



Caerphilly County Borough
2nd Replacement
Local Development Plan 2020-2035

EB4.1 Population and Housing Growth Options - Addendum

January 2025

Mae'r ddogfen hon ar gael yn Gymraeg, ac mewn
ieithoedd a fformatau eraill ar gais.

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2nd Replacement Caerphilly County Borough Local Development Plan 2020 - 2035

EB4.1

Addendum to Population and Housing Growth Options, January 2025

Introduction

The Council commenced work on the 2nd Replacement Caerphilly County Borough Local Development Plan 2020 - 2035 (2RLDP) in October 2020. The 2RLDP will cover the period 1 April 2020 to 31 March 2035.

The Council consulted on its first Pre-Deposit Plan for the 2RLDP in October and November 2022. Conformity Objections to the plan were received from Welsh Government in respect of the Strategic Site allocation, the regional approach and context to growth, and the nature-based approach. As a result of these objections, changes to the Pre-Deposit strategy have been made.

Given that changes have been made to the strategy (Revised Preferred Strategy) the Council is taking a step back in the process and is undertaking a second consultation on the Pre-Deposit Plan with its amendments.

Changes to the Pre-Deposit Plan

Evidence base paper *EB4 Population and Housing Growth Options October 2022* was produced during the preparation of the 1st Pre-Deposit Plan in October 2022. Since then, there have been a number of changes, and this Addendum has been produced to address these changes.

2021 Census

A key part of the Revised Preferred Strategy is the consideration of the level of population that the County Borough will accommodate at the end of the plan period. The difference between the current population and the population at the end of the plan period will provide the basis for identifying the number of dwellings that will need to be provided, the number of jobs that are likely to be required, and the likely infrastructure, services and community facilities that will be needed to meet the needs of all residents.

Since the publication of the 1st Pre-Deposit Plan in October 2022, the 2021 Census data has been published and Welsh Government has issued revised mid-year estimates that have been rebased to reflect the Census data. This has particular implications for Caerphilly County Borough as the Census has identified that the population in Caerphilly is just over 5000 persons less than the mid-year estimates had identified. The rebased mid-year estimates show a lower starting population than has been used for the strategic growth options and this will have knock on effects for the overall population level and structure for the County Borough at the end of the plan period. As a result, the Council has updated its preferred growth option to align it with the 2021 Census and the rebased mid-year estimates.

Whilst the 2021 Census has changed the starting point for projections for Caerphilly County Borough, the underlying issues and reasons for choosing the preferred growth option (Scenario J) remain the same (these reasons are set out in Chapter 1 of *EB4 Population and Housing Growth Options*). Consequently, despite the changing starting point, the Council continues to believe that Scenario J is the appropriate growth option for the 2RLDP. As such the Council has only revisited Scenario J in addressing the 2021 Census and the rebased mid-year estimates.

Regional assessment of future growth and migration for the Cardiff Capital Region

To address one of the Welsh Government Conformity Objections, the South East Wales Planning Officers Society (SEWPOS), in conjunction with South East Wales Strategic Planning Group (SEWSPG) commissioned consultants to undertake a study of regional growth and migration in the Cardiff Capital Region (CCR). This

study considered the scope for population and economic growth within the region in a policy off scenario, indicating what could be delivered with specific policy interventions. For Caerphilly the study identified levels of growth that were commensurate with those identified in the original Scenario J projections, meaning that the preferred Growth option does not need to be changed on this basis.

SCENARIO J – CCR Growth in Working Age Population - 2024 Update

Updated Summary of Scenario J

Population Change 2020-2035	11,603
Change in working age population	3,005
Total dwelling requirement	6,750
Annual dwelling requirement	450
Housing Provision: Housing Requirement plus Flexibility Allowance (10%)	7425

The CCR City Deal originally set out the ambitious target of creating 25,000 jobs. This dwelling led scenario seeks to support the regional growth aims of CCR by setting the dwelling requirement at a level that would result in a growth in the working age population at a level that would support the job creation aims of CCR.

A housing requirement of 450 dwellings per annum would require an increase in the population of the County Borough of 6.4%, or 773 people per annum. In terms of the working population, this would mean a growth in the working age population of 2.4%, which is at a level that would support the City Deal growth ambitions to ensure that Caerphilly has a working age population available to fill these jobs.

The figure of 450 dwellings is close to representing a mid-point between the past build rates figure of 373 dwellings per annum and the adopted LDP figure of 575 – a level that is considered ambitious when considered against past delivery rates but still realistically achievable.

Conclusion

Caerphilly County Borough is located within the Cardiff Capital Region which, through its City Deal, has ambitious economic and job growth aspirations. In addition, it is also located within the National Growth Area identified in Future Wales, which seeks a commensurate level of growth to be provided in this area. A

fundamental part of any strategy that seeks to satisfy these requirements is a population that supports appropriate level of growth.

The level of growth proposed in Scenario J - CCR Growth in Working Age Population scenario would support regional growth aspirations in that there will be an appropriate labour force available to support future job creation in the region. The scenario would require an increase in migration to a level that is higher than long term trends, with a dwelling requirement of 450 dwellings per annum, which is also higher than long-term past trends. Whilst these factors are higher than long-term trends, the regional study identifies that whilst these are ambitious, they are deliverable in the regional context.

Therefore, the Council continues to believe that Scenario J - CCR Growth in Working Age Population continues to be a realistic and deliverable level of growth for the county borough.

Next Steps

Evidence base paper *EB4 Population and Housing Growth Options October 2022* will be revised to reflect any further changes or updates, in readiness for the Deposit Stage of plan preparation.