



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

Pre-Deposit Plan (Revised Preferred Strategy)

January 2025



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

This document is available in Welsh, and in other
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1 Introduction

1.1 The Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 requires a local planning authority in Wales to “keep under review the matters which may be expected to affect the development of their area or the planning of its development”. This is done through development plans prepared by each local planning authority for their area. The Caerphilly County Borough Local Development Plan up to 2021 (Adopted LDP) is the current development plan for the County Borough and whilst it has surpassed the end of its plan period, it will remain in force until a new LDP supersedes it.

1.2 The Council commenced work on the 2nd Replacement Caerphilly County Borough Local Development Plan 2020-2035 (2RLDP) in October 2020. The background leading to the decision to commence a revision of the Adopted LDP is set out in the Caerphilly County Borough Local Development Plan up to 2021 Review Report (Review Report). The 2RLDP will cover the period 1 April 2020 to 31 March 2035. When Adopted, the 2RLDP will be the Council's statutory land use plan which will set out the Council's land-use strategy to deliver sustainable development and build strong, resilient communities that improve the well-being of current and future generations.

1.3 The 2RLDP will need to:

- Deliver sustainable development based on sound place-making principles;
- Build upon, and add value to the National Development Framework and national planning policies and guidance produced by the Welsh Government;
- Reflect local aspirations for the County Borough, based on a vision informed by key stakeholders and the Council's Corporate Plan Well-being Objectives;
- Express in land-use terms the objectives of the Well-Being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 (Well-being Act) and priorities of the Gwent Public Services Board through its Well-being Plan;
- Provide a basis for rational and consistent development management decisions;

- Guide growth and change, while protecting local diversity, character, and sensitive environments; and
- Show why, how and where change will occur over the plan period.

1.4 A key aspect of the 2RLDP will be to identify the nature, scale and spatial distribution of change required to meet the County Borough's needs for the plan period.

1.5 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. These objections are addressed in the Initial Consultation Report (ICR) on the first Pre-Deposit consultation. 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.

1.6 The 2RLDP is being prepared in accordance with the Revised Delivery Agreement (Revised DA) that was agreed by Welsh Government on 18 October 2024, that sets out the timetable for the preparation of the 2RLDP and the approach to community engagement and consultation throughout the plan preparation process. The key stages in the preparation of the plan are:

- Preparation of the 2nd Pre-Deposit Stage of the 2RLDP including the Revised Preferred Strategy – July to October 2024
- Consultation on the Revised Preferred Strategy - January/February 2025
- Preparation of the Deposit Revised 2RLDP – January to October 2025
- Consultation on the Deposit Revised 2RLDP - January/February 2026
- Submit Revised 2RLDP to Welsh Government - November 2026
- Independent Examination - January/February 2027
- Adoption - August 2027

Structure of the Caerphilly County Borough 2nd Replacement Local Development Plan 2020-2035: 2nd Pre-Deposit Plan (Revised Preferred Strategy)

1.7 The Revised Preferred Strategy is set out in 9 sections:

- Section 1: Introduction - This provides a summary of the process for preparing the 2RLDP, the stage that has been reached and what the Revised Preferred Strategy is.
- Section 2: National, Regional and Local Context - This provides the legislative and policy background within which the Revised Preferred Strategy has been prepared.
- Section 3: Key Land Use Issues - This provides a summary of the key land- use and associated issues that the 2RLDP will need to address.
- Section 4: The Strategic Vision - This sets out the Vision, Aims and Objectives for the 2RLDP.
- Section 5: Strategic Growth Options - This sets out the population, housing and employment options considered for the 2RLDP, identifying the level of growth to be accommodated in the 2RLDP.

- Section 6: Sustainable Settlement Hierarchy - This section sets out the approach to the spatial distribution of the proposed growth considered against the sustainability of development in respect of settlements throughout the County Borough.
- Section 7: The Revised Preferred Strategy - This sets out the Revised Preferred Strategy for the 2RLDP and the strategic policies that will deliver the strategy.
- Section 8: Next Steps - This sets out what will happen after the completion of the 2nd Pre-Deposit Consultation on the Revised Preferred Strategy Document.
- Section 9: Appendices - This sets out a series of appendices that will provide information in support of the Revised Preferred Strategy.

What is the Revised Preferred Strategy?

1.8 Regulation 15 of the Town and County Planning (Local Development Plan) (Wales) Regulations 2015 (as amended) (LDP Regulations) requires that, before finally determining the content of its Local Development Plan (LDP) for deposit, the Council must publish its pre-deposit proposals (Preferred Strategy) for public inspection and consultation.

1.9 The Revised Preferred Strategy sets out the Council's Pre-Deposit Plan for managing change across the County Borough up to 2035. It provides the strategic context for the preparation of more detailed policies, proposals and land-use allocations that will assist in delivering sustainable development and building more resilient communities. In summary the Revised Preferred Strategy sets out:

- The key land-use issues for the County Borough;
- The Vision, Aims and Objectives that respond to the key issues, challenges and opportunities;
- The Revised Preferred Strategy for the 2RLDP including the scale of future growth in population, housing and jobs and the broad spatial distribution for the growth;
- A strategic policy framework that will deliver/implement the strategy and inform the subsequent stages of the 2RLDP preparation.

1.10 It must be noted that the Revised Preferred Strategy identifies the level and broad spatial distribution of growth but does not identify any site-specific allocations /designations at this stage. This will be undertaken as part of the Deposit Plan preparation process once the Revised Preferred Strategy has been agreed. Only sites that accord with the Revised Preferred Strategy will be considered for inclusion in the Deposit Plan. As such the Revised Preferred Strategy does NOT include:

- Site allocations, unless it is proposed to identify any strategic sites, which are sites of such significance and scale that they would be essential to the delivery of the strategy overall;
- Detailed designations and settlement boundaries;
- Detailed development management policies to manage development;
- Detailed evaluations of the Candidate Sites.

1.11 The Revised Preferred Strategy has been informed by a series of engagement seminars that provided the opportunity for input from key stakeholders and elected members. It has also been amended to take account of the first consultation on the Pre-Deposit Plan in October/November 2022.

1.12 The stages in the preparation process are summarised in the Revised Preferred Strategy, with the Key Issues being considered under Section 3, the Vision and Objectives under Section 4, the Spatial Strategy under Section 5 and the Strategic Policies under Section 7.

1.13 There are a number of technical and procedural documents that have been prepared that provide the evidence base that has informed the Revised Preferred Strategy. A list of these documents, together with a summary of what they cover and their role in the process is set out in Appendix 2 to this document.

The Consultation

1.14 The Revised Preferred Strategy is the subject of a 6-week statutory consultation period during which time anyone can make comments on it by submitting their comments in writing to the Council during the statutory consultation period.

1.15 This Revised Preferred Strategy was formally published for comment on 15 January 2025 and the period of consultation will close on 26 February 2025. Comments on the Revised Preferred Strategy and its supporting documents must be submitted to the Council by the closing date of the consultation. It should be noted that any comments received after the closing date will not be accepted and will not be considered.

1.16 The Revised Preferred Strategy and its supporting documents are available for inspection on the Council's website, and copies of the Revised Preferred Strategy have been placed in each of the libraries throughout the County Borough.

1.17 Comments on the Revised Preferred Strategy can be made through the Council's website.

2 National, Regional and Local Context

2.1 This section provides a broad introduction to the Plan area, outlining the key economic, social, environmental and cultural characteristics of the County Borough. It also sets out the policy context for the plan and, due to the requirement for the Revised Preferred Strategy to have regard to a wide range of other plans, policies and programmes, it also sets out the wider context at national, regional and local level. It should be noted that, as a statutory requirement, the Integrated Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report (Scoping Report) sets out a list of policies, plans, programmes and strategies relevant to the 2RLDP.

Geographical Context

2.2 Caerphilly County Borough covers an area stretching from Powys and the Brecon Beacons National Park in the north, to Cardiff and Newport in the south. It is bordered to the west by Merthyr Tydfil and Rhondda Cynon Taf and to the east by Blaenau Gwent and Torfaen and thus it lies in the heart of the South Wales Valleys and the Cardiff Capital Region.

2.3 Caerphilly County Borough is made up of 3 main valleys, the Rhymney, Sirhowy and Ebbw, covering an area of approximately 28,000 ha with a mixture of urban, semi-urban and rural communities. The County Borough has the fifth highest population of all local authorities in Wales, with a population of approximately 176,437 (2023 mid-year estimate). Notwithstanding this 75% of the County Borough is used for agriculture and forestry (countryside/rural). It has both an expanding economy and an attractive environment and benefits from excellent transport links with good access to the public transport network including the metro stations on the Rhymney Valley and Ebbw Valley railway lines, whilst

having a network of active travel routes that increase accessibility throughout the County Borough. The south of the County Borough has good links to the M4 motorway, whilst the north of the County Borough lies on the A465 Heads of the Valleys Road with its excellent links to the Midlands and West Wales/Ireland.

Policy Context

2.4 The Revised Preferred Strategy has been prepared in the context of a wide-ranging suite of national, regional and local policy and legislative documents. These documents set the parameters within which the Revised Preferred Strategy has been prepared and also sets the policy context that the plan needs to be in general conformity with. The principal elements of this context and how they relate to the Revised Preferred Strategy are considered below.

National Context

2.5 The documents considered in this section are national documents that apply across the whole of Wales.

Well-being of Future Generations Act (Wales) 2015 (Well-Being Act)

2.6 The Well-being Act sets the framework for improving the well-being of Wales by ensuring that sustainable development is at the heart of government and public bodies. It aims to make a difference to the lives of people in Wales in relation to seven well-being goals:

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

2.7 The Well-being Act puts in place a 'sustainable development principle' and places a well-being duty on public bodies, including local authorities, to 'act in a manner which seeks to ensure that the needs of the present are met without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs'. Sustainable development is at the heart of the 2RLDP and is a fundamental part of the Integrated Sustainability Appraisal (ISA) that is prepared as part of the process.

2.8 The Well-being Act also requires all public bodies to apply the sustainable development principle in decision making through the adoption of 5-ways of working. These are:

- Taking account of the long term;
- Helping to prevent problems occurring or getting worse;
- Taking an integrated approach;
- Taking a collaborative approach; and
- Considering and involving people of all ages and diversity.

2.9 The five ways of working have formed, and will continue to form, an intrinsic part of the 2RLDP's development.

Planning (Wales) Act 2015

2.10 The Planning (Wales) Act (Planning Act) came into force in July 2015. It sets out a series of legislative changes to deliver reform of the planning system in Wales, to ensure that it is fair, resilient and enables development. The Planning Act addresses 5 key objectives which includes strengthening the Plan-led approach to planning. The Planning Act also introduces a legal basis for the preparation of a National Development Framework (NDF) and Strategic Development Plans (SDP), which are discussed in further detail below.

2.11 The Welsh Government published Future Wales - The National Plan 2040 (Future Wales) in February 2021. Future Wales replaced the Wales Spatial Plan and is considered further in paragraphs 2.22 to 2.24.

2.12 The Planning Act also provides the legal framework for the preparation of SDPs which are intended to provide a regional spatial framework for the future development and use of land within a defined region. The preparation of the SDP for the region is the responsibility of the South-East Wales Corporate Joint Committee (CJC), which is currently in its formation stages. The preparation of the 2RLDP is progressing ahead of the preparation of the SDP, although all efforts will be made to ensure that it is in general conformity with the emerging SDP as it is prepared. However, a review of the 2RLDP will be required once the SDP is adopted.

Environment (Wales) Act 2016

2.13 The Environment (Wales) Act (Environment Act) sets out legislation to plan for and manage the natural resources of Wales in a more proactive, sustainable and joined up way, providing an iterative framework which ensures that the natural resources are managed in a sustainable manner, and this will be a core consideration in decision-making. It includes an enhanced biodiversity duty which requires public authorities to maintain and enhance biodiversity and to promote the resilience of ecosystems.

2.14 The Environment Act also introduced a requirement for Natural Resources Wales (NRW) to produce Area Statements. Caerphilly County Borough is included in the Area Statement for South East Wales and this forms part of the evidence base that underpins the 2RLDP.

Active Travel (Wales) Act 2013

2.15 The Active Travel (Wales) Act (Active Travel Act) aims to promote walking and cycling as an attractive mode of transport for purposeful journeys (i.e. to access work, school or shops and services). It seeks to instil a lasting transformation on how developments are planned to incorporate walking and cycling infrastructure from the outset as well as encouraging long term behavioural change.

2.16 The Active Travel Act makes provision for the mapping of active travel routes and related facilities through the Active Travel Network Maps (ATNM). The ATNM for Caerphilly County Borough forms part of the evidence base for the 2RLDP. The Active Travel Act also requires local authorities in Wales to deliver year on year improvements in active travel routes and facilities to enhance opportunities for pedestrians and cyclists to make meaningful journeys without relying on the car.

A More Equal Wales - The Socio-economic Duty Equality Act 2010 (2021)

2.17 The Socio-economic Duty came into force in Wales on the 31 March 2021. The Socio-economic Duty requires specified public bodies, when making strategic decisions such as ‘deciding priorities and setting objectives’, to consider how their decisions might help to reduce the inequalities associated with socio-economic disadvantage. The Duty requires that ‘Due Regard’ be given to the need to reduce the inequalities of outcomes resulting from socio-economic disadvantage. The Duty applies to strategic policy development and as such applies to the 2RLDP. The Socio-economic Duty falls within the scope of the ISA undertaken in respect of the 2RLDP and the findings of the appraisal are set out in the ISA documents.

Planning Policy Wales Edition 12 (2024)

2.18 Edition 12 of Planning Policy Wales (PPW) sets out the land use planning policies and overarching sustainable development goals for Wales, revised to contribute towards the statutory well-being goals of the Well-being of Future Generations Act. PPW sets out a presumption in favour of sustainable development and considers a Plan-led approach to be the most effective means of securing sustainable development through the planning system. Edition 12 of PPW introduced changes to Chapter 6 – Distinctive and Natural Places, with the most prominent being the duty to deliver Net Benefit for Biodiversity within development. PPW has a strong focus on promoting placemaking, which is considered instrumental to achieving sustainable places, delivering socially inclusive development and promoting more cohesive communities. Placemaking is deemed to be a holistic approach that “considers the context, function and relationships between a development site and its wider surroundings”.

2.19 At a strategic level there are four themes which contribute individually to placemaking:

- Strategic & Spatial Choices;
- Active & Social Places;
- Productive & Enterprising Places;
- Distinctive & Natural Places

2.20 In order to inform the spatial strategy, PPW requires development plans to ‘include a spatial strategy covering the lifetime of the plan which establishes a pattern of development improving social, economic, environmental and cultural well-being’. The link between the number of homes due to be provided and the expected job opportunities is clearly emphasised, as is the location of any new development in relation to existing or planned infrastructure. This is important to minimise the need to travel, reduce private car reliance and increase opportunities for cycling, walking and the use of public transport. Development Plans are deemed to ‘provide the main means for achieving integration between land use and transport planning’.

2.21 PPW specifies a well-defined search process to identify development land. Sustainable previously developed land and/or underutilised sites within existing settlements should be reviewed first before suitable, sustainable greenfield sites within or on the edge of settlements are considered. In either case, ‘a broad balance between housing, community facilities, services and employment opportunities should be promoted. Significant weight is attached to developing active and social places in the form of well-connected cohesive communities.

Future Wales - The National Plan 2040 (Welsh Government, February 2021) (Future Wales)

2.22 Future Wales sets out the 20-year spatial framework for land use in Wales, providing a context for the provision of new infrastructure and growth. Future Wales is the highest tier of development plan in Wales and is focused on solutions to issues and challenges at a national scale. Future Wales sets out where nationally important growth and infrastructure is needed and how the planning system at a national, regional and local level can deliver it. It provides direction for SDPs and LDPs and supports the determination of Developments of National Significance and sits alongside PPW.

2.23 Future Wales 2040 sets out 11 outcomes which collectively are a statement of where the Welsh Government wants Wales to be in 20 years' time. The outcomes are:

A Wales where people live....

- and work in connected, inclusive and healthy places
- in vibrant rural places with access to homes, jobs and services
- in distinctive regions that tackle health and socio-economic inequality through sustainable growth
- in places with a thriving Welsh Language
- and work in towns and cities which are a focus and springboard for sustainable growth
- in places where prosperity, innovation and culture are promoted
- in places where travel is sustainable
- in places with world-class digital infrastructure
- in places that sustainably manage their natural resources and reduce pollution
- in places with biodiverse, resilient and connected ecosystems
- in places which are decarbonised and climate resilient.

2.24 Future Wales sets out 18 national policies that apply across the whole of Wales, and 4 regional policies that apply across the South-East Region. Whilst all of the policies will need to be addressed in the 2RLDP, the following policies have particular importance for the Revised Preferred Strategy:

Policy 1 - Where Wales will Grow

Defines the South-East Region as an area of national growth, requiring authorities in the Region to make provision for a level of growth commensurate to the national growth area status. This is re-affirmed in the regional Policy 33 - National Growth Area – Cardiff, Newport and the Valleys, which addresses the development requirements in the region.

Policy 2 - Shaping Urban Growth and Regeneration - Strategic Placemaking, Sets out the national policy requiring Placemaking to be at the heart of every development.

Policy 6 - Town Centre First

Sets out a town centre first approach to the delivery of large-scale development.

Policy 7- Delivering Affordable Homes

Re-affirms Welsh Government's aspiration to deliver significant levels of affordable housing, including through the planning system.

Policy 8 – Flooding

Supports flood risk management that facilitates sustainable economic and national growth, promoting nature-based solutions and seeking to maximise social, economic and environmental benefits from flood risk management infrastructure.

Policy 9 - Resilient Ecological Networks and Green Infrastructure

Sets out Welsh Government's policy for maintaining and enhancing biodiversity, promoting the resilience of ecosystems and green infrastructure and the increased emphasis on Net Benefit for Biodiversity.

Policy 12 - Regional Connectivity

Sets out the Welsh Government's commitment to improving and increasing sustainable transport and requires authorities in the national growth area to plan growth to maximise opportunities arising from investment in public transport. In addition, Regional Policy 36 – South East Metro provides a regional policy basis for the development of the Metro and for Metro focussed developments.

Policy 16 - Heat Networks

Specifically identifies Caerphilly town as a location for the consideration of a district heat network.

Policy 17 - Renewable and Low Carbon Energy and Associated Infrastructure

Policy 18 - Renewable and Low Carbon Energy developments of National Significance

Future Wales has identified Pre-Assessed Areas for Wind Energy, which are areas that have been assessed for landscape and general impact and are considered to be acceptable, in principle, for renewable energy development.

Policy 34 – Green Belts in South Wales

Policy 34 introduces the requirement for a greenbelt in the South-East Wales Region to the north of Cardiff and Newport and the eastern part of the region. The policy requires that the greenbelt and their boundaries be established through the SDP, meaning that LDPs **cannot** determine the boundaries of the greenbelt within their area. However, the policy also includes the requirement that local authorities should not permit or allocate development in areas shown for consideration for greenbelts until the SDP is Adopted. Whilst Future Wales does include an annotated regional plan that includes an area for the greenbelt, this plan is not on an ordnance survey base and is not to scale so the boundaries associated with this plan cannot be literally interpreted. In addition, one of the first considerations in determining greenbelt boundaries is the need to ensure that settlements affected by the greenbelt have sufficient space to grow in the future, as greenbelts are permanent features that once identified are very difficult to change or rescind.

Building Better Places - The Planning System Delivering Resilient and Brighter Futures: Placemaking and the Covid-19 recovery (WG, July 2020)

2.25 This document sets out the Welsh Government's planning policy priorities to assist in the recovery period after the Covid-19 pandemic crisis. It states that the planning system should be centre stage in the consideration of built and natural environment issues that have arisen from the pandemic. The document highlights the key existing planning policies and tools which should be used by all sectors in the environmental, social, cultural and economic recovery of Wales, recognising the continuing need for planners to operate within a wider context of priorities and action at all scales. Local Development Plans should actively embrace the placemaking agenda set out in PPW, with each plan unique to

an area, identifying its character, strengths and areas which need improving and set out policies on how these areas will be improved.

2.26 The document reinforces Welsh Government's commitment to better places, placemaking, quality outcomes and good design, and identifies policy areas that should be the focus of consideration and action, in order to act as a catalyst for a recovery. It identifies key issues which bring individual policy areas together to ensure that action is the most effective. The 2RLDP is a key tool for addressing these issues and will play an important role in supporting the post-Covid recovery of the County Borough. The 8 issues are:

- Staying local: creating neighbourhoods;
- Active travel: exercise and rediscovered transport methods;
- Revitalising our town centres;
- Digital places: the lockdown lifeline;
- Changing working practices: our future need for employment land;
- Reawakening Wales' tourism and cultural sectors;
- Green infrastructure, health and well-being and ecological resilience;
- Improving air quality and soundscapes for better health and well-being;

Prosperity for All: A Low Carbon Wales (2019)

2.27 This sets the foundations for Wales to transition to a low carbon nation; setting out the Welsh Government's approach to increasing efficiency and cutting emissions of greenhouse gasses by at least 80% by 2050. This is vital to meeting the requirements of the Environment Act, thereby contributing to a fairer and healthier society. The five ways of working of the Well-Being Act guide Wales's decarbonisation action, ensuring effective collaboration and involvement with stakeholders to integrate decarbonisation, limit further effects of climate change and maximise all seven national well-being goals.

2.28 The planning system has an important role in facilitating decarbonisation. The focus on Placemaking in PPW encourages well-designed development that ensures communities have all the services they need within easy reach. A plethora of other planning related priorities also encourage lower carbon emissions whilst simultaneously creating places where people can live well. These include promoting renewable energy developments, restricting the use of fossil fuels and incorporating active travel principles (walking and cycling) into new developments. Low carbon infrastructure can ultimately help increase efficiency through the way energy is produced and transmitted, the design and construction of buildings and the transportation of people and goods. All Development Plans must ultimately support these strategic decarbonisation goals to facilitate clean energy and build resilience to the impacts of climate change.

Regional Context

Cardiff Capital Region City Deal

2.29 The Cardiff Capital Region (CCR) comprises ten local authorities across the South-East Wales region, including Caerphilly CBC. These local authorities are working collaboratively on projects and plans for the area that seek to tackle issues affecting the whole of the region, such as worklessness and poor transportation links. The authorities forming the Cardiff Capital Region have entered into a City Deal to fund projects aimed at boosting the competitiveness of the region over the next 20 years. The CCR City Deal will

help boost economic growth by improving transport links, increasing skills, helping people into work and giving businesses the support they need to grow. Strong governance has been established across the region through the Cardiff Capital Region Joint Cabinet. A five-year Strategic Business Plan to leverage maximum economic and social benefits out of the deal was agreed in May 2018 by all 10 local authority partners and the Welsh and Westminster Governments. The Business Plan specifies the regional strategic objectives of the CCR which are:

- Prosperity and Opportunity - building the capacity of individuals, households, public sector and businesses to meet challenges and grasp opportunity, creating a more productive economy;
- Inclusion and Equality - a vibrant and sustainable economy which contributes to the well-being and quality of life of the people and communities in the region now and in the future; and
- Identity, Culture, Community and Sustainability - forging a clear identity and strong reputation as a City Region for trade, innovation and quality of life.

2.30 The CCR are developing a range of funding mechanisms to assist in the development of the region, seeking to address issues of infrastructure and viability. These mechanisms include:

- Wider Investment Fund, which is broken down into sub-funds specially targeted at specific categories;
- Challenge Fund, aimed at finding solutions to challenges associated with decarbonisation, improving health and well-being, and transforming communities;
- Strategic Sites and Premises Fund, to support the region's Industrial and Economic Plan, targeting key projects to deliver the regions objectives;
- Innovation Investment Fund, to provide growth capital to innovative businesses in key industry sectors.
- Northern Valleys Initiative, to increase prosperity and competitiveness across 6 local authorities (Blaenau Gwent, Bridgend, Caerphilly, Merthyr Tydfil, Rhondda Cynon Taf and Torfaen) by stimulating private sector investment to generate jobs and boost GVA.

Corporate Joint Committees

2.31 Corporate Joint Committees (CJCs) are regional corporate bodies, with broadly similar powers, duties, governance and administration to local authorities. CJCs are made up of the local authorities that constitute their areas and membership of the CJC is made up of the executive leaders of the local authorities within that region. In February 2021 the Welsh Ministers laid Regulations establishing four CJCs, one of which is the south-east region comprising the CCR. The CJC for the south-east region was formally constituted in April 2024.

2.32 The CJC is responsible for strategic development planning (preparing the SDP), regional transport planning (preparing the Regional Transport Plan (RTP)) and promoting the economic well-being of their area.

South Wales Metro

2.33 The Metro was part of the original CCR City Deal, with over half of the City Deal total funding being committed to it. Welsh Government, through Transport for Wales (TfW), operate the metro rail services within the region, whilst local authorities are responsible for

bus services and active travel. The Metro is an ambitious project aimed at providing an integrated network of active, bus and rail travel that will improve accessibility and make sustainable transport across, throughout and beyond the region easier and faster. The Metro is a key element in Welsh Government policy, with Future Wales setting out the requirement for LDPs to plan for growth that will maximise the benefit of the Metro funding.

2.34 Metro improvements have taken place and the second phase of improvements to the Core Valley Lines have commenced. These improvements include track and station improvements to accommodate longer and more frequent trains along the Rhymney Valley line. The improvements are now expected to be completed in 2025.

2.35 Whilst the 2 phases of improvements have exhausted most of the funding for the Metro, there are a large number of additional projects that have been put forward for consideration for future tranches of Metro funding, should these be made available. These projects are collectively referred to as Metro Plus schemes and a number of schemes in the County Borough have been proposed.

Regional Collaboration

2.36 Due to its location at the heart of the CCR it is important that Caerphilly CBC collaborates with its adjoining authorities, as well as with the other three authorities that comprise the Cardiff Capital Region. Following the abolition of the County Council's as part of the 1996 local government reorganisation, the 10 local authorities of the CCR set up the South East Wales Strategic Planning Group (SEWSPG) that has continued up to the present day. SEWSPG's role was to consider policy issues that affected the region and provide feedback to Welsh Government on a variety of issues. Consequently, it is clear that the whole region has a track record of working collaboratively from a planning policy perspective.

2.37 As part of the preparation of the 2RLDP it is a requirement that Caerphilly CBC liaises and collaborates with the CCR authorities, particularly in respect of cross-boundary issues. This continues to happen through the SEWSPG meetings and through direct liaison with all of the authorities. However, for this round of LDP reviews the local authorities have taken collaboration a step further and, where appropriate given each local authority's progress on their LDP preparation, joint collaboration and procurement of evidence base and other work has been undertaken. To date Caerphilly CBC has worked collaboratively with other authorities in respect of:

- The development of a development viability model for site-specific and high-level viability assessments (all 10 CCR authorities and local authorities in the Mid and West Wales Regions);
- Larger than Local Regional Employment Study (Caerphilly, Blaenau Gwent, Monmouthshire, Torfaen and Newport - looking at the regional employment market);
- Procurement of a consultation database system for the LDP (Caerphilly, Vale of Glamorgan and RCT);
- Regional Renewable and Low Carbon Energy Assessment (Caerphilly, Blaenau Gwent, Monmouthshire, Newport and Torfaen);
- Strategic Flood Consequences Assessment (All 10 CCR authorities).
- Regional Study on Growth and Migration in the Cardiff Capital Region (all 10 authorities)
- Regional collaboration on Minerals through the Regional Aggregates Working party.

2.38 Collaboration and liaison with the other local authorities will continue as the 2RLDP progresses and where opportunities occur for joint commissioning or collaboration on issues, Caerphilly CBC will continue to contribute positively towards them.

Well-being Plan for Gwent

2.39 The Caerphilly Public Service Board (Caerphilly PSB) has been amalgamated with the other Public Service Boards (PSBs) in Gwent to form the Gwent Public Service Board (Gwent PSB). The Gwent PSB has the responsibility for preparing the Well-being Plan for the Gwent area, which will cover Caerphilly County Borough. The Well-being Plan for Gwent was published in August 2023 and sets out the 2 well-being objectives for the area and the steps required to deliver them. The two objectives are:

- We want to create a fairer, more equitable and inclusive Gwent for all.
- We want a climate-ready Gwent, where our environment is valued and protected, benefitting our well-being now and for future generations.

Local Context

2.40 A key element in delivering national and regional targets and outcomes is the role that the Council takes in interpreting high level guidance and policy into practical and meaningful change in the County Borough. The Council has prepared a number of corporate strategies that address how it does its business and how it seeks to deliver on the targets and requirements that are set upon it. Whilst not all of the corporate documents are relevant to planning there are a number of key documents that the 2RLDP will need to take into account as part of its preparation.

Caerphilly County Borough Corporate Plan (Including Well-being Objectives) 2023 – 2028

2.41 Following the amalgamation of the Caerphilly Public Services Board with the other PSBs in Gwent to form the Gwent Public Service Board, the Council's well-being plan is the Well-being Plan for Gwent outlined above. However, the Council has set out the well-being objectives for the county borough with its Corporate Plan that was published in November 2023.

2.42 The Corporate Plan sets out 5 well-being objectives for the county borough and addresses how these will be delivered. The 5 objectives are:

- WBO1 - Enabling our Children to Succeed in Education
- WBO2 - Enabling our Residents to Thrive
- WBO3 - Enabling our Communities to Thrive
- WBO4 - Enabling our Economy to Grow
- WBO5 - Enabling our Environment to be Greener

Climate Emergency and The Decarbonisation Strategy

2.43 In June 2019, in light of the increasing climate change issues that are facing us all, the Council formally declared a Climate Emergency. The Climate Emergency relates to the way that the Council itself does business. In declaring the Climate Emergency, the Council has committed to:

- Becoming net carbon neutral by 2030, and

- Developing a clear decarbonisation strategy that allows the Council to meet the carbon neutral target.

2.44 In November 2020 the Council formally adopted its decarbonisation strategy entitled Reduce, Produce, Offset and Buy. The strategy is naturally focussed on energy use and production and sets out an energy hierarchy to deliver decarbonisation:

- **REDUCE:** Reducing energy use is the first step in the energy hierarchy. There are many ways in which the authority can further reduce its impact on the environment and specifically reduce the volume of carbon emissions it emits.
- **PRODUCE:** Generating its own “green” electricity and heat at the point of use will reduce the Council’s carbon emissions and will bring the added benefit of offsetting grid demand and reducing system losses associated with grid supplied electricity.
- **OFFSET:** In order to achieve net zero carbon, the authority will need to offset any carbon emissions. There are a number of ways that the Council can do this, including tree planting, rewilding and sustainable drainage.
- **BUY:** The new way of thinking required for the Council to achieve its net zero carbon goal will also focus on how it purchases goods and services. Everything the Council purchases has embedded carbon associated with it and this will need to be considered in the procurement process.

2.45 In order to deliver the objectives of the Decarbonisation Strategy two supporting documents have also been prepared:

- **ACTION PLAN:** Implementing the objectives of the Decarbonisation Strategy will require a myriad of actions to be taken forward by a wide range of stakeholders. The Action Plan sets out these actions in more detail and focuses activity around target areas.
- **ENERGY PROSPECTUS:** The Energy Prospectus sets out the key areas in which the Council will focus that could result in major reductions in carbon emissions, highlighting key energy projects that the authority is investigating.

A Foundation for Success 2018 – 2023 (Regeneration Strategy)

2.46 In July 2018 the Council Adopted its Regeneration Strategy “A Foundation for Success 2018 - 2023”. This document provides the overarching framework for delivering regeneration across the County Borough by providing the platform for the continuing transformation of the County Borough. The strategy identified 4 high level objectives, namely:

- **Supporting People:** This objective seeks to address issues that the residents of the County Borough face in achieving their potential;
- **Supporting Business:** This objective seeks to address issues that residents have in respect of gaining employment as well as assisting existing and new businesses to develop and grow;
- **Supporting Quality of Life:** This objective seeks to address the issues that affect the quality of life for residents including the provision of appropriate affordable housing, maintaining the natural environment and providing meaningful open spaces and ensuring appropriate placemaking through development;
- **Connecting People and Places:** This objective seeks to address issues of accessibility and connectivity throughout the County Borough, including physical transport and digital connectivity.

2.47 A Foundation for Success was the overarching framework for the regeneration for the County Borough and did not include detailed regeneration projects or developments. To support the Strategy, and to provide more detail of the potential projects within the County Borough a series of 5 Masterplans have been developed for specific areas within the County Borough:

- Caerphilly Basin Masterplan (covers the Caerphilly town, the Aber Valley, Llanbradach, Bedwas, Trethomas and Machen);
- Ystrad Mynach Masterplan (covers the greater Ystrad Mynach area including Nelson);
- Heads of the Valleys Regeneration Area Masterplan (covers the Heads of the Valleys area from Rhymney down to Bargoed);
- Lower Ebbw and Sirhowy Valleys Masterplan (covers the lower Ebbw valley from Newbridge down to Risca/ Pontymister and the Sirhowy Valley from Wyllie down to Wattsville);
- Greater Blackwood Masterplan (covers the Blackwood Oakdale, Crumlin and Maescwmmer areas).

2.48 The masterplans set out more detail on the projects and schemes for the regeneration of their areas that will deliver the objectives of A Foundation for Success. The Regeneration Strategy and the Masterplans are intended to cover a five-year period and will be reviewed every five years. The Regeneration Strategy is currently being reviewed.

A Foundation for Success: Delivering Prosperity after Covid

2.49 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 addition to the well-documented impact of the pandemic on public health, its effect combined with the impact of Brexit on the economy has been profound.

2.50 In response the Council established a Strategic Recovery Framework to support the Council and the wider County Borough to recover whilst continuing to support the Wellbeing Objectives set out in the Corporate Plan 2018 - 23. The economic recovery framework 'Delivering Prosperity after Covid' was prepared to deliver the strategic objective of Supporting Business and the framework had three, distinct phases as follows:

- The Restart phase - an initial 'led by Government' phase;
- The Revive phase - tied to testing, potential vaccine availability and public confidence and behaviour; and
- The Renew phase - which builds on the Council approved Wellbeing and Place Shaping Framework which provides a list of potential civic investments across Caerphilly in excess of £231m that align explicitly with the Council's adopted Wellbeing Objectives, and which will be delivered in the short to medium term.

2.51 Long-term investments in infrastructure such as that proposed within the Place Shaping Framework, hold the potential to rebalance the local economy, enhance productivity and create jobs and opportunities across Caerphilly County Borough which is of great importance as we support our communities to rebuild a sustainable and resilient future post Covid.

Housing Strategy: An Agenda for Change 2021 – 2026 (Housing Strategy)

2.52 The Housing Strategy sets out the intentions of the Council and its partners to meet a wide range of housing objectives. The strategy includes a long-term vision for housing in the County Borough incorporating the themes of affordability, supply, quality, management, sustainability, resilience and health and wellbeing. The vision is underpinned by 5 strategic priorities:

- Creating better choices - focusing on person centred solutions;
- Creating great places to live - creating sustainable and liveable places;
- Creating healthy and vibrant communities - providing advice, support and solutions across all tenures;
- Delivering new homes - improving the delivery of new homes; and
- Supporting specialist housing needs - supporting independence and creating positive pathways.

2.53 In addition to the five priorities, the strategy includes the following cross-cutting themes that reflect the values and commitments of the Council and its partners:

- Sustainable development - achieving a better and more sustainable future;
- Health and wellbeing - improving health outcomes and promoting wellbeing; and
- Equality, diversity and inclusion - providing services without barriers, which respect difference and promote inclusion.

2.54 The Housing Strategy is accompanied by a delivery plan, which is set over the same period as the strategy. The delivery plan outlines a range of actions developed by the Council and its partners, under each of the 5 strategic priorities, to realise the long-term housing vision. The delivery plan will be monitored and reviewed by the Caerphilly Affordable Homes Partnership.

3 Key Land Use Issues

3.1 A development plan is an intervention tool in the development market, influencing where development can and cannot go. In a scenario where the market is delivering the development that an area needs there would be no need for a development plan. The role of the 2RLDP is, therefore, to address the land use issues facing the County Borough through a policy framework that will deliver the desired outcomes.

3.2 An understanding of the issues facing the County Borough is an essential element of the preparation of the 2RLDP and the policy framework will need to be developed to address these issues. An outline of the key issues is set out below to provide context for the Revised Preferred Strategy. A more comprehensive review of the issues is set out in the Review Report. The key issues for the 2RLDP to address are:

National and Regional Issues

NR1: Climate change is a global issue that will require action at all levels. The 2RLDP will need to address the issues causing climate change and ensure climate change resilience and mitigation are fundamental elements in the design and layout of all new development.

NR2: The impacts of Covid-19, Brexit and the war in Ukraine have had significant adverse impacts upon the country's economy through business closures and supply chain issues. The Revised Preferred Strategy seeks economic growth through the plan period so the 2RLDP will need to directly address these issues.

NR3: The need to decarbonise is a national priority and the 2RLDP will need to proactively promote zero carbon energy generation in combination with reducing energy consumption and increasing energy efficiency.

NR4: Wales has a housing shortage as a result of the under-provision of housebuilding over an extended period of time. The 2RLDP will need to promote and deliver both market and affordable housing in places where people want to live in order to provide people with the homes they want to live in.

NR5: The South East Wales Metro will help deliver an integrated public transport network across the region. The 2RLDP will need to give effect to locally applicable Metro priorities in land-use terms and acting as a mechanism for the delivery of specific proposals.

NR6: The Sustainable Communities for Learning programme is a significant, long-term capital investment programme to create a generation of 21st century schools, involving collaborative working between Welsh Government and local authorities. The 2RLDP will enable the delivery of specific proposals within the County Borough, in land-use terms.

NR7: The County Borough is at the heart of the national growth area identified in Future Wales. The 2RLDP will need to accommodate growth at a level commensurate to the national growth area designation.

Environmental Issues

EN1: As part of the climate change emergency addressing decarbonisation is a key driver for delivering change. The Council has declared a 'climate emergency' which will involve a number of measures, including:

- Promoting and delivering renewable energy generation schemes;
- Promoting climate change adaptation and mitigation through development schemes;
- Embracing sustainable drainage and reducing flood risk;
- Promoting a significant modal shift to sustainable transport (rail, bus, cycling and walking);
- Providing electric charging facilities for electric vehicles.

EN2: The 2RLDP will also need to address air quality issues in the County Borough, particularly those arising from transport related activity, which has led to 2 Air Quality Management Areas being identified.

EN3: The 2RLDP will need to maximise the benefits arising from the South Wales Metro investment and should promote further improvements and additions to the transport network;

EN4: The 2RLDP will need to ensure the maintenance and enhancement of blue and green infrastructure is a fundamental element in the design of all development. In addition, the 2RLDP will need to protect and enhance:

- Areas of ecological and geological importance;
- Areas of high landscape value;
- Important areas of open space.

EN5: The 2RLDP will look to utilise brownfield land before greenfield land in the first instance, though this does not mean that greenfield development should not take place where insufficient viable and deliverable brownfield sites are available to meet the County Borough requirements.

EN6: The County Borough contains a number of priority habitats that support ecological connectivity. The 2RLDP should support and enhance this network and maximise opportunities for biodiversity net gain and the improvement of ecological links.

Economic Issues

EC1: The County Borough has relatively high levels of economic inactivity, low levels of educational attainment and pockets of deprivation as evidenced by the 2019 WIMD. The 2RLDP should seek address these issues to promote economic activity and generate economic growth.

EC2: The rate of employment land take-up has been low over the course of the present plan period and there is a significant shortage of available employment land in the Caerphilly Basin to enable companies to expand and grow. The 2RLDP will need to ensure that employment sites are deliverable, and that appropriate employment land is made available in the Caerphilly Basin.

EC3: A high proportion of the workforce remains employed in manufacturing, which is a sector that is projected to decline over the plan period. The 2RLDP will need to promote diversification in its sectoral employment and build on its current strengths.

EC4: The Welsh Government projections project that the economic population within the County Borough will decrease significantly over the plan period. The 2RLDP will need to ensure sufficient land is identified to generate the types and numbers of jobs that will attract people to work and live in the County Borough.

EC5: Town and retail centres provide a significant level of employment within the County Borough and the 2RLDP will need to maximise the opportunities for employment within these centres in order to deliver the economic benefit.

EC6: Tourism is an important part of the economy in terms of ongoing, long-term growth, as well as being a key factor in developing the identity of the County Borough. The 2RLDP will seek to continue to develop the County Borough's range of tourist attractions and integrate these with complementary services and facilities as a cohesive tourist offer.

EC7: The County Borough continues to have a high rate of out-commuting. This will need to be addressed by a co-ordinated approach between increasing employment opportunities in the County Borough and improving accessibility between major residential areas and employment centres, as well as accommodating homeworking which could have significant impacts on travel needs.

EC8: Digital connectivity will continue to play an important role in enabling agile working and facilitating economic growth. The 2RLDP will promote and support the delivery of digital and communications infrastructure to meet the needs of users and providers for the plan period.

Social Issues

SO1: Natural change has been a key element in the County Borough's growth throughout its history. However, the Welsh Government projections project that the number of deaths will outnumber the number of births, and this will result in negative natural change throughout the plan period. Consequently, the 2RLDP will need to make proactively attract

people into the County Borough to deliver growth in accordance with the Revised Preferred Strategy.

SO2: The County Borough has a relatively high level of limiting long-term illness and low life expectancy. The 2RLDP should seek to give effect, insofar as it is able, to measures which contribute to addressing this, in land-use terms.

SO3: Changes in the retail environment mean that the 2RLDP will need to be highly flexible to respond to the changing needs of town and retail centres and almost certainly a diversification of uses across these centres will be required.

SO4: The 2RLDP will need to continue to protect and improve the provision of formal urban natural greenspace and address issues in the provision of sport and recreational space across the County Borough to promote the well-being of residents.

SO5: The 2RLDP will need to facilitate the delivery of community infrastructure provision. Many of the services and facilities required to be delivered are the responsibility of bodies other than the Council and, as such, the Council will need to work with other public sector bodies to identify the land required to deliver the necessary facilities and infrastructure required.

SO6: Underpinning development with sound placemaking principles is the way to deliver sustainable development and resilient communities. The 2RLDP will need to ensure that the policy framework is underpinned by placemaking principles.

SO7: The County Borough includes areas of high deprivation. The 2RLDP will need to facilitate measures that will alleviate deprivation through land allocations and a flexible policy framework.

Cultural Issues

CU1: The 2RLDP should seek to give effect, insofar as it is able, to land use measures that foster the development and use of the Welsh language.

CU2: The 2RLDP should consider new development within the context of the variety of heritage assets, and their setting, that exist within the County Borough.

CU3: Heritage assets are often found in the middle of the County Borough's town and retail centres in areas generally at risk from flooding and climate change impacts. The 2RLDP should promote resilience and adaptation in the heritage assets of the County Borough.

CU4: There are a large number of heritage assets that through adaptive reuse could provide a valuable housing and mixed-use economic resource. The 2RLDP should maximise opportunities for adaptive reuse of built heritage assets to assist in the regeneration of town centres and increase the potential for rehabilitation of empty sites for housing and economic regeneration.

CU5: Placemaking has the potential to significantly reinforce the cultural and historic environment throughout the County Borough. The 2RLDP should ensure that it maximises these opportunities.

CU6: The heritage of the County Borough is a significant generator for the tourist economy in the County Borough. The 2RLDP should be flexible to enable the enhancement and broadening of heritage tourism, whilst protecting the heritage assets that enable it to contribute to the economy.

4 The Strategic Vision, Aims and Objectives

The Vision

4.1 A vision of what the County Borough will be like at the end of the plan period is important to understanding what needs to change over the plan period. These changes will inform the policy framework which will drive and direct change to realise the vision.

4.2 The Vision, Aims and Objectives for the 2RLDP have been the subject of discussion and consideration through the LDP Engagement process via the seminar series. These discussions and considerations are set out in detail in the Council's Evidence Base Document "Pre-Deposit Engagement". The LDP Focus Group considered the discussions from the engagement process and recommended to Council that the following vision be adopted for the 2RLDP.

The Vision for the 2RLDP

The Development Strategy for Caerphilly County Borough will capitalise on our strategic location at the heart of the Cardiff Capital Region. It will deliver sustainable development that will enhance the well-being of those that live, work, play in and visit the County Borough. By the end of the plan period the strategy will have:

- **Addressed the economic and social challenges raised by Covid-19, Brexit and changes in employment and retailing patterns, facilitated an increased number of jobs, sustained economic growth, exploited existing strengths in manufacturing and the foundational economy and created vibrant town centres with diverse uses.**
- **Developed and enhanced the blue and green infrastructure across the County Borough by incorporating it in the design of development and promoting the protection and enhancement of important areas for both nature conservation and the health and well-being of residents.**
- **Addressed the housing crisis through the provision of affordable and market housing, developed a wide range and choice of housing and ensured that all residents have access to a good quality home in the right locations.**
- **Built on the diverse and distinct character of the towns and villages in the County Borough, having put placemaking principles at the heart of design and encouraged cultural richness and diversity.**
- **Enhanced the strategic network of recreation, leisure, education and community facilities, strengthened communities and engendered a better quality of life for all.**

All of these will be based on greener attitudes that include:

- **Increased use of sustainable public transport and electric vehicles, including charging infrastructure,**
- **Increased accessibility through improvements to the active travel network,**
- **Increased generation and use of renewable energy in the County Borough.**

The Key Aims and Objectives

4.3 In order to deliver the Vision through the 2RLDP, a series of Aims, which identify broad areas for action, and Objectives, which set out detailed actions to deliver elements of the overall Vision, are identified. The Aims and Objectives will inform future detailed policy development associated with the Deposit 2RLDP.

The Key Aims

4.4 The key aims for the 2RLDP are to:

- A: Address the causes of, and mitigate and build resilience to, the effects of climate change.
- B: Underpin all development with the principles of Placemaking, Sustainable Development and good design.
- C: Ensure equal opportunities and access for all to proposed and existing homes, jobs, facilities and services within the County Borough.
- D: Enhance the vibrancy, diversity and character of local communities through the use of sound placemaking principles for the health and well-being of residents and to engender social cohesion.
- E: Protecting and enhancing the County Borough's blue and green infrastructure whilst balancing the need for development through balancing the environmental, social, cultural and economic impacts to deliver sustainable development.
- F: Promote Caerphilly County Borough as an area with a distinctive identity and as an area in its own right within the Cardiff Capital Region, whilst working together for the benefit of the region.
- G: Establish a sustainable economic and population structure that will support our communities and our economy.
- H: Address the economic challenges facing the County Borough through the provision of sustainably located land to increase the number of jobs, promote the circular economy and engender economic growth in the County Borough, whilst promoting diverse town centres with a range of employment opportunities and delivering the waste hierarchy.
- I: Facilitate the development of affordable and market housing, in sustainable locations, to provide a range and choice of housing that will provide everyone the opportunity of a quality home in the right place.
- J: Support the development and further expansion of the SEW Metro by identifying opportunities for enhancing accessibility and promoting existing transport infrastructure to facilitate a shift to public transport and electric vehicles, whilst increasing the potential for active travel for local and leisure trips and maintaining the resilience of the strategic highway network.
- K: Support and facilitate the development of modern education facilities to upskill the population tailored to the County Borough's future needs.
- L: Positively encourage renewable energy generation and use in the County Borough to assist in reducing emissions and mitigate against the effects of climate change.

- M: Facilitate the creation of quality places through developments that are based on good design and ensure all developments minimise the potential for crime and anti-social behaviour.
- N: Facilitate the protection, regeneration and enhancement of the historic fabric of the County Borough for the benefit its rich culture and diversity brings to the communities in the County Borough.
- O: Contribute to improving public health through the facilitation of land use developments that contribute to healthy lifestyles and mental well-being.

The Key Objectives

4.5 The key objectives for the 2RLDP are set out below and include reference to the Key Aims that they address:

1. Accommodate sustainable levels of population growth that accords with the County Borough's status within the National Growth Area (G, H, I).
2. Manage, preserve, and enhance the quality of valuable open space and landscape and safeguard them from inappropriate forms of development (D, M).
3. Deliver Net Biodiversity Benefit through identifying new, and protecting and enhancing existing, green and blue infrastructure and biodiversity assets, (E).
4. Ensure that all developments deliver Net Biodiversity Benefit through appropriate layout and design, (E).
5. Ensure that development proposals fully address climate change adaptation and mitigation and include measures that are in accordance with the energy hierarchy (A, B, E).
6. Deliver the Welsh Government's zero carbon targets and assist the Council's climate emergency by promoting the development of renewable energy generation in appropriate locations (A, L).
7. Ensure that all developments are underpinned by circular economy principles, prevent waste through the consideration of design choices and site treatment and make provision for sustainable waste management facilities that reflect the priority order of the waste hierarchy (H).
8. Encourage the re-use and / or reclamation of appropriate brownfield and contaminated land and prevent the incidence of further contamination and dereliction (E).
9. Ensure the location of new development facilitates easy access to sustainable transport and active travel and the proposed development accords with the role and function of settlements in line with the settlement hierarchy (J).
10. Ensure an adequate and appropriate range of housing sites are available across the County Borough in the most sustainable locations to meet the housing requirements of all sections of the population (I).
11. Ensure all new development meets the requirements of good placemaking, design and sustainability as set out in the Placemaking Charter creating places with a strong sense of community, quality design, sustainability, activity, equality and to create a sense of place (A, M).
12. Manage, protect and enhance the quality and quantity of the water environment and reduce water consumption (D, E).

13. Reduce the impact of flooding by ensuring that highly vulnerable development is directed away from areas of medium and high risk of flooding and embedding sound SuDS principals in the design and layout of development from the outset. (E)
14. Reduce the need to travel by promoting a mix of land use allocations in sustainable locations and provide improved digital infrastructure (E, J).
15. Promote accessibility for all by prioritising walking and cycling (active travel), then public transport and finally motor vehicles thus reducing air borne pollution and the dependency on private vehicles (J).
16. Capitalise on the County Borough's position within the National Growth Area, supporting co-ordinated regeneration and investment to improve well-being, increase prosperity and address social inequality and complementing the strategic roles of Cardiff and Newport (F).
17. Provide and protect a diverse portfolio of employment land for a variety of uses in the most appropriate locations, ensuring that jobs and housing are aligned with services and sustainable transport infrastructure (H, K).
18. Significantly improve the visitor economy through the enhancement of existing, and the development of new and diverse, all-season tourist attractions and visitor accommodation and maximise the associated benefits the improvements provide (H).
19. Promote an integrated and sustainable public transport system (J).
20. Ensure provision of ultra-low emission vehicle charging infrastructure (J).
21. Provide a wide range of community facilities, which are appropriately located, easily accessible, improve health and well-being and meet the needs of the County Borough (B, C, D, O).
22. Promote, sustain and enhance the County Borough's retail and commercial centres as the most sustainable locations in which to live, work, shop, socialise and conduct business, ensuring their accessibility by sustainable modes of transport (H).
23. Protect, conserve, and increase the value of the Historic Environment by promoting heritage as an asset and encouraging adaptive reuse, sustainability, placemaking and regeneration (B, N).
24. Promote the Historic Environment through historic places that contribute to the history of the county borough, while promoting and conserving the cultural heritage and historic environment, through local communities and visitor inclusivity (B, H, N).
25. Ensure the County Borough is well served by accessible public open space and accessible natural greenspace, that promotes a healthy and active lifestyle and improves overall wellbeing (B, D, E, M, O).

5 Strategic Growth and Strategy Options

Population

5.1 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.

5.2 In order to consider the implications of the changes not only in population levels, but also in the population structure for the County Borough, a number of alternative growth options have been assessed. Population change is comprised of a mixture of two factors, natural change (the difference between the numbers of births and deaths in a year) and migration rates (the difference between those who move into the County Borough and those who move out). Options for population change are projected using altered information or assumptions in respect of one, or both, of natural change and migration rates.

5.3 Overall, 11 population options were originally considered for the 2RLDP strategy, 3 based on the 2018 Welsh Government population projections, 4 based on migration assumptions, 2 based on housebuilding rates, 1 based on economic population and 1 employment based. A full summary of the options and their consideration are set out in the Council's Evidence Base Document: "Population and Housing Growth Options".

5.4 However, 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 and population 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.

Key issues in considering the Population and Housing Projections

5.5 Both the LDP Manual and PPW advise that the latest Welsh Government Projections be considered first in this process. For this process the Council has considered the 2018 based Welsh Government Principal Projection (Principal Projection).

5.6 Population change is a derivative of the birth rate, death rate and migration levels in the County Borough. The Principal Projection projects, for the first time, a higher number of deaths than births, which results in negative natural change, i.e. population loss. This has not happened previously in the County Borough's history, with all previous years seeing positive natural change contributing to population growth. Negative natural change means that the County Borough would reduce in population if there was no net migration.

5.7 Despite the negative natural change, the Principal Projection identifies an increase in population, due to migration over the plan period (2020 to 2035), of just over 1800 people, representing a 1% increase. Despite the increase in overall population, analysis of the population structure at the start and end of the plan period identifies that the economic population (working aged people) would decline by nearly 2,900 people, and the comparison also identifies a decline in children (0-15) over the plan period of approximately 2,700 children.

5.8 The loss of economic population and of the child age population would have very significant implications for the economy of the County Borough, with a reducing workforce and fewer younger people coming through to employment age. This means that the County Borough could easily be planning for economic contraction rather than growth. The loss in population in these age groups could also have very significant implications for

services and infrastructure, particularly schools, with significantly reducing levels of school age children.

5.9 Caerphilly County Borough is located within the Cardiff Capital Region which, through its City Deal, is seeking to increase the number of jobs in the region by 25,000. In addition, it is also located within the National Growth Area identified in Future Wales, which seeks a commensurate level of growth to be catered for in this area. A fundamental part of any strategy that seeks to satisfy these requirements is a population that exhibits growth, with growth in the economic population in particular in order to achieve the jobs targets. Consequently, a strategy will only meet the requirements of Future Wales and the CCR aspirations if it identifies an appropriate level of growth in population (including economic population).

Household Projections

5.10 Household projections provide estimates of the future numbers of households and of the numbers of people who live in them. They are based on population projections and a range of assumptions about household composition and characteristics. The number of households is converted into a number of dwellings by applying a vacancy rate, to allow for vacant properties and churn in the market.

5.11 This has been undertaken for all 11 of the original projections and housing options identified. The full projections are set out in the Population and Housing Growth Options document.

Assessment of the Alternative Growth Scenarios

5.12 A total of 11 growth options were originally considered for the 2RLDP. The summaries of each of the outcomes is set out below:

1. Scenario A: WG 2018-based Principal Projection, Population Change 2020-2035: 1,881, Percentage Population Change 2020 to 2035: 1.0, Household Change 2020-2035: 2,862, Percentage Household Change 2020-2035: 3.7, Total Dwellings: 2,966, Dwellings per annum: 198, Change in working age population: -2,868.
2. Scenario B: WG 2018-based High Population, Population Change 2020-2035: 5,499, Percentage Population Change 2020 to 2035: 3.0, Household Change 2020-2035: 4,241, Percentage Household Change 2020-2035: 5.5, Total Dwellings: 4,395, Dwellings per annum: 293, Change in working age population: -1,842.
3. Scenario C: WG 2018-based Low Population, Population Change 2020-2035: -3,313, Percentage Population Change 2020 to 2035: -1.8, Household Change 2020-2035: 1,026, Percentage Household Change 2020-2035: 1.3, Total Dwellings: 1,064, Dwellings per annum: 71, Change in working age population: -3,938.
4. Scenario D: Zero Net Migration, Population Change 2020-2035: -2,789, Percentage Population Change 2020 to 2035: -1.5, Household Change 2020-2035: 884, Percentage Household Change 2020-2035: 1.1, Total Dwellings: 917, Dwellings per annum: 61, Change in working age population: -6,413.
5. Scenario E: Long Term Average Migration (19 Year), Population Change 2020-2035: -1,002, Percentage Population Change 2020 to 2035: -0.6, Household Change 2020-2035: 1,695, Percentage Household Change 2020-2035: 2.2, Total Dwellings: 1,756, Dwellings per annum: 117, Change in working age population: -5,380.
6. Scenario F: Long Term Average Migration (10 Year), Population Change 2020-2035: -1,137, Percentage Population Change 2020 to 2035: -0.6, Household

Change 2020-2035: 1,636, Percentage Household Change 2020-2035: 2.1, Total Dwellings: 1,696, Dwellings per annum: 113, Change in working age population: -5,443.

7. Scenario G: South-East Wales average migration, Population Change 2020-2035: 5,212, Percentage Population Change 2020 to 2035: 2.9, Household Change 2020-2035: 4,195, Percentage Household Change 2020-2035: 5.4, Total Dwellings: 4,348, Dwellings per annum: 290, Change in working age population: -756.
8. Scenario H: Continuation of adopted LDP, Population Change 2020-2035: 15,058, Percentage Population Change 2020 to 2035: 8.3, Household Change 2020-2035: 8,323, Percentage Household Change 2020-2035: 10.8, Total Dwellings: 8,622, Dwellings per annum: 575, Change in working age population: 7,668.
9. Scenario I: Long term housebuilding rates, Population Change 2020-2035: 7,990, Percentage Population Change 2020 to 2035: 4.4, Household Change 2020-2035: 5,399, Percentage Household Change 2020-2035: 7.0, Total Dwellings: 5,595, Dwellings per annum: 373, Change in working age population: 1,944.
- 10. Scenario J: CCR Growth in Working age population, Population Change 2020-2035: 10,685, Percentage Population Change 2020 to 2035: 5.9, Household Change 2020-2035: 6,513, Percentage Household Change 2020-2035: 8.4, Total Dwellings: 6,750, Dwellings per annum: 450, Change in working age population: 4,126.**
11. Scenario K: Oxford Economics Employment Forecast scenario, Population Change 2020-2035: -8,805, Percentage Population Change 2020 to 2035: -4.8%, Household Change 2020-2035: -2031, Percentage Household Change 2020-2035: -2.6%, Total Dwellings: 0, Dwellings per annum: 0, Change in working age population: -11,231.

5.13 The expectation arising from Caerphilly's inclusion within Future Wales's National Growth Area designation and the economic aspirations of CCR mean that any strategy proposed for 2RLDP will need to ensure a viable and sustainable economic population and demonstrate growth. As a result of this only four of the options have been considered for the 2RLDP strategy. These 4 options are:

- Scenario A: WG 2018 based Principal Projection;
- Scenario H: Continuation of adopted LDP
- Scenario I: Long term housebuilding rates; and
- Scenario J: CCR Working Age Population Growth.

5.14 The Growth Options have been subject of engagement through the LDP seminar series. As a consequence of this work the LDP Focus Group (the group with the responsibility for making recommendations to Council in respect of the 2RLDP matters) recommended that Scenario J: CCR Working Age Population Growth scenario be used as the basis for the emerging plan.

5.15 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. Consequently, despite the changing starting point, the Council continues to believe that Scenario J: continues to be 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.

Economic Requirements

5.16 Given that the Growth Option chosen for the emerging plan is based upon the CCR aspirations for economic growth, it is important that the plan makes provision to accommodate a sufficient level of growth from an employment perspective. The Council commissioned 2 studies, a larger than local study that considers the regional market and a local employment land review that considers the availability of existing sites and the amount of new land that would need to be identified through the emerging plan. These documents have informed the employment land requirements for the 2RLDP having regard for Growth Scenario J:. The studies identify a requirement for the provision of an additional 39.6 hectares of employment land to be allocated to meet the employment requirements, although an additional 4.9 hectares of land is being identified to address the shortage of available land in the south of the County Borough. Consequently, a total of 44.5 hectares of land are identified to meet the overall employment requirement for the County Borough.

Growth in a Regional Context

5.17 Future Wales Policies 19 and 33 set out the regional approach to considering growth across the CCR and Welsh Government's expectation that local planning authorities will address their proposed levels of growths in a regional context. In response to this the South East Wales Planning Officers Society, in conjunction with SEWSPG, commissioned consultants to undertake a study of regional growth and migration in the 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. The regional study strongly confirmed the proposed employment (jobs) growth whilst showing a reduced overall population level, which reflects the starting population that was based on the revised population in accordance with the Census and rebased mid-year estimates.

5.18 The Council has revisited Scenario J: and has rebased the projections for this option to reflect the Census and rebased mid-year estimates.

Policy PS1: The Level of Growth for the 2RLDP

PS1 The 2RLDP adopts the growth levels set out in the Revised Scenario J: - CCR Working Age population Growth scenario. The 2RLDP will plan for an increase in population of approximately 11,603 people, with an increase in the economic population of around 3,005 people.

Strategy Options

5.19 Having identified the level of growth the next step was to consider how the level of growth could be appropriately distributed throughout the County Borough. A total of 6 alternative strategy options have been considered as part of the process, reflecting the issues facing the County Borough and the national and regional policy framework. The consideration and assessment of the strategy options is set out in the Evidence Base Document "Strategy Options Assessment". The six strategy options considered were:

- **Strategy Option 1: Continuation of the LDP Strategy**

This would see the continuation of the strategy currently contained within the Adopted LDP. The strategy guides development within a broad strategic framework underpinning the principles of sustainable development. The County Borough was divided into three strategic areas, each with their own strategic development

policies. These strategic areas are the Heads of the Valleys Regeneration Area (HoVRA), Northern Connections Corridor (NCC) and the Southern Connections Corridor (SCC).

- **Strategy Option 2: Heads of the Valleys Regeneration Area Focus**

This strategy seeks to maximise development opportunities in the Heads of the Valleys Regeneration Area to promote economic growth, broaden the range and choice of housing and to maximise the benefits from the major investment and improvement in the Metro and the A465.

- **Strategy Option 3: Key Strategic Site**

This strategy option would see the allocation of a strategic site at Maesycwmmer to accommodate a significant proportion of new housing development, alongside the development of an access road and improved strategic transport link. Additional new development would be primarily focused on the Greater Blackwood and Greater Ystrad Mynach areas, together with the Lower Ebbw and Sirhowy Valleys, on the most appropriate and sustainable sites that are well related to the rail network and public transport interchanges.

- **Strategy Option 4: Metro Investment Focus**

This strategy option would see the allocation of land aimed at maximising the benefits arising from the significant investment in the South-East Wales Metro, maximising opportunities arising in and around key public transport nodes including the rail stations along the Rhymney and Ebbw Rail Lines and the major bus stations at Blackwood and Nelson.

- **Strategy Option 5: Town Centre First**

This strategy option would focus new development close to the Principal Towns of Caerphilly, Ystrad Mynach, Blackwood Risca/Pontymister and Bargoed and the Local Centres of Bedwas, Newbridge, Nelson and Rhymney, the proximity to one of the centres being the principal consideration in allocating new development sites.

- **Strategy Option 6: Caerphilly Basin Focus**

This strategy seeks to maximise development opportunities in the Southern Connections Corridor to promote economic growth and maximise the benefits of the significant investment in the regeneration of Caerphilly town.

5.20 The 6 strategy options were the subject of the LDP engagement process through the seminar series, where the options were discussed. The outcome from the engagement was reported to the LDP Focus Group and the LDP Focus Group recommended that the strategy for the 2RLDP be a hybrid strategy formed from Strategy Options 3, 4 and 5. This strategy formed the basis of the 1st Pre-Deposit Plan. Following the consultation and in response to representations received the strategy has since been revised by the deletion of the Strategic Site.

Policy PS2: The Revised Preferred Strategy for the 2RLDP

PS2 The 2RLDP adopts a hybrid strategy, comprised of Strategy Option 4: The Metro Investment Focus and Strategy Option 5: Town Centre First.

6 Sustainable Settlement Hierarchy

6.1 A fundamental role of the 2RLDP is to consider the need for growth and development and make appropriate provision for this growth. The 2RLDP should put forward a clear Spatial Strategy identifying where this growth should be located. An assessment of Caerphilly County Borough's settlements has been used to inform and generate options for the location of future development. The settlements considered in the adopted LDP have been reassessed for the purposes of establishing a settlement hierarchy for the 2RLDP. Settlements were assessed on a number of criteria including their size, the services they provide, their accessibility and their transport links.

6.2 A tiered approach has been used to group settlements with similar characteristics in terms of facilities and services. Further information is provided in the Evidence Base Document "Functional Analysis of Settlements" The settlement hierarchy is defined as follows:

- Principal Settlements - Settlements that exhibit the highest level of services and facilities and have the greatest level of sustainable transport. Settlements: Bargoed, Blackwood, Ystrad Mynach, Risca/Pontymister, Caerphilly
- Local Settlements - Settlements with a moderate level of services and facilities and are accessible by sustainable transport. Settlements: Rhymney, Nelson, Newbridge, Bedwas
- Residential Settlements Suitable for Accommodating Growth - Settlements that have a lower level of services and facilities but are sustainably located and are appropriate for some growth to support the Principal and Local Settlements. Settlements: Aberbargoed, Abercarn, Abertridwr, Britannia, Cefn Fforest, Cefn Hengoed, Croespenmaen, Crosskeys, Crumlin, Cwmcarn, Fleur-de-lis, Gelligaer, Gilfach, Glan-y-nant, Hengoed, Hollybush, Llanbradach, Llechryd, Machen, Maesycwmmwr, New Tredegar, Oakdale, Penallta, Penmaen, Pengam, Penpedairheol, Pentwynmawr, Penybryn, Pontllanfraith, Pontlottyn, Pontywaun, Princetown, Senghenydd, Tir-y-Berth, Trethomas, Trinant, Wattsville, Woodfieldside, Wyllie.
- Residential Settlements Not Suitable for Accommodating Growth – Settlements that have a low level of services and facilities and are not sustainably located and are not appropriate for accommodating future growth. Settlements: Abertysswg, Argoed, Brynawel, Cwmfelinfach, Deri, Fochriw, Graig-y-rhacca, Hafodyrynys, Markham, Rudry, Ynysddu

6.3 Welsh Government's approach in respect of growth is focussed on its cities and large towns, enabling the co-location of housing, jobs and services and enabling green infrastructure enhancement. A number of the Future Wales policies reinforce this position, in particular:

- Policy 2 - Shaping Urban Growth and Regeneration – Strategic Placemaking: This policy sets out the requirement for the growth and regeneration of towns and cities to be based upon strategic placemaking principles that positively contribute towards building sustainable places.
- Policy 6 - Town Centre First: This policy seeks to locate significant new public sector developments within existing town centres.
- Policy 9 - Resilient Ecological Networks and Green Infrastructure: This policy sets out the requirement for development to deliver Biodiversity Net Benefit and the Nature-Based approach to planning.

- Policy 33 - National Growth Area: Cardiff Newport and the Valleys This policy seeks to promote national levels of growth in the towns and cities within the CCR.
- Policy 36 - South East Metro: This policy seeks to maximise development around major transport nodes, which are generally located within the larger towns.

6.4 The settlement hierarchy is an important factor in the consideration of where new development will be identified to accommodate the projected levels of growth in the County Borough. The hierarchy identifies the most sustainable locations in terms of co-located services and facilities and accessibility via sustainable transport. Consequently, the hierarchy will need to be considered to inform the appropriate locations for new development as part of the strategy.

7 The Revised Preferred Strategy

7.1 The Revised Preferred Strategy for the 2RLDP is a hybrid between 2 different options. Consequently, it is necessary to refine the strategy to identify the elements from each strategy option that will be combined to deliver a cohesive overall strategy for the plan.

Areas of Growth

7.2 The Revised Preferred Strategy is comprised of two specific strategy options that that adhere to policy considerations outlined in Future Wales, namely Strategy Option 4 - Metro Investment Focus (Future Wales Policy 12 - Regional Connectivity, Policy 36 - South East Metro), and Strategy Option 5 - Town Centre First (Future Wales Policy 6 - Town Centre First)

7.3 The Metro Investment Focus requires that development be located to maximise the benefits from investment into the Metro and the potential for modal shift to sustainable transport. To do this development will need to be located close to sustainable transport links, primarily the major bus and rail stations across the County Borough. The rail stations within the County Borough are located on the Rhymney Valley Line, which runs up the western side of the County Borough from Caerphilly to Rhymney, and the Ebbw Vale Line that runs up the eastern side of the County Borough from Risca through to Newbridge and Crumlin. It should be noted that Blackwood is not located on a rail line and Nelson, whilst on the Cwmbargoed line, does not have passenger services. However, both have bus centres that would include them within the metro focus. In addition to these two centres, Bargoed and Caerphilly also have bus stations.

7.4 The Town Centre First Policy seeks to locate development within and close to existing towns and cities across the region. In terms of the County Borough this means looking to locate development close to, or within the County Borough's Principal and Local Settlements in the first instance. It should be noted, however, that these settlements have significant constraints that limit the amount of development that they could reasonably be expected to accommodate. The levels of growth identified in the Revised Preferred Strategy means that sites for development will also need to be identified in other settlements but located in the best locations in terms of the Metro and town centre focuses. Evidence base Document PS3 - Settlement Role, Function and Sustainability Analysis identifies residential centres that are suitable for accommodating growth in line with the strategy and residential centres that are not suitable for accommodating growth. Development sites outside of the Principal and Local Settlements will be targeted to the residential centres that can accommodate growth.

7.5 The Principal and Local Settlements all have rail or major bus stations, with the exception of Bedwas which is in close proximity to Caerphilly, and, as such, both options

indicate a requirement to identify new growth and development in proximity to those centres. In addition, new growth will also be located in residential settlements that, due to their location and proximity to sustainable transport and the Principal and Local Settlements, are suitable for accommodating growth.

7.6 Normally the plan would identify strategy areas within which certain levels of growth and development would be expected. However, the linear nature of the metro stations and the distribution of the Principal and Local Settlements do not lend themselves to forming cohesive spatial strategy areas. Consequently, the Revised Preferred Strategy does not identify spatial strategy areas within the County Borough.

7.7 In the absence of defined spatial strategy areas, the distribution of new development will be defined around the 5 Masterplan Areas in the County Borough, with each one being centred on one of the 5 Principal Settlements identified in the Settlement Hierarchy.

Policy PS3: Settlement Hierarchy

PS3 The following settlement hierarchy is identified for the County Borough. New development and growth will be focussed on the Principal and Local Centres and residential centres that are suitable for growth identified in the following settlement Hierarchy to support their role and function:

- **Principal Settlements: Bargoed , Blackwood, Ystrad Mynach, Caerphilly, Risca/Pontymister**
- **Local Settlements: Rhymney, Nelson, Newbridge, Bedwas**
- **Residential Settlements Suitable for accommodating Growth:**
- **Residential Settlements Not Suitable for accommodating Growth:**
- **Rural Settlements: All other settlements located outside defined settlement boundaries**

Policy PS4: Areas of Growth

PS4 Growth and new development will be targeted towards the Principal and Local Centres in the first instance and then to Residential Settlements Suitable for accommodating Growth. Development in these Residential Settlements will be allowed where it accords with the role and function of the settlement and is based on sound placemaking principles and promotes sustainable transport. Development in Residential Settlements Not Suitable for Growth will be allowed where the proposed development is of a small-scale and it accords with the role and function of the settlement. Development in Rural Settlements will not normally be permitted unless the development is small scale and comprises infilling of an otherwise built-up frontage or constitutes logical rounding off.

Key Land Use Issues

7.8 Chapter 3 sets out the key land use issues that the 2RLDP will need to address in order for the plan to be successful. The Policies that follow reflect the main strategic issues that are facing the County Borough and provide the overarching policy framework for addressing them.

Climate Change

7.9 The issue of climate change and its implications are a key consideration for any development plan and mitigating for climate change effects as well as reducing emissions

contributing toward climate change are fundamental elements in any development strategy.

Policy PS5: Climate Change

PS5 All development proposals must make a positive contribution towards addressing the causes of, and adapting to the impacts of, climate change by demonstrating that the design of the development has taken account of the following:

- 1. The proposals maximise resource efficiency and utilise sustainable construction techniques using locally sourced materials;**
- 2. The proposals promote low/zero carbon energy requirements through reducing energy use and promoting energy efficiency;**
- 3. The proposals maximise the opportunities for renewable energy technology and repowering;**
- 4. The proposals maximise the opportunities for co-locating developments and promote sustainable transport, in accordance with the sustainable transport hierarchy;**
- 5. The proposals are designed to be resilient to, and mitigate for, the impacts of climate change;**
- 6. The proposals promote decarbonisation;**
- 7. The development is not in an area at risk of flooding arising from watercourses, groundwater or surface water, whilst maximising water efficiency and minimising adverse impacts upon the quality of water resources;**
- 8. The proposals promote resilience through maximising the opportunities for enhancing green infrastructure as part of the design of the development.**

Decarbonisation - Renewable Energy Generation

7.10 Decarbonisation, as a measure to tackle the contributors towards global warming and to mitigate against its effects, is a key strand in Welsh Government policy on development. The generation of energy from renewable and zero carbon sources is an essential part of delivering decarbonisation. Future Wales requires Council's to be proactive in delivering renewable energy generation and identifies Pre-Assessed Areas throughout Wales where large-scale wind energy is, in principle, acceptable and where the principle of landscape change is accepted. On a more local scale the Council will support and encourage appropriate schemes for renewable energy generation and will also work together with energy providers to deliver appropriate schemes. To reflect this the Revised Preferred Strategy includes a policy to support the delivery of renewable energy.

Policy PS6: Renewable Energy Generation

PS6 The Council will support and promote schemes for the generation of energy from renewable and zero carbon sources.

7.11 The Council has produced a Decarbonisation Strategy: Reduce, Produce, Offset and Buy and an accompanying Prospectus and Action Plan. This strategy sets out how the Council intends to reduce its own carbon footprint and deliver the overarching objective of being a net carbon neutral authority by 2030. The accompanying Action Plan details the actions the Council will take, including maximising renewal energy generation on Council homes and buildings and tree planting.

Sustainable Development – Placemaking

7.12 The delivery of sustainable development is a duty on all local authorities throughout Wales. Sustainable development and the creation of sustainable places promotes active and healthy lifestyles and contributes significantly to well-being. The delivery of sustainable development is underpinned by placemaking, and the plan will be underpinned by sound placemaking principles.

Policy PS7: Placemaking Principles

PS7 All development proposals must enhance well-being through the protection and enhancement of the economic, social, environmental and cultural aspects of the County Borough and contribute towards the following strategic placemaking principles:

- 1. Creating a rich mix of uses;**
- 2. Providing a variety of housing types and tenures;**
- 3. Building places at a walkable scale, with homes, local facilities and public transport within walking distance of each other;**
- 4. Increasing population density, with development built at urban densities that can support public transport and local facilities;**
- 5. Establishing a permeable network of streets, with a hierarchy that informs the nature of development;**
- 6. Promoting a plot-based approach to development, which provides opportunities for the development of small plots, including for custom and self-builders; and**
- 7. Integrating green infrastructure, informed by the planning authority's Green Infrastructure Assessment.**

Nature Based – Green and Blue Infrastructure

7.13 The requirements for Councils to deliver both the biodiversity duty and the duty to deliver sustainable development means that green and blue infrastructure is an important consideration in any development proposals and must be a fundamental element of their design. The Council must maintain and enhance green and blue infrastructure in their decisions and the 2RLDP will need to ensure that green and blue infrastructure enhancement is at the very heart of the plan. Consequently, the Revised Preferred Strategy sets out an overarching policy under which detailed policies will be introduced through the Deposit 2RLDP to deliver the Council's duties. Developers will, therefore, need to show that opportunities for green and blue infrastructure have been maximised as part of any development proposals and that their developments deliver Net Benefit for Biodiversity.

Policy PS8: Green and Blue Infrastructure

PS8 All development proposals must maintain, and enhance green and blue infrastructure assets by promoting the following key functions:

- 1. Biodiversity and Ecosystem Resilience**
- 2. Landscape & Quality of Place;**
- 3. Greenspace Provision;**
- 4. Connectivity;**

5. Water Management and embedding SuDS principles into development proposals from the outset.

Employment & Tourism

7.14 Employment is the principal issue that the 2RLDP will need to address to deliver the Revised Preferred Strategy, which is based upon the County Borough achieving a growth in population and, in particular, economic population, to be in a position to deliver employment growth in line with the CCR and regional aspirations. To do this the 2RLDP will need to identify land for employment development that will assist in addressing the economic pressures that have arisen from the impacts of Covid-19, Brexit and natural changes in the economy which are predicted to adversely impact on the County Borough's largest employment sector, manufacturing. In addition, the 2RLDP will also seek to expand and enhance the town centre and visitor offer to assist in generating economic growth for the County Borough.

Policy PS9: Managing Employment Growth

PS9 Provision will be made for 44.5 hectares of land to be identified for employment use in order to meet the employment requirements of the plan period. This provision will be met from existing and new sites that accord with the strategy.

7.15 Tourism makes an important contribution to the local economy, and there is significant investment planned to enhance the tourist offer in the County Borough. Regeneration activities are focussing on the enhancement of tourism generally, along with widening and encouraging tourist related activities and the development of visitor accommodation. A key element in delivering an improved visitor offer is increasing accessibility through sustainable transport, including metro improvements and local active improvements which link tourist assets together.

Policy PS10: Managing Tourism Growth

PS10 The Council will seek to expand and enhance the tourist potential of the County Borough through:

- 1. The identification of appropriate land for tourism related uses;**
- 2. Facilitating the development of visitor accommodation in appropriate locations;**
- 3. Improving accessibility to visitor attractions through sustainable transport and active travel;**
- 4. The protection and enhancement of the County Borough's natural and historic assets that give the County Borough its unique identity.**

Housing

7.16 It is essential that the 2RLDP makes provision for sufficient housing, of the appropriate type, size and affordability, and in the right places to enable the County Borough to attract and sustain the level of population growth that will support and deliver the economic aspirations of the plan.

7.17 The 2RLDP must make provision for sufficient residential land to meet the future needs of communities for both market and affordable housing. The Revised Preferred Strategy supports a housing requirement of 6,750 dwellings over the plan period, or 450 dwellings per annum, based on the CCR Working age population growth scenario. This is a dwelling led scenario, which would support growth in the working age population at a level that would accord with the economic growth aspirations of the Cardiff Capital Region

and would require a level of housing that is realistic but ambitious in respect of past trends, accords with regional potential growth, reinforcing Caerphilly County Borough's position within a National Growth Area in Future Wales and assisting in the delivery of affordable housing. The Population and Housing Growth Options Paper provides a more detailed assessment of the scenarios considered and the justification for the preferred growth option.

7.18 As required by the Development Plans Manual (Edition 3), an allowance of 10% has been added to the housing requirement to allow choice and flexibility, as there may be unforeseen circumstances that affect the delivery of housing allocations. This flexibility allowance could be subject to change in the Deposit 2RLDP following the allocation of sites in accordance with the Revised Preferred Strategy.

7.19 The provision of 6,750 new dwellings will be delivered by a number of components of the Housing Land Supply, as set out below. Detailed information on how each of the components has been derived can be found in the Housing Land Supply and Affordable Housing Target Evidence Base Paper.

- Total Completions: Large and small completions in 2021-2024 – 1,378
- Units under construction: As of base date of 1st April 2021 - 198
- Units with planning permission: Only those sites considered deliverable in the plan period (large sites only) - 1,541
- Applications awaiting determination: Only those sites acceptable in principle (large sites only) - 359
- Large windfall sites: Based on 73 units per annum average for the last 7 years of the plan period - 511
- Small windfall sites: Based on 60 units per annum for the remaining 11 years of the plan period - 660
- Total Number of Units - 4,647
- Housing Requirement - 6,750
- Housing Provision: Housing Requirement plus Flexibility Allowance (10%) - 7,425
- New allocations required: (Housing Provision – Total) - 2,778

7.20 The Deposit 2RLDP will include a housing trajectory, which will set out the anticipated housing delivery rates over the plan period. This will form the basis for the future monitoring of the delivery of the components of housing supply against targets.

Policy PS11: Managing Housing Growth

PS11 Provision will be made for land to be allocated to accommodate a total of 7,425 dwellings to meet a housing requirement of 6750 dwellings for the plan period.

7.21 The Council aims to ensure that everyone in the County Borough has access to a good quality home that meets their housing requirements. The provision of a range of housing that is affordable to the local population is vital in achieving this. A shortfall of affordable housing is a significant issue facing residents in the County Borough. Indeed, the 2018 Local Housing Market Assessment (LHMA) indicates that there is a shortfall of 282 affordable units per annum for the five-year period 2018-2023. The Council has prepared a new LHMA that covers the period from April 2024 to March 2028. This has been formally submitted to Welsh Government for its consideration. When approved the new LHMA will form the basis for the LDP, and the plan will be updated with this information as part of the preparation of the Deposit Plan.

7.22 The target of at least 1,360 affordable dwellings reflects the number of units that it is expected can be delivered across the County Borough through the use of planning obligations and conditions. The components that contribute to the affordable housing target are summarised below. Further details can be found in the Housing Land Supply and Affordable Housing Target Evidence Base Paper.

- Total Completions (up to 31st March 2021): 75;
- Units under construction: 47;
- Units with planning permission: 387;
- Applications awaiting determination: 41;
- Potential contribution from new allocations: 652;
- Potential contribution from windfall sites: 158;
- Total: 1,360.

7.23 A policy setting out site size thresholds and area specific targets based on a robust assessment of viability will be included within the Deposit 2RLDP following the completion of an update to the Affordable Housing Viability Assessment. The Deposit 2RLDP will also be supported by an updated LHMA, reflecting recent changes to the LHMA methodology.

Policy PS12: Affordable Housing Target

PS12 The Council will seek to deliver at least 1,360 affordable dwellings through the planning system during the plan period up to 2035 in order to contribute to balanced and sustainable communities.

7.24 It should be noted that this target is based on the viability area specific affordable housing targets in the adopted LDP and may be subject to change following the completion of detailed viability work and the outcomes of the candidate site assessment process and the completion of the new LHMA.

Sustainable Transport

7.25 A move towards sustainable modes of transport is essential in tackling the issues of climate change, congestion and air quality. In order to maximise these opportunities all development proposals will need to demonstrate that the sustainable transport hierarchy has been adhered to.

Policy PS13: Sustainable Transport Hierarchy

PS13 All proposals must demonstrate that accessibility and movement have been based upon the following sustainable transport hierarchy as a fundamental part of the design of the proposed development:

1. **Walking**
2. **Cycling**
3. **Sustainable public transport**
4. **Electric vehicles and ULEVs**
5. **Other vehicles**

7.26 Llwybr Newydd, the Wales Transport Strategy 2021, sets an ambitious target of 45% of all trips to be made by sustainable modes by 2045. To get anywhere near achieving this modal shift target it is essential that development plans include ambitious policies addressing this issue. Currently, however, there is a lack of readily available information to

inform where we are currently and how far we are down the road to modal shift change. Consequently, the Revised Preferred Strategy does not include a specific County Borough based target, rather it seeks deliver change in accordance with the national targets.

Policy PS14: Modal Shift

PS14 The Council will encourage and support proposals that will promote modal shift to assist in delivering the Welsh Government target of 45% of trips by sustainable modes by 2040

7.27 Improvements to the transport system, both for sustainable modes and in respect of the existing highway infrastructure, are required in order to enable the Revised Preferred Strategy's proposed levels of growth to be delivered. Whilst the strategy focusses on sustainable transport and seeks to locate development close to transport and service centres, improvements in transport infrastructure will be required to ensure accessibility. In some cases, this will include improvements to the existing highway network as sustainable transport uses the highway network as well as dedicated routes for bus and active travel purposes. Consequently, the Revised Preferred Strategy seeks to improve transport infrastructure where it will increase accessibility and facilitate sustainable transport.

Policy PS15: Transport Improvement

PS15 The Council will support improvements to the transport network that:

- 1. Improve the South East Wales Metro system**
- 2. Improve accessibility to the Principal and Local Centres and to employment opportunities**
- 3. Improve sustainable transport provision;**
- 4. Promote and enable the use of ultra-low emission vehicles through the provision of charging infrastructure**
- 5. Improve the active travel network increasing accessibility in local areas;**
- 6. Improve the strategic highway network where proposals will increase accessibility, mitigate against congestion, contribute towards sustainable transport reliability or enhance the resilience of the strategic highway network;**
- 7. Improve facilities associated with sustainable transport, including parking measures that would increase modal shift;**

7.28 As part of actions to improve the transport infrastructure, it is essential the 2RLDP maximises the opportunities to repurpose former rail lines for transport related developments, including developing them for passenger transport purposes. Consequently, it is important to protect former rail routes from development that could prejudice their future transport use.

Policy PS16: Safeguarding Former Rail Lines

PS16 The routes of former railway lines that have the potential for transport related development will be safeguarded, particularly those that facilitate walking, cycling, rail freight or passenger movements.

7.29 The Council fully supports any proposals that promote the development of the South East Wales Metro. In addition, the Council will also support proposals that make the existing transport network more resilient and more efficient for sustainable transport. It is acknowledged that transport improvements and new transport routes can take a significant period of time to come to fruition and, as such it is essential that the Council protects

strategic transport improvement routes from inappropriate development that could prejudice their future use for transport purposes.

Policy PS17: Protecting Strategic Transport Improvement Routes

PS17 The Council will protect the following strategic transport improvement routes from inappropriate development and will support and promote proposals for their implementation:

PS17.1 Cwmbargoed rail line (reinstatement of passenger services)

PS17.2 Caerphilly/Machen/Newport rail line (reinstatement of passenger services)

7.30 The establishment of a road hierarchy will facilitate the efficient use of the highway network by ensuring that traffic is channelled onto the most appropriate routes in order to maintain appropriate environmental, amenity and safety conditions. Maintaining an efficient and safe highway network will assist public transport services in the form of buses, maintaining their frequency and ensuring that they run to schedule.

Policy PS18: Road Hierarchy

PS18 The following road hierarchy is identified to ensure a safe and efficient highway network:

- 1. The Strategic Highway Network**
- 2. County Routes**
- 3. Distributor Roads**
- 4. Access Roads**

Retailing

7.31 The Revised Preferred Strategy seeks to locate development in close proximity to the main sustainable transport nodes and service centres in the County Borough. Retailing is a fundamental element of the functions that the main service centres perform and as such the retail hierarchy will influence where growth is located in the County Borough. In addition, Future Wales identifies that major retail and public sector development should be located within the main centres as the first consideration. Consequently, it is important that the retail functions of the main centres are protected from inappropriate development, whilst allowing flexibility in order for the centres to continue to thrive.

Policy PS19: Hierarchy of Commercial Centres

PS19 The following hierarchy is identified for the retail centres in the County Borough. Proposals for retailing and significant public sector development should use the retailing hierarchy as the basis for a sequential approach for the location of development:

- Principal Centres – Bargoed, Blackwood, and Caerphilly;**
- Town Centres – Risca/Pontymister, Newbridge and Ystrad Mynach;**
- Local Centres – Abertridwr, Bedwas, Fleur-de-lis, Nelson, Pontlottyn, Rhymney and Trethomas;**
- Retail Warehouse Parks – Blackwood Gate, Blackwood and Gallagher Retail Park, Caerphilly;**

- **Other Defined/Neighbourhood Centres – Aberbargoed, Abercarn, Cefn Fforest, Crumlin, Cwmcarn, Maesycwmmwr, New Tredegar, Oakdale, Senghenydd.**

Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation

7.32 It is a requirement that the Council takes account of the needs of the Gypsy and Traveller community in preparing their development plans. The Council is required to prepare a Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment (GTAA) which will inform that process. The latest GTAA was approved by Welsh Government in July 2024. The GTAA has identified a need for 5 residential pitches in the five-year period up to 2026 and a further 3 pitches in remainder of the 2RLDP plan period, giving a total need of 8 pitches until the end of Plan period.

7.33 A planning application has been submitted for four pitches, which is awaiting determination. Should planning permission be granted then the unmet need figure will be reduced.

7.34 Land will be identified to accommodate any unmet Gypsy and Traveller accommodation need in the Deposit Plan. The Deposit Plan will also include a criteria-based policy to guide the determination of planning applications for Gypsy and Traveller sites.

Policy PS20: Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation

PS20 Land will be made available to accommodate an unmet Gypsy and Traveller accommodation need of 8 residential pitches as identified in the latest Gypsy & Traveller Accommodation Assessment.

Minerals

7.35 It is a statutory requirement for the Council to maintain an adequate supply of minerals and maintain a minimum 10-year land bank of permitted aggregate reserves throughout the plan period. To do this the Council will protect existing minerals resources, reserves and infrastructure from inappropriate development and ensure sufficient reserves have been permitted to provide the 25-years' worth that would ensure a minimum 10-year land bank at the end of the plan period.

Policy PS21: Minerals

PS21 The Council will contribute to the demand for a continuous supply of minerals by:

1. **Safeguarding known resources of sand and gravel, crushed rock;**
2. **Maintaining a minimum 10-year land bank of permitted aggregate reserves throughout the plan period;**
3. **Encouraging the efficient and appropriate use of high-quality minerals, safeguarding minerals infrastructure and maximising the potential for the use of secondary and recycled aggregates as an alternative to primary land won resources.**

Waste Management

7.36 The provision for waste management infrastructure is made at a sub-regional level and, as such, the Revised Preferred Strategy does not make provision for waste infrastructure. However, it is important that the Revised Preferred Strategy includes overarching policies that facilitate the delivery of the elements of the hierarchy.

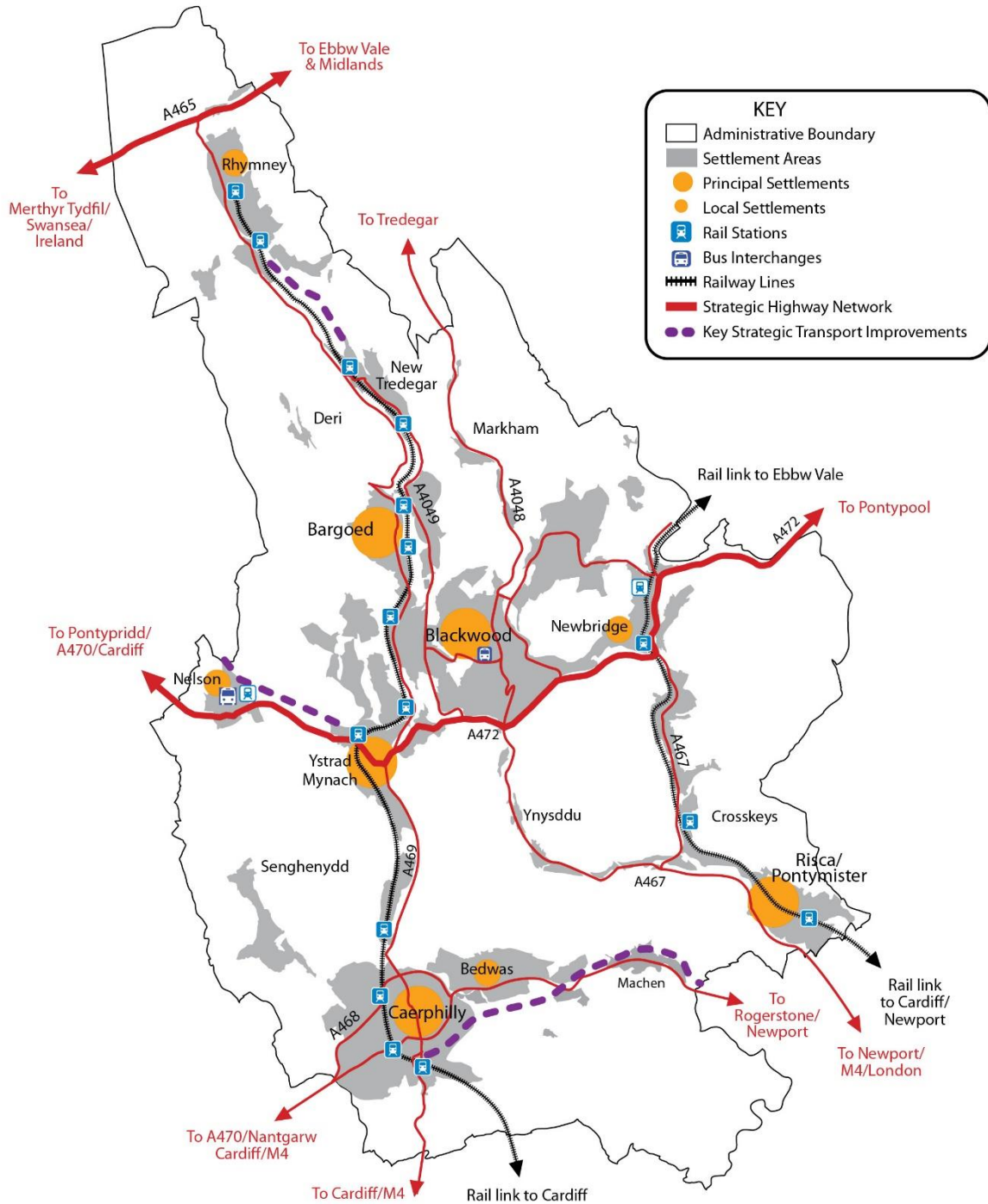
Policy PS22: Sustainable Waste Management

PS22 To facilitate the delivery of sustainable management of waste the Plan will:

- 1. Ensure that proposals conform to the principles of the waste hierarchy supporting those that move waste up the hierarchy;**
- 2. Support an integrated and adequate network of waste management installations that has regard to the nearest appropriate installation concept and self-sufficiency principles where necessary;**
- 3. Identify suitable allocated and protected Class B2 industrial sites that are appropriate for in-building waste management treatment facilities, subject to detailed planning considerations;**
- 4. Support the circular economy by encouraging the minimisation of the production of waste and the use of reused and recycled materials in the design, construction and demolition stages of development; and**
- 5. Ensure that provision is made for the sustainable management, sorting, storage and collection of waste in all new development.**

7.37 The Revised Preferred Strategy Key Diagram is set out below. It should be noted that the Key Diagram is an indicative plan and that it shows the specific allocations set out within the Preferred Strategy in the context of the County Borough. The diagram is not to a specific scale or based upon an OS Map Base. Consequently, the allocations identified on it are indicative and do not specific sites or routes.

Pre-Deposit Plan Key Diagram



8 Next Steps

8.1 Following the consultation and stakeholder engagement on the Preferred Strategy, the Council will finalise the 2RLDP and place it on Deposit. Feedback from the Revised Preferred Strategy consultation will be detailed in the Initial Consultation Report on the 2nd Pre-Deposit Consultation. This report must accompany the 2RLDP ISA Report and the other supporting documents on Deposit, in accordance with Regulation 17 of the LDP

Regulations. This Initial Consultation Report will be reported to Full Council in Spring/summer 2025. The Deposit Plan will then be prepared and considered by Council prior to a statutory six-week consultation and engagement period in at the beginning of 2026.

8.2 Pursuant to Regulation 22 of the LDP Regulations, the Deposit Plan will then be submitted to the Welsh Government who will appoint an independent Inspector to examine the 2RLDP. Having regard to the evidence and representations received during the Deposit consultation, the Inspector must determine whether the 2RLDP accords with the 'tests of soundness' set out in the Development Plans Manual.

8.3 Following the Examination, the Inspector will issue a report recommending any necessary changes to the 2RLDP. The Inspector's report will be binding, and the Council must accept the changes and adopt the 2RLDP as amended. Once adopted, the 2RLDP will replace the existing Adopted LDP.

Appendix 1: Revised Preferred Strategy Policies - Wider Policy Fit

A1.1 This appendix sets out how the strategic policies of the Pre-Deposit Plan relate to wider issues and considerations, particularly in respect of Future Wales policies and Well-being Objectives and Goals.

Policy PS1: The Level of Growth for the 2RLDP

2RLDP Key Issues:	NR2, NR4, NR7, EC2, EC4, EC5, SO1, SO2
2RLDP Objectives:	1, 10, 16, 17, 18, 19,
Future Wales Policies:	1, 33
National Sustainable Placemaking Outcomes:	Creating & sustaining communities; Growing our economy in a sustainable manner
Building Better Places Issues Building Better Places Issues:	Staying local; Active travel; Revitalising Town Centres
Well-Being Act Goals:	Prosperous; More Equal; Cohesive Communities;
Well-being Plan Objectives:	4
Corporate Plan Objectives:	1, 2, 3, 5, 6
Evidence Base Documents:	PS2, PS4

Policy PS2: The Revised Preferred Strategy for the 2RLDP

2RLDP Key Issues:	NR4, NR5, NR7, EC2,
2RLDP Objectives:	1, 4, 8, 9, 10, 14, 16, 17, 18, 21, 22, 23, 24
Future Wales Policies:	1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 7, 8 8, 9, 12, 16, 17, 18,33, 36
National Sustainable Placemaking Outcomes:	Creating & sustaining communities; Growing our economy in a sustainable manner

Building Better Places Issues:	Active travel; Revitalising Town Centres; Digital places; Changing working practices;
Well-Being Act Goals:	Prosperous; More Equal; Cohesive Communities;
Well-being Plan Objectives:	3, 4
Corporate Plan Objectives:	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6,
Evidence Base Documents:	PS2, PS4

Policy PS3: Settlement Hierarchy

2RLDP Key Issues:	NR4, NR7, EC2, EC5, SO3, SO6,
2RLDP Objectives:	4, 8, 9, 11, 13, 14, 19, 22
Future Wales Policies:	1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 8, 12, 33, 36
National Sustainable Placemaking Outcomes:	Creating & sustaining communities; Growing our economy in a sustainable manner
Building Better Places Issues Building Better Places Issues:	Staying local; Active travel; Revitalising Town Centres;
Well-Being Act Goals:	Prosperous; Cohesive Communities;
Well-being Plan Objectives:	4
Corporate Plan Objectives:	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
Evidence Base Documents:	PS3

Policy PS4: Areas of Growth

2RLDP Key Issues:	NR4, NR7,
2RLDP Objectives:	1, 2, 4, 8, 9, 10, 11, 14, 16, 22
Future Wales Policies:	1, 2, 6, 8, 12, 33, 36
National Sustainable Placemaking Outcomes:	Creating & sustaining communities; Growing our economy in a sustainable manner
Building Better Places Issues Building Better Places Issues:	Staying local; Active travel; Revitalising Town Centres;
Well-Being Act Goals:	Prosperous; More Equal;
Well-being Plan Objectives:	4
Corporate Plan Objectives:	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
Evidence Base Documents:	PS1, PS2, PS4

Policy PS5: Climate Change

2RLDP Key Issues:	NR4, NR7, NR6, Ec4, So4, So5, So6, En1, En2, En3, En4, En8
2RLDP Objectives:	1, 9, 10, 11, 14, 19, 21,
Future Wales Policies:	1, 2, 9, 12, 33, 36
National Sustainable Placemaking Outcomes:	Creating & sustaining communities; Maximising environmental protection and

	limiting environmental impact; Facilitating accessible and healthy environments
Building Better Places Issues Building Better Places Issues:	Staying local; Active travel; Changing working practices; Green infrastructure; Improving air quality;
Well-Being Act Goals:	More Equal; Healthier; Cohesive Communities;
Well-being Plan Objectives:	2, 4
Corporate Plan Objectives:	3, 4
Evidence Base Documents:	PS2, PS4

Policy PS6: Renewable Energy Generation

2RLDP Key Issues:	NR3
2RLDP Objectives:	6
Future Wales Policies:	9, 16, 17, 18
National Sustainable Placemaking Outcomes:	Growing our economy in a sustainable manner
Building Better Places Issues Building Better Places Issues:	Green infrastructure; Improving air quality;
Well-Being Act Goals:	Resilient; Globally Responsible
Well-being Plan Objectives:	1, 4
Corporate Plan Objectives:	3, 5
Evidence Base Documents:	PS14

Policy PS7: Placemaking Principles

2RLDP Key Issues:	S06, CU1, CU2, CU5
2RLDP Objectives:	8, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 19, 21, 23, 24, 25
Future Wales Policies:	1, 2, 4, 6
National Sustainable Placemaking Outcomes:	Creating & sustaining communities; Making best use of resources
Building Better Places Issues Building Better Places Issues:	Staying local; Revitalising Town Centres; Active travel; Green infrastructure;
Well-Being Act Goals:	More Equal; Cohesive Communities;
Well-being Plan Objectives:	2, 3, 4
Corporate Plan Objectives:	3, 6
Evidence Base Documents:	None at this stage

Policy PS8: Green and Blue Infrastructure

2RLDP Key Issues:	SO4, EN4, EN5, EN6, EN8,
2RLDP Objectives:	2, 3, 4, 11, 12, 13
Future Wales Policies:	8, 9, 15, 35

National Sustainable Placemaking Outcomes:	Maximising environmental protection and limiting environmental impact
Building Better Places Issues Building Better Places Issues:	Green infrastructure;
Well-Being Act Goals:	Resilient;
Well-being Plan Objectives:	4
Corporate Plan Objectives:	5
Evidence Base Documents:	PS11

Policy PS9: Managing Employment Growth

2RLDP Key Issues:	EC1, EC2, EC3, EC4, EC5, EC6, EC7, EC8, S03, SO7, CU4
2RLDP Objectives:	1, 7, 8, 9, 14, 17,
Future Wales Policies:	2, 3, 5, 6, 13,14
National Sustainable Placemaking Outcomes:	Growing our economy in a sustainable manner
Building Better Places Issues Building Better Places Issues:	Revitalising Town Centres; Digital places; Changing working practices;
Well-Being Act Goals:	Prosperous; More Equal;
Well-being Plan Objectives:	3, 4
Corporate Plan Objectives:	2, 6
Evidence Base Documents:	PS15, PS16

Policy PS10: Managing Tourism Growth

2RLDP Key Issues:	EC6, CU6
2RLDP Objectives:	1, 8, 9, 14, 17, 18
Future Wales Policies:	2, 3, 5, 35
National Sustainable Placemaking Outcomes:	Creating & sustaining communities; Growing our economy in a sustainable manner
Building Better Places Issues Building Better Places Issues:	Reawakening tourism and culture;
Well-Being Act Goals:	Prosperous; Vibrant Culture;
Well-being Plan Objectives:	3, 4
Corporate Plan Objectives:	2, 6
Evidence Base Documents:	None at this stage

Policy PS11: Managing Housing Growth

2RLDP Key Issues:	NR4, NR7,
2RLDP Objectives:	1, 8, 9, 10,11
Future Wales Policies:	1, 2, 6, 7, 12, 36
National Sustainable Placemaking Outcomes:	Creating & sustaining communities
Building Better Places Issues Building Better Places Issues:	Staying local; Active travel; Revitalising Town Centres;

Well-Being Act Goals:	Cohesive Communities;
Well-being Plan Objectives:	4
Corporate Plan Objectives:	3, 6
Evidence Base Documents:	PS6

Policy PS12: Affordable Housing Target

2RLDP Key Issues:	NR4, NR7, SO7,
2RLDP Objectives:	1, 8, 9, 10, 11
Future Wales Policies:	1, 2, 7
National Sustainable Placemaking Outcomes:	Creating & sustaining communities
Building Better Places Issues Building Better Places Issues:	Staying local; Active travel; Revitalising Town Centres;
Well-Being Act Goals:	More Equal; Cohesive Communities;
Well-being Plan Objectives:	4
Corporate Plan Objectives:	3, 6
Evidence Base Documents:	PS6

Policy PS13: Sustainable Transport Hierarchy

2RLDP Key Issues:	NR5, EC7, EN1, EN2, EN3, CU3
2RLDP Objectives:	9, 10, 11, 14, 15, 19,
Future Wales Policies:	1, 2, 6, 12, 33, 36
National Sustainable Placemaking Outcomes:	Facilitating accessible and healthy environments
Building Better Places Issues Building Better Places Issues:	Active travel;
Well-Being Act Goals:	Resilient; More Equal; Healthier;
Well-being Plan Objectives:	1, 4
Corporate Plan Objectives:	4
Evidence Base Documents:	PS12

Policy PS14: Modal Shift

2RLDP Key Issues:	NR5, EC7, EN1, EN2, EN3
2RLDP Objectives:	15, 19
Future Wales Policies:	12, 13, 14, 36
National Sustainable Placemaking Outcomes:	Facilitating accessible and healthy environments
Building Better Places Issues Building Better Places Issues:	Active travel;
Well-Being Act Goals:	Resilient; More Equal; Healthier;
Well-being Plan Objectives:	1, 4
Corporate Plan Objectives:	4
Evidence Base Documents:	PS12, SD1

Policy PS15: Transport Improvement

2RLDP Key Issues:	NR5, EC7, EN1, EN2, EN3
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2RLDP Objectives:	15, 19
Future Wales Policies:	1, 2, 6, 12, 13, 36
National Sustainable Placemaking Outcomes:	Facilitating accessible and healthy environments
Building Better Places Issues Building Better Places Issues:	Active travel
Well-Being Act Goals:	Healthier
Well-being Plan Objectives:	4
Corporate Plan Objectives:	4
Evidence Base Documents:	PS12

Policy PS16: Safeguarding Former Rail Lines

2RLDP Key Issues:	NR5, EC7, EN1, EN2, EN3
2RLDP Objectives:	15, 19
Future Wales Policies:	1, 2, 6, 12, 13, 36
National Sustainable Placemaking Outcomes:	Facilitating accessible and healthy environments
Building Better Places Issues Building Better Places Issues:	Active travel
Well-Being Act Goals:	Healthier
Well-being Plan Objectives:	4
Corporate Plan Objectives:	4
Evidence Base Documents:	PS12

Policy PS17: Protecting Strategic Transport Improvement Routes

2RLDP Key Issues:	NR5, EC7, EN1, EN2, EN3
2RLDP Objectives:	15, 19
Future Wales Policies:	1, 2, 6, 12, 13, 36
National Sustainable Placemaking Outcomes:	Facilitating accessible and healthy environments
Building Better Places Issues Building Better Places Issues:	Active travel
Well-Being Act Goals:	Healthier
Well-being Plan Objectives:	4
Corporate Plan Objectives:	4
Evidence Base Documents:	PS12

Policy PS18: Road Hierarchy

2RLDP Key Issues:	EC7, EN1
2RLDP Objectives:	15, 19
Future Wales Policies:	1, 2, 12, 36
National Sustainable Placemaking Outcomes:	Facilitating accessible and healthy environments
Building Better Places Issues Building Better Places Issues:	Staying Local, Active travel
Well-Being Act Goals:	Healthier
Well-being Plan Objectives:	4
Corporate Plan Objectives:	4

Evidence Base Documents:	PS12
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Policy PS19: Retailing Hierarchy

2RLDP Key Issues:	EC5, SO3,
2RLDP Objectives:	22
Future Wales Policies:	1, 2, 6, 33
National Sustainable Placemaking Outcomes:	Creating & sustaining communities; Growing our economy in a sustainable manner
Building Better Places Issues Building Better Places Issues:	Revitalising Town Centres;
Well-Being Act Goals:	Prosperous;
Well-being Plan Objectives:	3, 4
Corporate Plan Objectives:	2, 3
Evidence Base Documents:	PS3

Policy PS20: Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation

2RLDP Key Issues:	NR4, NR7,
2RLDP Objectives:	10
Future Wales Policies:	1, 7, 33
National Sustainable Placemaking Outcomes:	Creating & sustaining communities;
Building Better Places Issues Building Better Places Issues:	Staying local;
Well-Being Act Goals:	More Equal;
Well-being Plan Objectives:	4
Corporate Plan Objectives:	3
Evidence Base Documents:	PS7

Policy PS21: Minerals

2RLDP Key Issues:	EN9
2RLDP Objectives:	2, 26
Future Wales Policies:	4, 5, 9
National Sustainable Placemaking Outcomes:	Growing our economy in a sustainable manner; Maximising environmental protection and limiting environmental impact
Building Better Places Issues Building Better Places Issues:	Changing working practices; Green infrastructure
Well-Being Act Goals:	Prosperous; Resilient; Globally Responsible
Well-being Plan Objectives:	3, 4
Corporate Plan Objectives:	2, 5
Evidence Base Documents:	SD3

Policy PS22: Sustainable Waste Management

2RLDP Key Issues:	EN7
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2RLDP Objectives:	7
Future Wales Policies:	9
National Sustainable Placemaking Outcomes:	Making best use of resources
Building Better Places Issues Building Better Places Issues:	Changing working practices; Green infrastructure;
Well-Being Act Goals:	Resilient; Globally Responsible
Well-being Plan Objectives:	1, 4
Corporate Plan Objectives:	2, 5
Evidence Base Documents:	PS18

Appendix 2: Evidence Base and Supporting Documents for the Revised Preferred Strategy

A2.1 This Appendix sets out the published evidence base documents that support the Pre-Deposit Plan and provides a brief summary of what they do.

Revised Preferred Strategy Evidence Base Documents

EB1: Strategy Options Assessment - Evidence base document outlining 6 strategy options and how the Revised Preferred Strategy was derived through stakeholder engagement.

EB2: Pre-Deposit Engagement - An explanation of the stakeholder engagement undertaken to inform the preparation of the Revised Preferred Strategy.

EB3: Settlement Role, Function and Sustainability Analysis - Identifies the settlement hierarchy for the County Borough through the analysis of the role and function that each settlement serves, and their sustainability based on accessibility to services and sustainable transport.

EB4: Population and Housing Growth Options - Evidence base document setting out the growth options for the 2RLDP.

EB5: Housing Land Supply and Affordable Housing Target - Evidence base document justifying the housing land supply calculations and assumptions for affordable housing target.

EB6: Local Housing Market Assessment - An assessment of affordable housing need by tenure type, ward and housing market area. Approved by Council in 2018.

EB7: Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment - An assessment of forecast Gypsy and Traveller requirements.

EB8: Candidate Site Methodology - An explanation of how candidate sites will be assessed. Already published on CCBC website.

EB9: Candidate Sites Register - A register of all sites submitted as part of the call for candidate sites issues between June and August 2021. The register provides basic details and a map of each submitted site.

EB10: Candidate Site Assessment Summary - A summary of the scoring on each of the submitted candidate sites.

EB11: Transport Background Evidence Paper - Summary of the relevant background evidence relating to transport and an assessment of considerations and decisions on transport issues.

EB12: Strategic Flood Consequences Assessment – Draft Stage 1 Report - Strategic Flood Consequences Assessment for the County Borough that provides a strategic overview to inform site allocations in the Deposit Plan.

EB13: Renewable and Low Carbon Energy Assessment - An assessment of low carbon energy generation opportunities throughout the County Borough.

EB14: Employment Background Evidence Paper - Evidence base document setting out the background evidence in respect of employment and setting out how the technical evidence has been translated into the Revised Preferred Strategy.

EB15: Larger than Local Employment Study - Forms the local sub-regional element of the evidence base in relation to the formulation of policy concerning class B development and the provision of land. The Employment Land Review (below) builds on this work to produce more detailed, locally applicable recommendations.

EB16: Employment Land Review - Forms the local element of the evidence base in relation to the formulation of policy concerning Class B development and the provision of land. Includes a property market assessment within the context of the Borough's socio-economic profile and identified growth/declining sectors; an audit/assessment of employment sites; and calculation of future land requirements.

EB17: Retail Capacity Study - Forms the local evidence base in relation to retailing and town centres. Includes a 'health check' of the Borough's centres; quantitative and qualitative retail need assessments; assessments of the potential for additional town centre uses; and implications for centres in terms of floorspace projections and the town centre hierarchy.

EB20: Green Infrastructure Assessment - Summary of the relevant background evidence and policy recommendations in regard to the County Boroughs green and blue infrastructure assets.

EB21: Regional Assessment of Future Growth and Migration for the Cardiff Capital Region. - A regional assessment of the potential scope for population and employment growth for the region relating that to relevant growth levels for each of the constituent authorities.

Supporting Documents

SD1: Llwybr Newydd: The Wales Transport Strategy 2021- Sets out Welsh Government's policy for transport, including targets for modal shift

SD2: A Foundation for Success - The Council's Regeneration Strategy that sets out Regeneration priorities to regenerate the County Borough.

SD3: Regional Technical Statements For The North Wales and South Wales Regional Aggregate Working Parties – 2nd Review - Assessment of the future demand for minerals and aggregates and apportions the demand to sub regional and local authority areas.

Appendix 3: Glossary of Terms

2nd Pre-Deposit Plan: 2nd Replacement Local Development Plan 2020-2035: Pre-Deposit Plan (Revised Preferred Strategy)

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

Active Travel Act: Active Travel (Wales) Act 2013

ATNM: Active Travel Network Map

Caerphilly CBC: Caerphilly County Borough Council

CCR: Cardiff Capital Region

CJC: Corporate Joint Committee

Corporate Plan: Caerphilly County Borough Corporate Plan Well-being Objectives 2023-2028

DA: 2nd Replacement Caerphilly County Borough Local Development Plan 2020-2035: Delivery Agreement

Environment Act: Environment (Wales) Act 2016

Future Wales: Future Wales - The National Plan 2040

GTAA: Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment

Gwent PSB: Gwent Public Service Board

Housing Strategy: Housing Strategy: An Agenda for Change 2021 - 2026

HoVRA: Heads of the Valleys Regeneration Area

ISA: Integrated Sustainability Appraisal

LDP: Local Development Plan

LDP Regulations: Town & County Planning (Local Development Plan) (Wales) Regulations 2015 (as amended)

LHMA: Local Housing Market Assessment

NCC: Northern Connections Corridor

NDF: National Development Framework

NRW: Natural Resources Wales

Planning Act: Planning (Wales) Act 2015

PPW: Planning Policy Wales Edition 12

Preferred Strategy: 2nd Replacement Local Development Plan 2020-2035: Pre-Deposit Plan (Preferred Strategy)

PSB: Public Service Board

Regeneration Strategy: A Foundation for Success 2018 - 2023

Review Report: Caerphilly County Borough Local Development Plan up to 2021 Review Report

Revised DA: 2nd Replacement Caerphilly County Borough Local Development Plan 2020-2035: Revised Delivery Agreement

Revised Preferred Strategy: 2nd Replacement Local Development Plan 2020-2035: Pre-Deposit Plan (Revised Preferred Strategy)

RTP: Regional Transport Plan

SCC: Southern Connections Corridor

Scoping Report: Integrated Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report

SDP: Strategic Development Plan

SEW Metro: The South East Wales Metro

SEWPOS: South East Wales Planning Officers Society

SEWSPG: South-East Wales Strategic Planning Group

TfW: Transport for Wales

Well-Being Act: Well-Being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015

Well-Being Plan: Gwent Public Services Board Well-being Plan for Gwent 2023-2028