

# Strategic Review of Leisure Facilities October 2014



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Man gwyrdach ar gyfer chwaraeon a dull byw gweithredol



## Executive Summary

In order to inform future investment decisions there has been a need to undertake a strategic review of existing leisure provision in the county borough, to ensure that scarce resources are targeted effectively.

The review considered the health and spatial profiles of the population of Caerphilly county borough, and how residents and visitors use the leisure facilities on offer.

The review uses a weighting and scoring matrix to assess each individual facility. The following key factors are considered: condition, usage, demand, cost of facility, location and access as well as the relationship of our facilities to existing and future school provision and housing development across the county borough.

The review found that whilst there is a good existing level of provision in the county borough, many of our leisure facilities are dated and are in need of upgrading. Further, as the majority of facilities are co-located on school sites, the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Schools Rationalisation programme is likely to have an impact on the sustainability of this provision in future.

If the key areas within the LDP (Heads of Valleys Regeneration area, Northern Connections Corridor (NCC) & Southern Connections Corridor (SCC)) are examined then there are a number of clear conclusions that can be drawn from the strategic review, namely:

- Within the Heads of Valleys Regeneration area (HOVRA) (where deprivation and inactivity levels are among the highest in the County Borough) there is a need to improve strategic leisure infrastructure to meet the needs of the population. The rationalisation strategy for the NCC could potentially address the NCC and HOVRA issues if carefully thought out.

- There is a need to rationalise provision within the Northern Connections Corridor (NCC) as the clustered nature of settlements combined with relatively good transport networks means that residents do not have to travel far to access leisure facilities. Rationalisation to two high quality leisure facilities would assist in improving access to quality provision in the Heads of Valleys Regeneration area, should the correct location be identified.
- There is a need to improve the strategic leisure infrastructure within the Southern Connections Corridor (SCC) as Caerphilly Leisure Centre is in a poor physical condition and is in urgent need of redevelopment or replacement. In addition, there are high running costs associated with Bedwas Leisure Centre. It is therefore likely that residents would benefit more from the development of one new facility (to replace the existing Bedwas and Caerphilly Leisure Centres) at an appropriate location in the Caerphilly basin.
- Typically residents are not precious about facilities being provided by their own Local Authority and are generally prepared to travel for quality leisure provision. Consequently the location of facilities in neighbouring local authorities must be considered within any rationalisation/ investment strategy.
- The role of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Schools Strategy is a fundamental consideration in any leisure facility rationalisation/investment strategy. It is essential that officers responsible for the design and delivery of 21<sup>st</sup> Century Schools programme work in partnership with the Leisure Service Managers over the strategic fit and design of new facilities in new or refurbished schools so that the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Schools programme can help to inform leisure rationalisation/investment decisions.

As a result of these conclusions there are 3 key recommendations that should form the basis of a leisure facilities strategy moving forward: -

- (1) Rationalisation of facilities in the SCC to two multifunctional leisure centres which offer a wide variety of provision and are located in Risca and Caerphilly.
- (2) Rationalisation of facilities in the NCC to two multifunctional leisure centres offering a wide variety of provision. One of these centres should be located in the eastern part of the NCC (Newbridge) and the other should be located in the Northwest of the NCC at the northern edge of Bargoed or Aberbargoed which will also assist in serving the HOVRA.
- (3) Where provision currently exists on some of the comprehensive school sites, this should be transferred to the relevant school at a level that allows for curriculum delivery and community usage where appropriate.

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## 1) Introduction

The Council is under increasing pressure to provide high quality leisure facilities in order to encourage healthy lifestyle choices. Caerphilly County Borough Council (CCBC) has made improving health a key priority for its service delivery. The provision of facilities located in the county borough's leisure centres will be central in achieving this aim. The borough has 11 formal leisure centre facilities located throughout the administrative area, many of which are aging and require future investment.

In order to inform future investment decisions there is a need to undertake a strategic review of existing leisure centre provision in the county borough, in order to ensure that scarce resources are targeted effectively.

This review will begin by looking at the various health and spatial profiles of Caerphilly county borough, as these will impact upon the utilisation of leisure centres. It will then assess the existing leisure centre offer in terms of the condition of these facilities, the cost associated with their provision, the population catchment that they serve, the demand placed on facilities, access to the facilities and any future changes within the county borough that would affect the use of leisure centres. The study applies the use of a weighting and scoring matrix system to help assess each individual leisure centre, and to gain a greater understanding of how each centre differs. The study concludes by recommending changes, if any, to future leisure provisions across the county borough.

## 2) Health profile of Caerphilly County Borough

Caerphilly County Borough is among the most deprived areas in Wales and according to the Welsh Health Survey Areas of Deprivation, is also an area with the greatest health need.

Caerphilly county borough has a most concerning health profile. Statistically, Caerphilly county borough has:

- The 5th worst all-cause mortality figures (for males and females) in Wales;
- The 3rd worst statistics in Wales for deaths from cardiovascular disease (males);
- The 4th worst statistics in Wales for deaths from cardiovascular disease (females);
- The 3rd worst death rate from cancer under 65 (males) in Wales;
- The 3rd worst rate in Wales for overweight and obesity;
- The 4th worst rate in Wales for obesity;
- The 2nd worst statistics for self-rated mental health and well-being in Wales; and
- 7% of males and females report that they are being treated for diabetes.

Even though these statistics prove disappointing, it should be noted that the number of adults meeting the recommended amount of physical activity has increased since 2003. The latest Sport Wales Active Adult survey shows an improving picture for Caerphilly County Borough. Encouragingly there has been a 10% rise in level of physical activity; this however is still below the national average.

Whilst the health profile of Caerphilly county borough is gradually improving, a lot more work is required to ensure that residents continue to make wise choices. Part of this work is to ensure that residents have access to a wide range of good quality and affordable leisure pursuits.

## 3) Spatial Profile of Caerphilly County Borough

Geographically, the county borough can be split into three separate strategy areas. These strategy areas have been defined within the Adopted Caerphilly County Borough Local Development Plan (LDP) 2010. These strategy areas are each distinctive in terms of their demographic profile and consequently the requirements for leisure facilities differ in each area.

The northern part of the borough is known as the Heads of the Valleys Regeneration Area (or HOVRA). Within the HOVRA, Bargoed is identified as the Principal Town.

The HOVRA is characterised by:

- Settlements constrained by the natural topography of area;
- A significant number of rural and isolated villages and settlements;
- Large swathes of countryside protected for its nature and conservation attributes;
- High levels of unemployment and social deprivation with an ageing population;
- Traditionally high population loss;
- Difficulty in attracting private sector employment;
- Recent public investment in infrastructure and transport network; and
- Reliance on public sector intervention to support facilities.

The mid valley areas is known as the Northern Connections Corridor (NCC). Within the NCC, the Principal Towns are Blackwood and Ystrad Mynach. The NCC is characterised by:

- A contiguous area of high density urban development spanning the mid valleys;
- Success in attracting inward investment from both the private and public sector;
- Diversity in the housing stock attracting a diverse cross section of the population;
- The presence of a number of vital public services including the police, the Council Headquarters, a college of further education, and the new general hospital; and
- Investment in the existing infrastructure has improved access across the valley from Nelson in the west, to Newbridge in the east along the A472, allowing for better connectivity between settlements, although further improvements are still required.

Finally, the southern part of the county borough is referred to as the Southern Connections Corridor (SCC). Caerphilly and Risca are the Principal Towns that lie in separate river valleys, and therefore although both are part of the SCC, they do not form a single conurbation like in the NCC. As Cardiff and Newport have become more successful, Caerphilly and to a lesser extent Risca have experienced increased development pressure. Consequently

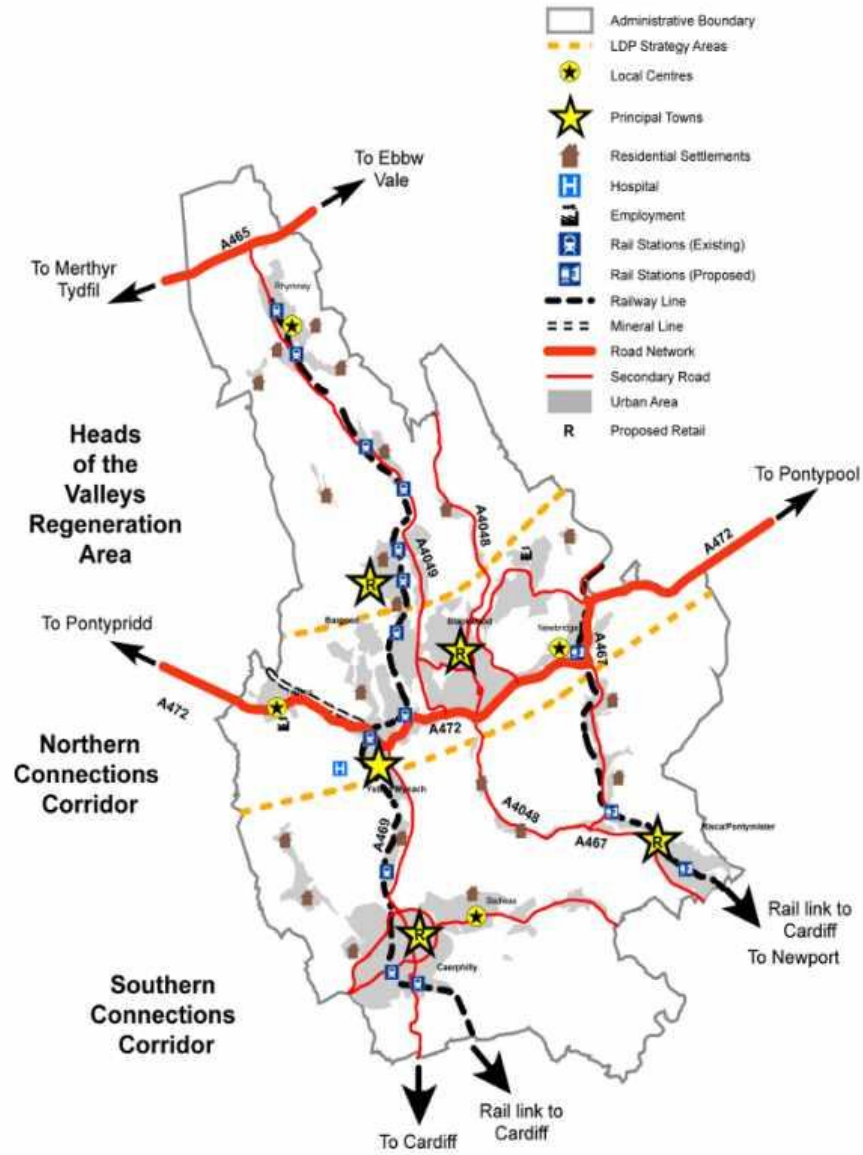
significant levels of new development has occurred in recent years in the SCC, and particularly in Caerphilly Basin placing increasing pressure on the existing services and facilities in the area. The SCC is characterised by:

- More affluent area where residents tend to have more disposable income;
- Higher density population separated into two distinct river corridors;
- Successful in attracting inward investment from both the private and public sector;
- Limited capacity for new development without causing environmental harm; and
- Good transport links to Cardiff (in the Caerphilly Basin) and Newport (from Risca).

As a result, these three strategy areas all function in different ways.

The LDP contains a key diagram (shown in figure 1) that depicts the spatial layout and configuration of the county borough and its future development plans. It details the location of existing and future transport links, key housing sites, employment and retail areas as well as Principal and Local Town Centres. In determining the future of leisure centre provision in the county borough, it is important that regard is had to the contribution such facilities play to the role and function of existing settlements and how they serve the needs of the resident population of the area.

Figure 1: Key Diagram for LDP





#### 4) Current Provision of Leisure Centres

There are 11 formal leisure centres across the county borough, and 1 formal Indoor-bowling centre located in Pontllanfraith. Map 1 shows the location of these facilities and whether they are within or adjacent to a school. The map also indicates which LDP strategy area they fall within. As the indoor bowling centre is run as a separate provision, this review will not consider this facility when assessing leisure centre provision.

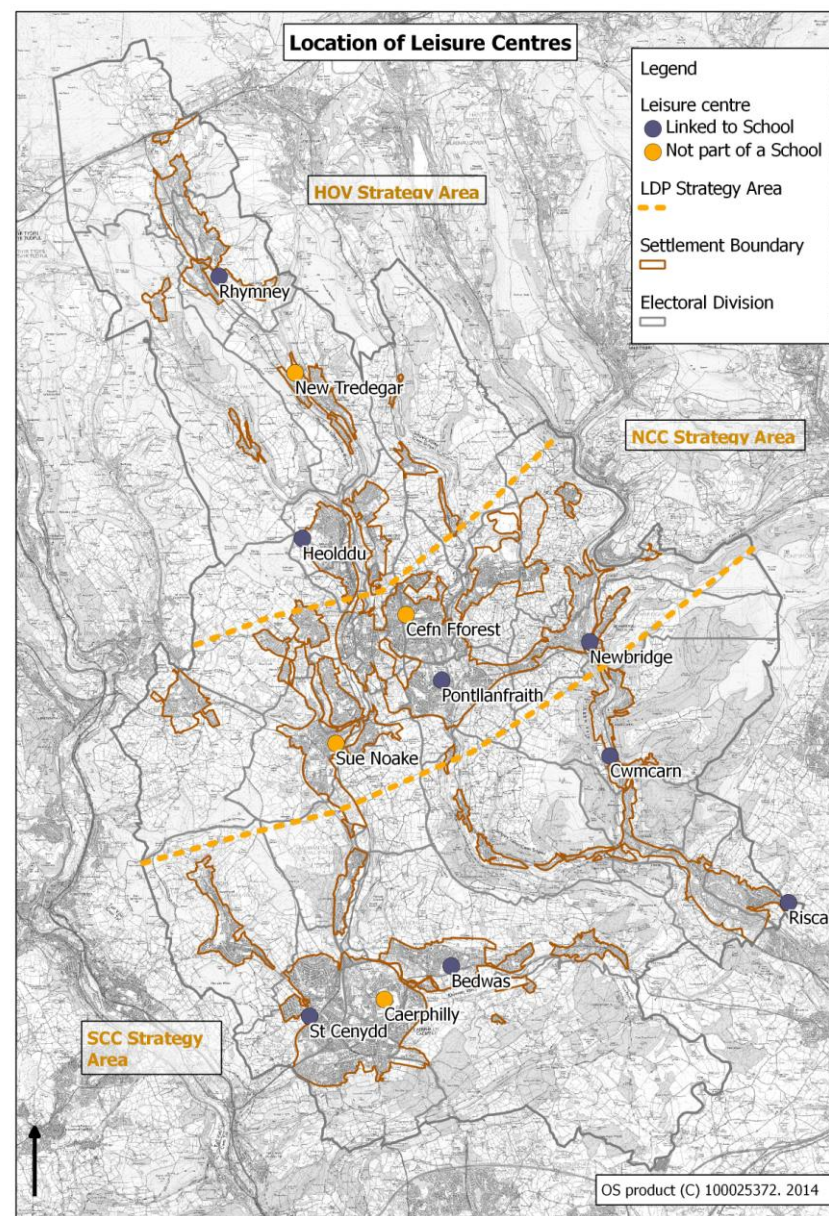
Table 1 indicates the specific facilities on offer within each leisure centre.

Table 1: Leisure facilities by centre and strategy area

	Dance Studio	Fitness Suite	Health Spa	Spin room	Sports Hall	Squash Court	Swimming Pool	Artificial Turf Pitch	3G Pitches
<b>Heads of the Valleys Regeneration Area (HOVRA)</b>									
Heolddu Leisure Centre	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓		✓
New Tredegar Leisure Centre	✓	✓			✓				✓*
Rhymney High School					✓			✓	
<b>Northern Connections Corridor (NCC)</b>									
Cefn Fforest Leisure Centre		✓	✓				✓		
Centre of Excellence									✓
Newbridge Leisure Centre		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓		✓
Pontllanfraith Leisure Centre	✓	✓			✓	✓			✓
Sue Noake Leisure Centre					✓			✓	
<b>Southern Connections Corridor (SCC)</b>									
Bedwas Leisure Centre	✓						✓	✓	
Caerphilly Leisure Centre	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Risca Leisure Centre	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
St Cenydd High School	✓	✓			✓			✓	

\* site is an indoor 3G pitch

Map 1: Location of Leisure Centres





### Artificial Turf Pitch and Third Generation (3G) Pitches

Map 2 shows the location of high quality Artificial Turf Pitches (ATP) and Third Generation (3G) pitch provision that are associated with Leisure Centres. These facilities appeal to larger groups of users and clubs as they have access to fitness and showering facilities. They are a valuable resource.

In addition to those facilities associated with leisure centres, there are three additional ATP's located in the NCC that fall within schools - Lewis School, Cwm Rhymni and Blackwood Comprehensive. Two new 3G Pitches are also included as part of the Centre of Excellence in Ystrad Mynach.

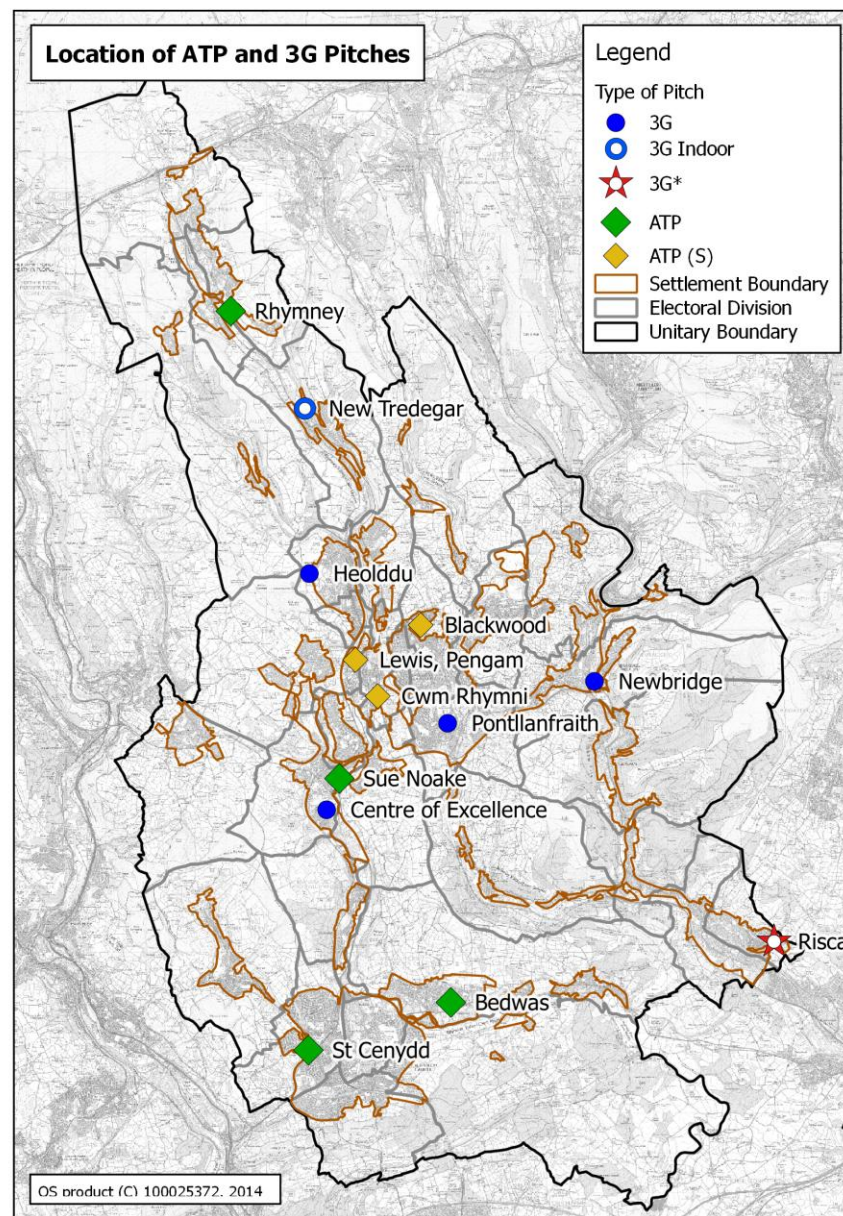
In the HOVRA, the only outdoor 3G pitch forms part of Heolddu Leisure Centre, however there is also an indoor 3G pitch at New Tredegar which can be used by sports clubs and teams.

In the NCC, Newbridge and Pontllanfraith Leisure Centres provide 3G pitches, whilst Sue Noake has an ATP.

In the SCC, both St Cenydd and Bedwas have ATP's, whereas in the Risca valley, Risca Leisure Centre has two 3G pitches for 5-a-side games and an ATP.

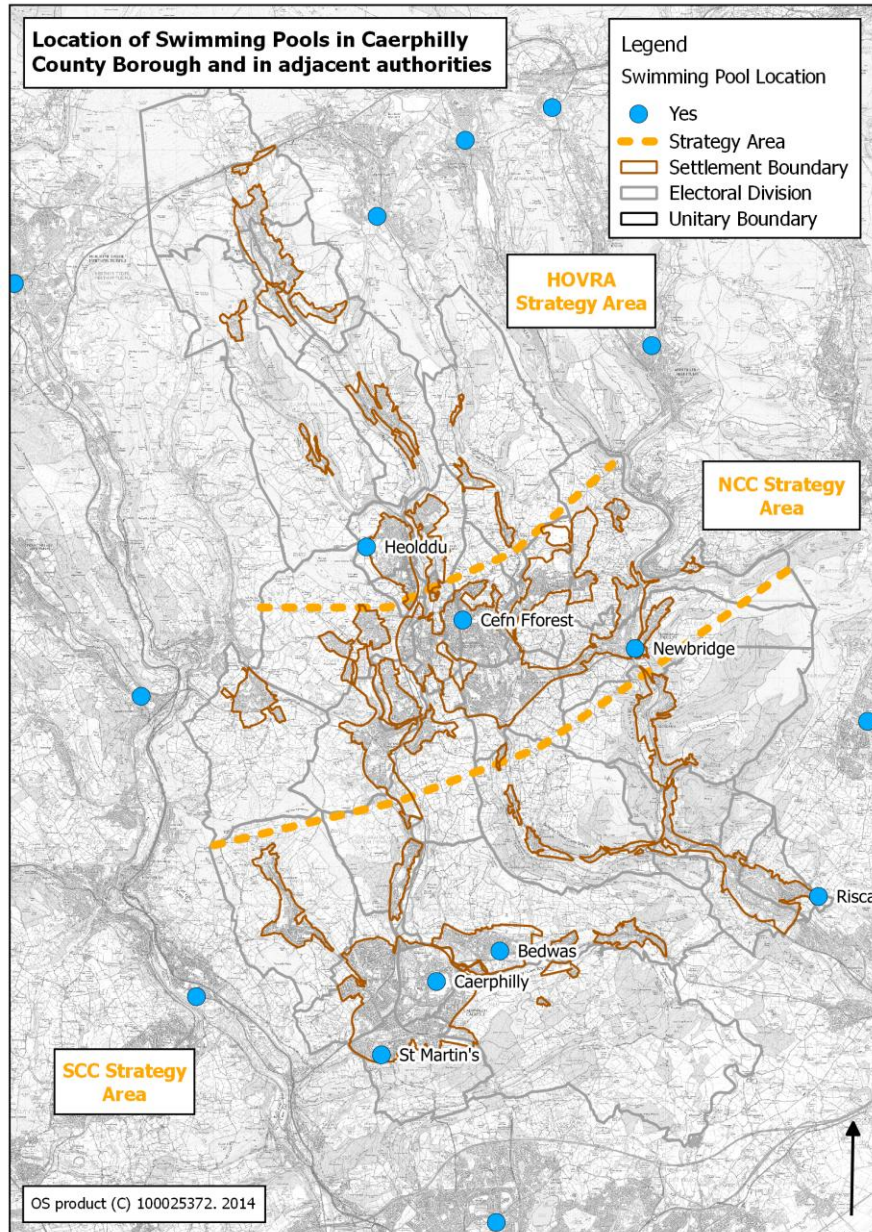
Only two leisure centres (Cefn Fforest and Caerphilly in the NCC and SCC respectively) within CCBC do not have any sports pitch provision adjoining their leisure centres.

Map 2: Location of ATP and 3G pitches





Map 3: Location of Public Swimming pools in adjoining authorities



### Swimming Pools

Map 3 shows the location of swimming pools in and around the county borough.

In the HOVRA, there is one swimming pool located in Heolddu Leisure Centre. This swimming pool is a standard sized traditional 25m by 10m pool tank.

In the NCC, there are two swimming pools (Cefn Fforest and Newbridge). Newbridge leisure centre has a fun pool adjacent to the main pool, whilst Cefn Fforest has a main pool and a separate learner pool with interactive play features.

In the SCC, Caerphilly, Bedwas and Risca Leisure Centres all have swimming pools. Caerphilly is currently the only leisure centre in the SCC that has unrestricted opening hours. Both Bedwas and Risca Leisure Centres are only available for the public to use in the evenings and at weekends. Caerphilly is also the only leisure centre in the SCC that has a teaching pool. There is also a swimming pool at St Martin's School that currently has restricted opening hours. The arrangement at the school will require reviewing if the need and demand are to be met.

The map indicates that whilst the most northern swimming pool is located in Heolddu, residents of Rhymney, Deri and Fochriw have access to facilities within Blaenau Gwent and Merthyr Tydfil.

## Fitness Suite

Map 4 highlights the leisure centres with Fitness suite facilities. Of these centres, only St Cenydd Leisure Centre has restricted opening hours.

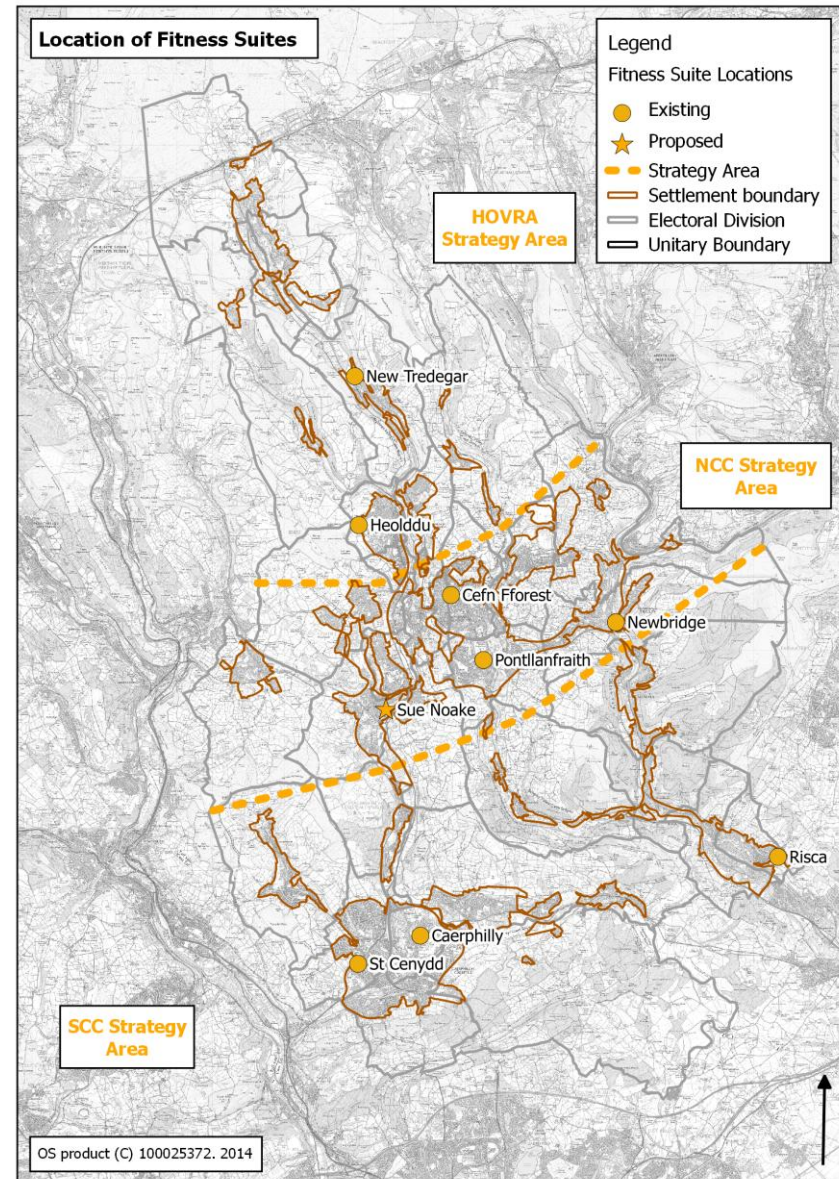
In the HOVRA, Heolddu and New Tredegar Leisure Centres provide fitness suite facilities.

In the NCC, the fitness suite facilities are all located towards the east of the strategy area, within Pontllanfraith, Cefn Fforest and Newbridge leisure centres. There are plans to develop the facilities at Sue Noake Leisure Centre to also include a fitness suite.

In the SCC, whilst there are three leisure centres providing fitness suites, only two (Caerphilly and Risca) are open with unrestricted hours.

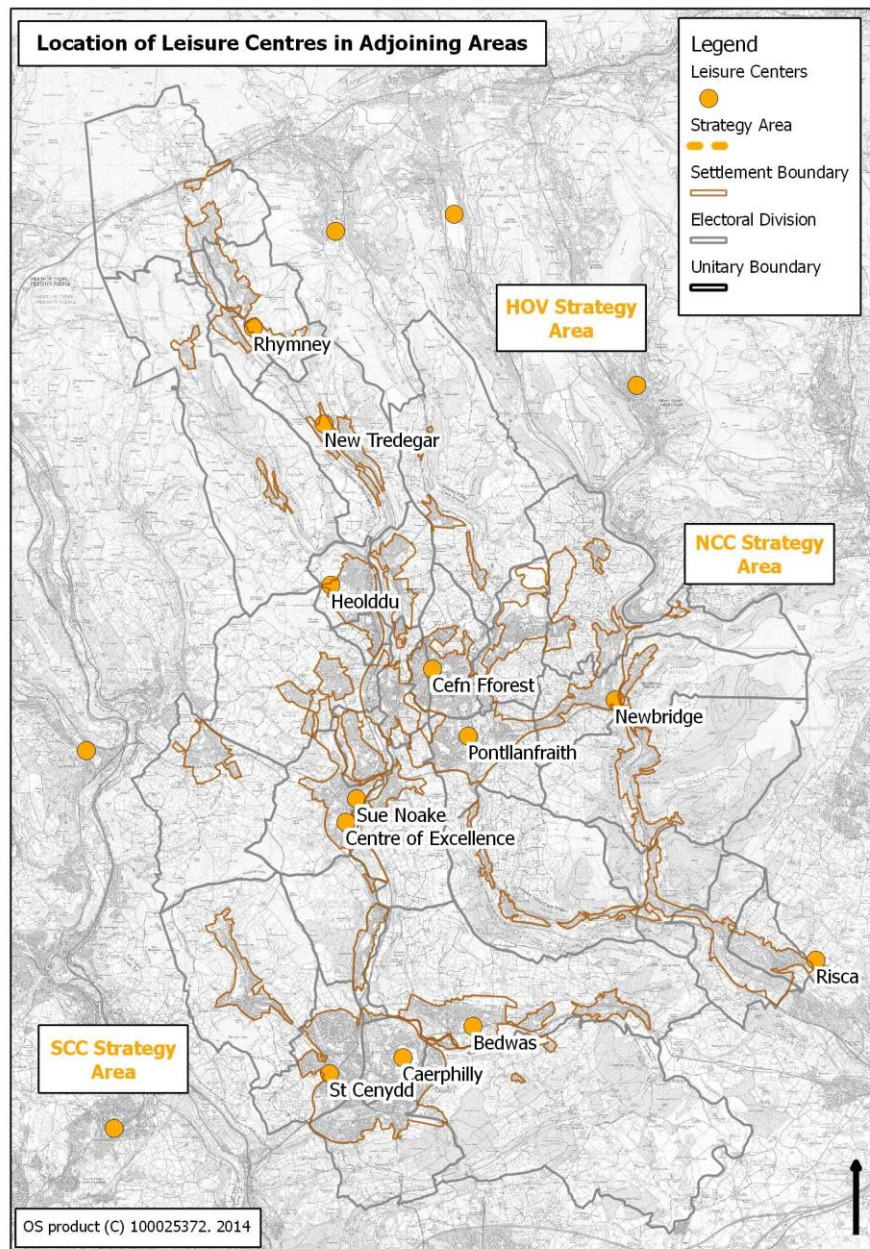
The map shows that whilst there is a good spread of facilities across the county borough, there appears to be a lack of fitness suite facilities to the west of the NCC, yet there is a good provision of these facilities to the east.

Map 4: Location of Fitness suites in Caerphilly County Borough





Map 5: Location of Adjoining Leisure Centres



Facilities in Neighbouring authorities.

It is also important to consider the availability of facilities located in neighbouring authorities to ensure that the facilities on offer are considered within their wider context (shown in Map 5). For example, residents in Nelson are likely to use the facilities available in Rhondda Cynon Taf to the west in Abercynon. Residents will use facilities outside of the county borough that are convenient and meet their needs. Map 5 indicates that there is good leisure centre provision along the A470 trunk road.

### SWOT analysis

In order to help assess each leisure centre, a SWOT (strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats) analysis has been undertaken. This assessment is contained in Appendix 1.

The SWOT analysis indicates that provision varies considerably across the authority. Moreover, it indicates that the majority of facilities are dated, and are physically constrained by neighbouring uses. This means that the quality of future leisure provision across the borough is being stifled.

A significant threat to leisure provision across the county borough is the co-location with schools. Consequently, any rationalisation of schools will directly impact upon future provision.

In addition, the majority of sites require significant maintenance works to bring them up to standard.

There are currently 12 small private sector health club facilities in the County Borough. There is a need to be aware of the provision and potential competition from private health club providers.



## 5) Issues Influencing Decisions

There are a number of measures that need assessing in order to review the provision of leisure centres. These are:

- a) Condition of current facilities;
- b) Usage;
- c) Cost of facility;
- d) Access and Travel;
- e) Future School Developments;
- f) Future Housing Developments; and
- g) Other considerations

Measures (a) to (d) have been used to help evaluate individual leisure centres in the county borough through the implementation of a weighing and scoring matrix analysis. The complete weighting analysis is contained in Appendix 2. Measures (e) and (g) are not included in this weighting and scoring as they are subjective, however the information contained in these sections directly influences leisure centre provision.

This study will now assess each measure in turn. Please note that as the Centre of Excellence opened in Spring 2014, this facility is not included in overall analysis of measures (a) to (f).

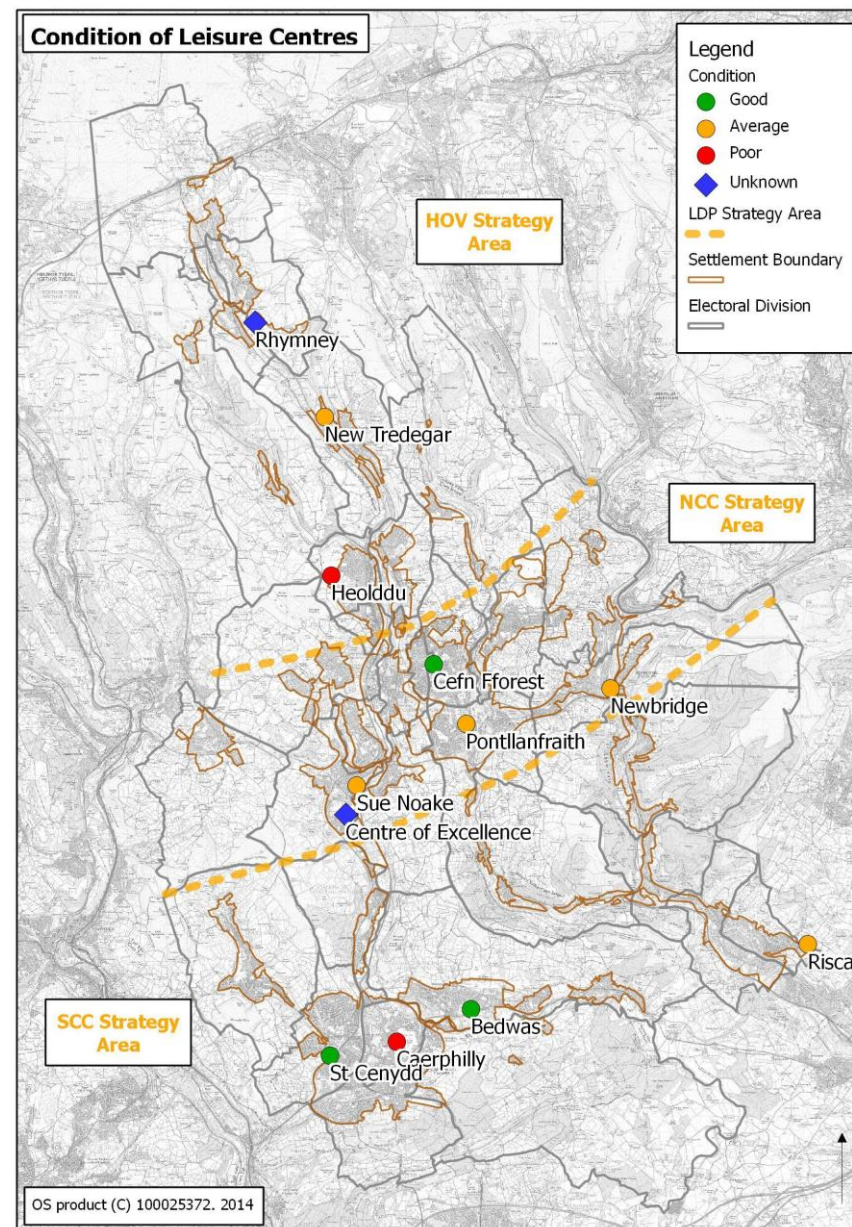
### (a) Condition of Current Facilities

A detailed condition survey was undertaken in 2013 across all leisure centres (excluding Rhymney High School and Centre of Excellence). This survey took into account the overall building condition, the suitability of each site, the sufficiency at which the site was performing and the sustainability of the site. The results of this survey are shown in Map 6.

The survey highlighted that:

- Caerphilly and Heolddu Leisure Centres, the two largest facilities, are in poor condition;
- Future of Heolddu is impeded by the layout of the centre and its dual use with Heolddu Comprehensive;

Map 6: Condition of Leisure Facilities



- Caerphilly Leisure Centre is not fit for purpose and needs significant modernisation and redesigning, or replacing. The latest condition survey estimates urgent need for repairs at a cost of approximately £1 million.
- There are three leisure centres that are classified as being of good condition – Bedwas Leisure Centre, Cefn Fforest Leisure Centre and St Cenydd Leisure Centre;
- Bedwas Leisure Centre has little scope to enhance the facilities within the current footprint of the site, as it is co-located with the school. This means operational hours are limited to after school hours and weekends only;
- St Cenydd's leisure provision is fairly modern and in good condition. However, as facilities are linked with the school, operational hours are limited to after school hours; and
- Risca Leisure Centre's overall condition is rated as 'Average'. Since the condition survey was carried out, extensive refurbishment work has been undertaken which has improved the overall condition of the centre.
- It should also be noted that these facilities were open during school holidays.

Observations by Strategy Area: HOVRA

- The HOVRA has no leisure centre facilities in good condition. Also, individual sites have little scope for upgrading the existing provision;
- The only facility scoring an average overall condition (New Tredegar) has limited opening hours. It does, however, have an indoor 3G pitch; and
- The only swimming pool in HOVRA is located in Heolddu Leisure Centre.

There is a clear need to improve the facilities in the HOVRA.

Observations by Strategy Area: NCC

- Three of the four facilities are of average condition;
- Only Cefn Fforest Leisure Centre is classified as being in good condition; and
- All leisure centres within the NCC are constrained by their surrounding neighbours; therefore the potential for on-site improvement is limited.

There is a need to reassess the provision of these facilities.

Observations by Strategy Area: SCC

- In the Caerphilly Basin, 2 out of 3 leisure centres are in good condition. Both of these are dual use with their respective schools, so opening hours and their future use is constrained by the neighbouring uses;
- Caerphilly Leisure Centre is in poor condition, and the Condition Survey highlights the need for a complete

**Summary of measure (a) - Condition of Facility**

Based on this measure alone, the following leisure centres are in need of improvement:

- Caerphilly Leisure Centre; and
- Heolddu Leisure Centre.

Those facilities in better condition are:

- St Cenydd High School;
- Bedwas Leisure Centre; and
- Cefn Fforest Leisure Centre.

redevelopment of the site;

- Risca Leisure Centre has recently been refurbished.

There is a need to improve provision in the Caerphilly basin.



## (b) Usage, Demand and Latent Demand

In order to meet the leisure needs of the community the current users of the existing facilities need to be understood. Over the years there has been an increase in the number of residents and workers participating in sporting activities within Caerphilly county borough. In 2011/12, the number of visitors to leisure centres was 1,148,368 and by 2012/13 this figure had risen to 1,277,952, an increase of 11%. In the 2013/14 financial year, this figure had risen again to 1,290,343.

### Visitor Numbers

The current use of facilities varies considerably from centre to centre. Table 3 indicates the 2013/14 visitor numbers to each facility, by strategy area. It also shows the number of registered smartcard holders at each leisure centre. It should be noted however that any comparisons between centres need to bear in mind the varying range of facilities, school use and opening times.

Newbridge and Caerphilly Leisure Centres are the two centres that attracted the most visitors in 2013/14. These centres also have the highest number of registered smartcard holders. This is an indication that these centres have an attractive leisure offer. Conversely, New Tredegar Leisure Centre attracts the least visitors followed by Sue Noake. Table 3 also shows that whilst there are a relatively high number of registered smartcard users at New Tredegar, this is not reflected in visitor numbers. This could indicate that the facilities on offer in New Tredegar are not sufficient to meet the needs of the local residents.

Table 3 indicates that on balance, those facilities that offer four or more leisure choices were visited the most in 2014, whereas those with limited facilities were visited the least (such as Sue Noake Leisure Centre).

It is also useful to consider the number of residents that live within a 10-minute drive time of each leisure centre (an assumed catchment area). This information is contained in Appendix 3 and summarised in Table 4.

Leisure Centre	Visitor Numbers (2013/14)	Visitor No. (% of strategy area)	Registered Number of Smartcard Holders at each centre
<b>Heads of the Valleys Regeneration Area</b>			
Heolddu	131,202	90.33%	7,680
New Tredegar	14,042	9.67%	1,117
Rhymney School	No data	No data	254
<b>Northern Connections Corridor</b>			
Cefn Fforest	102,836	20.76%	8,726
Newbridge	272,703	55.05%	14,664
Pontllanfraith	88,817	17.93%	1,805
Sue Noake	31,059	6.27%	457
<b>Southern Connections Corridor</b>			
Bedwas	67,199	10.39%	2,337
Caerphilly	279,919	43.30%	21,750
Risca	222,818	34.47%	9,503
St Cenydd	76,548	11.84%	1,501

Table 3: Number of visitors to CCBC Leisure Centres by Strategy area

Leisure Centre	No. residents within 10 min drive-time (2011 Census)
<b>Heads of the Valleys Regeneration Area</b>	
Heolddu	19201
New Tredegar	33470
Rhymney School	14742
<b>Northern Connections Corridor</b>	
Cefn Fforest	53271
<b>Newbridge</b>	<b>51203</b>
Pontllanfraith	62347
Sue Noake	60760
<b>Southern Connections Corridor</b>	
Bedwas	42092
<b>Caerphilly</b>	<b>48099</b>
Risca	28129
St Cenydd	62098

Table 4: Number of residents within 10-minute drive time

Table 4 indicates that each of the centres in the NCC have large catchment populations, with numbers averaging approximately 59,000 residents. In the SCC, St Cenydd has the highest catchment population, followed by Caerphilly and then Bedwas Leisure Centres.

It is also interesting to note that when information in Table 4 is compared to that in Table 3 (total number of visitors for 2013/14), Caerphilly, Risca and Newbridge attract the highest number of visitors, yet the catchment population is considerably lower. This indicates that these centres appeal to a wider catchment area.

### Demand

Using information from the Caerphilly Smartcard system, it has been possible to gauge those leisure facilities that are appealing to many residents. Due to time constraints, this section considers the average class attendance in the period from January 2014 to March 2014, and not the overall leisure centre capacity.

Table 5 shows the specific leisure centre facility coupled with the percentage average use of the facilities.

Using Table 5, the HOVRA has 1 facility, the NCC has 2 facilities and the SCC has 4 facilities, all running at around 85-100% usage.

Across all leisure centres, the swimming lessons run at over 80% and are well utilised. Class participation is less, however Caerphilly Leisure Centre at 56% has the highest percentage of usage for class participation.

Sports hall facilities are well used across the county borough. The use of Heolddu, Newbridge and Risca Leisure Centres fluctuates dramatically between week day and weekend use. As a result, the average of both is taken, however it is important to note that all centres run at over 90% usage during the week.

It should be noted that significant growth in demand is created through the work of sports development. This organic growth in demand results in excellent value for money with a significant return on investment.

Table 5: Leisure facilities % of usage (Jan – Mar 2014)

	Usage (%)		
	Class	Swimming Lesson	Sports hall
<b>Heads of the Valleys Regeneration Area (HOVRA)</b>			
Heolddu Leisure Centre	24	91	66*
New Tredegar Leisure Centre	0		52
Rhymney High School			N/c
<b>Northern Connections Corridor (NCC)</b>			
Cefn Fforest Leisure Centre	35	91	
Newbridge Leisure Centre	40	79	79*
Pontllanfraith Leisure Centre	25		69
Sue Noake Leisure Centre			94
<b>Southern Connections Corridor (SCC)</b>			
Bedwas Leisure Centre	30	76	
Caerphilly Leisure Centre	56	82	58
Cwmcarn High School			N/c
Risca Leisure Centre	23	88	80*
St Cenydd High School	35		96

### **Key**

	Facility not provided at specific centre
N/c	Data not collected
*	Percentage is an average of weekend and weekday % totals

### Latent Demand

Known demand is demand generated from the existing people using facilities, whereas latent demand is demand that evidence suggests may be generated should residents have access to more or better leisure provision. Market segmentation data carried out by Sports Wales, helps to express the percentage of people and their spatial distribution across an area, and provides information on the particular type of sport that they would participate in.

Market segmentation data for Caerphilly county borough indicates that:

#### *Heads of the Valley Regeneration Area*

- There is an above average latent demand for swimming in the northern part of the county borough. This is particularly the case in Twyn Carno, Moriah and New Tredegar;
- There is also an above average demand for fitness facilities and indoor games.

#### *Northern Connections Corridor*

- There is an above average latent demand for swimming and fitness facilities in the west of the NCC (around Ystrad Mynach), and cycling and fitness in the east (around Abercarn);
- This indicates a latent demand for swimming and fitness facilities in the western part of the NCC area, and additional fitness facilities in the east.

#### *Southern Connections Corridor*

- In the Caerphilly Basin (specifically the Aber Valley, Penyrheol, St Martins and Morgan Jones wards), there is a high demand for swimming, fitness facilities and indoor sports;
- To the eastern edge of the SCC (around Risca), there is an above average demand for indoor games, football and swimming.

#### **Summary of measure (d) - Usage, Demand and Latent Demand**

Based on this measure alone, the following leisure centres are underperforming:

- New Tredegar Leisure Centre;
- Sue Noake Leisure Centre; and
- Pontllanfraith Leisure Centre.

The facilities performing well on this measure are:

- Caerphilly Leisure Centre;
- Newbridge Leisure Centre; and
- Risca Leisure Centre.

### (c) Cost of facility

Understanding the cost of running individual facilities is integral to ensuring that strategic decisions are based on sound financial judgements. The net cost per user is calculated using the known visitor numbers, and the overall running and maintenance costs of the leisure facility. The primary objective is to reduce the net cost to a sustainable level in order to ensure that the leisure facilities remain affordable and viable. Table 6 clearly indicates that those facilities with the highest visitor numbers (Newbridge, Caerphilly and Risca) have relatively low net cost per user.

Table 6 also indicates that the number of visitors per annum to leisure centres varies considerably, from just over 14,000 in New Tredegar, to over 270,000 at Caerphilly Leisure Centre. Notably, New Tredegar operates at a net cost per user of £7.33.

	Visitor Numbers (2013/14)	Net Cost per user (£) (2013/14)
<b>Heads of the Valley</b>		
Heolddu Leisure Centre	131,202	2.28
New Tredegar Leisure Centre	14,042	7.33
Rhymney High School	<i>No data</i>	<i>No data</i>
<b>Northern Connections Corridor</b>		
Cefn Fforest Leisure Centre	102,836	2.61
Newbridge Leisure Centre	272,703	1.41
Pontllanfraith Leisure Centre	88,817	1.47
Sue Noake Leisure Centre	31,059	1.48
<b>Southern Connections Corridor</b>		
Bedwas Leisure Centre	67,199	2.78
Caerphilly Leisure Centre	279,919	1.37
Risca Leisure Centre	222,818	2.01
St Cenydd High School	76,548	1.20

Table 6: Annual Visitor numbers and Net Cost per user

Those leisure facilities that provide a predominantly swimming based facility (such as Bedwas Leisure Centre and Cefn Fforest Leisure Centre) have higher net cost per user values due to the high maintenance and running costs associated with such facilities.

Leisure facilities with swimming pools are more expensive due to running costs.

#### Observations by Strategy Area: HOVRA

- New Tredegar Leisure Centre attracts the highest level of net cost per user at £7.33; it should be noted that the level of subsidy has reduced significantly as a result of the investment in the indoor 3G facility, evidence that enhanced facilities can result in a return on investment;
- Heolddu has the most competitive net cost value in the strategy area, however at £2.28 it is still significantly higher than other centres;
- New Tredegar has the lowest number of visitors per annum;
- The leisure centres in the HOVRA attract around 145,000 visitors per annum. This is over 4 times less than the visitor numbers for the SCC. The health profile of HOVRA must also influence provision.

#### Observations by Strategy Area: NCC

- Newbridge has a very low net cost per user, at £1.41. This is the second lowest figure across all leisure centres;
- Cefn Fforest Leisure Centre is heavily subsidised at £2.61;
- Pontllanfraith is restricted in terms of opening hours, however it still attracts a relatively moderate net cost per user at £1.47.

#### Observations by Strategy Area: SCC

- Caerphilly and St Cenydd Leisure Centres are the most cost effective centres in the county borough after Newbridge, attracting a subsidy of £1.20 and £1.37 respectively;
- Bedwas Leisure Centre is heavily subsidised due to the lower visitor numbers and limited opening hours;
- Risca Leisure Centre is relatively cost effective.

#### **Summary of measure (c) - Cost of Facility**

Based on this measure alone, the following leisure centres are expensive to run:

- New Tredegar Leisure Centre;
- Cefn Fforest Leisure Centre; and
- Bedwas Leisure Centre.

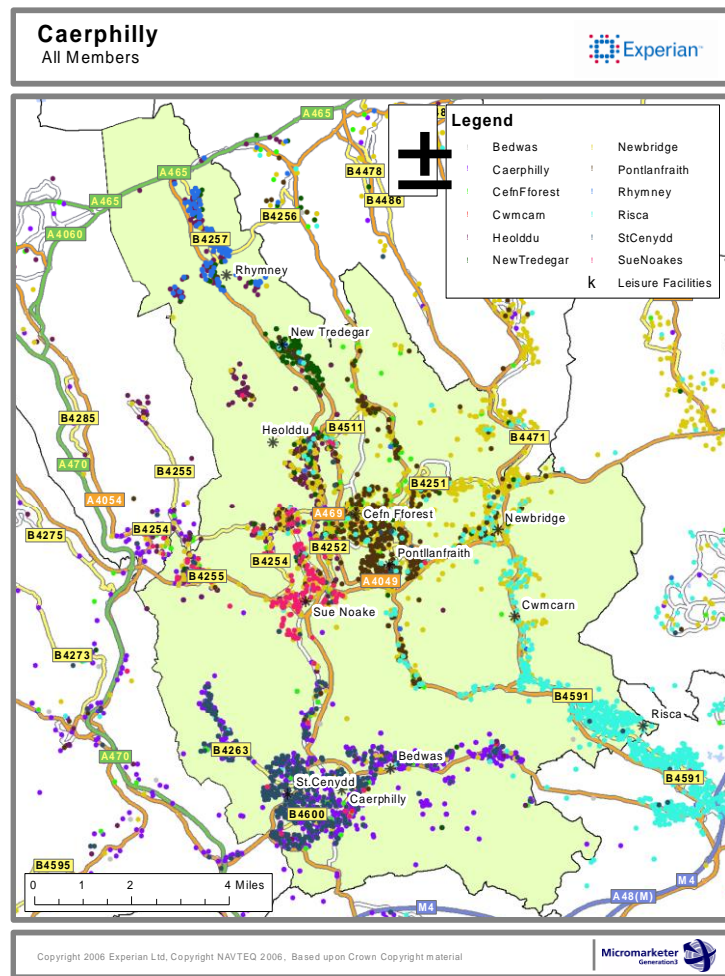
The facilities performing well are:

- St Cenydd Leisure Centre;
- Rhymney Comprehensive;
- Caerphilly Leisure Centre; and
- Newbridge Leisure Centre.

**(d) Access and Travel**

In order to ensure that the maximum number of residents have good access to the facilities that are provided in the county borough, it is extremely important that they are well located and accessible by public transport. Map 7 clearly illustrates where users of the various facilities live.

Map 7: Home location of Leisure Centre Users.



Map 7 highlights residents' travel patterns, and indicates that Caerphilly, Risca, and Newbridge Leisure Centres attract residents from further than a 5-mile radius of the centre. Conversely, Sue Noake, Bedwas, Pontllanfraith, New Tredegar and Rhymney Leisure Centres only have a 2-mile radius of attraction. Heolddu Leisure Centre appears to have a localised visitor base, with residents from Deri, Bargoed and Fochriw using the leisure centre, but few from Aberbargoed or New Tredegar.

Table 7 also indicates those leisure centres that are within 500m of a bus stop, or 1000m of a train station and shows that only two facilities are located within close proximity of both a bus and a train station. This data is provided by market segmentation and our smartcard system.

		Leisure Centres (grouped by strategy area)										
		Heads of the Valley			Northern Connections				Southern Connections			
		Heolddu	New Tredegar	Rhymney	Cefn Fforest	Newbridge	Pontllanfraith	Sue Noake	Bedwas	Caerphilly	Risca	St Cenydd
<b>Bus (500m)</b>		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓
<b>Train (1000m)</b>			✓			✓		✓				

Table 7: Showing leisure centres within 500m of bus station, and 1000m from train station

Observations by Strategy Area: HOVRA

- The dispersed location of settlements (and provision) in this area means that residents have to travel further to access leisure facilities;
- Heolddu and Rhymney are served by hourly bus routes, whilst New Tredegar is within close proximity to a train station;
- Heolddu attracts residents from other settlements, however the sphere of influence from New Tredegar Leisure Centre and Rhymney High School is more confined.



Observations by Strategy Area: NCC

- More prevalent public transport connectivity exists across the NCC, as evidenced by Map 7;
- All leisure centres are within close proximity of a number of bus routes that are well served (at least half an hour or more);
- Sue Noake Leisure Centre is well located, however its limited availability and limited facilities means that the centre is not being used to its maximum potential;
- People that live as far away as Pontypool and Abersychan use Newbridge Leisure Centre.

Observations by Strategy Area: SCC

- Caerphilly Leisure Centre is poorly located (in terms of proximity to transport links). Even though it has a large sphere of influence over the surrounding area, it is situated 700 meters away from the nearest bus stop;
- Bedwas and St Cenydd Leisure Centres are located in close proximity of public transport stops, however these centres have limited opening hours;
- Risca Leisure Centre is located outside of the town centre, and has limited public transport;
- Risca Leisure Centre has a wide sphere of influence attracting a considerable number of visitors from the adjacent county borough.

**Summary of measure (d) - Access and Travel**

The following leisure centres have poor public transport access and have a small sphere of influence:

- Bedwas Leisure Centre;
- Cefn Fforest Leisure Centre; and
- New Tredegar.

The facility performing well in this measure is:

- Newbridge Leisure Centre

## **(e) School and Leisure proposals**

There are 11 leisure centres within the county borough. Seven of these facilities are on, or adjacent to schools and operate a joint use policy with their respective school. There are only three leisure centres that are not dual use with schools, these are:

- Caerphilly Leisure Centre;
- Cefn Fforest Leisure Centre; and
- New Tredegar Leisure Centre.

The School Rationalisation Programme has the potential therefore to have a direct impact on leisure centre facilities in the county borough. There is a need for a holistic approach to provision on school sites. Schools through PFI arrangements should not restrict use to residents.

### 21<sup>st</sup> Century Schools

The 21<sup>st</sup> Century Schools Programme aims to create a generation of high quality learning environment schools that also provide a sustainable education system. Within the county borough an integral part of achieving this objective is through the implementation of an ambitious schools rationalisation programme.

A major consultation exercise is currently underway to seek views on 'Phase 1' of the council's Secondary Rationalisation Programme which relates to the Islwyn West region.

Phase 1 will focus on Blackwood, Oakdale and Pontllanfraith Comprehensive Schools. Under the proposals, a new school will replace Oakdale and Pontllanfraith so that Islwyn West will then be served by Blackwood and the new school. The Council has secured funding of £20 million to deliver this exciting project which will include a review of catchment areas. Consideration will need to be given to the consequences of the relocation of Pontllanfraith School in terms of the type of leisure facilities being provided as part of the new school and also what impact that will have on the future use of Pontllanfraith Leisure Centre.

The Schools Rationalisation Programme has also identified the need to allocate a site for the development of a new English medium

school in the HOVRA. The opportunity exists to consider the development of a new leisure centre in tandem with any new school provision. Ideally such new provision should be located to serve the residents within the catchment area of the Principal Town of Bargoed and complement the new facilities being developed through the regeneration of the town. Consideration should be given to locating new Leisure and Education Provision on the Aberbargoed Plateau Site as part of the first review of the LDP.

In addition, a new Welsh medium education facility in Caerphilly was established in Autumn 2013. An opportunity exists to provide a new leisure centre to complement this new school provision at St Ilan. This would serve to modernise the leisure facilities in the Caerphilly Basin and also provide the school with facilities that will be needed to meet the national curriculum. In turn this would release an existing leisure centre site in the Caerphilly Basin for an alternative use.

### **Summary of measure (e) - School and Leisure Proposals**

The school rationalisation process in the county borough potentially affects the following leisure centres:

- Rhymney High School;
- Sue Noake Leisure Centre;
- Pontllanfraith Leisure Centre;
- Newbridge Leisure Centre;
- St Cenydd Leisure Centre;
- Bedwas Leisure Centre; and
- Risca Leisure Centre.

An opportunity exists to expand and enhance leisure facilities at St Ilans School in Caerphilly and the potential for new facilities on Aberbargoed Plateau should be explored.



## **(f) Housing developments across the county borough**

The LDP ensures that sufficient residential land is available to meet the future needs of communities for both market and affordable housing and makes for provision of up to 10,269 new dwellings up to 2021. Since 2006 approximately 3,000 of these new dwellings have been provided distributed across the county borough.

This new development has the potential to increase pressure on existing community infrastructure such as transportation networks, schools, lifelong learning facilities and leisure facilities. The provision of adequate infrastructure and services is crucial for the environmental, social and economic sustainability of the county borough.

The Council plays a major role in the provision and management of leisure facilities throughout the county borough. It is therefore important to ensure that facilities are located in areas that can be accessed easily by public transport by all sectors of the resident population of the county borough. In this context the Principal Towns of Bargoed, Blackwood, Ystrad Mynach, Caerphilly and Risca/Pontymister are the key locations for such provision to be made, as these are key centres of population and the areas that service the population of the county borough in terms of employment, public services and shopping.

In some parts of the county borough, such as the more densely populated areas of Greater Blackwood (NCC) and Caerphilly Basin (SCC), the pressure on existing leisure facilities is already significant and new development will exacerbate this situation further.

### **Summary of measure (f) - *Housing developments***

The Principal Towns of Bargoed, Blackwood, Ystrad Mynach, Caerphilly and Risca/Pontymister are key settlements where housing growth is more sustainable.

The following Leisure Centres are located in or within close proximity to Principal Towns:

- Caerphilly Leisure Centre;
- Pontllanfraith Leisure Centre;
- Cefn Fforest; and
- Sue Noake Leisure Centre.

The facilities in the SCC will face further pressure from increased housing growth. Given the condition of Caerphilly Leisure Centre, improvements to this facility are urgently required.

## **g) Equalities and Welsh Language issues**

The review of leisure facilities gives the Council the potential to widen access and reduce inequalities in sport and physical activity for underrepresented individuals, groups and communities in the county borough.

Any future development of leisure facilities must take into account the Council's statutory duties under Equalities and Welsh Language legislation, continuing and building on current best practice.

These requirements range from providing fully accessible facilities in physical terms (for disabled people and people of all ages with mobility issues) to fully bilingual signage and the ability to provide services in English and Welsh and where requested, other languages and formats.

The Centre for Sporting Excellence in Ystrad Mynach is a model of best practice, linking the ongoing work of Leisure Services to the Council's Strategic Equality Objectives 3 and 4 (Physical Access and Communications Access) and the UK wide "Equality Standard - A Framework for Sport".

### **Summary of measure (g) - *Other Considerations***

The new sporting facilities in Ystrad Mynach need to be exploited as a potential catalyst for improving facilities on offer within the Principal Town.

### **(h) Other Considerations**

#### *Centre of Sporting Excellence in Ystrad Mynach*

The Centre for Sporting Excellence in Ystrad Mynach is currently being completed and will help capitalise on recent high profile developments in the Principal Town Centre. The Centre includes the creation of two 3rd Generation (3G) artificial playing surfaces to support both football & rugby, supported by an exceptional level of infrastructure. The pitches/lighting/stands/terracing and car parking are constructed to the highest standards and meet the exacting requirements of the sport's governing bodies. The facility will provide many of the training requirements of elite sportsmen and women in one single venue, a sporting first for the county borough.

An opportunity now exists to explore opportunities in, and around Ystrad Mynach, to provide complementary facilities for the Centre and which serve to raise the profile of Ystrad Mynach as a Sports & Leisure Hub. This could be achieved through the expansion of facilities provided at Sue Noake Leisure Centre.

## 6) Key Findings

In light of the analysis undertaken through this review, a number of Key Findings are highlighted in respect of Leisure Centre Provision across the three Strategy Areas. They are as follows:

### Key Findings for HOVRA

- The dispersed location of settlements (and leisure centre provision) in this area means that residents have to travel further to access leisure facilities;
- The HOVRA has no leisure centre facilities in good condition;
- There is very little scope to upgrade existing provision due to locational constraints;
- Both New Tredegar and Heolddu Leisure Centres are ranked 10<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> (out of 12) for overall performance in the weighting and scoring matrix used in Appendix 3.
- New Tredegar Leisure Centre attracts the highest level of net cost per user at £7.33;
- New Tredegar Leisure Centre attracts the least visitors at approximately 9000 people per annum;
- There is a need to reduce the net cost to user for centres in the HOVRA;
- There is an above average latent demand for swimming facilities in the HOVRA;
- There is an above average demand for fitness facilities and indoor games; and
- The strategic leisure infrastructure in the HOVRA is dated.

### Key Findings for the NCC

- The clustered nature of settlements (and leisure centre provision) in this area means that residents do not have to travel far to access leisure facilities;

- The only leisure centre in the NCC in good condition is Cefn Fforest;
- There is a general need to reduce the net cost to user for centres in the NCC;
- There is little scope to upgrade existing provisions in the NCC due to locational constraints.
- Newbridge has a very low net cost per user, at £1.41 whereas Cefn Fforest attracts the highest level of net costs per user;
- Sue Noake Leisure Centre attracts the least visitor numbers. This is because it only provides a sports hall and pitch facilities. Extending the provision on offer would enhance this facility;
- Looking solely at those centres that provide fitness suite facilities, Pontllanfraith Leisure Centre attracts the least number of visitors in the NCC;
- Newbridge Leisure Centre is the best performing centre in the County Borough according to the weighting and scoring matrix, however as inferred above, it is constrained by its location;
- There is an above average latent demand for swimming and fitness facilities to the west of the NCC, and additional fitness facilities are required to the east; and
- The strategic leisure infrastructure in the NCC is dated.

### Key findings for the SCC

- In the Caerphilly Basin, Bedwas and St Cenydd Leisure Centres are both in good condition, however these have limited opening hours and limited facilities;
- Caerphilly leisure centre is the third best ranking leisure centre in the County borough according to the weighting and scoring system used in Appendix 3. However, is in poor condition and is in urgent need of significant improvement or replacement;

- The swimming facility at Bedwas Leisure Centre has limited opening times and is costly to run and maintain;
- The leisure centre at St Cenydd School is providing good value for money, and is attracting a reasonable number of visitors per annum;
- The centre at St Cenydd readily serves residents of the Aber Valley and Penyrheol;
- There is an above average latent demand for swimming, fitness facilities and indoor sports in the Caerphilly basin;
- Risca Leisure Centre performs well in this study and using the weighting and scoring system, is the boroughs second best leisure centre;
- There is an above average demand for indoor games, football and swimming in the Islwyn Valley; and
- The strategic leisure infrastructure in the SCC is dated.

## 7) Recommendations

This review has considered the: condition, provision, cost, demand and usage, accessibility and future provision for Leisure Centre facilities within Caerphilly County Borough. Following on from the information collated in the report and the data contained in the appendices, the following recommendations are advised.

***R1: There is a need to significantly improve the strategic leisure infrastructure in the Heads of the Valleys Regeneration Area.***

This new centre should provide suitable leisure and fitness facilities to cater for the residents in the HOVRA, as well as those in the NCC, and the centre should be well located near to existing or proposed public transport networks. There is therefore a need to allocate suitable land for a new leisure centre through the review of the LDP on or near the HOVRA/NCC western boundary. This site could then serve both the HOVRA & NCC areas.

***R2: There is a need to identify opportunities to expand the leisure facilities available at Newbridge.***

Newbridge is the best performing leisure centre across the county borough. However, it is physically constrained and in time, the quality and provision of facilities will struggle to meet future demand. There is therefore a need to undertake further work specifically in respect of Newbridge to determine if there are any opportunities to work with the school and the rugby club to share facilities, reconfigure car parking and redesign the whole area to maximise the space available at this complex of uses.

***R3: Rhymney Leisure Centre should be transferred to the school to run.***

Rhymney Leisure Centre performs an important leisure function in the HOVRA in terms of providing facilities for school use. However it is the worst performing centre in the county borough as demonstrated by the scoring matrix and is therefore not sustainable for general use.

***R4: There is a need to significantly improve the strategic leisure infrastructure in the Northern Connections Corridor***

Only Newbridge Leisure Centre in the NCC performs well. Cefn Fforest, Pontllanfraith and Sue Noake Leisure Centres finish in 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> respectively in the weighting and scoring analysis. All sites are constrained by their neighbouring uses.

There is a need to provide a facility (in addition to the Newbridge Centre) to serve the NCC area. In this regard R1 (above) needs to be considered in conjunction with this recommendation as a facility located on the correct site could jointly serve the HOVRA and western NCC area therefore satisfying recommendations 1 (R1) & 4 (R4).

***R5: There is a need to significantly improve the strategic leisure infrastructure in the Southern Connections Corridor,***

***specifically Caerphilly Basin through the provision of a replacement leisure centre.***

There is an urgent need to provide new facilities in the Caerphilly Basin. The existing Caerphilly Leisure Centre is well used, however the facility is dated and in need of replacement or significant improvement. Given the demand for swimming in this area any new facility will need to incorporate a new pool. Further, given the demand for facilities in Caerphilly Basin generally, any new provision should not have opening hour limitations during the working day.

***R6: Bedwas Leisure Centre should be transferred to Bedwas High School.***

Bedwas Leisure Centre provides an important facility for the adjacent High School. However the cost of running Bedwas Leisure Centre coupled with its limited opening hours means that it is not sustainable to maintain the existing arrangements.

***R7: Opportunities to improve further the condition of the Risca Leisure Centre should be explored.***

Risca is performing well and should be maintained. The building would benefit from more investment and this should continue into the future.

## Appendix 1: SWOT Analysis of Current Leisure Centres

### 1) Bedwas Leisure Centre

<p><b>Strengths</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>⇒ Co-located with school</li> <li>⇒ Facilities fit for purpose</li> <li>⇒ Site well served by public transport links.</li> <li>⇒ ATP on site</li> <li>⇒ Dedicated disability changing room</li> </ul>	<p><b>Weaknesses</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>⇒ Site constrained by surrounding neighbouring uses</li> <li>⇒ Site design poor and aging</li> <li>⇒ Parking issues</li> <li>⇒ Relatively expensive to run</li> <li>⇒ Low usage</li> <li>⇒ Limited opening hours (after school only)</li> </ul>
<p><b>Opportunities</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>⇒ There could be scope for enhancement of facilities should the neighbouring school vacate.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Threats</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>⇒ Schools Rationalisation programme may change provision requirements</li> <li>⇒ Funding to realise potential of site may be hampered.</li> <li>⇒ Breakdown in communication with adjacent school</li> </ul>

### 2) Caerphilly Leisure Centre

<p><b>Strengths</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>⇒ Purpose built unit</li> <li>⇒ Many leisure facilities located on site including pool, dance studio, health suite, sports hall, squash courts and fitness suite.</li> <li>⇒ Well utilised</li> <li>⇒ Dedicated learner pool</li> </ul>	<p><b>Weaknesses</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>⇒ Overall site in poor condition and is not cost effective to repair – relocation required.</li> <li>⇒ High maintenance costs</li> <li>⇒ Centre is dated</li> <li>⇒ Located more than 500m from bus stop.</li> <li>⇒ Building may not be fit for purpose if maintenance issues continue to increase.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Opportunities</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>⇒ Through redevelopment, there is the chance to create leisure facilities fit for purpose.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Threats</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>⇒ Funding to realise potential of site may be hampered.</li> </ul>

### 3) Cefn Fforest Leisure Centre

<p><b>Strengths</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>⇒ Bus routes run every 20 minutes</li> <li>⇒ Recently refurbished</li> <li>⇒ Generally fit for purpose</li> <li>⇒ Site provides a dedicated learning pool as well as swimming pool</li> </ul>	<p><b>Weaknesses</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>⇒ Site constrained by surrounding neighbouring uses</li> <li>⇒ Site provides only a small fitness suite, with changing facilities shared with the swimming pool.</li> <li>⇒ Relatively expensive to run.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Opportunities</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>⇒ Planned improvements to learner pool.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Threats</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>⇒ Continued maintenance required to ensure facility remains suitable.</li> <li>⇒ Site not able to expand to meet future demands.</li> </ul>

### 4) Heolddu Leisure Centre

<p><b>Strengths</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>⇒ Co-located with school</li> <li>⇒ Well utilised site</li> <li>⇒ Has many generic leisure facilities including swimming pool, fitness suite, health spa and sports hall.</li> <li>⇒ 3G Floodlight pitch</li> </ul>	<p><b>Weaknesses</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>⇒ In poor location, away from town centre, poorly serviced by public transport</li> <li>⇒ Site constrained by design layout</li> <li>⇒ Layout impedes service delivery</li> <li>⇒ Lack of parking school hours</li> <li>⇒ Relatively expensive to run</li> </ul>
<p><b>Opportunities</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>⇒ If funding found to upgrade facilities, there is scope to redesign the building layout and address car parking issues.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Threats</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>⇒ Major investment required to address conditions long term</li> <li>⇒ Schools Rationalisation programme may change provisions</li> </ul>

5) Newbridge Leisure Centre

<p><b>Strengths</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>⇒ Co-located with school</li> <li>⇒ Facilities fit for purpose</li> <li>⇒ High usage</li> <li>⇒ Relatively inexpensive to run</li> <li>⇒ Site provides wide range of leisure facilities including 3G, swimming pool, fitness suite, sports hall and squash courts.</li> <li>⇒ Site well located by public transport links.</li> <li>⇒ Recently refurbished</li> </ul>	<p><b>Weaknesses</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>⇒ Site constrained by surrounding neighbouring uses</li> <li>⇒ Site design poor</li> <li>⇒ Parking issues</li> <li>⇒ Centre is dated</li> <li>⇒ 3G pitch is not full sized</li> </ul>
<p><b>Opportunities</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>⇒ There is scope to incorporate neighbouring uses (such as Newbridge RFC) into the leisure centre, expanding the amount of land available.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Threats</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>⇒ Schools Rationalisation programme may change provision requirements</li> <li>⇒ Funding to realise potential of site may be hampered.</li> <li>⇒ Breakdown in communication with adjacent school</li> </ul>

7) Pontllanfraith Leisure Centre

<p><b>Strengths</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>⇒ Co-located with school</li> <li>⇒ Fitness facilities still fit for purpose</li> <li>⇒ Site well linked to bus routes</li> <li>⇒ 3G ATP</li> </ul>	<p><b>Weaknesses</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>⇒ Site constrained by surrounding neighbouring uses</li> <li>⇒ Only limited leisure facilities on offer</li> <li>⇒ Centre is dated</li> <li>⇒ Access improvements required on site.</li> <li>⇒ Site relatively expensive to run</li> </ul>
<p><b>Opportunities</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>⇒ There could be scope for enhancement of facilities should the neighbouring school vacate.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Threats</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>⇒ Continued maintenance required to ensure facility remains suitable.</li> <li>⇒ Schools Rationalisation programme may change provisions</li> <li>⇒ Breakdown in communication with adjacent school</li> </ul>

6) New Tredegar Leisure Centre

<p><b>Strengths</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>⇒ Suitable for current service delivery</li> <li>⇒ Building in reasonable condition</li> <li>⇒ Indoor 3G facility</li> </ul>	<p><b>Weaknesses</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>⇒ Opening hours limited</li> <li>⇒ Currently under utilised</li> <li>⇒ Bus every 1 hour</li> <li>⇒ Train every 1 hour</li> </ul>
<p><b>Opportunities</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>⇒ May be scope to expand current leisure provisions on first floor</li> <li>⇒ There may be scope to extend car park</li> </ul>	<p><b>Threats</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>⇒ Costly to run</li> <li>⇒ Planned maintenance required.</li> </ul>

8) Rhydney High School

<p><b>Strengths</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>⇒ Co-located with school</li> <li>⇒ Low cost to run</li> </ul>	<p><b>Weaknesses</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>⇒ Opening hours limited</li> <li>⇒ Bookings through Heolddu Leisure Centre only</li> <li>⇒ Only provision is a Sports Hall.</li> <li>⇒ Bus every 1 hour</li> </ul>
<p><b>Opportunities</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>⇒ May be scope to expand current leisure provisions</li> </ul>	<p><b>Threats</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>⇒ Schools Rationalisation programme may change provisions</li> <li>⇒ No condition survey</li> </ul>



9) *Risca Leisure Centre*

<p><b>Strengths</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>⇒ Co-located with school</li> <li>⇒ Low cost to run</li> <li>⇒ Dedicated disability changing room</li> <li>⇒ ATP, 3G and grass pitches</li> <li>⇒ Suitable for current use</li> <li>⇒ Well utilised facility</li> <li>⇒ Lift</li> </ul>	<p><b>Weaknesses</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>⇒ Poorly located- only 1 bus route that runs regularly</li> <li>⇒ Lack of sufficient toilet facilities</li> <li>⇒ Poor reception access.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Opportunities</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>⇒ May be scope to expand current leisure provisions</li> </ul>	<p><b>Threats</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>⇒ Schools Rationalisation programme may change provision requirements</li> <li>⇒ Breakdown in communication with adjacent school</li> </ul>

10) *St Cenydd Leisure Centre*

<p><b>Strengths</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>⇒ Purpose built unit</li> <li>⇒ Co-located with school</li> <li>⇒ Well utilised</li> <li>⇒ Site in good condition</li> <li>⇒ Site is suitable for current delivery</li> <li>⇒ Site accessible by public transport</li> <li>⇒ Lift facility to first floor</li> <li>⇒ Relatively new facility</li> </ul>	<p><b>Weaknesses</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>⇒ Limited opening hours</li> <li>⇒ Larger fitness suite and smaller dance studio would be desirable</li> </ul>
<p><b>Opportunities</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>⇒ There is potential to improve facilities by reconfiguring classroom use, however this is closely aligned with future school needs.</li> <li>⇒ Opportunity to develop the unused red gra into a 3G pitch.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Threats</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>⇒ Schools Rationalisation programme may change provision requirements</li> <li>⇒ Breakdown in communication with adjacent school</li> </ul>

11) *Sue Noake Leisure Centre*

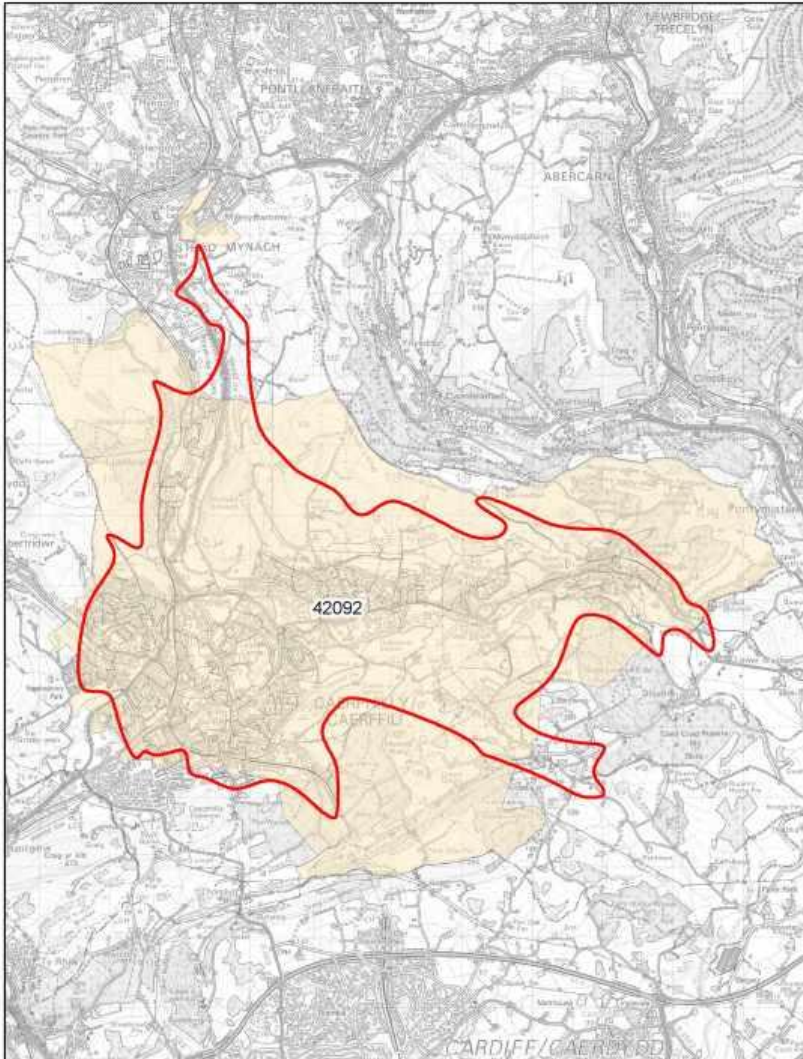
<p><b>Strengths</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>⇒ Well located in town centre that has bus and transport links</li> <li>⇒ Shared use with Lewis Girls' School</li> <li>⇒ Relatively inexpensive to run</li> </ul>	<p><b>Weaknesses</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>⇒ Site constrained by surrounding neighbouring uses</li> <li>⇒ Only limited leisure facilities on offer</li> <li>⇒ Building requires additional maintenance that may prove costly</li> <li>⇒ Provision is under utilised.</li> <li>⇒ Limited opening hours</li> </ul>
<p><b>Opportunities</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>⇒ There is potential to improve facilities by reconfiguring classroom use, however this is closely aligned with future school needs.</li> <li>⇒ There is scope to increase the provisions on offer with the addition of a fitness suite.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Threats</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>⇒ Continued maintenance required to ensure facility remains suitable.</li> <li>⇒ Schools Rationalisation programme may change provisions</li> <li>⇒ Breakdown in communication with adjacent school</li> </ul>

## Appendix 2: Weighting and Scoring Matrix of facilities

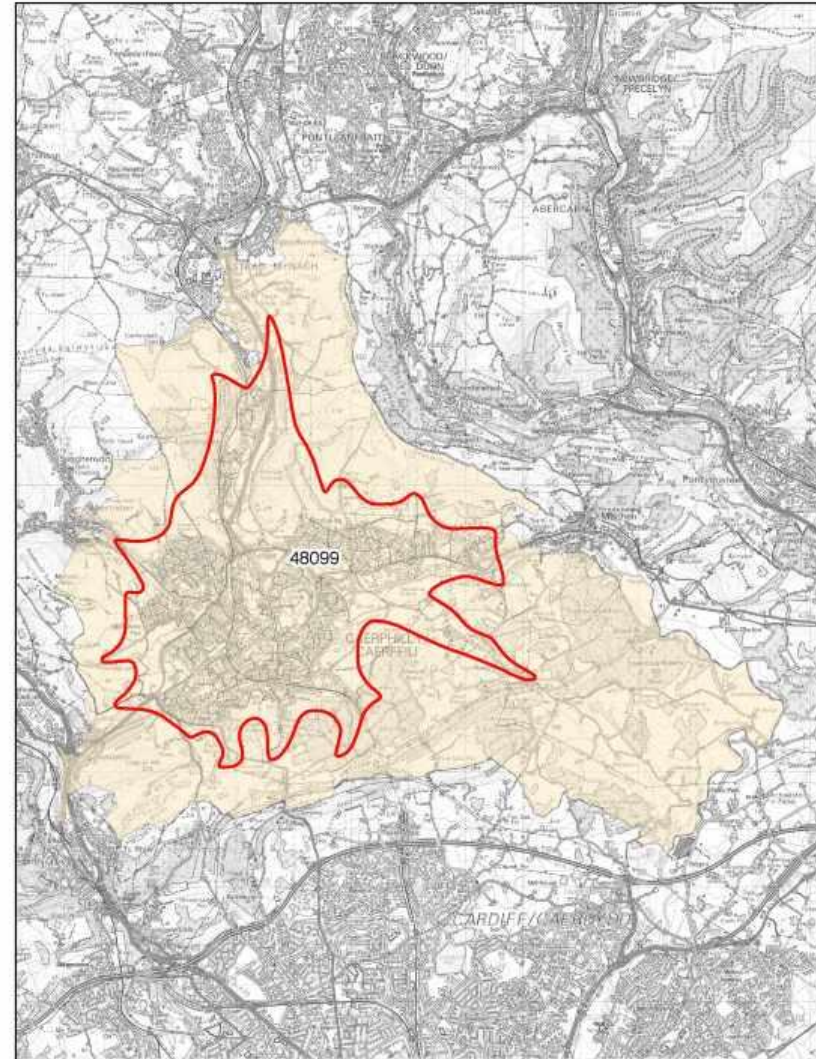
	Weighting gauge	Bedwas	Caerphilly	Cefn Fforest	Heolddu	Pontllan-fraith	Newbridge	Sue Noake	Risca	St Cenydd	New Tredegar	Rhymney
<b>1) Fitness Suite Facilities</b>												
Fitness Suite Cardio	Yes = 1, No = 0	0	1	1	1	1	1	0	1	1	1	0
Lifespan of cardio facilities left	5 years plus = 1, under 5 = 0	0	1	1	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	0
Fitness Suite Resistance	Yes = 1, No = 0	0	1	1	1	1	0	0	1	1	1	0
Lifespan of resistance facilities left	5 years plus = 1, under 5 = 0	0	1	1	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0
Spin Room	Yes = 1, No = 0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Squash Court	Yes = 1, No = 0	0	1	0	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0
Sports Hall	Yes = 1, No = 0	0	1	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Dance Studio 1	Yes = 1, No = 0	1	1	0	1	1	0	0	1	1	1	0
Dance Studio 2	Yes = 1, No = 0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Dance Studio 3	Yes = 1, No = 0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Gymnasium	Yes = 1, No = 0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
Showers Male 2>=1	Greater than 2= 1, lower = 0	0	1	0	0	1	0	1	1	1	1	0
Showers Female 2>=1	Greater than 2= 1, lower = 0	0	1	0	0	1	0	1	1	1	1	0
Showers Disabled 2>=1	Greater than 2= 1, lower = 0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	1	1	0
3G Pitch?	Yes = 10, No = 0	0	0	0	10	0	10	0	10	0	10	0
ATP?	Yes = 10, No = 0	10	0	0	0	10	0	10	10	10	0	10
<b>2) Pool Facilities</b>												
Pool 25m Lanes	Yes = 1, No = 0	0	1	1	1	0	1	0	1	0	0	0
Learner Pool	Yes = 1, No = 0	1	1	1	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0
Fun	Yes = 1, No = 0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Sauna	Yes = 1, No = 0	0	1	1	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Steam Room	Yes = 1, No = 0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Relaxation Room	Yes = 1, No = 0	0	1	1	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
<b>Other considerations</b>												
3) Overall Condition (sustainability, suitability & sufficiency)	Good = 50, Satisfactory = 25, Poor = 0	50	0	50	0	25	25	25	25	50	25	0
4a) Useage	Number of visitors p.a. - 0-50k = 0, 50k - 100k = 5, 100k-150k = 10, 150k-200k = 20, 200k-250k = 30, 250k-300k = 40, 300k-350k = 50	5	50	5	10	5	50	0	30	5	0	0
4b) Demand - Class	% Usage (0% = 0 pt, 1-25% = 1 pt, 26 - 50% = 3pts, 51-75% = 5 pts, 76 - 100% = 10pts)	3	3	3	1	1	3	0	1	3	0	0
4b) Demand - Swimming Pool		10	10	10	10	0	10	0	10	0	0	0
4b) Demand - Sports Hall		0	3	0	5	5	10	10	10	5	5	0
Subsidy per user 2013/04	(<£2 = 30pts, <£3 = 20pts, <£4= 15pts, <£5= 10pts, <£6= 5pt, +£6 = 0)	20	30	20	20	30	30	30	20	30	0	20
Travel	if 2 modes = 2, 1 mode = 1, 0 modes = 0	1	0	1	1	1	2	2	0	1	0	1
<b>TOTAL</b>		101	111	96	64	84	146	80	131	111	46	12
<b>Ranking</b>		5	3	6	9	7	1	8	2	3	10	11

### Appendix 3: 10 Minute Drive Time Map

Bedwas  
10 minute drive time

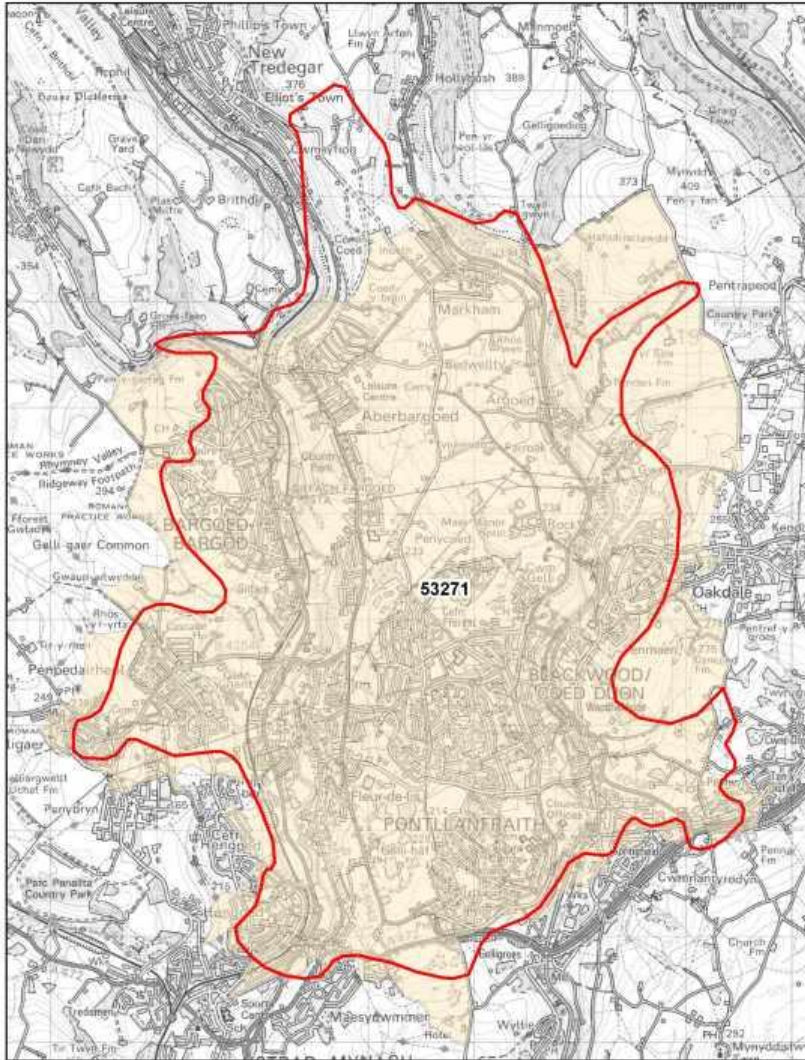


Caerphilly  
10 minute drive time

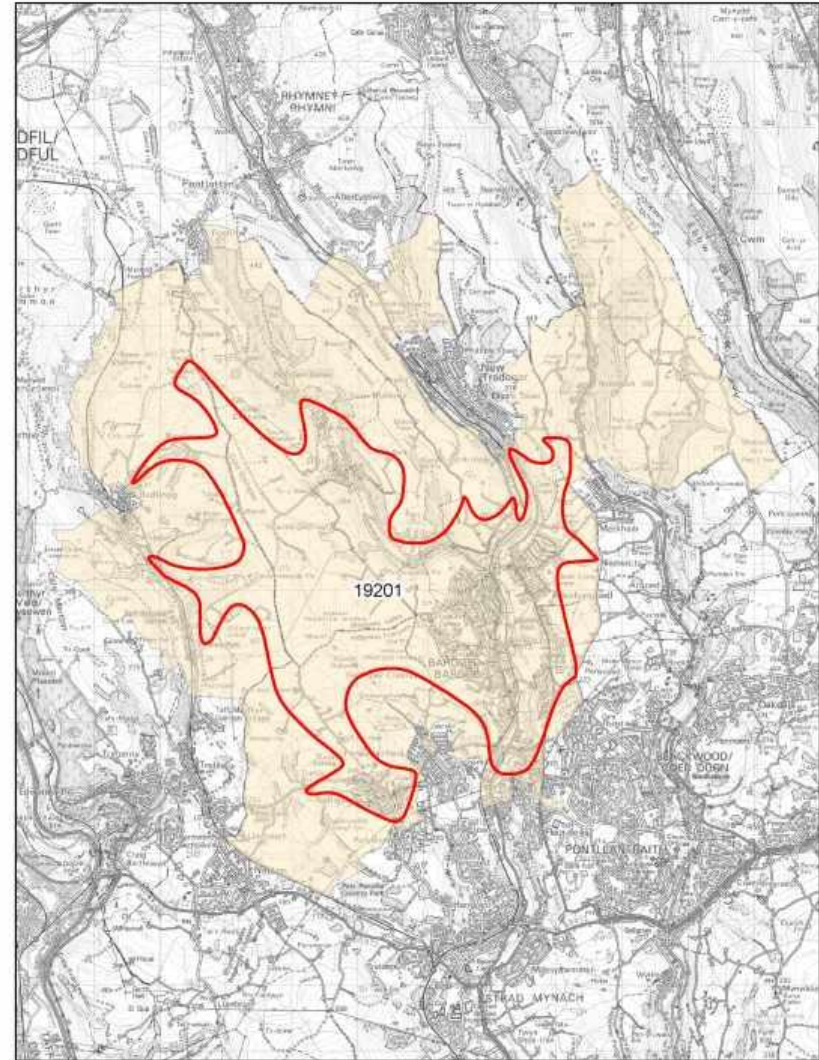




Cefn Fforest Leisure Centre  
10 minute drive time

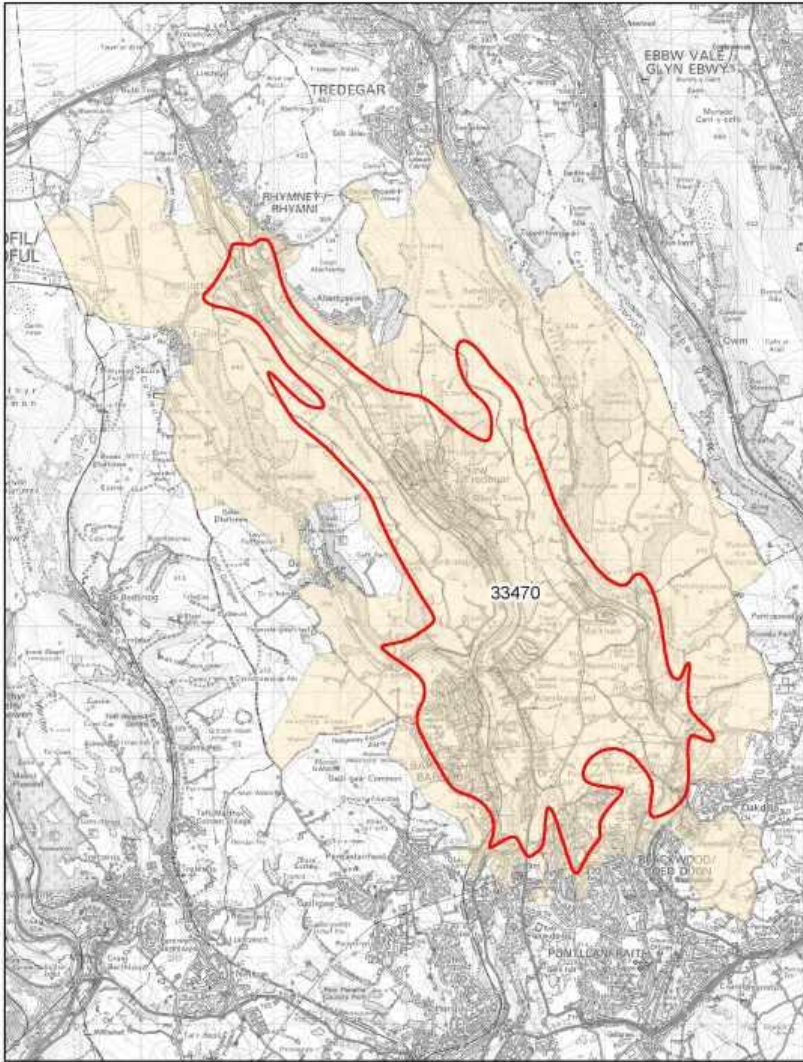


Heolddu  
10 minute drive time

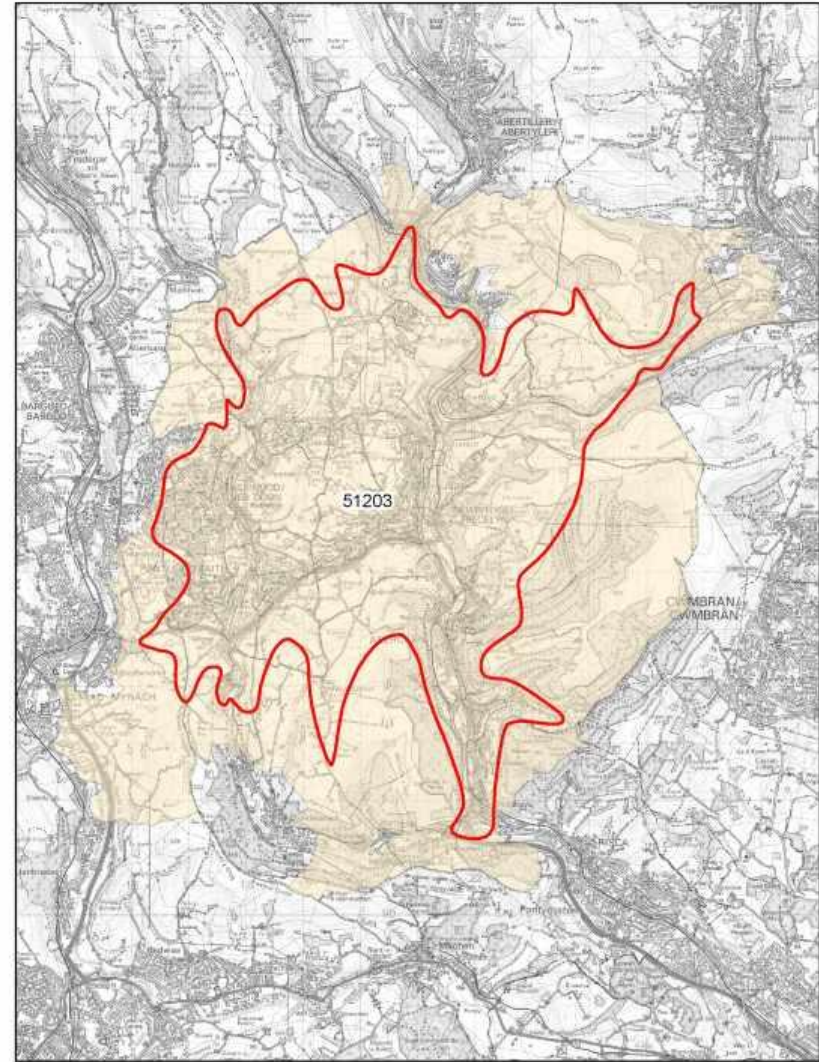




New Tredegar  
10 minute drive time

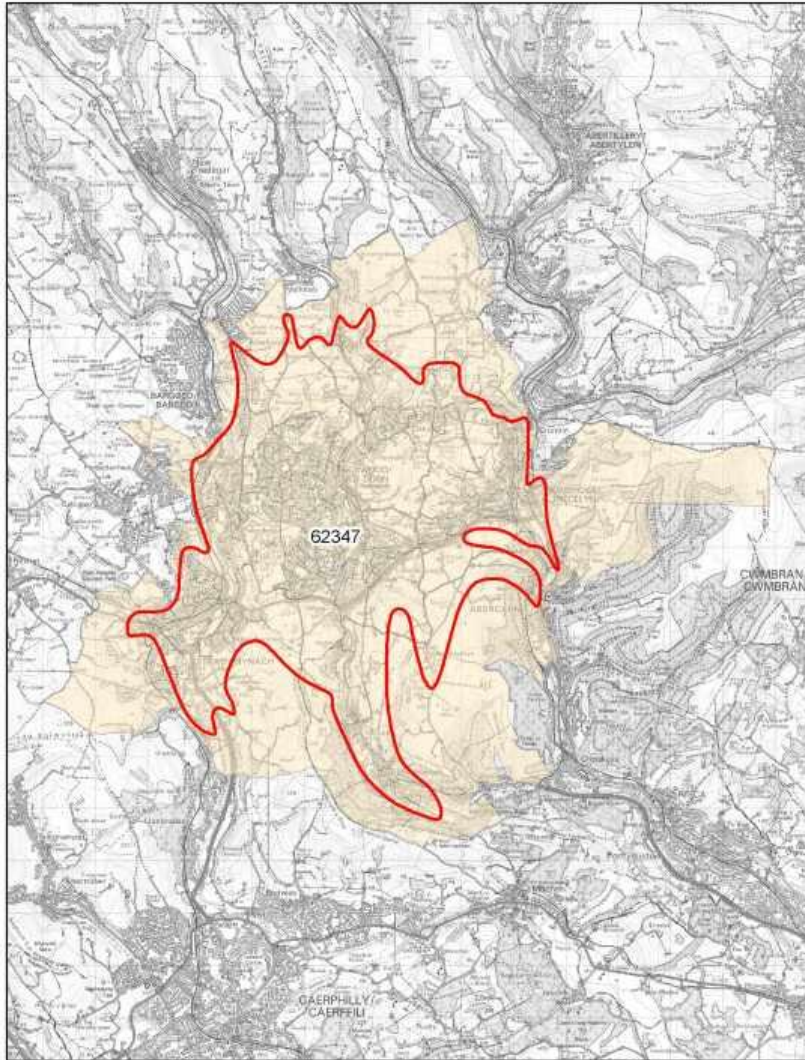


Newbridge  
10 minute drive time

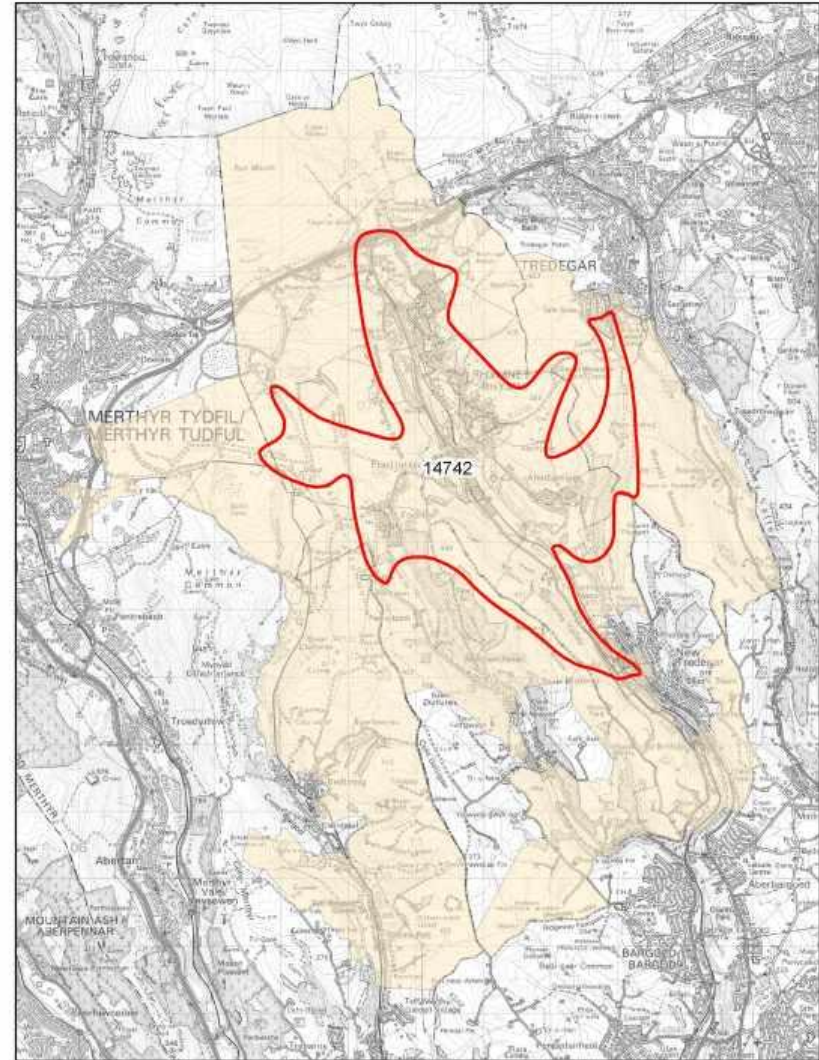




Pontllanfraith  
10 minute drive time

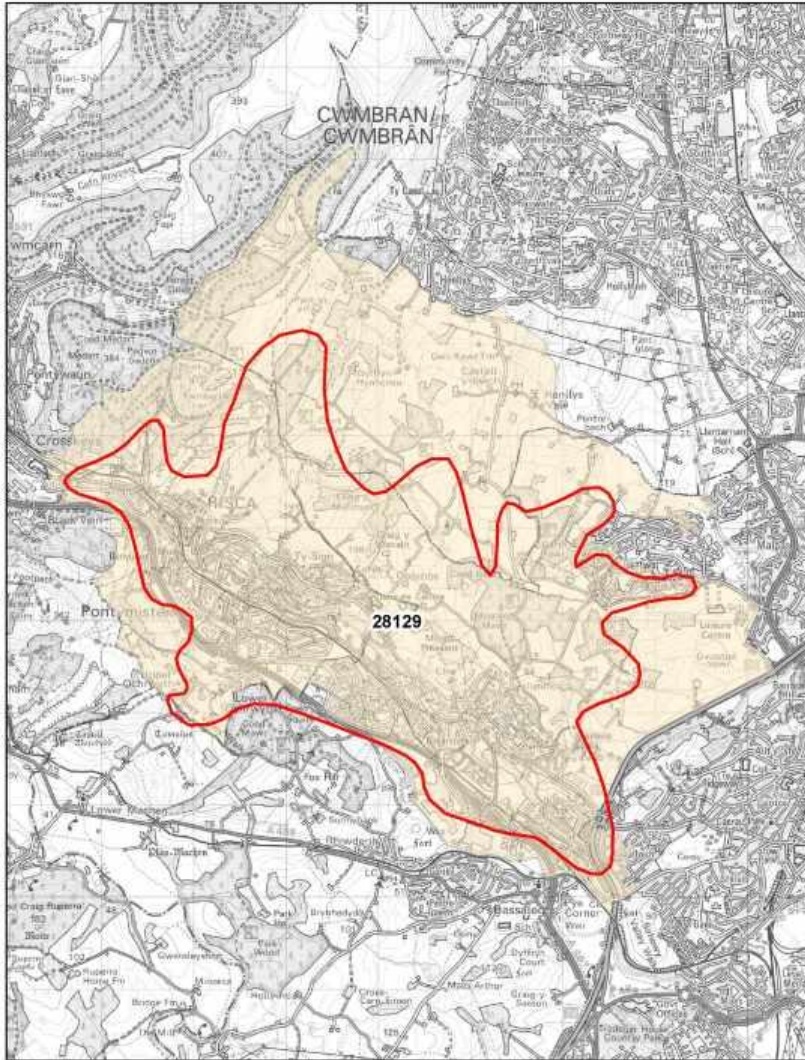


Rhymney  
10 minute drive time

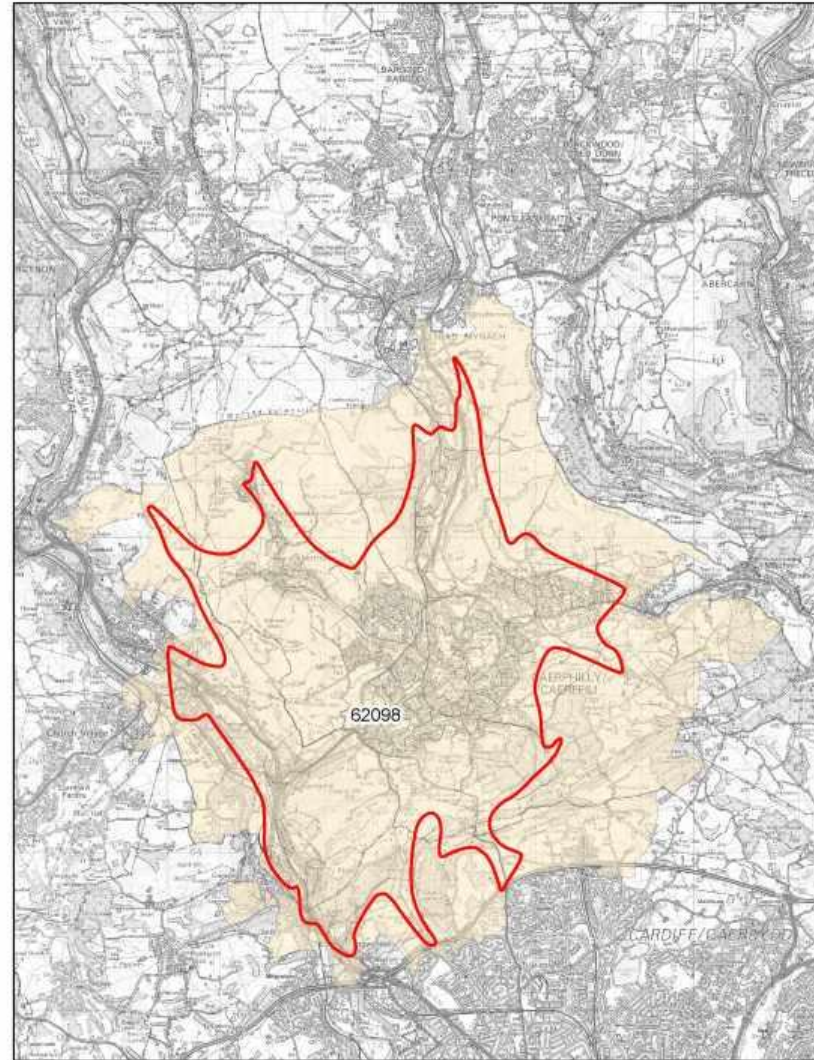




Risca Leisure Centre  
10 minute drive time



St Cenydd  
10 minute drive time





Sue Noakes  
10 minute drive time

