



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

## **EB2: Sustainable Settlements Analysis**

October 2026



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## 1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 This paper is one of a series produced as part of the evidence base for the 2nd Replacement Local Development Plan, 2020-2035 (2RLDP). Each topic paper can be read in isolation or together to gain a wider understanding of how the policies and/or allocations in the 2RLDP have been developed to address issues facing Caerphilly County Borough.
- 1.2 The Welsh Government's Development Plans Manual (DPM) (Edition 3, March 2020) advises that, when preparing a spatial strategy, Local Planning Authorities (LPAs) should undertake a settlement assessment to inform decisions on the most appropriate locations for development. The purpose of this assessment is to promote a sustainable pattern of growth, minimise the need for unsustainable travel, and support the viability of local services and facilities. The DPM further states that settlement assessments should identify the most sustainable settlements for future growth and seek to achieve an appropriate balance between housing and employment opportunities, thereby reducing the need for commuting.
- 1.3 The DPM requires LPAs to establish a clear and robust methodology for assessing the role and function of settlements, which should be set out transparently within the evidence base. This methodology should explain how settlements have been evaluated, identify the key assessment criteria, and demonstrate that the approach has been applied consistently across the authority area. The findings of the assessment should then inform the settlement hierarchy, providing a clear basis for identifying the settlements most suitable to accommodate growth based on the availability and accessibility of services, facilities, and employment opportunities.
- 1.4 In order to inform this hierarchy an analysis of the sustainability of settlements throughout the County Borough has been undertaken, taking into account three key elements, namely:
  - The level of sustainable transport and accessibility of a settlement.
  - The level of employment opportunities a settlement and/or its surrounding area provides.
  - The available local facilities and services in and around a settlement.

## 2. POLICY CONTEXT

### Future Wales – The National Plan 2040

- 2.1 Future Wales – The National Plan 2040 (Future Wales) is the national development framework for Wales. It is the highest tier of the development plan in Wales, setting out the national level policy framework for the regional and local tiers.
- 2.2 In terms of locating development, Future Wales sets out 2 policy positions that have influenced the 2RLDP Strategy:

#### Policy 6 - Town Centre First

Sets out a 'Town Centre First' approach to the delivery of large-scale development, seeking to ensure that retail, commercial and community-focused uses are located within town centres.

#### 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 South East Wales Metro public transport initiative and for Metro-focussed developments.

- 2.3 These policies are fundamental considerations for the location of new development in the 2RLDP.

#### Planning Policy Wales (PPW) Edition 12 (2024)

- 2.4 Edition 12 of Planning Policy Wales (PPW) sets out national planning policy, as formulated by Welsh Government and underpinned by sustainability principles, and is consistent with the statutory well-being goals of the WBFG Act. Its primary objective is to ensure that the planning system contributes towards the delivery of sustainable development and improves the social, economic, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales.
- 2.5 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'. Housing targets should be in line with employment forecasts, and new development should be near existing or planned infrastructure. The need to travel should be minimised and active travel and public transport made more attractive. Development plans should 'provide the main means for achieving integration between land use and transport planning'.

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

- 2.6 This document sets out the Welsh Government's planning policy priorities in terms of assisting with post-Covid 19 recovery. 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.
- 2.7 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, 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 eight 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.

#### Technical Advice Note 4 (TAN 4) – Retail and Commercial Development (2016)

- 2.8 TAN 4 promotes a ‘town centre first’ approach that recognises retail and commercial centres as diverse, mixed use focal points that should be primary considerations when assessing the most appropriate places for a wide variety of developments. It is emphasised that the “...co-location of these uses and their high levels of accessibility by a range of transport options make them sustainable locations”.

#### Technical Advice Note 18 (TAN 18) – Transport (2007)

- 2.9 TAN 18 sets out the Welsh Government’s aim to promote sustainable transport in Wales. The TAN focuses on achieving the Welsh Government’s environmental outcomes in its Environmental Strategy by:

- Promoting resource and travel efficient settlement patterns;
- Ensuring new development is located where there is, or will be, good access by public transport, walking and cycling thereby minimising the need for travel and fostering social inclusion;
- Encouraging the location of development near other related uses to encourage multi-purpose trips;
- Promoting cycling and walking;
- Supporting the provision of high quality, inclusive public transport; and
- Ensuring that transport infrastructure or service improvements necessary to serve new development allow existing transport networks to continue to perform their identified functions.

- 2.10 TAN 18 goes on to emphasise the need to identify residential sites in accessible areas which have good links to jobs, shops and services by modes other than the car and where public transport services have existing or planned capacity to absorb further development. Based upon this settlement policies should, among other considerations, promote housing development at locations with good access by walking and cycling to primary and secondary schools and public transport stops, and by all modes to employment, further and higher education, services, and require layouts and densities, which maximise the opportunity for residents to walk and cycle to local facilities and public transport stops.

- 2.11 This reiterates the importance of sustainable transport when identifying sustainable settlements, as TAN 18 advises sustainable transport is a key element of Development Plans.

#### Technical Advice Note 20 (TAN 20), Planning and the Welsh Language, 2017

- 2.12 TAN 20 provides advice on incorporating the Welsh language in development plans. The TAN stresses the need to assess the potential cumulative effects of development across the Plan area; specifically how the strategy and policies are likely to impact on use of the Welsh language and the sustainability of communities.

- 2.13 The spatial distribution of new development and infrastructure can be used as a strategic means of supporting the language based on the findings of the Sustainable Settlements Appraisal.

- 2.14 PPW 11 also highlights the importance of considering the likely effects of development plans on the use of the Welsh language. In order to achieve this it recommends “...a broad distribution and phasing of development that takes into account the ability of the area or community to accommodate development without adversely impacting use of the Welsh language” is required. Caerphilly County Borough has a relatively low percentage of its population who have skills in Welsh. At the time of the 2021 Census 10.5% of the

population can speak Welsh. Any impacts on the Welsh language will be addressed in the Integrated Sustainability Appraisal of the 2RLDP.

#### Active Travel (Wales) Act 2013

- 2.15 The Active Travel (Wales) Act 2013 (Active Travel Act) promotes walking, wheeling and cycling for 'purposeful' journeys, such as those to work, school or hospital appointments. Its objective is to reduce the use of the car by making active travel easy, safe and convenient.
- 2.16 The Active Travel Act requires local authorities to prepare Active Travel Network Maps (ATNMs) that show routes and facilities. Every year, local authorities must create new routes and facilities and improve existing ones. The ATNM for Caerphilly County Borough is part of the 2RLDP's evidence base.

#### Development Plans Manual (Edition 3) (March 2020) (DPM)

- 2.17 The DPM requires LPAs to undertake a settlement assessment to 'inform decisions regarding where development should be spatially located to achieve a sustainable pattern of growth, minimise unsustainable patterns regarding the movement of people and support local services and facilities.
- 2.18 Figure 1 details topics which should be considered as a part of a settlement assessment. This reinforces the importance of active travel opportunities, range and accessibility of services, and employment provision, and suggests that it is important to consider the wider context of each settlement as a part of this assessment. For instance, the relationship and movement patterns between settlements in adjoining authorities.



- 2.19 The assessment will form a key piece of evidence when formulating the 2RLDP Strategy, and will form the basis for the settlement hierarchy, identifying which settlements are most sustainable and have capacity to deliver growth.

### 3. SUSTAINABLE SETTLEMENTS REVIEW

- 3.1 The Council has undertaken a sustainability review of its existing settlements to establish their accessibility, availability of services, and their employment opportunities, considering their location, scale and relationship with nearby settlements. This assessment provides a comprehensive overview of each settlement and evaluates their suitability for accommodating future growth.

#### Existing Settlements

- 3.2 All settlement assessed in this study were originally identified as part of EB3: Settlement Role, Function and Analysis published as part of the Councils 2<sup>nd</sup> Pre-Deposit Plan (Revised Preferred Strategy) in January 2025. This paper has subsequently been updated to reflect the latest available information and data.

- 3.3 The full list of settlements includes:

|              |                |                |
|--------------|----------------|----------------|
| Aberbargoed  | Gelligaer      | Pontllanfraith |
| Abercarn     | Gilfach        | Pontlloftyn    |
| Abertridwr   | Glan y Nant    | Pontymister    |
| Abertysswg   | Graig Y Rhacca | Pontywaun      |
| Argoed       | Hafodyrynys    | Porset         |
| Bargoed      | Hengoed        | Princetown     |
| Bedwas       | Hollybush      | Rhymney        |
| Blackwood    | Llanbradach    | Risca          |
| Brynawel     | Llechryd       | Rudry          |
| Caerphilly   | Machen         | Senghenydd     |
| Cefn Forest  | Maesycwmmmer   | Tir Y Berth    |
| Cefn Hengoed | Markham        | Trethomas      |
| Croespenmaen | Nelson         | Trinant        |
| Crosskeys    | New Tredegar   | Waterloo       |
| Crumlin      | Newbridge      | Wattsville     |
| Cwmcarn      | Oakdale        | Wyllie         |
| Cwmfelinfach | Pantside       | Ynysddu        |
| Deri         | Pengam         | Ystrad Mynach  |
| Fleur De Lys | Penpedairheol  |                |
| Fochriw      | Penybryn       |                |

- 3.4 In undertaking the settlement review, consideration was given to areas that, whilst locally recognised under separate names, function as part of a wider settlement. These areas share access to the same services, facilities and community infrastructure, and therefore demonstrate strong functional and spatial relationships with the principal settlement. For the purposes of this review, a consistent approach has been applied in grouping such areas where they form part of the same settlement pattern and operate as a single functional entity. This approach ensures that the review is based on clear and robust evidence.

#### Settlement Clusters

| Settlement Cluster | Wider Settlement Area Assessed |
|--------------------|--------------------------------|
| Abercarn           | Abercarn (includes Cwmcarn)    |
| Bargoed            | Bargoed (includes Gilfach)     |
| Bedwas             | Bedwas (includes Trethomas)    |

|             |                                                      |
|-------------|------------------------------------------------------|
| Blackwood   | Blackwood (includes Cefn Fforest and Pontllanfraith) |
| Hengoed     | Hengoed (includes Cefn Hengoed)                      |
| Crosskeys   | Crosskeys (includes Pontywaun)                       |
| Gelligaer   | Gelligaer (includes Penybryn)                        |
| Glan-y-nant | Glan-y-nant (includes Tir-y-berth)                   |
| Oakdale     | Oakdale (includes Croespenmaen)                      |
| Pengam      | Pengam (includes Fleur-de-lis)                       |
| Risca       | Risca (includes Pontymister)                         |

## Key Principles and Scoring Methodology

3.5 The South East Wales Strategic Planning Group (SEWSPG) Pathfinder Group published a Sustainable Settlements Appraisal Paper (SSAP) containing a draft methodology for authorities within South East Wales to consider when assessing settlements as part of the evidence base of their individual development plans. The purpose of this paper was to provide each local authority with a set of key principles and scoring criteria to establish a consistent approach across the South East Wales Region. This assessment has been based on the SSAP and reflects the three key principles for scoring.

3.6 The three key principles are:

- **Principle 1: Sustainable Transport and Accessibility** – the level of sustainable transport options, routes and services within and around each settlement.
- **Principle 2: Access to Services** – The availability of local facilities and services within and around each settlement.
- **Principle 3: Employment Opportunities** – The level of employment opportunities within and around each settlement.

## Scoring System

3.7 The scoring system for this assessment is based on the three principles as set out above. In addition, the scoring factors in the strategy of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Replacement Local Development Plan (2RLDP) which is to locate development towards Town Centres and Metro Nodes. Therefore, there are more points available for settlements with strong links to principles one and two. The scoring for principles one and two is worth approximately 80% of the total points, reflecting its importance within the 2RLDP growth strategy.

### **Principle 1 – Sustainable Transport and Accessibility**

3.8 Principle 1 considers sustainable transport and accessibility as key indicators of settlement sustainability. Effective multi-modal transport connections can reduce dependency on car borne trips and enhance access to essential services and employment opportunities. Settlements with stronger sustainable transport links are therefore better placed to support sustainable communities and contribute to wider placemaking and climate change objectives. The scoring system scores active travel and public transport infrastructure highly, with less points available for settlements dependant on the strategic highway network and car borne trips.

### **Principle 1 – Scoring**

#### **Active Travel & Cycling Opportunities**

| <b>Indicator</b>            | <b>Scoring</b> |
|-----------------------------|----------------|
| 2+ routes within settlement | 10 points      |
| 1+ routes within settlement | 5 points       |

|                                                      |                 |
|------------------------------------------------------|-----------------|
| <i>No routes within settlement</i>                   | <i>0 points</i> |
| <i>National cycle route access within settlement</i> | <i>2 points</i> |
| <i>Local cycle route access within settlement</i>    | <i>1 point</i>  |

### **Rail Infrastructure & Service Frequency**

| <b>Indicator</b>                                | <b>Scoring</b>   |
|-------------------------------------------------|------------------|
| <i>Rail station within settlement</i>           | <i>15 points</i> |
| <i>Park and ride within settlement</i>          | <i>5 points</i>  |
| <i>Within a 10-minute walk to a station</i>     | <i>10 points</i> |
| <i>Within a 10-minute cycle to a station</i>    | <i>5 points</i>  |
| <i>None of the above criteria</i>               | <i>0 points</i>  |
| <i>Service frequency (4+ services per hour)</i> | <i>3 points</i>  |
| <i>Service frequency (2+ services per hour)</i> | <i>2 points</i>  |
| <i>Service frequency (1 service per hour)</i>   | <i>1 point</i>   |
| <i>Service frequency (No service)</i>           | <i>0 points</i>  |

### **Bus Infrastructure & Service Frequency**

| <b>Indicator</b>                                                        | <b>Scoring</b>   |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------|
| <i>Bus station within settlement</i>                                    | <i>15 points</i> |
| <i>Bus stops within settlement (10+ stops)</i>                          | <i>3 points</i>  |
| <i>Bus stops within settlement (5+ stops)</i>                           | <i>2 points</i>  |
| <i>Bus stops within settlement (1+ stops)</i>                           | <i>1 point</i>   |
| <i>No stops</i>                                                         | <i>0 points</i>  |
| <i>Service frequency (less than every 15 mins)</i>                      | <i>4 points</i>  |
| <i>Service frequency (every 16 to 30 mins)</i>                          | <i>3 points</i>  |
| <i>Service frequency (every 31 to 60 mins)</i>                          | <i>2 points</i>  |
| <i>Service frequency (daily, at least one service each way per day)</i> | <i>1 point</i>   |
| <i>Service frequency (no service)</i>                                   | <i>0 points</i>  |

### **Road Network, Fuel and Charging Infrastructure**

| <b>Indicator</b>                                                | <b>Scoring</b>  |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------|
| <i>Access to trunk road (A470 &amp; A465) within settlement</i> | <i>3 points</i> |
| <i>Access to trunk road (A470 &amp; A465) within 1 mile</i>     | <i>2 points</i> |
| <i>Access to trunk road (A470 &amp; A465) within 2 miles</i>    | <i>1 point</i>  |
| <i>Access to trunk road (A470 &amp; A465) more than 2 miles</i> | <i>0 points</i> |
| <i>Access to strategic highway network within settlement</i>    | <i>3 points</i> |
| <i>Access to strategic highway network within 1 mile</i>        | <i>2 points</i> |
| <i>Access to strategic highway network within 2 miles</i>       | <i>1 point</i>  |
| <i>Access to strategic highway network (2+ miles)</i>           | <i>0 points</i> |
| <i>Filling station within settlement</i>                        | <i>2 points</i> |
| <i>Publicly available EV charging station within settlement</i> | <i>2 points</i> |

- 3.9 A full breakdown of the datasets used to score each indicator under principle 1 – sustainable transport and accessibility can be found in section 3.15.

### **Principle 2 – Access to Services**

- 3.10 Principle 2 assesses the extent to which a settlement can meet the day-to-day needs of its residents through the provision and accessibility of key services and facilities. To reflect these factors, the assessment is divided into several indicators which assess the presence of commercial centres, regular needs, medical, health and education provision, other social and community facilities, hospitality venues, and access to broadband and internet connectivity.

### **Principle 2 – Scoring**

#### **Commercial Centres**

| <b>Indicator / Facility</b>                        | <b>Scoring</b>   |
|----------------------------------------------------|------------------|
| <i>Town Centre within settlement</i>               | <i>15 points</i> |
| <i>Local Centre within settlement</i>              | <i>10 points</i> |
| <i>Less than 1 mile to a town or local centre</i>  | <i>8 points</i>  |
| <i>Less than 2 miles to a town or local centre</i> | <i>3 points</i>  |
| <i>More than 2 miles to a town or local centre</i> | <i>0 point</i>   |

#### **Regular Needs**

| <b>Indicator / Facility</b>                            | <b>Scoring</b>                                                                                                  |
|--------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <i>Supermarket</i>                                     | <i>3+ of each indicator = 3 points,<br/>2-3 of each indicator = 2 points,<br/>1 of each indicator = 1 point</i> |
| <i>Convenience store, grocery store and newsagents</i> |                                                                                                                 |
| <i>Post Office</i>                                     |                                                                                                                 |
| <i>Banks, building societies and ATMs</i>              |                                                                                                                 |
| <i>Other shops and showrooms</i>                       |                                                                                                                 |

#### **Medical and Health Facilities**

| <b>Indicator / Facility</b>                                      | <b>Scoring</b>                                                                                                  |
|------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <i>Hospital</i>                                                  | <i>3+ of each indicator = 3 points,<br/>2-3 of each indicator = 2 points,<br/>1 of each indicator = 1 point</i> |
| <i>GP surgery, health centre and clinics</i>                     |                                                                                                                 |
| <i>Dentist, opticians and chiropractors</i>                      |                                                                                                                 |
| <i>Pharmacy</i>                                                  |                                                                                                                 |
| <i>Emergency Services (Ambulance, Police, Fire &amp; Rescue)</i> |                                                                                                                 |

#### **Education Facilities**

| <b>Indicator / Facility</b>                      | <b>Scoring</b>                                                                                                  |
|--------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <i>University or college</i>                     | <i>3+ of each indicator = 3 points,<br/>2-3 of each indicator = 2 points,<br/>1 of each indicator = 1 point</i> |
| <i>English and Welsh medium secondary school</i> |                                                                                                                 |
| <i>English and Welsh medium primary school</i>   |                                                                                                                 |
| <i>Special school</i>                            |                                                                                                                 |
| <i>Nursery, play or toddler group</i>            |                                                                                                                 |

#### **Community Facilities**

| <b>Indicator / Facility</b>                                        | <b>Scoring</b>                                                                                                  |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <i>Leisure centre</i>                                              | <i>3+ of each indicator = 3 points,<br/>2-3 of each indicator = 2 points,<br/>1 of each indicator = 1 point</i> |
| <i>Sport pitch (rugby and football pitches, and mini pitches)</i>  |                                                                                                                 |
| <i>Country park, urban park, or publicly accessible open space</i> |                                                                                                                 |

|                                                       |  |
|-------------------------------------------------------|--|
| <i>Sports facility*</i>                               |  |
| <i>Fixed play provision*</i>                          |  |
| <i>Youth club or shelter</i>                          |  |
| <i>Library</i>                                        |  |
| <i>Place of worship or religious institution</i>      |  |
| <i>Cemetery, burial grounds, and crematoriums</i>     |  |
| <i>Adult care home</i>                                |  |
| <i>Recycling centre (CA site or transfer station)</i> |  |

*\*Sports facilities (includes sports pavilion, golf course, tennis courts, cricket ground, bowling greens, padel courts). \*Fixed play provision (includes kick walls, children's play areas, multi-used games area (MUGAs), skate parks, and climbing walls.)*

### **Hospitality Venues**

| <b>Indicator / Facility</b>              | <b>Scoring</b>                                                                                         |
|------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <i>Hotels and guest houses</i>           | 3+ of each indicator = 3 points,<br>2-3 of each indicator = 2 points,<br>1 of each indicator = 1 point |
| <i>Pubs, bars, and nightclubs</i>        |                                                                                                        |
| <i>Cafes, tea rooms, and restaurants</i> |                                                                                                        |
| <i>Fast food and takeaways</i>           |                                                                                                        |

### **Broadband & Internet Connectivity**

| <b>Indicator</b>                                              | <b>Scoring</b>  |
|---------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------|
| <i>Broadband connectivity</i>                                 | <i>5 points</i> |
| <i>No broadband connectivity</i>                              | <i>0 points</i> |
| <i>High median download speed (&gt;30mb/s)</i>                | <i>2 points</i> |
| <i>Moderate median download speed (between 30mb/s-10mb/s)</i> | <i>1 point</i>  |
| <i>Low median download speed (&lt;10mb/s)</i>                 | <i>0 points</i> |

- 3.11 A full breakdown of the datasets used to score each indicator under principle 2 – access to services can be found in section 3.15.

### **Principle 3 – Employment Opportunities**

- 3.12 Principle 3 considers the availability of employment opportunities within or in close proximity to a settlement as an indicator of its economic sustainability. The presence of local employment opportunities can reduce the need to travel to work and support more sustainable communities. Scores were awarded to settlements containing employment sites, settlements containing large business, industrial, or mixed-use sites, and settlements with office or corporate facilities reflecting the benefits of locally accessible jobs for residents and the overall sustainability of settlements.

### **Principle 3 – Scoring**

#### **Protected Employment Sites**

| <b>Indicator</b>                                                 | <b>Scoring</b>   |
|------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------|
| <i>Protected employment site within settlement</i>               | <i>15 points</i> |
| <i>Proximity to protected employment site: less than 1 mile</i>  | <i>10 points</i> |
| <i>Proximity to protected employment site: less than 2 miles</i> | <i>5 points</i>  |

|                                                                  |                 |
|------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------|
| <i>Proximity to protected employment site: more than 2 miles</i> | <i>0 points</i> |
|------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------|

### **Large Business, Industrial, Mixed-Use Sites**

| <b>Indicator</b>                                                      | <b>Scoring</b>   |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------|
| <i>Large business, industrial or mixed-use site within settlement</i> | <i>10 points</i> |

### **Office and Corporate Facilities**

| <b>Indicator</b>                                                        | <b>Scoring</b>   |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------|
| <i>Office or corporate facilities within settlement (10+)</i>           | <i>10 points</i> |
| <i>Office or corporate facilities within settlement (5+)</i>            | <i>5 points</i>  |
| <i>Office or corporate facilities within settlement (1+)</i>            | <i>2 points</i>  |
| <i>Office or corporate facilities within settlement (no facilities)</i> | <i>0 points</i>  |

- 3.13 A full breakdown of the datasets used to score each indicator under principle 3 - employment opportunities can be found in table section 3.15.

### **Data**

- 3.14 The sustainable settlements review is informed by a range of spatial data which provides a robust and evidence-based assessment of each settlement. Data relating to sustainable transport, services and community facilities, employment opportunities, and digital infrastructure have been collated from a variety of national and local sources. Geographic Information System (GIS) has been used to assess the spatial data, ensuring a consistent and transparent approach across all settlements. The data provides the basis for evaluating the relative sustainability of settlements and informing their position within the settlement hierarchy.
- 3.15 The following table provides an overview of each assessment indicator and the relevant datasets used for the assessment. The table contains the name, organisation and published date of each dataset. It is important to outline that the sustainable settlements assessment has been undertaken and updated based on datasets and information available publicly or held by the Council as of 30<sup>th</sup> September 2026.

## Spatial Data and Sources

| <b>Dataset</b>                                               | <b>Author</b>                           | <b>Source</b>                                                                                                                                                     |
|--------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <i>Active Travel Network Map (ATNM)</i>                      | <i>Welsh Government (11/2022)</i>       | <i>DataMapWales<br/><a href="https://datamap.gov.wales/maps/active-travel-network-maps/">https://datamap.gov.wales/maps/active-travel-network-maps/</a></i>       |
| <i>Adult Care Homes</i>                                      | <i>Welsh Government (10/2026)</i>       | <i>DataMapWales<br/><a href="https://datamap.gov.wales/layers/geonode:adult_care_homes_ciw">https://datamap.gov.wales/layers/geonode:adult_care_homes_ciw</a></i> |
| <i>Banks, Building Societies, and ATMs</i>                   | <i>CCBC (10/2026)</i>                   | <i>CCBC GIS held data<br/>(address gazetteer and retail surveys)</i>                                                                                              |
| <i>Broadband Connectivity</i>                                | <i>Think Broadband (10/2026)</i>        | <i>Think Broadband<br/><a href="https://labs.thinkbroadband.com/local/wales">https://labs.thinkbroadband.com/local/wales</a></i>                                  |
| <i>Broadband Performance</i>                                 | <i>Think Broadband (10/2026)</i>        | <i>Think Broadband<br/><a href="https://labs.thinkbroadband.com/local/wales">https://labs.thinkbroadband.com/local/wales</a></i>                                  |
| <i>Bus Service Frequency</i>                                 | <i>Traveline Cymru (10/2026)</i>        | <i>Traveline Cymru<br/><a href="https://www.traveline.cymru/">https://www.traveline.cymru/</a></i>                                                                |
| <i>Café's, Tearooms and Restaurants</i>                      | <i>CCBC (10/2026)</i>                   | <i>CCBC GIS held data<br/>(address gazetteer and retail surveys)</i>                                                                                              |
| <i>Cemeteries, Burial Grounds, and Crematoria</i>            | <i>CCBC (10/2026)</i>                   | <i>CCBC GIS held data (working in partnership with Ordnance Survey)<br/>(TAN 16 Open and Green Spaces)</i>                                                        |
| <i>Chiropractors</i>                                         | <i>CCBC (10/2026)</i>                   | <i>CCBC GIS held data<br/>(address gazetteer)</i>                                                                                                                 |
| <i>Colleges</i>                                              | <i>CCBC (10/2026)</i>                   | <i>CCBC GIS held data<br/>(address gazetteer)</i>                                                                                                                 |
| <i>Commercial Centres (Principal Town and Local Centres)</i> | <i>CCBC (10/2026)</i>                   | <i>CCBC GIS held data<br/>(Adopted LDP - 2010)</i>                                                                                                                |
| <i>Convenience Stores</i>                                    | <i>CCBC (10/2026)</i>                   | <i>CCBC GIS held data<br/>(address gazetteer)</i>                                                                                                                 |
| <i>Country Parks</i>                                         | <i>Natural Resource Wales (10/2025)</i> | <i>Data Map Wales<br/><a href="https://datamap.gov.wales/layers/geonode:country_parks">https://datamap.gov.wales/layers/geonode:country_parks</a></i>             |
| <i>Dentists</i>                                              | <i>CCBC (10/2026)</i>                   | <i>CCBC GIS held data<br/>(address gazetteer)</i>                                                                                                                 |

|                                                    |                                       |                                                                                                                                                                                            |
|----------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <i>Police, Ambulance, Fire and Rescue Stations</i> | <i>CCBC<br/>(10/2026)</i>             | <i>CCBC GIS held data<br/>(address gazetteer)</i>                                                                                                                                          |
| <i>English and Welsh Medium Primary Schools</i>    | <i>Welsh Government<br/>(03/2025)</i> | <i>DataMapWales<br/><a href="https://datamap.gov.wales/maps/schools-in-wales/">https://datamap.gov.wales/maps/schools-in-wales/</a></i>                                                    |
| <i>English and Welsh Medium Secondary Schools</i>  | <i>Welsh Government<br/>(03/2025)</i> | <i>DataMapWales<br/><a href="https://datamap.gov.wales/maps/schools-in-wales/">https://datamap.gov.wales/maps/schools-in-wales/</a></i>                                                    |
| <i>EV Charging Infrastructure</i>                  | <i>Zap Map<br/>(10/2026)</i>          | <i>Zap Map<br/><a href="https://www.zapmap.com/live">https://www.zapmap.com/live</a></i>                                                                                                   |
| <i>Fast Food and Take Aways</i>                    | <i>CCBC<br/>(10/2026)</i>             | <i>CCBC GIS held data<br/>(address gazetteer and retail surveys)</i>                                                                                                                       |
| <i>Fixed Play provision</i>                        | <i>CCBC<br/>(10/2026)</i>             | <i>CCBC GIS held data<br/>(Sport and Active Recreation Strategy)</i>                                                                                                                       |
| <i>GP Surgeries, Health Centres, and Clinics</i>   | <i>Welsh Government<br/>(01/2024)</i> | <i>DataMapWales<br/><a href="https://datamap.gov.wales/layergroups/geonode:gp_sites_ogl">https://datamap.gov.wales/layergroups/geonode:gp_sites_ogl</a></i>                                |
| <i>Hospitals</i>                                   | <i>Welsh Government<br/>(03/2021)</i> | <i>DataMapWales<br/><a href="https://datamap.gov.wales/layers/geonode:hospitals_march_2021">https://datamap.gov.wales/layers/geonode:hospitals_march_2021</a></i>                          |
| <i>Hotels and Guest Houses</i>                     | <i>CCBC<br/>(10/2026)</i>             | <i>CCBC GIS held data<br/>(address gazetteer)</i>                                                                                                                                          |
| <i>Large Business Sites</i>                        | <i>CCBC<br/>(10/2026)</i>             | <i>CCBC GIS held data<br/>(address gazetteer)</i>                                                                                                                                          |
| <i>Large Industrial Sites</i>                      | <i>CCBC<br/>(10/2026)</i>             | <i>CCBC GIS held data<br/>(address gazetteer)</i>                                                                                                                                          |
| <i>Large Mixed-Use Sites</i>                       | <i>CCBC<br/>(10/2026)</i>             | <i>CCBC GIS held data<br/>(address gazetteer)</i>                                                                                                                                          |
| <i>Leisure Centres</i>                             | <i>Welsh Government<br/>(11/2022)</i> | <i>DataMapWales<br/><a href="https://datamap.gov.wales/layers/geonode:leisure_centres_wales">https://datamap.gov.wales/layers/geonode:leisure_centres_wales</a></i>                        |
| <i>Libraries</i>                                   | <i>CCBC<br/>(10/2026)</i>             | <i>CCBC data<br/><a href="https://beta.caerphilly.gov.uk/library-locations-and-opening-times-lang-en/">https://beta.caerphilly.gov.uk/library-locations-and-opening-times-lang-en/</a></i> |
| <i>Local cycle routes</i>                          | <i>CCBC<br/>(10/2026)</i>             | <i>CCBC GIS held data<br/>(OS data)</i>                                                                                                                                                    |
| <i>Main Roads</i>                                  | <i>CCBC<br/>(10/2026)</i>             | <i>CCBC GIS held data<br/>(OS data)</i>                                                                                                                                                    |

|                                                        |                                          |                                                                                                                                                                              |
|--------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <i>National cycle routes</i>                           | <i>CCBC<br/>(10/2026)</i>                | <i>CCBC GIS held data<br/>(OS data)</i>                                                                                                                                      |
| <i>National Public Transport Access Nodes (NaPTAN)</i> | <i>Welsh Government<br/>(02/2026)</i>    | <i>DataMapWales<br/><a href="https://datamap.gov.wales/layers/geonode:naptan_wales_feb_26">https://datamap.gov.wales/layers/geonode:naptan_wales_feb_26</a></i>              |
| <i>Nurseries</i>                                       | <i>CCBC<br/>(10/2026)</i>                | <i>CCBC GIS held data<br/>(address gazetteer)</i>                                                                                                                            |
| <i>Office Facilities</i>                               | <i>CCBC<br/>(10/2026)</i>                | <i>CCBC GIS held data<br/>(address gazetteer)</i>                                                                                                                            |
| <i>Open Space</i>                                      | <i>CCBC<br/>(10/2026)</i>                | <i>CCBC GIS held data (working in partnership with Ordnance Survey)<br/>(TAN 16 Open and Green Spaces)</i>                                                                   |
| <i>Opticians</i>                                       | <i>CCBC<br/>(10/2026)</i>                | <i>CCBC GIS held data<br/>(address gazetteer)</i>                                                                                                                            |
| <i>Other Corporate Spaces</i>                          | <i>CCBC<br/>(10/2026)</i>                | <i>CCBC GIS held data<br/>(address gazetteer)</i>                                                                                                                            |
| <i>Park and Rides</i>                                  | <i>CCBC<br/>(10/2026)</i>                | <i>CCBC GIS held data<br/>(highways department)</i>                                                                                                                          |
| <i>Petrol Stations</i>                                 | <i>CCBC<br/>(10/2026)</i>                | <i>CCBC GIS held data<br/>(address gazetteer)</i>                                                                                                                            |
| <i>Pharmacies</i>                                      | <i>CCBC<br/>(10/2026)</i>                | <i>CCBC GIS held data<br/>(address gazetteer)</i>                                                                                                                            |
| <i>Places of Worship and Religious Institutions</i>    | <i>Welsh Government<br/>(09/2022)</i>    | <i>DataMapWales<br/><a href="https://datamap.gov.wales/layers/geonode:religious_buildings">https://datamap.gov.wales/layers/geonode:religious_buildings</a></i>              |
| <i>Post Offices</i>                                    | <i>CCBC<br/>(10/2026)</i>                | <i>CCBC GIS held data<br/>(address gazetteer)</i>                                                                                                                            |
| <i>Protected Employment Sites</i>                      | <i>CCBC<br/>(10/2026)</i>                | <i>CCBC GIS held data<br/>(Adopted LDP - 2010)</i>                                                                                                                           |
| <i>Pubs, Bars and Nightclubs</i>                       | <i>CCBC<br/>(10/2026)</i>                | <i>CCBC GIS held data<br/>(address gazetteer and retail surveys)</i>                                                                                                         |
| <i>Rail Service Frequency</i>                          | <i>Transport for Wales<br/>(10/2026)</i> | <i>Transport for Wales<br/><a href="https://tfw.wales/service-status/timetables">https://tfw.wales/service-status/timetables</a></i>                                         |
| <i>Recycling Centres</i>                               | <i>CCBC<br/>(10/2026)</i>                | <i>CCBC data<br/><a href="https://beta.caerphilly.gov.uk/recycling-centres-near-you?lang=en-GB">https://beta.caerphilly.gov.uk/recycling-centres-near-you?lang=en-GB</a></i> |

|                                                               |                                          |                                                                                                                                                               |
|---------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <i>Settlement Boundaries</i>                                  | <i>CCBC<br/>(10/2026)</i>                | <i>CCBC GIS held data<br/>(Adopted LDP - 2010)</i>                                                                                                            |
| <i>Shops and Showrooms</i>                                    | <i>CCBC<br/>(10/2026)</i>                | <i>CCBC GIS held data<br/>(address gazetteer and retail surveys)</i>                                                                                          |
| <i>Special Schools</i>                                        | <i>Welsh Government<br/>(03/2025)</i>    | <i>DataMapWales<br/><a href="https://datamap.gov.wales/maps/schools-in-wales/">https://datamap.gov.wales/maps/schools-in-wales/</a></i>                       |
| <i>Sports Pitches</i>                                         | <i>CCBC<br/>(10/2026)</i>                | <i>CCBC GIS held data<br/>(Sport and Active Recreation Strategy)</i>                                                                                          |
| <i>Supermarkets</i>                                           | <i>CCBC<br/>(10/2026)</i>                | <i>CCBC GIS held data<br/>(address gazetteer)</i>                                                                                                             |
| <i>Transport for Wales –<br/>Walking / Cycling Isochrones</i> | <i>Transport for Wales<br/>(11/2021)</i> | <i>CCBC GIS held data<br/>(working in partnership with Tfw).</i>                                                                                              |
| <i>Transport in Wales</i>                                     | <i>Welsh Government<br/>(05/2024)</i>    | <i>DataMapWales<br/><a href="https://datamap.gov.wales/maps/transport-in-wales-overview/">https://datamap.gov.wales/maps/transport-in-wales-overview/</a></i> |
| <i>Unitary boundary (CCBC)</i>                                | <i>CCBC<br/>(10/2026)</i>                | <i>CCBC GIS held data<br/>(Adopted LDP -2010)</i>                                                                                                             |
| <i>Universities</i>                                           | <i>CCBC<br/>(10/2026)</i>                | <i>CCBC GIS held data<br/>(address gazetteer)</i>                                                                                                             |
| <i>Urban Parks</i>                                            | <i>CCBC<br/>(10/2026)</i>                | <i>CCBC GIS held data<br/>(parks services)</i>                                                                                                                |
| <i>Youth Shelters</i>                                         | <i>CCBC<br/>(10/2026)</i>                | <i>CCBC GIS held data<br/>(Sport and Active Recreation Strategy)</i>                                                                                          |

## Scoring Results

### **Principle 1 – Sustainable Transport and Accessibility**

| <b>Settlement</b>                                            | <b>Total Score</b> |
|--------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------|
| <i>Caerphilly</i>                                            | 66                 |
| <i>Bargoed (including Gilfach)</i>                           | 59                 |
| <i>Ystrad Mynach</i>                                         | 49                 |
| <i>Rhymney</i>                                               | 44                 |
| <i>Risca (including Pontymister)</i>                         | 43                 |
| <i>Blackwood (including Cefn Fforest and Pontllanfraith)</i> | 42                 |
| <i>Glan-y-nant (including Tir-y-berth)</i>                   | 41                 |
| <i>Crosskeys (including Pontywaun)</i>                       | 39                 |
| <i>Hengoed (including Cefn Hengoed)</i>                      | 38                 |
| <i>Nelson</i>                                                | 36                 |
| <i>Newbridge</i>                                             | 36                 |
| <i>New Tredegar</i>                                          | 34                 |
| <i>Maesycwmmmer</i>                                          | 31                 |
| <i>Llanbradach</i>                                           | 28                 |
| <i>Pontlloftyn</i>                                           | 28                 |
| <i>Aberbargoed</i>                                           | 21                 |
| <i>Bedwas (including Trethomas)</i>                          | 21                 |
| <i>Oakdale (including Croespenmaen)</i>                      | 21                 |
| <i>Abertysswg</i>                                            | 20                 |
| <i>Machen</i>                                                | 18                 |
| <i>Wattsville</i>                                            | 17                 |
| <i>Graig y Rhacca</i>                                        | 16                 |
| <i>Pengam (including Fleur-de-lis)</i>                       | 16                 |
| <i>Abertridwr</i>                                            | 15                 |
| <i>Llechryd</i>                                              | 14                 |
| <i>Abercarn (including Cwmcarn)</i>                          | 13                 |
| <i>Crumlin</i>                                               | 13                 |
| <i>Gelligaer (including Penybryn)</i>                        | 13                 |
| <i>Wyllie</i>                                                | 13                 |
| <i>Cwmfelinfach</i>                                          | 12                 |
| <i>Pantside</i>                                              | 12                 |
| <i>Penpedairheol</i>                                         | 12                 |
| <i>Fochriw</i>                                               | 11                 |
| <i>Porset</i>                                                | 11                 |
| <i>Senghenydd</i>                                            | 11                 |
| <i>Ynysddu</i>                                               | 10                 |
| <i>Argoed</i>                                                | 9                  |
| <i>Holly Bush</i>                                            | 8                  |
| <i>Deri</i>                                                  | 7                  |
| <i>Hafodyrynys</i>                                           | 7                  |
| <i>Markham</i>                                               | 7                  |

|                   |   |
|-------------------|---|
| <i>Princetown</i> | 7 |
| <i>Trinant</i>    | 6 |
| <i>Brynawel</i>   | 5 |
| <i>Waterloo</i>   | 4 |
| <i>Rudry</i>      | 3 |

**Principle 2 – Access to Services**

| <b>Settlement</b>                                            | <b>Total Score</b> |
|--------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------|
| <i>Caerphilly</i>                                            | 91                 |
| <i>Blackwood (including Cefn Fforest and Pontllanfraith)</i> | 87                 |
| <i>Bargoed (including Gilfach)</i>                           | 82                 |
| <i>Risca (including Pontymister)</i>                         | 78                 |
| <i>Ystrad Mynach</i>                                         | 73                 |
| <i>Bedwas (including Trethomas)</i>                          | 66                 |
| <i>Rhymney</i>                                               | 65                 |
| <i>Newbridge</i>                                             | 58                 |
| <i>Aberbargoed</i>                                           | 56                 |
| <i>Nelson</i>                                                | 54                 |
| <i>Oakdale (including Croespenmaen)</i>                      | 50                 |
| <i>Abercarn (including Cwmcarn)</i>                          | 47                 |
| <i>New Tredegar</i>                                          | 46                 |
| <i>Abertridwr</i>                                            | 46                 |
| <i>Crosskeys (including Pontywaun)</i>                       | 45                 |
| <i>Pontlloftyn</i>                                           | 43                 |
| <i>Pengam (including Fleur-de-lis)</i>                       | 42                 |
| <i>Hengoed (including Cefn Hengoed)</i>                      | 38                 |
| <i>Crumlin</i>                                               | 37                 |
| <i>Llanbradach</i>                                           | 36                 |
| <i>Maesycwmmmer</i>                                          | 35                 |
| <i>Markham</i>                                               | 32                 |
| <i>Gelligaer (including Penybryn)</i>                        | 31                 |
| <i>Glan-y-nant (including Tir-y-berth)</i>                   | 29                 |
| <i>Machen</i>                                                | 29                 |
| <i>Pantside</i>                                              | 28                 |
| <i>Penpedairheol</i>                                         | 27                 |
| <i>Senghenydd</i>                                            | 27                 |
| <i>Abertysswg</i>                                            | 26                 |
| <i>Graig y Rhacca</i>                                        | 24                 |
| <i>Fochriw</i>                                               | 24                 |
| <i>Deri</i>                                                  | 24                 |
| <i>Cwmfelinfach</i>                                          | 23                 |
| <i>Ynysddu</i>                                               | 23                 |
| <i>Trinant</i>                                               | 20                 |
| <i>Wattsville</i>                                            | 18                 |
| <i>Porset</i>                                                | 16                 |
| <i>Hafodyrynys</i>                                           | 16                 |

|            |    |
|------------|----|
| Argoed     | 14 |
| Wyllie     | 12 |
| Princetown | 12 |
| Llechryd   | 11 |
| Waterloo   | 11 |
| Hollybush  | 10 |
| Brynawel   | 9  |
| Rudry      | 8  |

### **Principle 3 – Employment Opportunities**

| <b>Settlement</b>                                     | <b>Total Score</b> |
|-------------------------------------------------------|--------------------|
| Caerphilly                                            | 25                 |
| Blackwood (including Cefn Fforest and Pontllanfraith) | 25                 |
| Ystrad Mynach                                         | 25                 |
| Risca (including Pontymister)                         | 25                 |
| Rhymney                                               | 25                 |
| Newbridge                                             | 25                 |
| Bedwas (including Trethomas)                          | 25                 |
| Aberbargoed                                           | 25                 |
| Oakdale (including Croespenmaen)                      | 25                 |
| Abercarn (including Cwmcarn)                          | 25                 |
| Bargoed (including Gilfach)                           | 20                 |
| Nelson                                                | 20                 |
| Glan-y-nant (including Tir-y-berth)                   | 20                 |
| Pengam (including Fleur-de-lis)                       | 20                 |
| New Tredegar                                          | 17                 |
| Cwmfelinfach                                          | 17                 |
| Wattsville                                            | 17                 |
| Crosskeys (including Pontywaun)                       | 15                 |
| Llanbradach                                           | 15                 |
| Crumlin                                               | 15                 |
| Pontlloftyn                                           | 12                 |
| Maesycwmmmer                                          | 12                 |
| Gelligaer (including Penybryn)                        | 12                 |
| Graig y Rhacca                                        | 12                 |
| Penpedairheol                                         | 12                 |
| Hengoed (including Cefn Hengoed)                      | 10                 |
| Abertysswg                                            | 10                 |
| Pantside                                              | 10                 |
| Ynysddu                                               | 10                 |
| Porset                                                | 10                 |
| Trinant                                               | 10                 |
| Llechryd                                              | 10                 |
| Wyllie                                                | 10                 |
| Argoed                                                | 10                 |
| Brynawel                                              | 10                 |

|                    |   |
|--------------------|---|
| <i>Markham</i>     | 7 |
| <i>Hafodyrynys</i> | 7 |
| <i>Abertridwr</i>  | 5 |
| <i>Machen</i>      | 5 |
| <i>Fochriw</i>     | 5 |
| <i>Princetown</i>  | 5 |
| <i>Waterloo</i>    | 5 |
| <i>Rudry</i>       | 5 |
| <i>Senghenydd</i>  | 2 |
| <i>Hollybush</i>   | 2 |
| <i>Deri</i>        | 0 |

#### Overall Score & Settlement Rankings

| <b>Settlement</b>                                            | <b>Total Points</b> |
|--------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------|
| <i>Caerphilly</i>                                            | 182                 |
| <i>Bargoed (including Gilfach)</i>                           | 161                 |
| <i>Blackwood (including Cefn Fforest and Pontllanfraith)</i> | 154                 |
| <i>Ystrad Mynach</i>                                         | 147                 |
| <i>Risca (including Pontymister)</i>                         | 146                 |
| <i>Rhymney</i>                                               | 134                 |
| <i>Newbridge</i>                                             | 119                 |
| <i>Bedwas (including Trethomas)</i>                          | 112                 |
| <i>Nelson</i>                                                | 110                 |
| <i>Aberbargoed</i>                                           | 102                 |
| <i>Crosskeys (including Pontywaun)</i>                       | 99                  |
| <i>New Tredegar</i>                                          | 97                  |
| <i>Oakdale (including Croespenmaen)</i>                      | 96                  |
| <i>Glan-y-nant (including Tir-y-berth)</i>                   | 90                  |
| <i>Hengoed (including Cefn Hengoed)</i>                      | 86                  |
| <i>Abercarn (including Cwmcarn)</i>                          | 85                  |
| <i>Pontlloftyn</i>                                           | 83                  |
| <i>Llanbradach</i>                                           | 79                  |
| <i>Maesycwmmmer</i>                                          | 78                  |
| <i>Pengam (including Fleur-de-lis)</i>                       | 78                  |
| <i>Abertridwr</i>                                            | 66                  |
| <i>Crumlin</i>                                               | 65                  |
| <i>Abertysswg</i>                                            | 56                  |
| <i>Gelligaer (including Penybryn)</i>                        | 56                  |
| <i>Machen</i>                                                | 52                  |
| <i>Graig y Rhacca</i>                                        | 52                  |
| <i>Cwmfelinfach</i>                                          | 52                  |
| <i>Wattsville</i>                                            | 52                  |
| <i>Penpedairheol</i>                                         | 51                  |
| <i>Pantside</i>                                              | 50                  |
| <i>Markham</i>                                               | 46                  |
| <i>Ynysddu</i>                                               | 43                  |

|                    |    |
|--------------------|----|
| <i>Senghenydd</i>  | 40 |
| <i>Fochriw</i>     | 40 |
| <i>Porset</i>      | 37 |
| <i>Trinant</i>     | 36 |
| <i>Llechryd</i>    | 35 |
| <i>Wyllie</i>      | 35 |
| <i>Argoed</i>      | 33 |
| <i>Deri</i>        | 31 |
| <i>Hafodyrynys</i> | 30 |
| <i>Princetown</i>  | 24 |
| <i>Brynawel</i>    | 24 |
| <i>Hollybush</i>   | 20 |
| <i>Waterloo</i>    | 20 |
| <i>Rudry</i>       | 16 |

#### Recommended Settlement Hierarchy

| <b>Settlement</b>                                            | <b>Recommended Tier</b> |
|--------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| <i>Caerphilly</i>                                            | <b>Tier 1</b>           |
| <i>Bargoed (including Gilfach)</i>                           |                         |
| <i>Blackwood (including Cefn Fforest and Pontllanfraith)</i> |                         |
| <i>Ystrad Mynach</i>                                         |                         |
| <i>Risca (including Pontymister)</i>                         |                         |
| <i>Rhymney</i>                                               |                         |
| <i>Newbridge</i>                                             |                         |
| <i>Bedwas (including Trethomas)</i>                          |                         |
| <i>Nelson</i>                                                |                         |
| <i>Aberbargoed</i>                                           | <b>Tier 2</b>           |
| <i>Crosskeys (including Pontywaun)</i>                       |                         |
| <i>New Tredegar</i>                                          |                         |
| <i>Oakdale (including Croespenmaen)</i>                      |                         |
| <i>Hengoed (including Cefn Hengoed)</i>                      |                         |
| <i>Pontlloftyn</i>                                           |                         |
| <i>Llanbradach</i>                                           |                         |
| <i>Maesycwmmmer</i>                                          |                         |
| <i>Glan-y-nant (including Tir-y-berth)*</i>                  | <b>Tier 3</b>           |
| <i>Pengam (including Fleur-de-lis)**</i>                     |                         |
| <i>Abercarn (including Cwmcarn)***</i>                       |                         |
| <i>Abertridwr</i>                                            |                         |
| <i>Crumlin</i>                                               |                         |
| <i>Abertysswg</i>                                            |                         |
| <i>Gelligaer (including Penybryn)</i>                        |                         |
| <i>Machen</i>                                                |                         |
| <i>Graig y Rhacca</i>                                        |                         |
| <i>Cwmfelinfach</i>                                          |                         |
| <i>Wattsville</i>                                            |                         |

|               |               |
|---------------|---------------|
| Penpedairheol |               |
| Pantside      |               |
| Markham       |               |
| Ynysddu       | <b>Tier 4</b> |
| Senghenydd    |               |
| Fochriw       |               |
| Porset        |               |
| Trinant       |               |
| Llechryd      |               |
| Wyllie        |               |
| Argoed        |               |
| Deri          |               |
| Hafodyrynys   |               |
| Princetown    |               |
| Brynawel      |               |
| Hollybush     |               |
| Waterloo      |               |
| Rudry         |               |

\* *Glan-y-nant (including Tir-y-berth – whilst its overall score was relatively high, the settlement scored comparatively low in respect of services, and therefore, the settlement should sit within Tier 3.*

\*\* *Abercarn and Cwmcarn - whilst its overall score was relatively high, the settlement scored comparatively low in respect of transport, and therefore, the settlement should sit within Tier 3.*

\*\*\* *Pengam (including Fleur-de-lis) - whilst its overall score was relatively high, the settlement scored comparatively low in respect of transport, and therefore, the settlement should sit within Tier 3.*

3.16 The settlement supports a four-tier settlement hierarchy based on the sustainability principles and role of settlements within the County Borough. The hierarchy identifies the most sustainable and well-served settlements as Tier 1, which are considered the primary locations for future growth and development. Tier 2 settlements perform an important supporting role, offering a reasonable range of services, facilities and accessibility, and are suitable for growth. Tier 3 settlements provide more limited levels of provision and are generally suited to accommodating smaller-scale growth, whilst Tier 4 settlements are the least sustainable locations, characterised by more limited services, facilities and poor sustainable transport links, and are therefore likely to accommodate only limited infill development to meet local needs. The recommended hierarchy places nine settlements in Tier 1, eight in Tier 2, fourteen in Tier 3, and fifteen in Tier 4.

3.17 An additional tier, Tier 5, will be included and this will comprise all other settlements located outside of defined settlement boundaries.

## 4. SETTLEMENTS APPRAISAL

### Addressing Future Wales

- 4.1 Caerphilly County Borough is located within the National Growth Area identified in Future Wales, which seeks a commensurate level of growth to be provided in this area. A fundamental part of any strategy that seeks to satisfy these requirements is a population that supports an appropriate level of growth. Further detail is set out in evidence base paper EB5: Housing and Employment Growth Options.
- 4.2 Future Wales sets out two policy positions that have influenced the location of development, namely Town Centre First (Policy 6) and a Metro Focus that seeks to locate development close to transport nodes to maximise modal shift and reduce the need to travel (Policies 12 and 36). These policies areas are the two pillars of the 2RLDP strategy and as such are fundamental considerations for the location of new development in the plan.

### **Town Centre First**

- 4.3 This element of the strategy reflects Future Wales Policy 6 - Town Centre First, which prioritises the health and vibrancy of town centres and promotes them as the focus for commercial activity, as well as complementary and community-oriented land uses. Future Wales Policy 6 - Town Centre First requires significant new commercial, retail, education, health, leisure and public service facilities to be located within town centres.
- 4.4 Locating new residential development within the Tier 1 Settlements, comprising Principal Town Centres and Local Centres, allows future residents to walk, cycle and use public transport to easily access the many services and facilities within them.
- 4.5 Whilst the 2RLDP will seek to locate development within the Tier 1 and Tier 2 Settlements, to accommodate growth, the 2RLDP will also need to consider other settlements that are sustainably located.

### **Metro Focus**

- 4.6 Derived from Future Wales Policies 12 and 36, this element seeks to maximise the benefits arising from the significant investment in the South East Wales Metro. While reducing the need to travel is a key policy objective of the 2RLDP, it is recognised that people will need to travel for work, services and leisure. Clustering housing, jobs and services within easy walking and cycling distance of rail stations, bus stations and interchanges, promotes walkable neighbourhoods and facilitates journeys being made by other means than the private car.
- 4.7 Focusing new development in and around Tier 1 and Tier 2 Settlements, and around rail stations, bus stations and interchanges will contribute to overall aim of reducing the need to travel and increasing modal shift to walking, cycling and public transport, which are underlying aims of Future Wales.
- 4.8 Future Wales Policy 36 goes on to identify Caerphilly as a strategically important location on the South East Metro system. Caerphilly is currently the focus of major investment that will enhance its role as a sub-regional centre. Significant investment is being expended on improving the rail/bus interchange in Caerphilly centre, to provide a new facility that provides a unique experience for those who travel there. In addition to this there are a number of regeneration projects proposed throughout the town and these are set out in Caerffili Town 2035 and Cadw are also investing in Caerphilly Castle to significantly increase visitor numbers.
- 4.9 Caerphilly is located at the southern end of the Rhymney Valley and is bordered to the west by the Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough area and to the south by Cardiff City area. As a result, there is very limited growth potential to the west and south of Caerphilly. Development could take place to the north of the existing linear development along Nant-Y-Garw Hill, but this would be limited in scale and would be linear development away from the

settlement centre. To the north of Caerphilly, the land has generally been developed, leaving scope for only small-scale development and redevelopment. The only area with potential for significant growth in Caerphilly is the land to the east of the settlement. This land is close to the town centre and offers the opportunity for appropriate expansion of the settlement. However, development in this area would erode an area of high value landscape and careful consideration would be required to ensure development does not expand into land that may be considered for a green belt in the emerging Strategic Development Plan.

- 4.10 Overall, the regeneration of Caerphilly provides opportunities for new, much needed development to take place, but significant growth beyond the current settlement limits must be carefully balanced with landscape and green belt considerations.

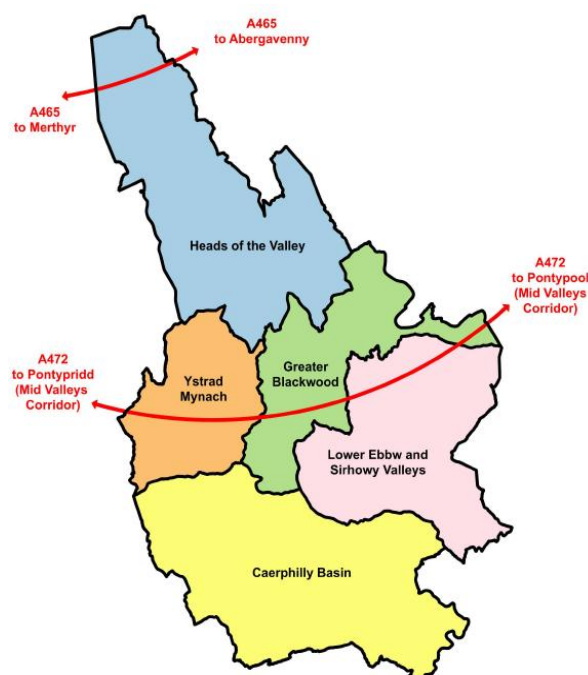
#### Delivering Future Wales Policies

- 4.11 The settlements have been scored and tiered in accordance with the methodology and also to reflect the strategy of the 2nd Replacement Local Development Plan (2RLDP) which is to locate development towards Town Centres and Metro Nodes.
- 4.12 Candidate sites being considered for allocation will be assessed for their compatibility with the 2RLDP Strategy and Settlement Hierarchy, and new development will be considered against all relevant 2RLDP policies, including Strategy and Settlement Hierarchy policies.

#### Settlement Structure

- 4.13 The 2RLDP does not set out specific strategy areas, because the strategy focusses on targeting development close to the sustainable transport nodes and town centres throughout the County Borough. Given the lack of defined strategy areas, the analysis of settlements has been broken down to reflect the Council's 5 Regeneration Masterplan areas, namely:

- Heads of the Valleys Masterplan Area (HoVMA)
- Ystrad Mynach Masterplan Area (YMMA)
- Greater Blackwood Masterplan Area (GBMA)
- Lower Ebbw and Sirhowy Valleys Masterplan Area (LESVMA)
- Caerphilly Basin Masterplan Area (CBMA)



## Heads of the Valleys Masterplan Area

4.14 The settlements within the Heads of the Valleys Masterplan (HOVMA) area are:

|                            |                                                                                                                   |
|----------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Tier 1 Settlements:</b> | Bargoed (including Gilfach), comprising Bargoed Principal Town Centre<br>Rhymney, comprising Rhymney Local Centre |
| <b>Tier 2 Settlements:</b> | Pontlloftyn; New Tredegar; Aberbargoed.                                                                           |
| <b>Tier 3 Settlements:</b> | Abertysswg; Markham.                                                                                              |
| <b>Tier 4 Settlements:</b> | Llechryd; Princetown; Fochriw; Deri; Hollybush; Argoed.                                                           |

- 4.15 Bargoed and Gilfach form the largest settlement for the north of the County Borough and it has a role as its main retail, commercial and service location. In recent years, there have been positive developments with the completion of Angel Way which has improved accessibility, the development of Morrison's and Lowry Plaza and the relocation of Bargoed Library into the former Hanbury Chapel. However, challenges remain in the form of high commercial vacancy rates, particularly at the northern end of the town centre close to the main transport hub which comprises the bus and rail stations.
- 4.16 The presence of this transport hub, coupled with the planned network improvements as part of the Metro proposals, provides an excellent opportunity for Bargoed to diversify its current role and increase the presence of other uses such as offices and residential in addition to consolidating its retail offer.
- 4.17 Located at the north of the county borough, Rhymney contains a moderate level of services and facilities and a number of employment opportunities as well as a rail station. It is well-located to the A465 Heads of the Valleys Road, with excellent connectivity to neighbouring authorities, as well as West Wales and the Midlands.

## Ystrad Mynach Masterplan Area

- 4.18 The Ystrad Mynach Masterplan Area (YMMA) is located on the western side of the mid valley's corridor. The settlements within the YMMA are:

|                            |                                                                                                                                           |
|----------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Tier 1 Settlements:</b> | Ystrad Mynach (including Penallta and Tredomen), comprising Ystrad Mynach Principal Town Centre<br>Nelson, comprising Nelson Local Centre |
| <b>Tier 2 Settlements:</b> | Hengoed (including Cefn Hengoed)                                                                                                          |
| <b>Tier 3 Settlements:</b> | Glan-y-nant (including Tir-y-berth); Penpedairheol (including Glyngaer); Gelligaer (including Penybryn).                                  |
| <b>Tier 4 Settlements:</b> | None.                                                                                                                                     |

- 4.19 Ystrad Mynach, including Penallta and Tredomen, is the largest settlement within the western part of the Mid Valleys Corridor and serves as the County Borough's administrative centre, accommodating the Council headquarters, Ysbyty Ystrad Fawr and a local campus of Coleg y Cymoedd. Investment in recent years has seen the development of the Centre for Sporting Excellence, and its town centre is performing well in terms of the number and range of commercial units in operation, the low number of commercial vacancies, and the healthy level of footfall in comparison to other centres.
- 4.20 In terms of employment, the Tredomen Park campus provides office space and is well-located in relation to the A472 east-west road link (and in turn, the A470) and the Ystrad Mynach railway station. The 2RLDP will seek to encourage proposals that optimise the social and economic benefits of these facilities, where appropriate.
- 4.21 Nelson contains a moderate level of services and facilities and a number of employment opportunities as well as a bus station. It is well-located to the A470 with easy access to the M4.

## Greater Blackwood Masterplan Area

- 4.22 The Greater Blackwood Masterplan area (GBMA) is located on the western side of the mid valley's corridor. The settlements within the GBMA are:

|                            |                                                                                                   |
|----------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Tier 1 Settlements:</b> | Blackwood (including Cefn Fforest and Pontllanfraith), comprising Blackwood Principal Town Centre |
| <b>Tier 2 Settlements:</b> | Maesycwmmmer; Oakdale (including Croespenmaen)                                                    |
| <b>Tier 3 Settlements:</b> | Pengam (including Fleur-de-lis)                                                                   |
| <b>Tier 4 Settlements:</b> | None.                                                                                             |

- 4.23 Blackwood, including the communities of Cefn Fforest and Pontllanfraith, is the largest settlement in the eastern part of the Mid Valleys Corridor. Whilst Blackwood does not have a railway station, its bus station serves as the local transport hub and provides valuable local and sub-regional services to Cardiff and Newport.

- 4.24 Its town centre is one of the County Borough's two most-utilised, along with Caerphilly, as reflected by the scale and range of commercial provision, although there are pockets of vacant floorspace.
- 4.25 The Sirhowy Enterprise Way has improved road-based transport in respect of the employment offer at the strategically important Oakdale Business Park. Whilst Oakdale and Croespenmaen are distinct communities, they are treated as a coherent settlement for the purposes of the 2RLDP. It is envisaged that the South Wales Metro will provide additional opportunities for public transport integration and the ability to increase connectivity to the area both locally and sub-regionally.

#### Lower Ebbw and Sirhowy Valley Masterplan Area

- 4.26 The Lower Ebbw and Sirhowy Valleys Masterplan Area (LESVMA) is located on the south-eastern side of the County Borough, north of Newport. The settlements within the LESVMA are:

|                            |                                                                                                               |
|----------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Tier 1 Settlements</b>  | Risca and Pontymister, comprising Risca Principal Town Centre<br>Newbridge, comprising Newbridge Local Centre |
| <b>Tier 2 Settlements:</b> | Crosskeys (including Pontywaun).                                                                              |
| <b>Tier 3 Settlements:</b> | Crumlin; Abercarn (including Cwmcarn); Panside; Cwmfelinfach; Wattsville.                                     |
| <b>Tier 4 Settlements:</b> | Trinant; Hafodyrynys; Wyllie; Ynysddu; Brynawel.                                                              |

- 4.27 Whilst Risca and Pontymister are distinct communities, for the purposes of the 2RLDP, they are treated as one coherent Tier 1 Settlement within the Lower Ebbw and Sirhowy Valleys area, and its range of commercial and community-oriented facilities is reflective of this. It benefits from good transport connectivity with Newport and Cardiff in terms of rail, as well as by road via the A467 and the nearby M4.
- 4.28 Historically, flood risk concerning land in close proximity to the River Ebbw has been a major impediment to development. Whilst this remains the case, the 2RLDP will seek to make provision for, and encourage, proposals that support Risca-Pontymister's role and function, where appropriate.
- 4.29 Newbridge contains a high level of services and facilities and a number of employment opportunities as well as a rail station.

#### Caerphilly Basin Masterplan Area

- 4.30 The Caerphilly Basin Masterplan Area (CBMA) is located in the south of the County Borough. The settlements within the Caerphilly Basin area are:

|                            |                                                                                                                         |
|----------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Tier 1 Settlements:</b> | Caerphilly, comprising Caerphilly Principal Town Centre<br>Bedwas (including Trethomas), comprising Bedwas Local Centre |
| <b>Tier 2 Settlements:</b> | Llanbradach.                                                                                                            |
| <b>Tier 3 Settlements:</b> | Abertridwr; Graig-y-rhacca; Machen.                                                                                     |

|                            |                                      |
|----------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| <b>Tier 4 Settlements:</b> | Senghenydd; Porset; Rudry; Waterloo. |
|----------------------------|--------------------------------------|

- 4.31 The Caerphilly Basin is the southernmost Masterplan Area in the County Borough and adjoins the City of Cardiff on its southern boundary. The settlement pattern comprises the large central hub of Caerphilly and linear development, in three directions - the Aber Valley that follows the line of the Nant Yr Aber; the Machen valley that follows the line of the River Rhymney; and Llanbradach to the north along the line of the River Rhymney.
- 4.32 Caerphilly is the County Borough's largest settlement and serves as the largest Tier 1 settlement for the south of the County Borough, particularly the Caerphilly Basin area. Investment is ongoing through the Caerffili 2035 regeneration programme, which will deliver a number of interrelated schemes including the redevelopment of the town's transport interchange, residential and commercial development within the town centre – such as the Ffos Caerffili market, which is already operational, the redevelopment of Pentrebanne Street for a mixed-use development, together with schemes designed to optimise tourist-related benefits due to the presence of Caerphilly Castle.
- 4.33 Caerphilly is defined as a sub-regional centre and forms an important element of the National Growth Area set out in Future Wales. Whilst there are matters of sensitivity, including the requirement to designate an area of green belt to the south east of the town, its status within the 2RLDP, and the policies and proposals set out therein, is reflective of its sub-regional role.
- 4.34 The settlement of Bedwas (including Trethomas) serves as a Tier 1 settlement within the area, containing a high level of services and facilities and a number of employment opportunities as well as high frequency bus services.

#### Settlement Analysis

- 4.35 An analysis of each settlement is included in Appendix 1.