocation		Developed	Planning App	Status/Comments
			12/0860/RM (Phase 2)	
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 lfor 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
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
<i>EM1.1</i>	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

Allocation		Developed	Planning App	Status/Comments
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; 14/0802/OUT 17/0142/RM; 17/0143/RM	Granted 2014 (housing/commercial); 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. 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

Allocation		Developed	Planning App	Status/Comments
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
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

Allocation		Developed	Planning App	Status/Comments
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
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		
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

Allocation		Developed	Planning App	Status/Comments
CF1.22	Pencerrig Street, Llanbradach – GP surgery	Not Developed	17/0936/FULL	Some conditions discharged 2019
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
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	Under construction	16/0553/LA; 18/0556/NCC	Under construction
CF1.32	Workmen’s Hall and environs, Bedwas – Cultural centre	Not Developed	07/0230/LBC	LBC granted 2007 (restoration of front elevation)

Allocation		Developed	Planning App	Status/Comments
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
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.

Allocation		Developed	Planning App	Status/Comments
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		
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

Allocation		Developed	Planning App	Status/Comments
TM1.3	Llancaiach Fawr and environs, Nelson	Developed	12/0825/LA	Complete
TM1.4	Maescywmer Mill, Maescywmer	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.
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.

Allocation		Developed	Planning App	Status/Comments
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 Valley / Pontllanfraith Cycle Link	Not Developed		Some sections included in Active Travel Integrated Network Map.
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.

Allocation		Developed	Planning App	Status/Comments
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.
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. WelTAG 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		WelTAG Stage 2 Study ongoing.
TR6.5	Piccadilly Gyratory	Not Developed		
TR6.6	Penrhos to Pwllypant	Not Developed		

Allocation		Developed	Planning App	Status/Comments
TR6.7	Pwllpant to Bedwas	Not Developed		
TR7.1	Cwm Du Junction / Maesycwmmmer 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 Pontlottyn Highway Resilience Feasibility Option Appraisal Report completed July 2016. WeITAG Stage 2 Study ongoing.



COUNCIL – 4TH OCTOBER 2022

SUBJECT: PROVISIONAL REVENUE BUDGET OUTTURN FOR 2021/22

REPORT BY: CORPORATE DIRECTOR FOR EDUCATION AND CORPORATE SERVICES

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- 1.1 The attached report was considered by Cabinet at its meeting on the 26th September 2022 and the recommendations in paragraphs 3.1.1 to 3.1.6 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 approve the recommendation of the Head of Financial Services & S151 Officer to maintain the General Fund balance at £11.852m, representing 3% of the 2022/23 net revenue budget.
 - ii) To consider and approve the proposed use of surplus General Fund balances totalling £14.333m as detailed in Section 5.10 of the attached report.

Author: Stephen Harris – Head of Financial Services & S151 Officer
Tel: 01443 863066 E-mail: harrisr@caerphilly.gov.uk

Appendix 1: Report to Cabinet 26th September 2022

Gadewir y dudalen hon yn wag yn fwriadol



CABINET – 26TH SEPTEMBER 2022

SUBJECT: PROVISIONAL REVENUE BUDGET OUTTURN FOR 2021/22

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 2021/22 financial year prior to the completion of the annual external audit of the accounts by Audit Wales.

2. SUMMARY

- 2.1 In advance of the 2021/22 Financial Statements audit being completed by Audit Wales and presented to the Governance & Audit Committee on 26 October 2022 and then Council on 24 November 2022, this report provides an overview of the Council's performance against the revenue budget for the 2021/22 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 a range of proposals for the use of surplus General Fund balances and the use of service reserves.

3. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 Cabinet is asked to: -
- 3.1.1 Note the provisional 2021/22 revenue budget outturn position.
- 3.1.2 Agree that the £878k Council Tax Collection grant received from the Welsh Government (WG) in 2021/22 should be set aside in an earmarked reserve to help mitigate the financial impact of a potential further shortfall in Council Tax collection rates in the 2022/23 financial year.
- 3.1.3 Endorse a recommendation to Council to maintain the General Fund balance at £11.852m, representing 3% of the 2022/23 net revenue budget.
- 3.1.4 Endorse the proposed use of surplus General Fund balances totalling £14.333m as detailed in section 5.10 of the report, prior to consideration by Council on 04 October 2022.

- 3.1.5 Note the use of service reserves totalling £2.414m that have been agreed by Officers using delegated powers as detailed in Appendix C.
- 3.1.6 Approve the proposed use of service reserves totalling £3.498m as set out in section 5.11 of the report.

4. REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS

- 4.1 To ensure that Cabinet Members are aware of the provisional revenue budget outturn for the 2021/22 financial year and supportive of the proposed use of reserves.

5. THE REPORT

5.1 Overview

- 5.1.1 Cabinet will be aware that the Authority continued to incur significant additional costs during the 2021/22 financial year due to the Covid-19 pandemic and has also lost income in several key areas. The Welsh Government (WG) continued to provide substantial funding to Local Authorities to offset additional costs and income losses through the Covid-19 Hardship Fund, with the total funding allocated to Caerphilly CBC during the 2021/22 financial year being £19.025m.
- 5.1.2 In addition to the funding provided to offset additional costs and income losses, WG also provided specific grant funding to Local Authorities to assist with a range of other financial pressures. This included £878k to help mitigate a reduction in Council Tax collection rates due to the economic impact of the pandemic, £2.576m for Track, Trace and Protect (TTP), £4.036m for the Social Care Recovery Fund and £1.017m for Education and Lifelong Learning.
- 5.1.3 The 2021/22 provisional outturn position is attached as Appendix A and is summarised below:-

	£m
Net Service Directorate Underspends	14.770
Miscellaneous Finance Underspend	4.479
Council Tax Surplus	1.761
Additional Revenue Support Grant (RSG) 2021/22	3.540
Housing Revenue Account (HRA) Underspend	7.342
Schools Underspend	5.923
Total: -	37.815

- 5.1.4 As was the case in the 2020/21 financial year, the level of underspend for 2021/22 is significantly higher than in previous years. This reflects the ongoing impact of the pandemic on changes in working practices and the scale of financial support provided, large elements of which were not received until the latter part of the financial year.
- 5.1.5 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 on a recurring basis.

- 5.1.6 The following paragraphs provide details of the more significant variations against budget by service area.

5.2 Education and Lifelong Learning (£7.825m Underspend)

- 5.2.1 Overall the Directorate is reporting an underspend of £7.825m, which includes an underspend of £5.923m for schools. The schools in-year underspend is ring-fenced, consequently school balances have increased from £11.3m to £17.2m as at 31 March 2022.

- 5.2.2 The outturn position for schools is greater than projected following some late grant funding support from WG. In addition, some of the expenditure that schools would have planned to incur during the financial year has simply not been possible. Schools continued to receive financial support from WG during the 2021/22 financial year through the Covid-19 Hardship Fund, but this funding ended on 31 March 2022. The balances position is obviously very good news for our schools, although balances should be reviewed at individual school level as the position will be different for each of our schools. As of 31 March 2022, there were no schools with a deficit balance.

- 5.2.3 Excluding the schools, the Education & Lifelong Learning Directorate (including Home to School/College Transport) is reporting an underspend of £1.902m. The most significant variances against budgets are as follows:-

	(Over)/ Under £000's
Home to School/College Transport	242
Pension Costs of School Based Staff	255
Management and Support Service Costs	109
Psychological Service and Schools Based Counselling	290
EOTAS, Additional Support and Out-of-County	461
Early Years Central Team	261
Adult Education	312
Youth Service	264
Library Service	197
Release of Prior-Year Accruals	242
Earmarked Funds (Cabinet 23/02/22)	(950)

- 5.2.4 The £242k underspend on Home to School/College Transport equates to a variance of circa 3% of budget. Throughout the financial year WG have provided support through the Covid-19 Hardship Fund for additional costs incurred by transport providers in respect of additional cleaning and Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) requirements linked to the pandemic.

- 5.2.5 The £255k underspend on the pension costs of school-based staff follows 2 years of good budget settlements for schools, which has had a positive impact on the retention of staff.

- 5.2.6 The £109k underspend with regards to Management and Support Service costs is primarily linked to in-year vacancies, additional income generation and savings linked to general office costs and vacant properties.

- 5.2.7 The £290k underspend in the Psychology Service & School Based Counselling Team is due to some late grant funding from WG, vacant posts and delays in recruitment.
- 5.2.8 There is an underspend of £461k for the budgets supporting our most vulnerable learners (Education Other Than at School (EOTAS), Additional Support, and Out-of-County). This represents an underspend of 4.7% on a combined budget of £9.89m. This positive position follows the allocation of budget growth in recent years to support significant financial pressures in this area, plus work to support more cost-effective practices.
- 5.2.9 The £261k underspend in the Early Years Central Team is due to the success of the team in accessing specific grant funding from WG to support staff related costs.
- 5.2.10 The underspend of £312k for Adult Education is largely due to late grant funding which displaced expenditure in relation to property and IT costs within the Authority. It is proposed that Adult Education retain the value of this displaced grant funding (£197k) in the 2022/23 financial year to directly invest in the service, particularly with regards to a backlog of maintenance in relation to Oxford House in Risca.
- 5.2.11 The underspends in relation to the Youth and Library Services are partly linked to premise and resource savings that were a direct consequence of the ongoing impact of the pandemic. Furthermore, additional grant funding was received during the financial year.
- 5.2.12 As part of the year-end closure processes, prior year accruals were reviewed. The outcome of this exercise was a release of accruals to the value of £242k into the revenue accounts.
- 5.2.13 Following the approval of Cabinet on 23 February 2022, £950k of the Directorate's projected in-year underspend was set aside in earmarked reserves to support additional fixed-term staffing capacity across a number of Teams over the next 2 years.

5.3 Social Services (£9.043m Underspend)

- 5.3.1 The 2021/22 financial year saw a substantial increase in the costs of residential care for children and adults as well as for supported living placements for adults. These increasing costs arose through a combination of an increase in demand for services and the increasingly complex needs and behaviours of the service users requiring care.
- 5.3.2 However, the continuing effects of the pandemic restricted the provision of some services due to a combination of staff shortages across the social care market and the challenges of providing a safe environment for the delivery of some services. These restrictions led to non-recurring savings during 2021/22, which more than offset the additional costs associated with the increased demand and complexities identified above.
- 5.3.3 Furthermore, between 15 September 2021 and 11 February 2022, WG released additional grant funding for social care as a result of additional funding made available by the UK Government. For Caerphilly CBC, this meant additional funding of £4.036m in respect of the Social Care Recovery Fund and £2.974m in respect of the Social Care Pressures Grant. Due to the timing of these announcements, the short-term nature of the funding and a lack of capacity in the social care market, it was not possible to utilise this additional funding to enhance service provision to any great extent. Therefore,

most of the funding has either been used to underwrite the increasing demand and complexities that were already presenting or to reduce the call on service reserves that had been planned during 2021/22 to fund a number of short-term arrangements.

5.3.4 These additional funding streams, along with around £1m from the WG Covid-19 Hardship Fund to support in-house services meant that Caerphilly Social Services received more than £8million in non-recurring grant funding during 2021/22 that had not been expected at the beginning of the financial year. This accounts for a significant proportion of the £9.043million Social Services underspend.

5.3.5 A summary of the £9.043million underspend is provided in the table below:-

Service Area	Revised Budget 2021/22 £m	Outturn 2021/22 £m	(Over)/ Underspend £m
Children's Services	26.718	25.013	1.705
Adult Services	68.838	63.207	5.631
Business Support	2.172	0.955	1.217
Social Services Transport	1.534	1.044	0.490
Total	99.262	90.219	9.043

5.3.6 Within the Children's Services Division, increasing demand and complexities led to a potential overspend of £2.658m. However, vacancy savings of £690k, other non-recurring savings of £659k and the use of £3.449m of additional grant funding led to a net underspend for the Division of £1.705m and a reduced call on service reserves of £435k.

5.3.7 Similarly, within the Adult Services Division increasing demand and complexities led to potential overspends of £645k in respect of residential and nursing care, £749k in respect of supported living and extra care, and £486k in respect of services for children with disabilities. However, vacancy savings of £495k, other non-recurring savings of £4.717m and the use of £3.147m of additional grant funding led to a net underspend for the Division of £5.631m. The use of the additional grant funding also reduced the call on service reserves by £425k and enabled additional payments to be made to independent sector care providers of £424k to support staffing levels over the Christmas period.

5.3.8 Of the £4.717m of non-recurring savings within the Adult Services Division, around £2.034m is due to a reduction in building based day care provision due to the challenges of providing a safe environment with adequate social distancing. A further £1.722m can be attributed to unmet demand for domiciliary care services due to staff shortages across the sector. The remainder of the non-recurring underspend can largely be attributed to a temporary reduction in demand for short-term services due to concerns around the possible transmission of Covid-19.

5.3.9 The £1.217m underspend in Business Support Services is largely due to the additional financial support received in respect of in-house service provision through the WG Covid-19 Hardship Fund, while the £490k underspend in respect of Social Services Transport costs is wholly attributable to the reduction in building based day care provision.

5.4 Economy & Environment (£2.473m Underspend)

5.4.1 The overall net outturn position for the Communities Directorate is an underspend of £2.473m after adjusting for the approved earmarking of reserves.

5.4.2 The Regeneration & Planning Division is reporting an overall net underspend of £703k.

5.4.3 Regeneration is reporting an underspend of £468k, the most significant elements of which relate to an underspend of £280k on salaries and an £80k underspend on the revenue elements of the Caerphilly Enterprise Fund (CEF) grants.

5.4.4 Planning has a net overall underspend of £235k which is primarily due to income budgets being exceeded, combined with in-year salary savings while recruiting to vacant posts.

5.4.5 The Infrastructure Division is reporting a net underspend of £1.514m which is due in the main to additional income and in-year salary savings while recruiting to vacant posts, and an underspend in Winter Maintenance.

5.4.6 The Public Protection Division is reporting an overall underspend of £452k, the most significant elements of which are the following: -

- £60k in Licensing due to delays in filling vacant posts.
- £131k in Enforcement, also largely due to delays in filling vacant posts.
- A Catering underspend of £134k.

5.4.7 The Community & Leisure Division is reporting a net overspend of £155k, including the following: -

- Waste Strategy & Cleansing Operations net underspend of £54k, the most significant elements of which are underspends of £278k for Organic Recycling, £42k for Bulky Waste, £78k on the Revenue Contribution to Capital Outlay (RCCO) budget and £381k on Cleansing. These underspends are offset by overspends of £988k in Dry Recycling and £134k in Civic Amenity Sites due to increased tonnage costs.
- Parks, Countryside and Cemeteries Services net overspend of £130k.
- Leisure Services underspend of £19k, mainly due to a £10k underspend in Community Centres.
- Building Cleaning underspend of £42k due to additional income being generated
- Vehicle Maintenance & Fleet Management overspend of £140k.

5.4.8 There is an overspend of £41k in relation to un-budgeted Directorate corporate costs linked to audit fees and bank charges.

5.5 Corporate Services – (£1.352m Underspend)

5.5.1 The outturn position for the Directorate of Corporate Services is an underspend of £1.352m after adjusting for the agreed earmarking of reserves. The most significant elements of the underspend are the following: -

- Corporate Finance is reporting a net underspend of £437k. A significant element of the underspend relates to one-off funding received from WG for the administration of the Covid-19 NDR Business Grants and Self-Isolation and Winter Fuel Payments. Underspends have also been generated through delays in filling a number of vacant posts.
- Business Improvement Services is reporting an overall net overspend of £136k after taking into account the agreed use of reserves for a Fleet Review Officer and two senior posts in the Transformation Team.
- There is a net underspend of £449k for Customer & Digital Services. This includes underspends of £188k in Information Technology, £157k in Procurement and £104k in Customer Services. The most significant elements of these underspends are delays in appointing to vacant posts, staff not being at the top of pay scales and some secondments to the Track, Trace & Protect (TTP) service.
- For People Services there is a net underspend of £60k.
- Property Services is reporting a net underspend of £272k.
- There is an underspend of £235k on Housing Services, excluding the Housing Revenue Account (HRA).

5.6 Miscellaneous Finance - (£4.479m Underspend)

5.6.1 Budgets in Miscellaneous Finance underspent by £4.479m, the most significant elements of which are the following: -

- £852k underspend on Interest Payments due to delays in borrowing requirements.
- £305k underspend on City Deal borrowing.
- £1.695m balance being written off from the Housing Benefit Subsidy Bad Debt provision.
- £310k on Free School Meals funding held centrally that was not required during the financial year.
- £247k on the Carbon Energy Tax budget.

5.7 Additional Revenue Support Grant (RSG) - £3.540m

5.7.1 In the latter part of the 2021/22 financial year, WG provided additional funding of £60m via the RSG across all Welsh Local Authorities. Caerphilly CBC's element of this additional funding was £3.540m.

5.8 Council Tax Collection – (£1.761m Surplus)

5.8.1 The surplus figure of £1.761m is inclusive of a one-off Council Tax Collection grant received from WG of £878k. This grant has been provided by WG in recognition of the continuing adverse impact that Covid-19 has had on Council Tax collection rates. The actual Council Tax surplus is £883k, which represents a decrease of £167k on the assumed level of £1.050m for the 2021/22 financial year. It is recommended that the £878k WG funding should be set-aside in an earmarked reserve as this will help mitigate the financial impact of a potential further shortfall in collection rates in the

2022/23 financial year.

5.9 Housing Revenue Account (£7.342m Underspend)

5.9.1 The majority of the underspend for the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) is due to the ongoing impact of Covid-19 restrictions meaning that the expenditure levels anticipated could not be reached. However, despite this compliance with the Welsh Housing Quality Standards (WHQS) was achieved by the December 2021 deadline.

5.9.2 HRA Working Balances stood at £14.1m at the start of 2021/22. However, due to the continued restrictions throughout the year, this balance, along with the £7.3m surplus made in year, will be carried forward to assist in funding future HRA commitments, namely increasing housing supply and maintaining the WHQS on our existing properties.

5.10 Impact on the General Fund

5.10.1 The table in Appendix B shows the movements on the General Fund balance from 01 April 2021 to 31 March 2022, along with agreed commitments for 2022/23. The forecast General Fund balance as reported to Council on 24 February 2022 was £14.516m. The updated position is a balance of £26.185m, an increase of £11.669m. The variations to the forecast are as follows: -

	£m
Increased Contribution from Service Areas (including Miscellaneous Finance)	7.246
Additional RSG 2021/22	3.540
2021/22 Council Tax Surplus	0.883
Net Increase: -	11.669

5.10.2 It is 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 £11.852m for the 2022/23 financial year. This results in a surplus General Fund balance of £14.333m being available to support the Council in the delivery of its strategic priorities. Cabinet is therefore asked to endorse a recommendation to Council that the General Fund balance is maintained at £11.852m, with the surplus balance being set aside for the following purposes: -

Description	Amount £m
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 (EV's/Driving Lessons)	0.595
Total: -	14.333

- 5.10.3 **In-year impact of 2022/23 Pay Awards** – The latest pay offer for National Joint Council (NJC) staff and Chief Officers is an increase of £1,925 on all pay points from April 2022, with teachers pay being increased by 5% from September 2022. This results in an additional funding requirement of £6.860m 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 2023/24 financial year.
- 5.10.4 **Cost of Living Hardship Fund** – The Consumer Prices Index (CPI) inflation rate is currently 9.9% and some analysts predict that this could reach 20% as we enter 2023. Energy prices are rising at the fastest rate in living memory, with the average household likely to spend over £1000 on energy bills between now and the end of the year. Despite promises to limit the rise in the energy cap there is no doubt that many people will be unable to find the money for these increases and will face some hugely difficult choices when trying to care for themselves and their families as the winter progresses.
- 5.10.5 Cabinet will consider a separate report on today’s agenda that sets out details of a range of potential responses to the cost of living crisis, but implementation will require additional investment to be identified. It is therefore proposed that £3m is set aside to create a Cost of Living Hardship Fund to support a range of initiatives that will assist our communities.
- 5.10.6 **Cost of Living Crisis Contingency** – The cost of living crisis is impacting on council budgets with financial pressures being experienced across all areas, in particular energy, fuel, food and drink, and construction/contractor costs. The 2022/23 budget was set on the basis that non-pay inflation would be circa 4% but since the budget was approved in February 2022 we now face significant financial challenges. Budgets will be kept under close review as we progress through the financial year, but it is considered prudent to set aside a cost of living crisis contingency to assist anticipated budgetary pressures.
- 5.10.7 **Home to School/College Transport** - The earmarking of £460k for Home to School / College Transport results from a procurement exercise to renew contracts on 98 bus routes. The previous contracts were awarded in 2017. The contract period for each of the routes is 3 years with an option to extend for a further 2 years. It is important to point out that the £460k relates to the period September 2022 to March 2023 only, with the costs over a full financial year being estimated at £689k (circa £230k a school term). The last 2 years have been particularly challenging in the transport field due to the impact of Covid-19 on the sector and this is now exacerbated by the cost of living crisis.
- 5.10.8 **Wi-Fi Infrastructure Review** – The proposed £100k will be used to review the corporate and schools’ network to ensure that it is still fit for purpose. The existing infrastructure is still very much a traditional design and has not evolved over the years with the latest technologies. Following the Edtech project, an independent review and health check of the school’s network is also required to ensure that it is robust for future years expansion.
- 5.10.9 **Heolddu Leisure Centre Fitness Equipment** – The proposed £100k investment will be used to update the fitness equipment at Heolddu Leisure Centre with new, state of the art kit that will significantly improve and enhance the facility, along with supporting an increase in usage and income.

- 5.10.10 **Emporium Car Park Repairs** – The proposed £100k funding will be used to Investigate, design and repair an existing masonry retaining wall/planter located in the south-western corner of the car park, rectify sub-structure issues/defects and resurface the macadam area of the car park.
- 5.10.11 **Highway Inspections (Covid-19 Backlog)** - Additional inspections have been required to assess potential damage caused by storm Dennis but this was impacted by Covid-19. There is still a backlog of inspections which requires additional funding for 2022/23.
- 5.10.12 **External Asbestos Surveys** - A number of new asbestos management surveys are required due to the age and extent of building changes since the original asbestos surveys were completed. These surveys will ensure the correct management of asbestos containing materials and will also ensure that the local asbestos management plan is updated. Due to the time commitment involved in undertaking these surveys and the limited resources in the Asbestos Team, it is recommended that the surveys are contracted out to a competent asbestos surveying company on the current procurement asbestos framework.
- 5.10.13 **Modern Patch Management Tool** – This will support the Council in keeping abreast of the "Cyber Security" agenda through the purchasing of "tools" to ensure we have a fully "patched" network and solutions.
- 5.10.14 **Cloud Migrations** – The £500k will be used 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. Ongoing revenue impacts will be incorporated into the annual budget setting process.
- 5.10.15 **Canal Refurbishment** - Funding has previously been required to undertake essential works on the canal and repair a leak caused during storm damage with the costs reaching over £2m. Inspections of the canal continue monthly and further repairs have been identified for 2022/23. There is also a desire to open up the canal to leisure boats which will require works to clear the channel.
- 5.10.16 **Additional RSG (EV's/Driving Lessons)** – As mentioned in paragraph 5.7.1, in the latter part of the 2021/22 financial year WG provided additional funding of £60m via the RSG across all Welsh Local Authorities. Caerphilly CBC's element of this additional funding was £3.540m. The RSG is un-hypothecated, but WG indicated that a specific proportion of this additional funding should be earmarked to provide driving lessons and electric vehicles for domiciliary care workers in order to attract more staff into the profession. Therefore, it is proposed that £595k of the additional revenue support grant allocated for Caerphilly CBC for 2021/22 is appropriated into an earmarked reserve for future use once a firm plan has been developed to optimise the impact of this one-off funding.
- 5.10.17 At its meeting on 27 July 2022, Cabinet agreed a regional proposal to provide additional time limited funding support to the externally commissioned domiciliary care market providers, due to the recruitment and retention pressures they are facing linked to the cost-of-living crisis, in particular the current impact of increasing fuel prices.
- 5.10.18 The regional proposal was to increase the current commissioned hourly rate to providers by £1 per hour from 01 August 2022 for a period of 6 months on the understanding that this is passed on to staff. The cost for Caerphilly CBC is £215k and

Cabinet initially agreed that this would be funded from Social Services reserves. However, WG has since confirmed that the cost can be funded from the element of additional RSG in 2021/22 ring-fenced to provide driving lessons and electric vehicles for domiciliary care workers. It is therefore proposed that the £215k cost is now met from the additional RSG and not from Social Services reserves.

5.11 General Usable Service Reserves

5.11.1 As outlined in paragraph 5.1.5, 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. The table below provides a summary of the reserves arising from cumulative Directorate underspends along with projected balances after taking account of the approved use of reserves in 2021/22, and the current approved use of reserves for 2022/23: -

Service Area	Opening Balance (01/04/21) £m	In-Year Movement 2021/22 £m	Closing Balance (31/03/22) £m	Approved Use Of Reserves £m	Current Balance £m
Education & Lifelong Learning	1.517	(0.443)	1.074	(0.395)	0.679
Social Services	3.413	1.983	5.396	(0.568)	4.828
Economy & Environment	0.623	0.554	1.177	(0.822)	0.355
Corporate Services	1.734	(0.510)	1.224	(0.629)	0.595
Totals: -	7.287	1.584	8.871	(2.414)	6.457

5.11.2 Cabinet will note that approval has already been given in the 2022/23 financial year for the use of service reserves totalling £2.414m as follows: -

- Education & Lifelong Learning £395k.
- Social Services £568k.
- Economy & Environment £822k.
- Corporate Services £629k.

5.11.3 Details of the £2.414m use of service reserves are provided in Appendix C. The individual proposals all have a value below £100k and can therefore be agreed by Directors in consultation with the Head of Financial Services & S151 Officer using delegated powers. Details are included in this report for noting by Cabinet.

5.11.4 Cabinet is asked to consider and approve further proposals for the use of service reserves with individual values in excess of £100k, for the following purposes: -

Description	Amount £m
Education & Lifelong Learning	
- Adult Education - Displaced expenditure in 2021/22 due to grant funding	0.197
- Use of Drones for detailed surveys of school buildings	0.118
- School condition surveys over 2 year period	0.120
- Replacement of Licences for School Servers	0.110
Social Service	

- Employment of supernumerary staff in Residential Homes for Children	0.550
- Upgrade of Home Care monitoring system	0.200
- Temporary additional capacity in Mental Health Teams	0.240
- Extension of services currently funded from reserves to 31/03/24	1.561
Economy & Environment	
- Purchase of 2 Trailers (Waste)	0.125
- Software upgrade (Public Protection)	0.115
Corporate Services	
- Private Sector Housing fixed-term staffing capacity	0.162
Total: -	3.498

- 5.11.5 **Adult Education - Displaced expenditure in 2021/22 due to grant funding** - This will support investment in the service area that the funding was initially provided for (as per paragraph 5.2.10).
- 5.11.6 **Use of Drones for detailed surveys of school buildings** – This will enable detailed surveys to be undertaken utilising existing contracts.
- 5.11.7 **School condition surveys over 2 year period** – This will enable a range of surveys to be undertaken across a number of schools.
- 5.11.8 **Replacement of Licences for School Servers** – This will enable a number of software licences to be renewed for the schools Ed Tech Programme.
- 5.11.9 **Employment of supernumerary staff in Residential Homes for Children** – Additional staff are in the process of being recruited in residential homes for children pending the opening of additional facilities. This will ensure that staff are in post and ready to transfer to new facilities once they become operational.
- 5.11.10 **Upgrade of Home Care monitoring system** – The proposed funding will enable the upgrade of the Home Care monitoring system from CACI to Cygnum and will also extend use to Day Services.
- 5.11.11 **Temporary additional capacity in Mental Health Teams** – Investment in temporary additional capacity within Community Mental Health Teams as part of the Covid-19 recovery (2 Grade 10 posts for 2 years).
- 5.11.12 **Extension of services currently funded from reserves to 31/03/24** – A number of services within the Social Services Directorate are funded on a fixed-term basis from service reserves. It is proposed to allocate a further £1.561m from Social Services reserves to allow these fixed-term arrangements to be extended to 31/03/24.
- 5.11.13 **Purchase of 2 Trailers (Waste)** - Since the commencement of the Prosiect Gwyrdd contract the Authority has transported residual waste from Full Moon Transfer Station, Cross Keys to Trident Park, Cardiff. WG funding has previously been sought to fund a replacement tractor unit but to continue to undertake the haulage in-house, the trailers themselves now need replacing. The funding will be used to procure 2 replacement trailers.

5.11.14 **Software Upgrade (Public Protection)** – The Public Protection Division needs to move from their existing version of the Civica APP database to the new version of Civica CX as the current version will be discontinued in the near future. The proposed £115k will be used to meet one-off costs with the ongoing revenue implications being met through existing budgets.

5.11.15 **Private Sector Housing Fixed-term staffing capacity** – The proposed £162k will allow for additional fixed-term staffing capacity to meet demands on this service area.

5.12 Conclusion

5.12.1 Despite the ongoing significant challenges presented by the Covid-19 pandemic the Council's financial position has been well managed during the 2021/22 financial year. The significant financial support provided by WG has been vital to maintain financial resilience, albeit that support through the Covid-19 Hardship Fund ceased on 31 March 2022. This presents a significant financial risk which has been exacerbated by the cost of living crisis. Budgets will be closely monitored throughout the 2022/23 financial year and the medium to longer-term impacts will be considered as part of the forthcoming budget setting process.

6. ASSUMPTIONS

6.1 There are no assumptions within this report.

7. SUMMARY OF INTEGRATED IMPACT ASSESSMENT

7.1 The 2021/22 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 A number of the proposals for the use of the surplus General Fund balance and service reserves are directly linked to approved key strategies and initiatives that have previously been the subject of detailed reports that would have considered equalities implications, links to well-being objectives etc.

7.3 Many of the other proposals for the use of balances are of an operational nature and do not require integrated impact assessments to be completed.

7.4 The specific details of how some of the sums set-aside will be utilised is yet to be determined. Once this has been established integrated impact assessments will be completed where required.

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 proposals to fund additional fixed-term posts in specific areas.

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.

Author: Stephen Harris – Head of Financial Services & S151 Officer
Tel: 01443 863066 E-mail: harrisr@caerphilly.gov.uk

Consultees: Christina Harray, Chief Executive
(Email: harrhc@caerphilly.gov.uk)
Richard Edmunds, Corporate Director for Education & Corporate Services
(Email: edmunre@caerphilly.gov.uk)
Dave Street, Corporate Director for Social Services & Housing
(Email: streetd@caerphilly.gov.uk)
Mark S Williams, Corporate Director for Economy & Environment
(Email: willims@caerphilly.gov.uk)
Robert Tranter, Head of Legal Services & Monitoring Officer
(Email: trantrj@caerphilly.gov.uk)
Andrew Southcombe, Finance Manager, Corporate Finance
(Email: southak@caerphilly.gov.uk)
David Roberts, Interim Finance Manager, Corporate Services & Communities
(Email: roberda@caerphilly.gov.uk)
Jane Southcombe, Finance Manager, Education & Lifelong Learning
(Email: southj@caerphilly.gov.uk)
Mike Jones, Financial Services Manager, Social Services
(Email: jonesmj@caerphilly.gov.uk)
Lesley Allen, Principal Group Accountant, Housing
(Email: allenl@caerphilly.gov.uk)
Cllr Eluned Stenner, Cabinet Member for Finance and Performance
(Email: stenne@caerphilly.gov.uk)

Background Papers:

Appendices:

Appendix A - Provisional Outturn Summary 2021/22

Appendix B - Movement on General Fund

Appendix C – Use of Service Reserves Approved by Officers Using Delegated Powers

PROVISIONAL OUTTURN 2021/22**SUMMARY**

SERVICE AREA	UNDERSPEND (OVERSPEND) £m	TAKE TO GENERAL FUND £m
Education & Lifelong Learning	1.902	0.951
Social Services	9.043	4.522
Economy & Environment	2.473	1.137
Corporate Services	1.352	0.676
Miscellaneous Finance	4.479	4.479
Additional RSG 2021/22	3.540	3.540
Council Tax Surplus	1.761	0.883
TOTALS	24.550	16.188

OTHER	UNDERSPEND (OVERSPEND) £m	TAKE TO GENERAL FUND £m
Housing Revenue Account (HRA)	7.342	N/A
Schools	5.923	N/A
OVERALL TOTAL SURPLUS	37.815	16.188

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

Council Tax surpluses are transferred in total to General Fund balances.

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

APPENDIX B

MOVEMENT ON GENERAL FUND

	£m	£m
Opening Balance 01/04/2021		21.312
Use of Funds as Previously Agreed by Council: -		
Budget Strategy Contribution 2021/22	(1.050)	
Ash Die Back - Parks	(0.750)	
Covid19 Reserve TopUp (£3.5m)	(1.042)	
Digital Transformation	(1.481)	
I.T. Support for the Transformation Programme	(0.500)	
Local Development Plan (LDP)	(0.134)	
Lawns and Ty Du (cost overruns)	(0.262)	
Targeted Rate Relief	(0.225)	
Community Coordinators	(0.227)	
Cleaning & Greening	(1.000)	
Decarbonisation Strategy	(0.500)	
Regeneration Project Board	(1.000)	
Licence to Innovate	(0.200)	
Apprenticeship/Graduate Scheme	(0.500)	
Newbridge Leisure Centre Fitness Equipment	(0.200)	
Equipment for Fleet and Vehicle Maintenance	(0.210)	
Bedwas Leisure Centre – Replacement of ATP with 3G	(0.235)	
In-year impact of Pay Awards at 1.75%	(0.749)	
Total Funds Taken In-Year		(10.265)
Funds Transferred into General Fund: -		
Education & Lifelong Learning – 50% Directorate Underspend	0.951	
Social Services - 50% Directorate Underspend	4.522	
Communities - 50% Directorate Underspend	1.137	
Corporate Services - 50% Directorate Underspend	0.676	
Miscellaneous Finance	4.479	
Additional RSG 2021/22	3.540	
Council Tax Surplus 2021/22	0.883	
Total General Fund Contribution 2021/22		16.188
Closing Balance 31/03/2022		27.235
2022-23 Commitments Previously Agreed by Council: -		
Budget Strategy Contribution 2022-23		(1.050)
Current General Fund Balance		26.185

APPENDIX C

Use of Reserves Approved by Officers Using Delegated Powers

Education & Lifelong Learning: -	£
Rhymney Library Development - Additional match funding contribution	25,000
Schools Guest Wifi.	42,000
Grade 3 fixed-term post in Education Finance Team for 18 months to support increasing volume of orders, payments and purchase card transactions.	41,000
School Improvement - Additional funding to support schools causing concern.	50,000
Grade 9 fixed-term post for 12 months to support poverty related issues.	48,000
Energy Meters in Primary School Kitchens.	50,000
Cruyff Special Court (Trinity Fields) - Match funding contribution.	45,000
Taxi Contracts - To fund agreed uplifts for the period from September 2022 to March 2023.	94,000
Sub-Total	395,000
Social Services: -	
Extra management capacity across residential homes for older people for 2 years in response to new responsibilities for registration of staff.	90,000
Part funding of a Grade 10 Autism Lead Officer for 2 years.	75,000
Replacement of ageing laptops.	80,000
Increase capacity of the Islwyn Catering day opportunities scheme.	80,000
Refurbishment of family contact areas at Social Services main office sites.	50,000
Redecoration of Ty Hapus Respite Home for children with disabilities.	5,000
Extension of patio area at Brondeg day care facility in order to make outdoor space more accessible.	10,000
Refurbishment of flat at Clos Tir y Pwll Supported Living Home.	10,000
Purchase and equipping of a porta-cabin to be sited at the Social Services offices at Mill Road, Caerphilly.	30,000
Improvements to decked area at Islwyn Park day opportunities scheme.	50,000
Replacement of obsolete mobile phone devices across HART and Community Day Services.	30,000
Engagement of voluntary sector organisations in a review of day service provision for vulnerable adults.	20,000
Co-production of a model for day services with key stakeholders based on 'Care Closer to Home' principles.	37,800
Sub-Total	567,800
Communities: -	
Urgent signal maintenance work - Due to contractor resource availability these works have had to be completed in 2022/23, these include post replacements, recabling and a condition assessment for the AMP.	40,000
Building Cleaning - Additional costs for schools based cleaning.	41,000
Kennelling Costs - Trading Standards have been engaged in a prosecution in relation to unlicensed dog breeding and serious animal welfare breaches, which required the kennelling and veterinary care of over 50 dogs. The costs will be pursued via the legal process, but there is no guarantee of when and if the monies will be recovered.	96,000

Purchase of 4G CCTV cameras.	24,000
Training - The Trading Standards Service has experienced the loss of staff within the past 2 years due to retirements. Two new staff have been employed, both of which are new to the Trading Standards Service. The two new officers need training not only to be able to fulfil their duties, but also to fill knowledge and expertise gaps that will occur in the near future due to the age of existing staff. Both new officers therefore are required to study for the professional statutory qualification. The current training budget is inadequate to cover this training requirement.	22,000
Maintenance and repairs to Blackwood Bus Station - Works identified towards the end of 2021/22 but resource availability could not be procured in time to undertake during the last financial year.	50,000
Connect 2 Replacement Bus - Purchase of a second hand bus via SFS contract to maintain a three vehicle fleet.	55,000
A469 Llanbradach Bypass - Installation of replacement road studs that could not be undertaken in 2021/22 due to delays with material supplies and contractor resource availability.	57,000
Gum Removal and Deep Cleansing Machine - To add resilience in the cleansing of our town centres or areas of significant pedestrian usage with a specifically designed item of plant to tackle the nuisance of chewing gum on footways etc.	70,000
3 additional fixed-term drivers to maintain waste collections - To cover additionality in workforce for 2022/23 due to continued Covid-19 absences whilst attempting to maintain full waste stream service provision.	96,750
Cwmcarn Footbridge and Steps - To fund the costs associated with the remediation of the steps and bridge leading to Cwmcarn Visitor Centre.	85,000
Cwmcarn Tree Felling - There are infected ash trees alongside the public highway at Cwmcarn Forest Drive that have to be removed due to ash die back.	60,000
Community Enterprise Fund (CEF) - 2021/22 revenue underspend to be earmarked for capital in 2022/23 to enable CEF grant support for businesses, including energy efficiency measures to support the cost of living crisis cost pressures.	80,000
Events - Little Cheese Festival.	45,000
Sub-Total	821,750
Corporate Services: -	
Gamma system managed service for telecoms provision.	47,000
Codebase 8 Contract Extension - Support and professional services to facilitate changes to existing processes and to help upskill 2 members of our staff.	30,000
Windows O365 Licences for Servers.	44,000
Learning Domain Security Review - To ensure operating systems are fit-for-purpose and secure.	50,000
Server and storage costs.	53,000
Funding to facilitate the roll-out of call recording systems for Council Tax and Housing Benefit staff.	30,000
Grade 5 Ledger Assistant fixed-term post for 12 months to assist with workload pressures in the Team.	31,000
2 Grade 5 fixed-term posts to help reduce the backlog of Council Tax and NNDR work that has arisen due to staff processing Covid-19 grant and Cost of Living Crisis Support payments.	66,000

Council Tax Team - In-year cost of regrading 3 staff from Grade 3 to Grade 5 to meet service needs.	68,752
One-off funding to support recruitment activity across the Council.	30,000
Fixed-term Welsh Translator for People Services - To provide professional support as we move to a fully Welsh recruitment website.	40,000
Communication Team - Temporary funding for changes to staffing structure.	33,000
Management & Development training.	50,000
Back-dated costs to support the Job Evaluation process.	56,500
Sub-Total	629,252
Overall Total: -	2,413,802

Gadewir y dudalen hon yn wag yn fwriadol



COUNCIL – 4TH OCTOBER 2022

SUBJECT: AUDIT WALES ENQUIRIES RETURN 2021/22

REPORT BY: CORPORATE DIRECTOR FOR EDUCATION AND CORPORATE SERVICES

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To present Council with responses to Audit Wales in relation to enquiries around our management processes relating to the prevention and detection of fraud, and compliance with laws and regulations in respect of disclosures in the 2021/22 Financial Statements.

2. SUMMARY

- 2.1 As part of their audit planning and to comply with International Auditing Standards, Audit Wales needs to gain an understanding of how the Council gains assurance over management processes and arrangements in relation to the detection and prevention of fraud and compliance with relevant laws and regulations in the preparation of the Financial Statements .
- 2.2 The Council's response to the questions raised by Audit Wales in respect of the 2021/22 financial year is appended to this report.

3. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 Council is asked to endorse the response appended to this report.

4. REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS

- 4.1 To ensure that Council considers and endorses the responses to Audit Wales.

5. THE REPORT

- 5.1 As part of the external audit of the Authority's Draft Financial Statements for the year ended 31st March 2022, Audit Wales, in compliance with the International Auditing Standards, is required to refresh its understanding of how the Council gains assurance over management processes and arrangements.
- 5.2 The assurances are around an understanding of our management processes to prevent and detect fraud and to ensure compliance with relevant laws and regulations in the preparation of the Council's Financial Statements.
- 5.3 The questions asked by Audit Wales in the attached document are standard for all Local Authorities and are not specific to Caerphilly CBC. The responses are presented to Council for endorsement prior to the audited 2021/22 Financial Statements being presented to the

Governance & Audit Committee on the 26th October 2022 and then Full Council on the 24th November 2022.

Conclusion

5.4 The report provides Members with details of the responses given to Audit Wales.

6. ASSUMPTIONS

6.1 No assumptions have been made in respect of this report.

7. SUMMARY OF INTEGRATED IMPACT ASSESSMENT

7.1 This report is a statement of existing management processes and arrangements, so an Integrated Impact Assessment is not required.

8. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

8.1 There are no direct financial implications arising from this report.

9. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

9.1 There are no personnel implications.

10. CONSULTATIONS

10.1 Any comments received from consultees have been included within the report.

11. STATUTORY POWER

11.1 Local Government Act 2000

Author: Stephen Harris, Head of Financial Services & S151 Officer
Tel: 01443 863066 Email: harrisr@caerphilly.gov.uk

Consultees: Christina HARRY, Chief Executive
(Email: harrhc@caerphilly.gov.uk)
Richard Edmunds, Corporate Director for Education & Corporate Services
(Email: edmunre@caerphilly.gov.uk)
Robert Tranter, Head of Legal Services & Monitoring Officer
(Email: trantrj@caerphilly.gov.uk)
Cllr Eluned Stenner, Cabinet Member for Finance & Performance
(Email: marsdp@caerphilly.gov.uk)

Appendices:

Appendix 1 Audit Wales Enquiries Return 2021/22

Part 1: Matters in relation to fraud

International Standard for Auditing (UK and Ireland) 240 covers auditors' responsibilities relating to fraud in an audit of financial statements.

The primary responsibility to prevent and detect fraud rests with both management, and 'those charged with governance' which is the full Council. Management, with the oversight of Council, should ensure there is a strong emphasis on fraud prevention and deterrence and create a culture of honest and ethical behaviour, reinforced by active oversight by those charged with governance.

As external auditors, we are responsible for obtaining reasonable assurance that the financial statements are free from material misstatement due to fraud or error. We are required to maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit, considering the potential for management override of controls.

What are we required to do?

As part of our risk assessment procedures we are required to consider the risks of material misstatement due to fraud. This includes understanding the arrangements management has put in place in respect of fraud risks. The ISA views fraud as either:

- the intentional misappropriation of assets (cash, property, etc); or
- the intentional manipulation or misstatement of the financial statements.

We also need to understand how Council exercises oversight of management's processes. We are also required to make enquiries of both management and the Council as to their knowledge of any actual, suspected or alleged fraud, for identifying and responding to the risks of fraud and the internal controls established to mitigate them.

Enquiries of management - in relation to fraud

Question	2021-22 Response
<p>1. What is management’s assessment of the risk that the financial statements may be materially misstated due to fraud and what are the principal reasons?</p>	<p>Management is content that the risk of the financial statements being materially misstated due to fraud is low. This is due to the following: -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The identification of potential fraud is built into audit work as a matter of course and the Internal Audit Section provides ad hoc advice to service areas on request or where necessary. Instances of fraud remain low. • The Purchase Ledger Team receives notifications of potential creditor fraud from the South Wales Creditor Group, which allows us to monitor these suppliers and raise awareness amongst payments staff. The Internal Audit Section also receives these notifications and where issues are identified relevant advice or guidance on best practice is issued. • We maintain a software package (AP Forensics) to monitor Purchase Ledger payments. This package identifies potential instances of fraud and error that are investigated prior to the release of funds. • We actively participate in the National Fraud Initiative (NFI) and have been recognised for our good practice in this area. • We have an effective system of internal control underpinned by Financial Regulations and Standing Orders for Contracts. Compliance is good with no material issues being identified. • We work closely with the DWP’s Single Fraud Investigation Service in respect of Housing Benefit fraud.
<p>2. What processes are employed to identify and respond to the risks of fraud more generally and specific risks of misstatement in the financial statements?</p>	<p>We have a number of key policies that are available on the Council’s Intranet including the following: -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Anti-Fraud, Bribery and Corruption Policy. • Anti-Money Laundering Policy. • Payment Card Industry Data Security Standard Policy. • Whistleblowing Policy. • I.T. Security Policy.

Enquiries of management - in relation to fraud

Question	2021-22 Response
	<p>Any instances of alleged or suspected fraud are followed up and investigated. The number of instances are small and there have been no material matters that impact on the Financial Statements for the 2021/22 financial year.</p> <p>At its meeting on the 14th June 2022, the Governance & Audit Committee approved the Caerphilly CBC Anti-Fraud Strategy. This will be underpinned by an Action Plan that will be presented to the Committee in October 2022.</p>
<p>3. What arrangements are in place to report fraud issues and risks to the Audit Committee?</p>	<p>One of the key functions of the Governance & Audit Committee is to consider the effectiveness of the Council’s risk management arrangements, the control environment and associated anti-fraud and corruption arrangements. Regular reports are provided to keep Members updated. The Governance & Audit Committee reviews the Corporate Risk Register on a regular basis and is able to request that Officers attend meetings as necessary if further information or reports are required on any specific matters.</p> <p>The Council has formally agreed a Risk Management Strategy which was originally endorsed in 2013 and updated in 2017. The Strategy was reviewed and updated during the 2021/22 financial year and endorsed by the Governance & Audit Committee at its meeting on the 25th January 2022.</p> <p>As mentioned above the Governance & Audit Committee approved the Caerphilly CBC Anti-Fraud Strategy on the 14th June 2022 and this will be underpinned by an Action Plan that will be presented to the Committee in October 2022.</p> <p>We will ensure that the Council’s ability to mitigate cyber risk is effective given the escalating global threats and at its meeting on the 14th June 2022 the Governance & Audit Committee also endorsed the Council’s Draft Cyber Security Strategy.</p>

Enquiries of management - in relation to fraud

Question	2021-22 Response
<p>4. How has management communicated expectations of ethical governance and standards of conduct and behaviour to all relevant parties, and when?</p>	<p>The Council's Constitution contains formal codes of conduct that articulate the standards of ethical behaviour that are expected from both Members and Officers. These incorporate procedures for the disclosure of personal interests and offers of gifts and hospitality.</p> <p>Both Members and Officers are made aware of the personal conduct and disclosure requirements and they are available for reference on the Council's Intranet.</p> <p>All declarations of Member gifts and hospitality are reported to the Council's Standards Committee. For Officers a quarterly update is given to the Council's Governance & Audit Committee.</p> <p>Customer Services standards have been introduced as standards of behaviour adopted by the Authority that all staff should be adhering to.</p> <p>Core Policies are provided to staff on induction into the Authority. Core policies are also available on the Authority's Intranet, including the following: -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Financial Regulations and Standing Orders. • Anti-Fraud, Bribery and Corruption Policy. • Human Resources Portal – Managing Performance and Code of Conduct. • Information Governance/Data Protection. • Whistleblowing Policy. • Code of Conduct for Officers and Members.
<p>5. Are you aware of any instances of actual, suspected or alleged fraud within the audited body since 1 April 2021?</p>	<p>Nothing material.</p>

Enquiries of those charged with governance – in relation to fraud

Question	2021-22 Response
1. How does the Council exercise oversight of management's processes for identifying and responding to the risks of fraud within the audited body and the internal control that management has established to mitigate those risks?	The Council has established a Governance & Audit Committee which has a range of responsibilities including consideration of the effectiveness of the Council's risk management arrangements, the control environment and associated anti-fraud and corruption arrangements.
2. Are you aware of any instances of actual, suspected or alleged fraud with the audited body since 1 April 2021?	Nothing material.

Part 2: matters in relation to laws and regulations

International Standard for Auditing (UK and Ireland) 250 covers auditors' responsibilities to consider the impact of laws and regulations in an audit of financial statements.

Management, with the oversight of those charged with governance the Council, is responsible for ensuring that the Council's operations are conducted in accordance with laws and regulations, including compliance with those that determine the reported amounts and disclosures in the financial statements.

As external auditors, we are responsible for obtaining reasonable assurance that the financial statements are free from material misstatement due to fraud or error, taking into account the appropriate legal and regulatory framework. The ISA distinguishes two different categories of laws and regulations:

- laws and regulations that have a direct effect on determining material amounts and disclosures in the financial statements;
- other laws and regulations where compliance may be fundamental to the continuance of operations, or to avoid material penalties.

What are we required to do?

As part of our risk assessment procedures we are required to make inquiries of management and the Council, as to whether the Council is in compliance with relevant laws and regulations. Where we become aware of information of non-compliance or suspected non-compliance, we need to gain an understanding of the non-compliance and the possible effect on the financial statements.

Enquiries of management – in relation to laws and regulations

Question	2021-22 Response
<p>1. How have you gained assurance that all relevant laws and regulations have been complied with?</p>	<p>The Council aims to ensure compliance with established policies, procedures, laws and regulations through a variety of mechanisms, including the following: -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Corporate Management Team. • Directorate Management Teams. • Heads of Service. • Head of Legal Services & Monitoring Officer. • Head of Financial Services & S151 Officer. • Senior Information Risk Owner (SIRO). • Data Protection Officer. • Internal Audit. • External Audit. • Performance Management Framework. <p>The Head of Legal Services & Monitoring Officer and the Head of Financial Services & S151 Officer routinely attend each formal meeting of the Corporate Management Team and they also attend all Cabinet meetings. Furthermore, the standard committee reporting procedure and report template requires these Officers to examine reports to the Executive for compliance with legal and procedural issues. The report template also includes a section on financial implications which is reviewed by the Head of Financial Services & S151 Officer.</p> <p>In addition to the above, the Authority has a Deputy Monitoring Officer, and a nominated Finance Manager will represent the Head of Financial Services & S151 Officer when required. This ensures that adequate cover for these roles is in place during periods of sickness absence or annual leave.</p>
<p>2. Have there been any instances of non-compliance or suspected non-compliance with relevant laws and regulations since 1 April 2021, or earlier with an ongoing impact on the 2021-22 financial statements?</p>	<p>None.</p>

3. Are there any potential litigations or claims that would affect the financial statements?	None.
4. Have there been any reports from other regulatory bodies, such as HM Revenues and Customs which indicate non-compliance?	None.
5. Are you aware of any non-compliance with laws and regulations within the NHS Shared Services Partnership since 1 April 2021?	Not applicable.

Enquiries of those charged with governance – in relation to laws and regulations

Question	2021-2022 Response
1. How does the Council, in its role as those charged with governance, obtain assurance that all relevant laws and regulations have been complied with?	<p>The Council has established a Governance & Audit Committee whose terms of reference comply with the latest CIPFA guidelines. These extend to monitoring and reviewing the adequacy of the Council's governance framework.</p> <p>A Corporate Governance Review Panel has also been established to oversee the compilation of the Annual Governance Statement (AGS), which is presented to both the Governance & Audit Committee and Council as part of the Financial Statements. Membership of the Panel is as follows: -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Corporate Director for Education & Corporate Services (Chair). • Head of Financial Services and S151 Officer. • Head of Legal Services & Monitoring Officer. • Head of Transformation. • SIRO/Head of Customer & Digital Services. • Internal Audit Manager. • Cabinet Member for Performance, Economy & Enterprise. • Chair of Governance & Audit Committee.

Enquiries of those charged with governance – in relation to laws and regulations

Question	2021-2022 Response
2. Are you aware of any instances of non-compliance with relevant laws and regulations?	None.

Part 3: matters in relation to related parties

International Standard for Auditing (UK and Ireland) 550 covers auditors' responsibilities relating to related party relationships and transactions.

The nature of related party relationships and transactions may, in some circumstances, give rise to higher risks of material misstatement of the financial statements than transactions with unrelated parties.

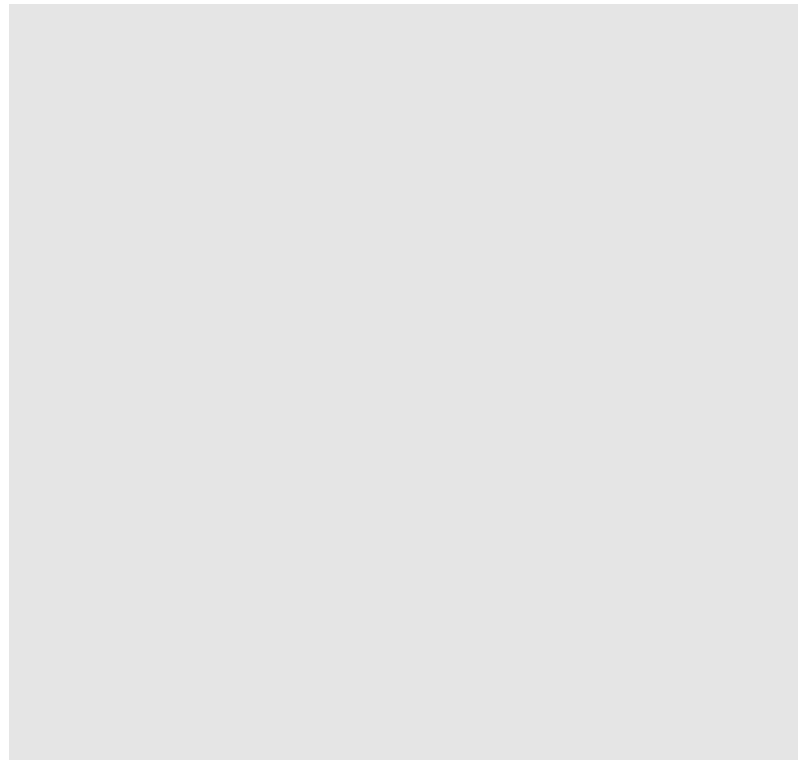
Because related parties are not independent of each other, many financial reporting frameworks establish specific accounting and disclosure requirements for related party relationships, transactions and balances to enable users of the financial statements to understand their nature and actual or potential effects on the financial statements. An understanding of the entity's related party relationships and transactions is relevant to the auditor's evaluation of whether one or more fraud risk factors are present as required by ISA (UK and Ireland) 240, because fraud may be more easily committed through related parties.

What are we required to do?

As part of our risk assessment procedures, we are required to perform audit procedures to identify, assess and respond to the risks of material misstatement arising from the entity's failure to appropriately account for or disclose related party relationships, transactions or balances in accordance with the requirements of the framework.

Enquiries of management – in relation to related parties

Question	2021-22 Response
<p>1. Confirm that you have disclosed to the auditor:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the identity of any related parties, including changes from the prior period; • the nature of the relationships with these related parties; • details of any transactions with these related parties entered into during the period, including the type and purpose of the transactions. 	<p>The Authority is required to disclose material transactions with related parties i.e. bodies or individuals that can potentially control or influence the Authority, or to be controlled or influenced by the Authority. During the 2021/22 financial year, transactions and year-end balances of related parties arose as follows: -</p> <p>Welsh Government – The Welsh Government has significant influence over the general operations of the Authority in respect of providing the statutory framework within which the Authority operates, providing the majority of funding in the form of revenue and capital grants, revenue support grant and NNDR. Details of revenue support grant and NNDR Pool transactions are summarised in Note 11 of the 2021/22 Draft Financial Statements.</p> <p>Precepts and Levies - Note 9 of the Draft Financial Statements provides details of precepts collected on behalf of other organisations and amounts levied on the Authority by Joint Committees.</p> <p>Members - Members of the Council have direct control over the Authority’s financial and operating policies. The total of Members allowances paid in 2021/22 is shown in Note 16 of the Draft Financial Statements. During the year all “declaration of interest” returns were received showing that there were no other material related party transactions identified involving these individuals.</p> <p>Chief Officers - Details of chief officers’ emoluments are provided in Note 17 of the Draft Financial Statements. All “declaration of interest” returns were received from Directors which did not identify any other material related party transactions.</p> <p>Other Public Bodies (subject to common control by central government) - The Authority has pooled budget arrangements with the Aneurin Bevan University Health Board in respect of the Gwent Frailty Project.</p> <p>Pension Contributions - Employer contributions are made to the Teachers’ Pension Agency and the Greater Gwent (Torfaen) Pension Fund in respect of the Authority’s employees. Further details of amounts involved are shown in Note 13 of the Draft Financial Statements.</p>



Joint Operations - A joint operation is defined as “a contractual arrangement under which the participants engage in joint activities that do not create an entity because it would not be carrying on a trade or business of its own. A contractual arrangement where all significant matters of operating and financial policy are predetermined does not create an entity because the policies are those of its participants, not of a separate entity”. A review of practices within the Authority has identified that the following should be regarded as joint operations: -

- Cardiff Capital Region City Deal.
- Glamorgan Archives Joint Committee.
- Greater Gwent Cremation Joint Committee.
- Gwent Joint Records Committee.
- Gwent Wide Integrated Community Equipment Service (GWICES).
- Project Gwyrdd.

Further details are provided in Note 45 of the Draft Financial Statements.

Other Entities Controlled or Significantly Influenced by the Authority - The Education Achievement Service (EAS) is a limited company that provides advisory and inspection services to the Local Education Authority and its schools. Activities of the company are funded by Caerphilly, Blaenau Gwent, Monmouthshire, Newport and Torfaen County Borough Councils. Further details are provided in Note 46 of the Draft Financial Statements.

2. What controls are in place to identify, authorise, approve, account for and disclose related party transactions and relationships?

The Council’s Democratic Services Team maintains registers of interest for all Members, which are updated routinely on an annual basis. Members are also advised to notify Democratic Services of any changes as they occur. The Register of Interests for each Member are available on the Council’s website. In addition to this process Members and Seniors Officers are also asked by Corporate Finance to complete a ‘Disclosure of Interest’ form as part of the annual accounts process.

Staff are also asked to disclose details of interests and gifts and hospitality. These are routinely reported to the Governance & Audit Committee.

Enquiries of the those charged with governance – in relation to related parties

Question	2021-22 Response
<p>1. How does the Council, in its role as those charged with governance, exercise oversight of management's processes to identify, authorise, approve, account for and disclose related party transactions and relationships?</p>	<p>Necessary disclosures are included in the Financial Statements which are reviewed and endorsed by the Governance & Audit Committee annually prior to Council consideration and approval.</p> <p>As mentioned above, the wider staff group is also asked to disclose details of interests and gifts and hospitality, with these being routinely reported to the Governance & Audit Committee.</p>

Gadewir y dudalen hon yn wag yn fwiadol



COUNCIL – 4TH OCTOBER 2022

SUBJECT: CAERPHILLY COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL - RESPONSE TO THE COST-OF-LIVING CRISIS

REPORT BY: CORPORATE DIRECTOR FOR SOCIAL SERVICES AND HOUSING

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1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 The Cabinet met on the 26th September 2022 to agree the initial response from Caerphilly County Borough Council to assisting our communities and some of our most vulnerable citizens in terms of the current cost of living crisis, a crisis that is likely to worsen through the winter months, as utility bills soar and general inflation will move towards 20%.

1.2 Cabinet made the following decisions:-

1.2.1 An amendment to the previously approved discretionary element of the WG Cost of Living Support Scheme which will allow Post Office vouchers to be issued to those households that have not registered for payments under the Main Scheme be approved.

1.2.2 The recommendation in the 2021/22 Provisional Revenue Budget Outturn Report to set aside one-off funding of £3m from surplus General Fund balances to create a Cost-of-Living Hardship Fund to support a range of initiatives that will assist our communities was noted.

1.2.3 The use of the Cost-of-Living Hardship Fund be delegated to the Corporate Director for Social Services & Housing in conjunction with the Leader of the Council and the Cabinet Member for Education and Communities.

1.3 The concept of the Council assisting residents in financial difficulty is not new. This report provides an update on current work being undertaken to date and will illustrate the range and extent of the support currently being provided.

2. SUMMARY

2.1 Inflation within the United Kingdom is at the highest level for over 30 years and is projected to reach 20% as we enter 2023. Energy prices are rising at the fastest rate in living memory, with the average household likely to spend over £1000 on energy bills between now and the end of the year. Media coverage with regard to increases in utility bills has been extensive and has prompted some action from national Government. Despite promises to limit the rise in the energy cap there is no doubt that many people will be unable to find the money for these increases and will face some hugely difficult choices when trying to care for themselves and their families as the winter progresses.

- 2.2 At the same time as the cost of living is rising exponentially, in real terms earnings are falling, interest rates are rising, and the Bank of England has forecast the country will enter a recession by the end of this year.
- 2.3 At times of crisis we know that people will turn to the Local Authority for advice and assistance. Consequently, we are likely to be faced with challenges that will require a similar response to that provided during the pandemic. The need to prioritise and resource our response is required, as are strong networks, effective communication, and collaboration across services, as well as the coordination of all the support offered to our residents.
- 2.4 The need to continue to deal with the longer-term impact of the crisis, alongside driving forward any plans for longer-term transformational change and budgetary pressures, will require difficult choices to be made. It is clear that the rise in the cost of living is not a momentary challenge but unfortunately will be with us for some time to come.

3. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 For information and noting.

4. REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS

- 4.1 As above.

5. THE REPORT

5.1 Current Key Support

Helping people in financial difficulty is not new to the local authority, but we also need to recognise the wider social and health impacts of the crisis. Current key support includes:

5.1.1 Caerphilly Cares

- Development of a 'landing page' on Caerphilly CBC's website
- 22 Cost of Living sessions organised throughout September to raise awareness of the landing page and support already available to residents (both from CCBC and other partnership organisations). These will continue through the autumn and winter.
- Calls taken and assistance given in the processing of Winter Fuel, Unpaid Carers, Pupil Development, Isolation grants and the Council Tax reduction scheme.
- Directly supported 4000 residents, of which 2646 were self-referrals: residents are becoming more aware of the service and the level of support offered.
- Support and development of Foodbank/Fare Share and wider food insecurity initiatives.
- Development of healthy cooking on a budget session supported by Catering.
- Private sponsorship secured from Morrisons & Screwfix to support food poverty.
- Over 400 Foodbank/Fare Share referrals made.
- 45 community led organisations supported to access to food poverty funding. £158,000 awarded to date.
- Referral processes established across the Council.
- Period Dignity Working Group.
- Buddy/Befriending Service – volunteer led support for isolated/vulnerable adults. £130,000 of WG/WCVA funding secured to help develop the Corporate Volunteering Scheme.

- 37 community led organisations and groups supported to access Community Development/Isolation funding. £35,000 awarded to date.
- Training front line staff on 'What Matters' conversation and appropriate signposting for cost-of-living support.

5.1.2 Housing Rents

- Purchase of fuel vouchers for pre-payment top up for residents in fuel poverty.
- Creation of a crisis fund for residents who require financial support but do not meet eligibility criteria of existing schemes.
- £3.2m additional income generated for residents during 21/22 financial year.
- 800 successful applications for discretionary housing payments.
- Energy advice to 249 tenants.
- 350 referrals to CAB for debt and money advice.
- Supported 1000 residents to apply for the £200 Winter fuel grant from the Welsh government.
- 300 food parcels arranged.

5.1.3 Supporting People

- Housing Support for all people over 16 who live in the borough.
- Homelessness Prevention.
- Financial Capability assessments for all people.
- Support for those sleeping rough, roofless, and homeless/sofa surfing.

5.1.4 Council Tax

- Payment of £150 to qualifying households occupying properties in Council Tax Bands A to D, and all households in receipt of support through the Council Tax Reduction Scheme (regardless of property valuation Band).
- Payment of £100 to all eligible households in Council Tax Bands E and F not in receipt of support through the CTRS.
- Payment of £150 to occupied and some unoccupied households covered by a statutory council tax exemption.
- Payment of £150 to around 330 households in Houses of Multiple Occupation (HMOs).
- Circa £15.5m is being awarded to households in the current financial year through the Council Tax Reduction Scheme.

5.1.5 Catering Services

- 2,124,030 meals delivered & 7,298 children receiving meals.
- Universal Free school meals from September.
- Free breakfast to year 7 in secondary schools.
- Free breakfast clubs to primary aged children.

5.1.6 Housing Benefits

- Winter Fuel Payments – 11,211 households paid in 2021/22 totalling £2,242,200. Details of the 2022/23 Scheme have now been received from WG and preparations are under way to pay eligible households.
- Unpaid Carers Support Grant - 2,900 individuals paid totalling £1,450,000.
- Discretionary Housing Payments - part funded by the Discretionary Scheme.

5.1.7 Education

- Pupil Development Access Grant - 6,072 payments made totalling £1,409,025.

5.2 Work undertaken as the crisis has emerged has included changing the focus of Caerphilly Cares from pandemic response to supporting people already impacted by the increased cost of living with an emphasis on different conversations and prevention. Additional resources now in place include:

- Movement of Community Connectors from Social Services to Caerphilly Cares
- Appointment of Cost of Living Co-ordinator
- Production of “landing page” linked to CCBC website – live 05/09/22
- Delivery of Cost-of-Living Support Sessions in 22 locations throughout September
- Cost of Living specific Newline to be delivered to every household in the Borough and supplemented with additional articles online and in the media.

5.3 Clearly most of the services/responses referred to above will continue where funding allows, but there is a significant reliance on grant funding for some of the schemes. However, given the enormity of the challenge, even the above measures will not be enough to fully mitigate the impact of the rising cost of energy, fuel at the pump and food in the supermarkets.

5.4 The emphasis on support moving forward is striking the right balance between prevention and crisis support and doing the former based on data – reaching people before they get to or even near crisis point. Developing a response focussed on supporting individuals with immediate emergency and welfare support as well as building resilience within communities themselves. Taking a social justice and asset-based community development approach, using learning from our response to COVID-19.

5.5 Moving into the forthcoming winter, demands on local councils are going to increase and to that end we have engaged with our staff with a view to understand the current pressures emerging and how we can best respond to these issues. In constructing the responses that may be required the Council will adhere to a series of Strategic Principles and will use its resources to;

- Enhance and expand community support groups already in existence and not replicate their role and function.
- Prioritise prevention.
- Remove the duplication and complexity caused by our different structures.
- Streamline application and join things up.
- Aspire to develop “customer intelligence” which provides a more in depth picture of our citizens and allows us to be proactive in identifying individuals who are getting into difficulty.

5.6 Further proposals for Targeted Support

5.6.1 Staff have already started working on a series of initiatives that could assist people through the crisis. These have been taken from the list of suggestions submitted by staff and Councillors as well as some examples from initiatives from across the UK.

Among the proposals currently being considered are;

- Increasing the number and range of food banks in the County borough – also development of community fridges and larders
- Possibility of toy banks / food parcels in readiness for Christmas.

- School Uniform and Sports Kit grants.
- Donation schemes for pre worn school uniforms.
- Increased budget to expand existing financial support e.g., fuel vouchers, crisis grants.
- Stopgap funding to support during first 6 weeks of Universal Credit claim – ongoing discussions with DWP
- Re-use/Recycling hub – soft launch took place 06/09/22
- Basic welfare benefit and cost of living support training for all frontline CCBC staff – currently in development via Caerphilly Cares/Rents team.
- Greater use of leisure centres via expansion of free/low-cost swim sessions and reduced costs for gym and other sessions – to include access to hot showers and use of centres for further social activities such as cinema clubs. Discussions ongoing to develop this.
- “Cash first” approaches to hardship payments – e.g., using Post Office Payment (POP).
- Local authority partnerships with local food suppliers to provide discounted hot meals & drinks – currently being explored by Caerphilly Cares team.
- Household food and cooking initiatives – provision of slow cookers, microwaves, “kettle food packs” currently in development via Caerphilly Cares team.

5.6.2 **Fuel & Energy Support:**

- Warm the human not the home initiative - provide warm packs: thick curtains, draft excluders, warm clothing etc, including the establishment of donation boxes on a similar line to those used by food banks.
- FREE impartial advice to help identify the best energy saving solutions for homes
- Campaigns on actual energy costs and how to save energy
- Energy saving schemes – initiatives at both large scale (e.g., collective buying schemes for solar panels) and small scale (e.g., provision of free low energy light bulbs, draught excluders)
- Cost of Living and Energy “Champions”

5.6.3 **Food Poverty**

- School meal support for Secondary pupils
- Food to Fork schemes – encouraging use of open spaces for food production

5.6.4 **Community Support**

- Production of “budgeting books” identifying and highlighting shops where there are special offers - could also include low-cost recipes and advice on bulk cooking / storage of food.
- Expansion of support via libraries (e.g., reduction in fines, access to free printing/photocopying, donation of surplus stock)
- Access to reduced costs for sports pitches – enabling families to keep children in sports clubs through reduced subscription fees
- Discounted access to CCBC tourist attractions
- Opening council-owned facilities (such as school kitchens) to provide hot meals for families in the evenings
- Cost of Living checklist/toolkits for frontline staff

5.6.5 **Direct Financial Assistance:**

- Top up payments of any Welsh Government “hardship grants” whether to individuals or businesses.

- Additional salary top-up payments for staff on lowest pay grades
- Consideration of current CCBC debt collection procedures – to include enhanced support offer
- Expansion of debt advice services (e.g., via Citizens' Advice Bureau)
- Discounted bus/train passes
- Reduced public transport costs ("Tap and Cap" schemes)

Flexible rent schemes – enabling flexible payment plans for tenants who also agree to engage with additional support via a financial plan.

5.7 **Getting Ready for Winter Campaign**

A borough-wide communications campaign focused on supporting everyone to be as prepared for increasing winter pressures as possible, with a focus on signposting residents to the range of self-help resources already available around welfare, housing, finances, and wellbeing. The campaign will also focus on equipping frontline staff to appropriately signpost people to support.

5.8 **Community Hubs**

Expedite the development of community hubs and enable local people to be involved in coordinating the local response to the cost-of-living crisis, with a focus on promoting community activities, organising social action responses, and signposting people to local support. Integrating financial and wellbeing workforce into the hub model.

5.9 **Cost of Living Volunteers**

The Council and partners working together to develop a cost-of-living volunteer role, to build and relieve capacity within the advice sector. Volunteers can be recruited through the volunteering team and receive training and guidance on supporting residents. Volunteers will then be based in community hubs as a means of light-touch support.

5.10 **Welcoming Spaces**

A network of Welcoming Spaces – physical venues spread across the borough where people will be able to access warmth, social connection and community interaction. Existing community spaces could be invited to be badged under the initiative and promoted via the Landing Page and communication channels. The coordination of Welcoming Spaces will be interlinked with Community Hubs, the latter being encouraged to open a physical Welcoming Space. To avoid stigmatisation, spaces could be framed as inclusive community spaces rather than emergency support offers.

5.11 **Findings from the Cost of Living Support Sessions**

As referred to in paragraph 5.1.1 staff have already commenced a series of cost of living support sessions. 22 are initially planned at various locations across the county borough with further sessions to be arranged as the months progress.

In the first week, over 60 referrals forms were completed, all of which will be dealt with directly by the Caerphilly Cares Team to ensure residents are appropriately supported.

Main issues raised by residents include:

- Fuel & food poverty
- Benefits eligibility
- Understanding of what support is available and how to access it
- Various Housing issues

- Council Tax/Housing Arrears

5.12 Update on WG Cost of Living Support Scheme

5.12.1 At its meeting on 13 April 2022 Cabinet was presented with details of the WG Cost of Living Support Scheme, which consisted of a package of measures to help people with support towards the cost of living. The package includes £152m across Wales to provide a £150 cost-of-living payment to eligible households (the Main Scheme) and £25m to provide discretionary support for other purposes related to living costs (the Discretionary Scheme). Caerphilly CBC's share of the funding is £10.15m for the Main Scheme and £1.67m for the Discretionary Scheme.

5.12.2 The Discretionary Scheme funding can be used by each local authority to support other households it considers to be in need of assistance with their living costs. Each local authority has determined its use of discretionary support as it deems appropriate to address local needs, with Caerphilly CBC's Discretionary Scheme being approved by Cabinet on 13 April 2022.

5.12.3 Under the Main Scheme all eligible households receive a payment of £150, with those who pay their Council Tax by direct debit having the payment credited to their bank accounts. Eligible households who do not pay their Council Tax by direct debit have been required to register for the payment to ensure that bank details can be captured for payments to be made.

5.12.4 To date, 62,934 households have been paid under the Main Scheme totalling £9.44m. The closing date for registrations under the Main Scheme is 30 September 2022. However, despite the issuing of 2 reminder letters there are still 3,493 eligible households that have not applied. Staff have been working with the Post Office in recent weeks to implement a service whereby the remaining eligible households can be issued with a unique voucher that can be cashed at Post Offices.

5.12.5 The Post Office service will not be implemented by the end of September but following discussions with colleagues at the WLGA and WG it has been agreed that subject to Cabinet agreement the outstanding registrations can be picked up as part of the Discretionary Scheme (which has an end date of 31 March 2023). Cabinet is therefore asked to agree an amendment to the previously approved Discretionary Scheme to allow Post Office vouchers to be issued to those households that have not registered for the payments. It is understood that a number of other Local Authorities have endorsed a similar approach.

5.13 Moving Forward

The ability to act quickly and respond to need is as essential in relation to the cost of living crisis as it was during the pandemic.

We will need to undertake a cost-of-living impact assessment to evidence the disproportionate impact that rising costs will have on equalities groups and people already in poverty. The assessment would include a cost-of-living risk index by ward to estimate the risk in different areas of the borough. This mirrors the methodology of the Centre for Progressive Policy.

A key priority is to ensure that residents get a holistic range of support to meet their immediate financial needs, avoid falling deeper into crisis, and build longer term

resilience. To streamline the process of finding and applying for support and ensure that residents receive the right support at the right time.

We need to develop a comprehensive grant application to move away from the 'sticking plaster' approach of short-term support. When residents apply for funds, they are also offered tailored support that may help them improve their longer-term circumstances, such as debt advice or employment support. This will need to recognise that people may need extra support such as with digital, numeracy or literacy, or they may have a lack of confidence to complete the form independently or be unable to access the documents. Applicants should be able to request support to complete the application and follow up emails and phone calls made to check if further support is required after initial application. On-going support sessions in communities through the autumn and winter, to ensure we reach as many people as possible, are also required.

Research also needs to be undertaken to determine whether the proposals are existing initiatives that can be promoted or expanded upon, or new schemes for consideration that will need to be assessed for viability and deliverability. In addition to this the development and delivery of any scheme will require staff resource as well as financial resources to implement. Community and resident engagement also takes time to plan and staff to support.

Using the Making Every Contact Count (MECC) approach. This allows people to signpost support in areas they may not feel confident in. Equipping all front-line staff with the skills to have different conversations with basic knowledge of where to sign post for support is also key. Recognising that support for our residents through the crisis is the responsibility of all of us. As such, discussions have already started with leisure, libraries, and housing to roll out the 'what matters' training, as well as basic benefits advice and signposting for support, equipping staff with the skills and knowledge to help.

Conclusion

The cost of living crisis will place significant demands on the authority. Whereas we already know some of the areas of difficulty people are likely to experience, the fact that we have no idea of the duration of the crisis or its severity means we will need constant dialogue with citizens through a number of channels.

Training our staff and increasing their awareness of cost of living issues is key as is an ongoing presence in the community whether through the cost of living support sessions or attending community events.

The authority will need to be very "fleet of foot" in responding to issues that are likely to emerge with very short notice.

6. ASSUMPTIONS

- 6.1 Every person in the county borough will be affected in some way or another. The negative impacts of the rise in the cost of living are on a par with the pandemic and consequently, require a pandemic level of response.

This highlights the need to take an in depth look on how we intend to support our communities moving forward, to respond to the anticipated growing demand for support.

7. SUMMARY OF INTEGRATED IMPACT ASSESSMENT

7.1 Link to Integrated Impact Assessment.

8. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1 The 2021/22 Provisional Revenue Budget Outturn Report was agreed by Cabinet on the 26th September 2022 which provides one-off funding of £3m from surplus General Fund balances to support a range of initiatives that will assist our communities. As the proposal involves use of the General Fund balances, a decision of the Council is required.

9. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1 This will require additional staff or the redeployment of existing staff to support this agenda.

10. CONSULTATIONS

When the report was discussed at the meeting of the Cabinet on 26th September 2022, the following was noted:-

- 10.1 A request was made to ensure continued support of foodbanks.
- 10.2 A further request was made for all Councillors to be informed of future roadshows and provided with information and training necessary, to appropriately signpost residents to support.

11. STATUTORY POWER

- 11.1 The Local Government and Elections Act 2021 and Local Government Act 2000.

Author: Dave Street - Corporate Director Social Services & Housing

Consultees: Cllr Sean Morgan, The Leader
Cllr James Pritchard, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Prosperity, Regeneration and Climate Change
Councillor Carol Andrews, Cabinet Member for Education & Communities
Councillor Shayne Cook, Cabinet Member for Housing
Councillor Elaine Forehead, Cabinet Member for Social Care
Councillor Nigel George, Cabinet Member for Corporate Services and Property
Councillor Chris Morgan, Cabinet Member for Waste, Leisure & Green Spaces
Councillor Julian Simmonds, Cabinet Member for Highways & Transportation
Councillor Eluned Stenner, Cabinet Member Finance & Performance
Cllr Phillipa Leonard, Cabinet Member for Planning and Public Protection
Christina Harray, Chief Executive
Richard Edmunds, Corporate Director of Education & Corporate Services
Mark Williams, Corporate Director of Economy & Environment
Robert Tranter, Head of Legal Services & Monitoring Officer
Stephen Harris, Head of Financial Services & S151 Officer
Tina McMahon, Community Regeneration Manager

Gadewir y dudalen hon yn wag yn fwriadol



COUNCIL – 4TH OCTOBER 2022

SUBJECT: EXTERNALLY COMMISSIONED DOMICILIARY CARE

REPORT BY: CORPORATE DIRECTOR FOR SOCIAL SERVICES AND HOUSING

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- 1.1 The attached report was considered as an urgent item by Cabinet on the 27th July 2022.
- 1.2 The Constitution requires that any decision taken as a matter of urgency must be reported to the next available meeting of Council, giving the reasons for its urgency. Therefore, the report is presented to Council for Members' information.
- 1.3 The urgency of the item was required in order for the decision to be implemented by the 1st August 2022 on a pan Gwent basis, due to the current crisis that the social care sector is experiencing and its impact on the Council's ability to provide essential services to vulnerable people and support their unpaid carers.
- 1.4 The recommendations of the report were considered and approved by Cabinet.
- 1.5 Members are asked to note the recommendations of the report and Cabinet decision.

Author: E. Sullivan (Senior Committee Services Offices)

Appendices:

Appendix 1 Report to Cabinet on 27th July 2022

Gadewir y dudalen hon yn wag yn fwriadol



CABINET - 27TH JULY 2022

SUBJECT: EXTERNALLY COMMISSIONED DOMICILIARY CARE

REPORT BY: CORPORATE DIRECTOR FOR SOCIAL SERVICES AND HOUSING

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To seek agreement to provide additional time limited funding support to the externally commissioned domiciliary care market providers, due to the recruitment and retention pressures they are facing linked to the cost-of-living crisis and in particularly the current impact of increasing fuel prices.

2. SUMMARY

- 2.1 The report illustrates the current crisis in the social care sector in terms of the authority's ability to commission domiciliary care from the independent sector to meet the needs of vulnerable people and their unpaid carers. The report outlines a regional proposal to try to stabilise the sector over the next 6 months to help recruit and retain domiciliary care staff who are being significantly impacted upon by the current cost of living crisis, particularly in relation to the purchase of fuel.

3. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 Cabinet agree with the regional proposal to the current staffing crisis in the independent sector care market and increase the current commissioned hourly rate to providers by £1 per hour from the 1st August for six months
- 3.2 Cabinet agree the use of up to £215k of social services reserves to fund the proposed additional £1 per hour for six months.

4. REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS

- 4.1 The application of an additional £1/hour aims to stabilise the external domiciliary care market for the next 6 months to allow further work to be undertaken
- 4.2 The external domiciliary care market makes up on average 66% of care provision in the borough hence it essential they are sustained to ensure care is provided to our

most vulnerable residents.

- 4.3 To enable the authority to work in partnership with the health board to facilitate timely discharges from hospital requires a sustainable domiciliary care market.

5. THE REPORT

- 5.1 The pressures faced across the health and social care sector are well documented on a national basis and they are replicated locally across the Gwent (ABUHB) footprint. The COVID 19 pandemic along with additional factors such as Brexit are resulting in both the health and social care systems having significant pressures relating to the recruitment and retention of staff. This pressure has been further compounded in the last few months due to the impact of the costs of living crisis and in particular the high cost of fuel.
- 5.2 Across the Gwent Local Authority region, Directors of Social Services, Heads of Adult Services and Commissioning leads have been proactively working with both our internal domiciliary care providers and also our externally commissioned domiciliary care providers to consider a number of immediate and longer-term options to not only sustain and retain the current work force but also to encourage new carers to enter the profession.
- 5.3 During 2021/22, the sustainability of the market was a specific concern due to both the pandemic and the impact of high levels of staffing vacancies as a result of staff leaving existing posts to work across other sectors such as hospitality and retail. As part of this, all 5 Gwent local authorities via agreement by the Regional Partnership Board (RPB) invested our Welsh Government Winter Pressures grant funding to provide our commissioned domiciliary care providers with an additional £1 per hour in addition to our commissioned hourly rate as a one off sustainability payment This was a positive step which enabled the Providers operating across Gwent to enhance the pay scales of their staff and in the main maintain their current staffing levels.
- 5.4 However, over the past few weeks Providers have once again reported that staff are leaving the sector due to the increased cost of using their vehicles for work and in particular purchasing petrol for their cars. One agency reported that six staff had resigned in one week citing the fact they couldn't afford to put fuel in their cars , they were moving to jobs in care homes where this isn't a requirement.
- 5.5 The domiciliary care market is clearly very fragile. Without sufficient domiciliary care availability and a sustainable domiciliary care market, we are unable to provide sufficient and importantly consistent quality, care and support to our most vulnerable residents. We will also be unable to commission new packages of care to support unpaid family carers who may be struggling in their caring role and cannot expedite rapid discharges for people who are in hospital and are ready to return home thus having a further negative impact on an already congested hospital to home pathway.
- 5.6 Across Caerphilly, we currently have 21 independent domiciliary care providers, who provide 7,600 hours of support per week to vulnerable residents
- 5.7 We currently have 560 care hours per week we are unable to provide or commission for 86 people
- 5.8 There are a number of longer-term recruitment and retention work streams happening across the RPB region however the current fuel price crisis is one that we feel requires

an urgent response at a time when the health and social care system is facing unprecedented pressures.

- 5.9 In the independent sector currently rates paid for mileage vary considerably from 20p per mile to 45p per mile. 10 agencies pay between 25-40pence per mile. Where an agency has a fleet car scheme the mileage rate is altered accordingly. One agency doesn't pay a separate mileage rate it is incorporated within the hourly rate.
- 5.10 Applying the domiciliary care calculator tool developed by the national commissioning board demonstrates application of an additional £1 per hour would allow providers to increase their mileage rate by around 25p
- 5.11 It is recognised that this recruitment and retention crisis applies equally to in house services, however these will be dealt with in a separate report which will look at all council front line staff.

6. Conclusion

- 6.1 Given the ongoing crisis in social care in terms of recruitment and retention, it is vital that we do whatever we can to try to stabilise a very fragile market. It is sensible to conclude we need to work on a regional footprint as several independent sector care agencies have contracts with more than one authority
- 6.2 Therefore, we are proposing that across the Gwent region that all 5 Gwent Local Authorities implement a £1 per hour financial investment for our commissioned hours, mirroring that which we implemented in 21/22, to enable our externally commissioned domiciliary care providers to increase their payments to frontline staff due to the impact of the costs of fuel.
- 6.3 The application of this payment will be monitored by commissioners to ensure it reaches front line staff and to monitor the impact.
- 6.4 Based on the assumptions that recruitment and retention crisis will continue it may be necessary to extend this payment, if this is the position a further cabinet report will be provided.

7. ASSUMPTIONS

- 7.1 This report assumes the crisis in social care in terms of recruitment and retention will continue for the foreseeable future
- 7.2 The assumption is also made that the cost-of-living crisis will impact on this part of the workforce significantly for the foreseeable future

8. SUMMARY OF INTEGRATED IMPACT ASSESSMENT

- 8.1 An Integrated Impact Assessment has not been completed, as reports relate to fee levels and have no impact on protected characteristics.

9. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1 The application of an additional £1 per hour for six months would cost between £197k and £212k depending upon how successful the additional payment proves to be in attracting carers back in to the profession, to take up the 560 hours of unmet need identified in paragraph 5.7.
- 9.2 The Regional Partnership Board will continue to consider the use of any slippage identified within the Regional Integration Fund (RIF) throughout the current financial year to cover the cost of the proposed £1 per hour increase for all five Gwent local authorities. Should RIF slippage become available then the £215k released from the social services reserves could be returned to social services general reserves.

10. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

- 10.1 There are no direct Human resources implicated associated with this report

11. CONSULTATIONS

- 11.1 All consultations are reflected in this report

12. URGENCY (CABINET ITEMS ONLY)

- 12.1 This decision needs to be implemented urgently, by 1st August 2022 on a pan Gwent basis, due to the current crisis that the social care sector is experiencing. This is impacting on our ability to provide essential services to vulnerable people and support their unpaid carers.

Author: Jo Williams Head of Adult Services willij6@caerphilly.gov.uk

Consultees: Christina HARRY Chief Executive harrhc@caerphilly.gov.uk
Dave Street Corporate Director Social Services streetd@caerphilly.gov.uk
Robert Tranter Head of Legal Services trantrj@caerphilly.gov.uk
Stephen Harris Head of Financial Services & S151 Officer
harrisr@caerphilly.gov.uk
Cllr Elaine Forehead Cabinet Member for Social Care Elaine Forehead
@caerphilly.gov.uk
Cllr Donna Cushing Chair of Scrutiny cushid@caerphilly.gov.uk
Cllr Chacon-Dawson Vice Chair of Scrutiny Committee
Chacom@Caerphilly.Gov.uk
Cllr E Aldworth Mayor aldwoem@caerphilly.gov.uk



COUNCIL – 4TH OCTOBER 2022

SUBJECT: WITHDRAWAL FROM TY PONTYGWINDY (UNIT 7 DE CLARE COURT PONTYGWINDY INDUSTRIAL ESTATE)

REPORT BY: CORPORATE DIRECTOR FOR ECONOMY AND ENVIRONMENT

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- 1.1 The attached report was considered as an urgent and exempt item by Cabinet on 27TH July 2022.
- 1.2 The Constitution requires that any decision taken as a matter of urgency must be reported to the next available meeting of Council, giving the reasons for its urgency. Therefore, the report is presented to Council for Members' information.
- 1.3 The urgency of the item was required as the decision related to legal proceeding and a commercial letting.
- 1.4 The recommendations of the report were considered and approved by Cabinet.
- 1.5 Members are asked to note the recommendations of the report and Cabinet decision.

Author: E. Sullivan (Senior Committee Services Offices)

Appendices:

Appendix 1 Public Interest Test

Appendix 2 Report to Cabinet on 27th July 22 – Exempt Item.

Gadewir y dudalen hon yn wag yn fwriadol

COUNCIL - 4TH OCTOBER 2022

PUBLIC INTEREST TEST - EXEMPTION FROM DISCLOSURE OF DOCUMENTS SCHEDULE 12A LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972

SUBJECT: WITHDRAWAL FROM TY PONTYGWINDY (UNIT 7 DE CLARE COURT
PONTYGWINDY INDUSTRIAL ESTATE)

REPORT BY: HEAD OF LEGAL SERVICES AND MONITORING OFFICER

I have considered grounds for exemption of information contained in the report referred to above and make the following recommendations to the Proper Officer:-

EXEMPTIONS APPLYING TO THE REPORT:

Paragraph 14 – Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person; and paragraph 16 – Information in respect of which a claim to legal professional privilege could be maintained in legal proceedings.

FACTORS IN FAVOUR OF DISCLOSURE:

There is a public interest in the way in the council manages its property portfolio.

PREJUDICE WHICH WOULD RESULT IF THE INFORMATION WERE DISCLOSED:

The report contains details in relation to the financial information of the council and the landlord and information which is legally privileged.

MY VIEW ON THE PUBLIC INTEREST TEST IS AS FOLLOWS:

My view on the Public Interest Test is that whilst there is a need to ensure transparency and accountability of a public authority for in its management of its property portfolio, this must be balanced against the fact that the report contains financial information relating to a third party and information which is legally privileged. It is considered that these factors outweigh the need for the information to be made public.

The information is not affected by any other statutory provision which request the information to be publicly registered.

On that basis I feel that the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information. Members are asked to consider this factor when determining the public interest test, which they must decide when considering excluding the public from this part of the meeting.

RECOMMENDED DECISION ON EXEMPTION FROM DISCLOSURE:

On that basis I feel that the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information, and that the report should be exempt.



Signed:

Dated: 14 September 22

Post: Head of Legal Services and Monitoring Officer

I accept the recommendation made above.



Signed:

Proper Officer

Date: 14th September 2022

Gadewir y dudalen hon yn wag yn fwriadol

By virtue of paragraph(s) 14, 16 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A
of the Local Government Act 1972.

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Gadewir y dudalen hon yn wag yn fwriadol