

Integrated Sustainability Appraisal (ISA) for the Caerphilly 2nd Replacement Local Development Plan (2RLDP)

ISA Report accompanying the Deposit Plan

Caerphilly County Borough Council

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Quality information

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1. Introduction

1.1 Background

- 1.1.1 AECOM is commissioned to lead on Integrated Sustainability Appraisal (ISA) in support of Caerphilly County Borough Council's 2nd Replacement Local Development Plan (2RLDP). ISA fulfils the requirements and duties for Sustainability Appraisal (SA) and Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA), Equalities Impact Assessment (EqIA), Health Impact Assessment (HIA), Welsh Language Impact Assessment (WLIA), and Well-being of Future Generations (WBFG). It also takes account of the recent Environment (Principles, Governance and Biodiversity Targets) (Wales) Act 2026.

1.2 ISA explained

- 1.2.1 ISA is a mechanism for considering and communicating the likely effects of an emerging plan, and alternatives in terms of key sustainability issues. The aim of ISA is to inform and influence the plan-making process with a view to avoiding and mitigating negative impacts and maximising positive impacts. Through this approach, the ISA for the 2RLDP seeks to maximise the developing plan's contribution to sustainable development.
- 1.2.2 As identified above, the ISA seeks to fulfil the requirements and duties for duties and requirements. The approach is to fully integrate all components to provide a single assessment process to inform the development of the 2RLDP. A description of each of the various components and their purposes is provided below.

1.3 Sustainability Appraisal (SA)

- 1.3.1 SA is undertaken to address the procedures prescribed by the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes (Wales) Regulations 2004 (the SEA Regulations) which transpose into national law the EU Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Directive.¹ It also widens the scope of the assessment from focusing largely on environmental issues to further consider social and economic issues. SA is a legal requirement for Local Development Plans under Section 19(5) of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004.
- 1.3.2 In line with the requirements of the SEA Directive, the two key steps in SA are:
1. When deciding on 'the scope and level of detail of the information' which must be included in the SA Report there is a consultation with nationally designated authorities concerned with environmental issues; and
 2. A report (the 'SA Report') is published for consultation alongside the Draft Plan that presents an assessment of the Draft Plan (i.e. discusses 'likely significant effects' that would result from plan implementation) and reasonable alternatives.

¹ Directive 2001/42/EC

- 1.3.3 The LDP Manual Edition 3 (2020) states that SA, incorporating SEA, plays an important part in demonstrating that the LDP is sound by ensuring that it reflects the legislative requirements and achieves sustainable development.

1.4 Equalities Impact Assessment (EqIA)

- 1.4.1 As a public-sector organisation, Caerphilly County Borough Council has a duty under the Equality Act 2010² and associated Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED) to ensure that the objectives and policy options within the 2RLDP avoid unlawful discrimination (direct and indirect), instead, advancing equality of opportunity and fostering good relations between those with protected characteristics³ and all others.
- 1.4.2 In March 2021 the Socio-economic Duty commenced, which compliments the Equalities Act and PSED by further contributing towards Wales' long term well-being goals, in particular "A more equal Wales" and "A Wales of cohesive communities". Further strengthening social partnership arrangements and advancing fair work ambitions.⁴
- 1.4.3 An Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA) is often used by public sector organisations to demonstrate how this duty has been met.

1.5 Health Impact Assessment (HIA)

- 1.5.1 The Public Health (Wales) Act 2017⁵ requires a Health Impact Assessment (HIA) to be carried out to assess the likely effect of the proposed development plan on health and mental well-being and inequality. The HIA process provides a systematic yet flexible and practical framework that can be used to consider the wider effects of LDP policies and how they may affect people's health.
- 1.5.2 It is noted that the Health Impact Assessment (Wales) Regulations 2025 were passed in the Senedd on the 18th of November 2025 and will come into force on the 6th of April 2027. They require certain public bodies in Wales to carry out a health impact assessment when proposing to make a decision of a strategic nature about how they exercise their functions and are secondary legislation under the Public Health (Wales) Act 2017. They support a "health in all policies" approach across the public sector.

1.6 Welsh Language Impact Assessment (WLIA)

- 1.6.1 The Welsh Government is committed to supporting the Welsh Language so that it can thrive and grow across Wales. The Welsh Language must be considered from the outset of the development plan process. It is a legislative requirement that the SA must include an assessment of the likely effects of the plan on the use of the Welsh language (The Planning (Wales) Act 2015 (Section 11)).
- 1.6.2 Planning Policy Wales (PPW) (2024) sets the policy requirements for Welsh language. Technical Advice Note 20: Planning and the Welsh Language

² UK Government (2010): [Equality Act 2010](#)

³ Protected characteristics under the Equality Act 2010 include age, sex, marital status, disability, gender reassignment, ethnicity, religion, pregnancy and maternity, sexual orientation and deprived/disadvantaged groups.

⁴ Welsh Government (2020): [A more equal Wales: strengthening social partnership white paper](#)

⁵ UK Government (2017): 'Public Health (Wales) Act 2017' can be accessed [here](#).

provides guidance on the consideration of Welsh language as part of the development plan process. The TAN provides advice on incorporating the Welsh language in development plans through the SA and the policy approach to anticipated windfall development. In summary, planning authorities must consider the likely effects of their development plans as part of the SA process and include a statement within the Deposit Plan on how this has been considered and / or addressed within the development plan.

- 1.6.3 This ISA process is the mechanism for considering how the scale and location of growth, the vision, objectives, policies, and proposals individually and in combination, impact on the Welsh language. Where evidence indicates a detrimental impact on the use of the Welsh language the LPA can assess whether the strategy should be amended or mitigation measures should be identified.

1.7 Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015

- 1.7.1 The Planning (Wales) Act 2015 sets out the definition of sustainable development for the planning system in Wales, mirroring the definition in the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 (WBFGA):

“Sustainable development means the process of improving the economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales by taking action, in accordance with the sustainable development principle, aimed at achieving the well-being goals”.

- 1.7.2 The WBFGA sets seven well-being goals which all public bodies are required to achieve:

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

- 1.7.3 The Act also identifies five ways of working which public bodies need to demonstrate they have carried out when undertaking their duty to achieve sustainable development. These are: involvement, collaboration, integration, prevention and long-term factors. The well-being goals and the five ways of working can be used to inform and structure the ISA framework.

1.8 Environment (Principles, Governance and Biodiversity Targets) (Wales) Act 2026

- 1.8.1 The recent Act defines statutory ‘environmental principles’ to which regard must be had when carrying out functions in connection with the assessment of plans and programmes. The four principles are:

- The precautionary principle so far as relating to the environment
- The principle that preventative action should be taken to avoid environmental damage
- The principle that environmental damage should as a priority be rectified at source
- The polluter pays principle

1.8.2 The ISA recognises that these principles are embedded as part of a best practice approach. Due regard is given to preventative actions (predominantly policy directions) proposed by the Local Plan or being implemented through other plans and policies. It also seeks to identify where sensitive receptors may be affected by the proposals of the plan (e.g., at specific site allocations made in the plan), where alternatives exist, and any measures foreseen as likely to mitigate the impacts of development. Mitigation is explored from an ISA 'environment first' approach, free from (where reasonable to do so) limitations such as viability considerations (which become a consideration for the Council), with the intention of showing the full extent of preventative measures that should be taken or positive actions that could be realised.

1.9 This ISA Report

1.9.1 This ISA Report⁶ is published alongside the Deposit Plan. It leads on from an Initial ISA Report published in October 2022 and updated in the Interim ISA Report in December 2024. The process takes into consideration feedback from consultation and the subsequent updates to the 2RLDP. Any representations received will be considered when the Plan is finalised for submission.

⁶ See **Appendix I** for further explanation of the regulatory basis for answering certain questions within the SA Report; and a 'checklist' explaining more precisely the regulatory basis for presenting certain information.

2. What is the 2RLDP seeking to achieve?

2.1 Background

- 2.1.1 Caerphilly County Borough Council (CCBC) is in the process of preparing the 2nd RLDP for the County Borough. The 2RLDP will cover the period 2020-2035 and will set out land use development proposals for the County Borough and will identify where and how much new development will take place over the plan period. It will also identify areas to be protected from development and provide policies against which future planning applications will be assessed. Once adopted, the 2RLDP will supersede the current adopted LDP which covers the period 2006-2021.

2.2 Issues, challenges and opportunities

- 2.2.1 The following key issues have been identified through the 2RLDP, and these will, in turn, influence the vision for the plan:
- **Climate change** – a ‘climate emergency’ has been declared both by the Senedd and the Council. Consequently, the 2RLDP must prioritise climate change adaptation and mitigation and ensure that proposals brought forward are resilient to its impact.
 - **Housing** – the 2RLDP must make provision for a level of housing development sufficient to ensure the continuation of an economically sustainable population for the duration of the plan period and beyond. This will include housing of a variety of types and tenures, including affordable housing and housing suitable for later living, in sustainable locations.
 - **Mental and physical health and well-being** – the County Borough continues to exhibit a relatively high level of long-term illness, and significant health inequalities continue to exist. The 2RLDP should seek to give effect, insofar as it is able, to measures which contribute to addressing this, in land-use terms, and should support public sector and community-focused organisations in terms of fulfilling their priorities.
 - **Placemaking** – the County Borough contains a variety of settlement types and intervening spaces and landscapes, all of which contribute to the sustainability of the local area and the wider region of which it is part. The 2RLDP must allow for the development of adaptable, accessible and interconnected communities, with each offering an appropriate and sustainably located range of facilities and services, accompanied by the necessary supporting infrastructure.
 - **Culture and heritage** – the County Borough has a variety of cultural and historic assets, upon which the planning system has a significant degree of influence. The adaptive reuse of historic assets should be encouraged, where appropriate. Where relevant, proposals should be considered within the context of the historic environment and its setting, and the need to foster and promote the development and use of the Welsh language.

- **Active and sustainable travel** – within the context of the South East Wales Metro initiative, the notion of promoting sustainable forms of interconnectivity between, and within, settlements will be of primary importance in terms of creating socially cohesive, economically viable and environmentally responsible communities.
- **Economic growth** – although demonstrating some degree of diversity, the local economy of the County Borough is characterised by a geographically mobile workforce capable of taking advantage of opportunities elsewhere within the region – and a continued prevalence of manufacturing. The 2RLDP will seek to provide a sufficient range and quantum of employment land in order to meet local need, ensure that the County Borough's town centres are able to optimise their ability to adapt to changing retail landscapes, and promote the integration of complementary, economically focused land uses where appropriate.
- **Natural environment** – the County Borough possesses a range of priority habitats, areas of high-quality landscape and other open spaces, and the need to ensure their continued protection and promote positive changes in terms of biodiversity and environmental quality is beyond question. This must be balanced however with the need to support the sustainable development of the built environment and associated infrastructure and through the continued safeguarding of aggregate resources and the winning and working of minerals, and to make positive changes regarding decarbonisation i.e. appropriately located renewable energy schemes.

Future Wales: The National Plan 2040

2.2.2 Future Wales (February 2021) sets out the national development framework and direction for development in Wales to 2040. It contains several policies that are of relevance to Caerphilly, providing the national policy context to address key issues facing the County Borough. These include:

- Policy 3 – Supporting Urban Growth and Regeneration – Public Sector Leadership sets out that Welsh Government will play an active role in the delivery of growth and urban regeneration, working with local authorities to unlock the potential of public land and support local authorities to take an increased development role.
- Policies 4 – Supporting Rural Communities and Policy 5 – Supporting the Rural Economy provide the policy framework to consider how age balanced communities can be achieved; where depopulation should be reversed; and allowing for sustainable, appropriate and proportionate economic growth.
- Policy 7 – Delivering Affordable Homes also addresses the key issue of affordable housing prices in the County Borough and provides the framework to address this through affordable housing led developments.

2.2.3 These policies are considered to provide significant opportunities to address a number of the key issues facing the County Borough.

Building Better Places: The Planning System Delivering Resilient and Brighter Futures. Placemaking and the Covid-19 Recovery

- 2.2.4 The 2RLDP is recognised as a key mechanism in delivering the planning policy priorities identified in the Building Better Places document to assist in the Covid-19 recovery and maintaining and enabling the sustainable improvements that have arisen from the situation.
- 2.2.5 Examples include greater emphasis on creating neighbourhoods that enable residents to stay and move locally to access most services and amenities through revitalised town centres and the provision of locally accessible green spaces. Similarly, the importance of digital connectivity and necessity to incorporate sufficient infrastructure in developments from the outset has been highlighted, particularly in rural areas.

Decarbonisation Strategy and Action Plan

- 2.2.6 In June 2019 CCBC declared a Climate Emergency and committed to making CCBC a net zero carbon local authority by 2030.⁷
- 2.2.7 Following this, a Decarbonisation Strategy and accompanying Action Plan were approved in November 2020. The four pillars of the Decarbonisation Strategy are:
- Reduce – reducing the amount of energy used in buildings, with fleet and transport, and through the generation of waste.
 - Produce – generating ‘green’ electricity and heat.
 - Offset – offsetting residual carbon emissions through carbon sequestration e.g. tree planting and peatland restoration.
 - Buy – considering embedded carbon through the procurement process to reduce emissions.

Cardiff Capital Region City Deal

- 2.2.8 The overarching economic objectives of the City Deal are to create 25,000 new jobs and leverage £4 billion in private sector investment across the region. Key themes have been identified to focus the approach: Connecting the Region; Regeneration and Infrastructure; Skills and Employment. These strategic themes present opportunities for the 2RLDP including:
- Connecting the Region – Digital Strategy: this aims to create a smart region, driving innovation and solutions to attract private sector partnership and investment, including Welsh and regional connectivity, mobile 5G access and maximising open data.
 - Metro – the South East Wales Metro Project provides much needed opportunities to increase train service frequency, improve inter-modal connectivity and coordination, streamline ticketing and improve bus services.

⁷ Caerphilly County Borough Council (2026): [What is the council doing?](#)

- **Regeneration and Infrastructure** – the Housing and Investment Fund supports the delivery of more homes across the region. This includes assistance in stimulating the SME sector across the region by providing loan development finance and launching a Customer Build Scheme releasing smaller plots of public sector land with a full package of support for SMEs to deliver new homes.
- **Skills and Employment** – the Skills for the Future Project provides region-wide school engagement with pupils and parents to offer careers advice and guidance, support for businesses to address barriers of participation, including a skills investment fund and a commitment to support delivery of over 10,000 additional apprenticeships, graduate internships and upskilled employees in the private sector.

Local Growth Fund Plan

- 2.2.9 In March 2026 CCBC unveiled its draft Local Investment Plan (LIP), outlining how the County Borough intends to maximise investment through the Welsh Government's new Local Growth Fund.⁸
- 2.2.10 The LGF replaces the former UK Shared Prosperity Fund and will deliver £547 million across Wales over the next three financial years to support local economic growth, employment, infrastructure and business development. Caerphilly County Borough has been allocated an indicative £8.84 million for 2026/27.
- 2.2.11 The plan focuses on three key priorities: supporting productive and competitive businesses, increasing skills and employment opportunities, and improving regional infrastructure.
- 2.2.12 Proposed business support measures include capital grants for small and medium-sized enterprises, support for start-up businesses in high-growth sectors, investment in green technologies and assistance for firms adapting to decarbonisation targets. The plan also aims to unlock land for development and create new business units to address the shortage of suitable commercial premises.
- 2.2.13 Investment in people and skills will focus on helping residents gain qualifications, retrain for emerging industries and access employment opportunities. Emphasis will be placed on supporting young people at risk of becoming NEET (Not in Education, Employment or Training), tackling economic inactivity and helping workers transition into lower-carbon sectors.
- 2.2.14 The plan also outlines major infrastructure ambitions, including town centre regeneration, improved active travel routes, enhanced digital connectivity and energy efficiency programmes to help tackle fuel poverty.

2.3 Vision and objectives of the 2RLDP

- 2.3.1 The 2RLDP vision looks forward to the end of the plan period (2035) and envisions how the policies, site allocations and designations set out within the plan will contribute to a more positive society in social, environmental, economic and cultural terms. It establishes the overall direction that is further

⁸ Caerphilly County Borough Council (2026): [Cabinet approves Local Growth Fund Plan for Caerphilly](#)

articulated in the more specific objectives that follow and forms the link between the spatial growth strategy and the strategic policies.

“The 2RLDP will deliver attractive and sustainable development that contributes positively to and enhances the well-being of those that live and work in and visit the County Borough. By 2035, the Development Strategy will have:

- Capitalised on its strategic location at the heart of the Cardiff Capital Region in order to ensure the development of a thriving local economy, exploiting existing strengths in the County Borough’s manufacturing base to create a balanced, diverse economic base, accommodating high quality employment and a skilled and adaptable workforce;
- Maximised the opportunity offered by the South Wales Metro, increasing accessibility between, and within, settlements by a variety of sustainable transport options, including active travel, and enhancing connectivity between the County Borough and the wider region;
- Enabled the diversification of the County Borough’s town centres to reflect changes in retail behaviour, providing for a range of complementary uses within these locations and enhancing their primary roles as centres of commercial and community activity;
- Maintained and enhanced blue and green infrastructure across the County Borough by incorporating it into the design of development and promoting the protection and enhancement of important areas for both nature conservation and human health and well-being;
- Safeguarded the County Borough’s natural and historic environments, ensuring that biodiversity is allowed to flourish and that landscape and cultural assets and their settings are protected;
- Provided an appropriate quantum of affordable and market housing of a range of types and tenures in sustainable locations;
- Recognised the diverse and distinct character of the County Borough’s towns and villages, putting placemaking principles at the heart of design and encouraging cultural richness and diversity;
- Enhanced the strategic network of recreation, leisure, education and community facilities in order to build resilient, cohesive communities and engender a better quality of life; and
- Strengthened the County Borough’s resilience to the impact of climate change through adaptation, mitigation and design, and the implementation of renewable energy generation in appropriate locations.

2.3.2 Each of the issues presented above has been translated into a number of specific objectives, which reflect the collective aspirations of the 2RLDP’s policies, site allocations and designations and which, together, are intended to realise the vision set out above. These objectives, which are presented in **Table 2.1** overleaf, not only reflect national planning policy, but also the aspirations of the Council and key stakeholders.

Table 2.1 2RLDP objectives

Objective Topic	Objective Description
Climate change	• Ensure that development proposals fully address climate change adaptation and mitigation and include measures that are in accordance with the energy hierarchy; • Ensure that development proposals contribute to the delivery of the Welsh Government's zero carbon targets and have regard to the Council's 'climate emergency' by promoting the development of renewable energy generation in appropriate locations; • Seek to promote development that adheres to the principles of decarbonisation through appropriate design measures; • Ensure that development proposals 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.
Housing	• Provide for the delivery of a housing supply sufficient to accommodate sustainable levels of population growth, in accordance with the County Borough's status within the National Growth Area of Future Wales; • 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.
Mental and physical health and wellbeing	• Manage, preserve, and enhance the quality of valuable natural green space and landscapes and safeguard them from inappropriate forms of development, and ensure the County Borough is well served by accessible public open space; • Promote accessibility for all by prioritising walking and cycling (active travel), thus reducing air borne pollution; • Enable the provision of a wide range of community facilities, which are appropriately located and easily accessible, and which contribute to an improvement in health and well-being; • Enable development proposals that promote local employment, training and regeneration opportunities that contribute to a reduction in health inequalities.
Placemaking	• Ensure all new development proposals contribute to creating a sense of place through the appropriate location of different, but complementary, uses, thereby protecting and enhancing community character, safety, accessibility, equality and promoting principles of good design; • Encourage the re-use and/or reclamation of appropriate brownfield and contaminated land and prevent the incidence of further contamination and dereliction.
Culture and heritage	• Ensure that development proposals conserve and enhance the County Borough's historic built environment, encourage adaptive reuse, respond appropriately to the locally distinctive context and achieve high standards of design; • Maintain and enhance the County Borough's cultural facilities, and where appropriate secure opportunities for cultural enrichment within new developments, including promoting the use of the Welsh language, the public realm and through the provision of multi-purpose community spaces and buildings.
Active and sustainable travel	• Ensure the location of new development facilitates easy access to sustainable transport and active travel and that proposed development accords with the role and function of settlements in line with the settlement hierarchy; • Reduce the need to travel by promoting a mix of complementary land use allocations in sustainable locations; • Promote the development of an integrated and sustainable public transport system within the context of the South East Wales Metro and ensure that

Objective Topic	Objective Description
Economic growth	major new development is directed to locations that are easily accessible by walking and cycling. • Capitalise on the County Borough's position within the National Growth Area of Future Wales, supporting co-ordinated regeneration and investment to improve well-being, increase prosperity and address social inequality; • Provide and safeguard 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; • Promote the role of the County Borough's town centres as the most sustainable locations in which to live, work, visit and conduct business, ensuring their accessibility by sustainable modes of transport; • Enable the development of a sustainable tourism sector and visitor economy, recognising its contribution to the County Borough's economic well-being.
Natural environment	• Safeguard the quality, connectivity and resilience of the County Borough's natural environment and green and blue infrastructure network through the identification of new, and protection and enhancement of existing, green and blue infrastructure and biodiversity assets; • Maximise opportunities for the delivery of net biodiversity benefit through appropriate layout and design; • Ensure the sustainable management of natural resources, including the continued safeguarding of aggregate resources and the winning and working of minerals in appropriate locations, where accompanied by suitable proposals for site restoration and aftercare.

3. What is the scope of the ISA?

3.1 Introduction

- 3.1.1 The aim here is to introduce the reader to the scope of the ISA, meaning the sustainability issues / objectives that should be a focus of (and provide a broad methodological framework for) ISA.

3.2 Consultation on the scope of the ISA

- 3.2.1 The Regulations require that “When deciding on the scope and level of detail of the information that must be included in the Environmental Report, the responsible authority shall consult the consultation bodies”. In Wales, the consultation bodies are Natural Resources Wales and Cadw.⁹ A Scoping Report was sent to the statutory consultees for comment in 2022. The responses received were considered and amendments made to the baseline information and draft ISA Objectives where necessary. Since that time, the ISA scope has evolved as new evidence has emerged and there have been some minor refinements to the ISA objectives - however, the scope remains fundamentally like that agreed through the dedicated scoping consultation in 2022. Baseline updates, such as new Census data, have been considered through the subsequent assessment process and reported in appendices as appropriate.

3.3 ISA objectives

- 3.3.1 **Table 3.1** presents the ISA objectives - grouped under ten topic headings – established through scoping, considering context / baseline review, identified key issues, and responses from statutory consultees.
- 3.3.2 Taken together, the ISA topics and objectives presented in Table 3.1 provide a methodological ‘framework’ for appraisal.

⁹ In accordance with Article 6(3) of the SEA Directive, these consultation bodies were selected because ‘by reason of their specific environmental responsibilities [they] are likely to be concerned by the environmental effects of implementing plans and programmes.’

Table 3.1 ISA framework

ISA topic	ISA objective
Economy and employment	Support a strong, diverse and resilient economy, with innovative responses to changing conditions and support for a strong future workforce.
Population and communities	- To provide enough good quality market and affordable homes, and community infrastructure, in sustainable locations to meet identified needs. - To enhance design quality to create places for people that maintain and enhance community and settlement identity.
Health and wellbeing	To improve the health and wellbeing of residents within Caerphilly.
Equality, diversity and inclusion	To reduce poverty and inequality; tackle social exclusion and promote community cohesion.
Transport and movement	Increase sustainable transport use and reduce the need to travel.
Natural resources	- To identify and pursue any opportunities to reduce, or at least, minimise population exposure to air pollution. - To make the best use of previously developed land and existing buildings to minimise pressure for greenfield development and protecting, where possible, higher grade agricultural land. - To support waste management/ reduction. - To conserve, protect and enhance the water environment, water quality and water resources.
Biodiversity and geodiversity	Protect and enhance biodiversity within and surrounding the plan area.
Historic environment	- Preserve and enhance Caerphilly's heritage resource, including its historic environment and archaeological assets. - Promote understanding of Caerphilly's cultural heritage.
Landscape	To protect and enhance the quality and character of Caerphilly's landscape and townscape.
Climate change	- Support the resilience of the Caerphilly Area to the potential effects of climate change, including flooding from fluvial, coastal and surface water sources. - Reduce Caerphilly's contribution to climate change from activities which result in greenhouse gas emissions.

4. Plan-making and ISA to date

4.1 Regulatory requirements

- 4.1.1 In line with regulatory requirements, there is a need to explain how work undertaken to date has informed plan-making, in particular, how work has been undertaken to develop and then appraise reasonable alternatives, and how the Council have considered appraisal findings when developing the preferred approach for the 2RLDP.

4.2 Structuring the work to date

- 4.2.1 A review of the LDP has been underway for some time, with a wide range of evidence produced to inform plan-making. **Table 4.1** sets out the key 2RLDP and ISA documents published to date for consultation. The 2RLDP documents and the evidence base (including the ISA Reports) can be viewed and downloaded on the Council's website.

Table 4.1 2RLDP and ISA documents published to date

2RLDP documents	ISA documents
Adopted Local Development Plan Up to 2021 Review Report (June 2021)	
	ISA Scoping Report (February 2022, sent to statutory consultees for consultation from 23 rd March to 27 th April 2022)
Population and Housing Growth Options Evidence Base Paper	
LDP Focus Group Meeting – Alternative and Preferred Strategies (March 2022)	
Pre-Deposit Plan (Preferred Strategy) (2022)	Initial ISA Report (August 2022)
Pre-Deposit Plan (Preferred Strategy) (January 2025)	Interim ISA Report (December 2024)

- 4.2.2 With two Initial / Interim ISA Reports published to date, this ISA Report sets out the work that has been undertaken to develop and appraise reasonable alternatives, considering feedback from consultation at each stage and subsequent changes to the preferred strategy.
- 4.2.3 For clarity, **Chapter 5** details how reasonable alternatives have been established considering the available evidence and feedback from consultation, **Chapter 6** presents a summary of the appraisal of reasonable alternatives (with detailed appraisals provided in appendices), and **Chapter 7** explains the Council's reasons for selecting the preferred approach.

5. Establishing reasonable alternatives

5.1 Introduction

- 5.1.1 This chapter explains the evidence and work carried out to identify strategic options, or reasonable alternatives. To deliver the vision and objectives detailed in Chapter 2, the Council have explored **how much growth** (housing and employment) is required over the plan period (2020-2035) and **where this growth could be located** in the County Borough. Each of these issues are discussed in turn below.

5.2 Previous ISA work and consultations

- 5.2.1 Following on from scoping, an Initial ISA Report was produced in 2022 and consulted upon alongside the Preferred Strategy. Following consultation, the Council revisited and revised the Preferred Strategy (accounting for significant objections to the proposed strategic site at Maesycwmmmer). On this basis, an Interim ISA Report (2024) was produced to support a second consultation on the updated Preferred Strategy in early 2025. Both the Initial and Interim ISA Reports presented an assessment of the alternatives established at that stage, and an assessment of the preferred strategy as presented at that stage. There is no need to repeat the ISA work that has been undertaken to date, but rather this ISA Report builds upon that work, refining options as necessary and factoring in additional / updated evidence.

5.3 Level of growth options (2024)

- 5.3.1 The Interim ISA Report (2024) considered the level of growth in the County Borough using the population projection scenarios generated in 2024 (which were re-based using 2021 Census data and updated mid-year estimates from Welsh Government). Overall, 11 population options were considered for the 2RLDP strategy, three based on the 2018 Welsh Government population projections, four based on migration assumptions, two based on housebuilding rates, one based on economic population, and one employment based. These options factored in the 2021 Census data and considered the role of Caerphilly within the Cardiff Capital Region (CCR) and its economic investment potential.

5.3.3 From the 11 scenarios, four were considered both reasonable and realistic for the 2RLD strategy, these were:

- **Option A – Welsh Government (WG) 2018-based principal projection:** Total dwelling increase of 2,966 homes (198 dpa) and a loss in the working age population of -2,868 people.
- **Option H – Continuation of adopted LDP:** Total dwelling increase of 8,622 homes (575 dpa) and an increase in the working age population of 7,668 people.
- **Option I – Long-term housebuilding rates:** Total dwelling increase of 5,595 homes and an increase in the working age population of 1,944 people.
- **Option J – CCR growth in working age population:** Total dwelling increase of 6,750 homes (450 dpa) and an increase in the working age population of 4,126 people.

5.3.4 Option J has been the preferred option since 2022 and there are no new population projections or evidence that has brought to light any potential additional options for the overall level of growth. The options (including Option J) were re-based in 2024 and assessed in the Interim ISA Report (2024). The revised calculation under Option J is continued as the preferred approach, and the four scenarios narrowed to previously continue to represent reasonable and realistic options (Options A, H, I and J).

5.4 Location of growth options (2024)

5.4.1 The Interim ISA Report (2024) considered six alternative strategy options, reflecting the issues facing the County Borough and the national and regional policy framework. These were:

1. **Continuation of the adopted LDP strategy.** This option essentially continues the adopted LDP approach which identifies three broad strategic growth areas at the Heads of the Valleys Regeneration Area, the Northern Connections Corridor, and the Southern Connections Corridor.
2. **Heads of the Valleys Regeneration Area focus.** This option maximises development opportunities in the Heads of the Valleys to promote economic growth and broaden the range and choice of housing here, maximising the benefits associated with major investment and improvement to the Metro and the A465.
3. **Key Strategic Site (Maesycwmmmer).** This option seeks to deliver a significant proportion of overall growth needs at a singular strategic site at Maesycwmmmer. This option would be supported by additional growth primarily focused on the Greater Blackwood and Greater Ystrad Mynach areas but also in the Lower Ebbw and Sirhowy Valleys where connected by public transport.
4. **Metro investment focus.** This option seeks to maximise the benefits arising from significant investment in the South Wales Metro delivering growth in connected (by public transport) areas at Rhymney, Ebbw Vale, Blackwood and Nelson.

5. **Town Centre first approach.** This 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.
 6. **Caerphilly Basin focus.** This option seeks to maximise development opportunities in and around Caerphilly and associated with the Southern Connections Corridor.
- 5.4.2 These six options had been the focus of assessment up until 2024. The preferred strategy in 2022 (as assessed in the Initial ISA Report (2022)) was a hybrid strategy of Options 3, 4 and 5. However, this was revised in 2024 to just Options 4 and 5 as consultation highlighted significant objections to the proposed strategic site at Maesycwmmmer (Option 3).
- 5.4.3 This strategy requires development be located to maximise the benefits from investment to the Metro and the potential for modal shift to sustainable transport, locating development close to sustainable transport links. Alongside this, a Town Centre First approach seeks to locate development within and close to existing towns and cities across the region; primarily the County Borough's principal and local settlements.
- 5.4.4 However, these settlements have significant constraints that limit the amount of development that they could reasonably be expected to accommodate. This means that sites for development will need to be identified in other settlements but located in the best locations in terms of the Metro and town centre focuses; namely 'Residential Settlements Suitable for Accommodating Growth'.
- 5.4.5 The findings of the assessment of the six options outlined above in the Interim ISA Report (2024) were as follows:

"Options 3, 4 and 5 perform well across the economy and employment, population and communities, health and wellbeing, equality diversity and inclusion, and transport and movement ISA topics. These three options are considered likely to lead to significant positive effects regarding these ISA topics, focusing growth in the most sustainable locations, where there is better access to public transport, existing employment opportunities, and facilities and services. Although there are some small differences between these options in terms of how growth is distributed during the plan period, they are not significant enough to warrant one option being ranked higher or lower than the other. Across these ISA topics, significant negative effects are only predicted for Option 1 under economy and employment, as it restricts growth in Caerphilly town and is predicted to fall short of the identified housing need.

Options 1, 2 and 6 also perform well regarding the health and wellbeing ISA topic, although only minor positive effects are predicted. This is because Options 2 and 6 focus growth in only one area of the County Borough, whilst there is an insufficient number of deliverable sites with respect to Option 1. In this respect, these options have less potential to deliver substantial benefits in terms of health and wellbeing across the wider County Borough.

At present, there is little to differentiate between the options regarding the historic environment ISA topic, given that all options have the potential to result in negative effects by directing development to areas that are sensitive

in terms of heritage constraints, albeit in different areas of the County Borough. However, it is recognised that mitigation could be provided, and that development also has the potential to deliver positive effects through improvement/ enhancement measures secured at the design stage. Hence, the nature and significance of effects will be dependent on the precise scale and location of development, which is currently unknown.

Whilst similar conclusions can also be drawn in relation to the biodiversity and geodiversity ISA topic (given the presence of international, national and local designations throughout the County Borough), significant negative effects can be predicted for Option 3. This is because the strategic site it delivers in Maesycwmmmer is located close to Aberbargoed Grasslands SAC (a European-designated site), and even closer to nationally designated sites Penllwyn Grasslands SSSI and Memorial Park Meadows Pontllanfraith SSSI.

In terms of the landscape and climate change ISA topics, Option 3, 4 and 5 direct growth to the most sustainable areas, which are also less sensitive in landscape terms, and are therefore considered to perform more strongly than other options. The remaining options direct growth to less sustainable locations with high flood risk (though it is anticipated that high flood risk areas will be avoided in line with national policy and sequential testing), and are constrained by landscape designations, which is reflected by their ranks. Option 6 is predicted to lead to significant negative effects with regard to the climate change ISA topic, as it directs growth to an area of high flood risk. However, given that the precise location of development is currently unknown, uncertainty is noted for all of the options with regard to these two ISA topics.

Regarding the natural resources ISA topic, while it is difficult to identify any significant differences between the options in terms of natural resources, Options 1, 3, 4 and 5 are ranked more favourably than Options 2 and 6 as they have fewer constraints. Specifically, constraints for Option 2 concern Coal Mining Development High Risk Areas and water availability, whilst constraints for Option 6 concern AQMAs, the loss of productive agricultural land and aggregate extraction sites. Due to these constraints, Options 2 and 6 are considered likely to lead to significant negative effects.

Overall, Options 3, 4 and 5 perform more favourably, leading to significant positive effects for half of the ISA topics assessed. Option 3 is the only option that leads to significant negative effects for one ISA topic – biodiversity and geodiversity – however, it is likely that these effects can be mitigated through site design/ layout. In terms of the best performing option, Option 4 has a slight edge on the other two options, however all three options are still deemed to perform extremely well. Conversely, Options 1, 2 and 6 perform less favourably, and it is difficult to differentiate between them as they all have a relatively equal number of negative effects across the ISA topics. However, significant negative effects are only concluded under one ISA topic for Options 1 and 6, therefore Option 2 has a slight edge.”

- 5.4.6 At this stage, the ISA has sought to revisit and refine these options, working with the pool of available sites established through the Council's Candidate Site Assessment process. Given the significant objections to the large

strategic site at Maesycwmmmer, this option has fallen away (notwithstanding that it has been assessed in previous versions of the ISA).

- 5.4.7 The preferred approach continues to be a hybrid of Options 4 and 5 supported by an assessment of the County Borough's settlements and a new proposed settlement hierarchy.
- 5.4.8 All sites that have been found suitable and available through the Council's Candidate Sites Assessment has been reviewed for their potential to strategically contribute to housing and employment delivery. This includes by a high-level GIS analysis of sites (see **Appendix A**). This work has formed similar options at this stage, albeit more nuanced in terms of the sites underpinning them (see **Table 5.1**). The options established at this stage are:
1. **The Preferred Strategy.** A hybrid of the previous Options 4 and 5 combining a 'town centre first' approach with a 'Metro investment focus'. Well-connected sites are a key theme under this approach.
 2. **Caerphilly Basin focus.** This option emphasises the role of Caerphilly in future growth, expecting more growth in this area as a primary settlement.
 3. **Heads of the Valleys focus.** This option locates additional growth in the Heads of the Valleys in proximity to the A465 and Metro investment here. It would focus growth in one of the most deprived areas in the County Borough.
 4. **Continuation of the adopted LDP strategy.** Similar to previous assessments, growth under this option would be more widely dispersed across the County Borough.
 5. **A higher growth strategy.** It is recognised that there are enough available sites to achieve a higher level of growth than the current preferred option, so this option assesses the constraints and merits of utilising all available and suitable sites.
- 5.4.9 Option 1 comprises the **preferred strategy**; this seeks to locate development in the most sustainable locations and is informed by two key elements:
- A Town Centre First focus – this 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. As such, the preferred strategy focuses new residential development within the tier 1 settlements, comprising Principal Town Centres and Local Centres. However, it is recognised that a level of growth in suitable lower tier settlements will also be required to meet the housing need figure.
 - A Metro Investment focus – 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. Focusing new development in and around tier 1 and 2 settlements, and around rail stations, bus stations and interchanges, will contribute to the overall aim of reducing the need to travel and increasing modal shift to walking, cycling and public transport, the underlying aims of Future Wales.

Table 5.1 Options to be assessed through this ISA Report¹⁰

Location	Option 1 – Preferred Strategy	Option 2 – Caerphilly Basin focus	Option 3 – Heads of the Valleys focus	Option 4 – Continuation of the adopted LDP	Option 5 – Higher growth
Completions	1,976	1,976	1,976	1,976	1,976
Commitments	1,430	1,430	1,430	1,430	1,430
Windfall	978	978	978	978	978
Aberbargoed	176	176	351	351	351
Bargoed	55	55	55	55	55
Bedwas	44	44	44	0	44
Blackwood	375	375	775	375	937
Caerphilly	132	432	132	341	432
Maesycwmmer	500	500	500	665	665
Nelson	241	241	241	241	266
Oakdale and Croespenmaen	225	85	0	85	261
Penpedairheol	190	190	0	0	600
Rhymney and Abertysswg	100	100	123	123	123
Risca and Ynysddu	132	132	132	132	142
Ystrad Mynach and Penybryn	597	422	422	422	607
TOTAL	7,151	7,136	7,159	7,174	8,867

¹⁰ Green denotes an increase in homes whilst amber denotes a decrease in homes

6. Assessing reasonable alternatives

6.1 Introduction

- 6.1.1 This chapter presents the summary findings of the assessment of reasonable alternatives set out in Chapter 5.

6.2 Methodology

- 6.2.1 For each option, the assessment has examined **likely significant effects** on the baseline, drawing on the sustainability objectives and topics identified through scoping (see Table 3.1) as a methodological framework.
- 6.2.2 Every effort is made to predict effects accurately; however, this is inherently challenging given the high-level nature of the options under consideration. The ability to predict effects accurately is also limited by understanding of the baseline (now and in the future under a 'no plan' scenario). Considering this, there is a need to make considerable assumptions regarding how scenarios will be implemented 'on the ground' and what the effect on receptors would be. Where there is a need to rely on assumptions to reach a conclusion on a 'significant effect' this is made explicit in the appraisal text.
- 6.2.3 It is important to note that effects are predicted considering the criteria presented within Regulations. So, for example, account is taken of the duration, frequency, and reversibility of effects. Cumulative effects are also considered (i.e., where the effects of the plan in combination with the effects of other planned or on-going activity that is outside the control of CCBC).
- 6.2.4 Based on the evidence available a judgement is made if there is likely to be a significant effect. Red indicates the potential for a significant negative effect and green indicates a significant positive effect. Grey denotes uncertainty.
- 6.2.5 Where it is not possible to predict likely significant effects based on reasonable assumptions, efforts are made to comment on the relative merits of the alternatives in more general terms and to indicate a rank of preference. The number indicates the rank and does not have any bearing on likely significant effects. This is helpful, as it enables a distinction to be made between the alternatives even where it is not possible to option is ranked as 1 then it is judged to perform better against that ISA topic compared to an option that is ranked 2 or 3 or so on. '=' has been used to highlight where options perform equally and cannot be differentiated between.

6.3 Assessment outcomes – level of growth

- 6.3.1 Table 6.1 provides the summary findings for the assessment of options for the level of growth presented in 2024. More detailed findings are presented in the Interim ISA Report 2024.

Table 6.1: ISA summary findings for the level of growth

ISA topic	Option A	Option H	Option I	Option J
Economy and employment	3	1	2	1
Population and communities	3	1	2	1
Health and wellbeing	2	1	1	1
Equality, diversity and inclusion	3	1	2	1
Transport and movement	2	1	1	1
Natural resources (air, land, minerals and waste)	1	4	2	3
Biodiversity and geodiversity	1	4	2	3
Historic environment	1	4	2	3
Landscape	1	4	2	3
Climate change (mitigation and adaptation)	4	1	3	2

6.3.2 In relation to the ISA topics of natural resources, biodiversity and geodiversity, the historic environment and landscape, the nature and significance of effects will be dependent on where growth is located and how development is designed/ implemented. As the level of growth increases so does the likelihood that impacts will occur, and negative effects will arise. Residual effects in this respect are uncertain and will be better informed by consideration of the location of growth, the sensitivity of receptors, and the potential mitigation measures available. Lower growth options are ranked more favourably in respect of the potential environmental impacts, though it is also recognised that higher levels of development have further potential to deliver environmental enhancements/ improvements that could lead to positive effects.

6.3.3 Similarly, for the climate change ISA topic, uncertainty is noted as specific opportunities that would help to significantly reduce per capita greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions or deliver new low carbon or renewable energy have not been confirmed. However, this ISA topic sees the reverse trend in terms of rankings, as higher growth options have greater potential to support infrastructure upgrades that reduce congestion and improve accessibility, supporting a transition to lower emission/ carbon neutral economy. They also have greater potential to contribute to improved ecological connectivity, green infrastructure networks, open spaces and urban greening measures, which support climate resilience.

6.3.4 Regarding the transport and movement ISA topic, options proposing a higher level of growth are more likely to result in impacts on the local highway network through increased traffic and congestion; however, no evidence suggests impacts are likely to be of significance. Recent increases in homeworking, as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic, are considered likely to

prevail as a longer-term trend which will continue to support reduced congestion. Furthermore, the higher growth levels are considered for their potential to deliver accessibility and infrastructure improvements and result in more self-contained communities, reduced levels of out commuting and modal shift, the importance of which have all been highlighted during the pandemic. As a result, higher growth options are ranked more favourably overall.

- 6.3.5 Option A is considered likely to result in significant negative effects for the ISA topics of economy and employment, population and communities, health and wellbeing, and equalities, diversity and social inclusion. This is predominantly due to limited growth severely restricting opportunities to address a likely resultant demographic imbalance and economic decline. Under this option, a decline in younger age groups, particularly the working age group, is likely to result in job losses, and a decline in economic and local centres exacerbating rural isolation. This is particularly relevant to certain groups with protected characteristics, such as the young, older people and disabled, who tend to be disproportionately affected by accessibility issues and the negative effects of transport infrastructure. Furthermore, a lack of future development may not only severely limit opportunities to address changing housing needs in terms of types and tenures but is also likely to drive up house prices and exacerbate affordability issues.
- 6.3.6 The higher growth options (Options H and J, but particularly H) are identified as performing better against these ISA topics, as the additional growth provides an opportunity to deliver a greater range of new housing, employment opportunities, and community infrastructure to meet the needs of the County Borough. Significant positive effects are predicted for Options H and J under the economy and employment ISA topic, and significant positive effects are predicted for Options, H, I and J under the population and communities ISA topic.

6.5 Assessment outcomes – location of growth

6.5.1 Table 6.2 and 6.3 provide the summary findings for the assessment of options for the level of growth. More detailed findings follow this summary.

Table 6.2: ISA summary findings for the location of growth

ISA topic	Option 1	Option 2	Option 3	Option 4	Option 5
Economy and employment	2	1	4	3	5
Population and communities	2	1	4	3	5
Health and wellbeing	2	1	3	4	5
Equality, diversity and inclusion	=1	=1	3	5	4
Transport and movement	2	1	5	=3	=3
Natural resources (air, land, minerals and waste)	=1	=1	=3	=3	5
Biodiversity and geodiversity	=1	=1	=3	=3	5
Historic environment	=2	=2	4	1	5
Landscape	=3	=1	=1	=3	5
Climate change (mitigation and adaptation)	=1	=1	5	=3	=3

Table 6.3: ISA summary findings for the location of growth

ISA topic	Conclusion
Economy and employment	Overall, Options 1 and 2 are considered to perform most favourably under the economy and employment ISA theme, with significant positive effects anticipated at this stage. This is because they facilitate sustainable growth in accordance with the settlement hierarchy; address localised economic issues; and support a well-connected economy. By delivering a higher level of growth in Caerphilly, Option 2 is considered to perform slightly more favourably than the preferred approach (Option 1). No significant effects are noted under Options 3 and 4 as they do not distribute growth as evenly across the County Borough, however minor positive effects are anticipated. Option 4 is ranked slightly more favourably as it distributes growth more evenly than Option 3. Finally, uncertainty is noted under Option 5 as whilst this option has the potential to lead to an increased level of investment across the County Borough, the additional sites included under this option include some that are less accessible to employment opportunities.
Population and communities	Overall, Options 1 and 2 are considered to perform most favourably under the population and communities ISA theme, with significant positive effects anticipated at this stage. This is because they distribute housing in line with the settlement hierarchy, thereby helping to meet the needs of all communities across the County Borough. By delivering a higher level of growth in Caerphilly, Option 2 is considered to perform slightly more favourably than the preferred approach (Option 1).

ISA topic	Conclusion
	No significant effects are noted under Options 3 and 4 as they do not distribute growth as evenly across the County Borough, however minor positive effects are anticipated. Option 4 is ranked slightly more favourably as it distributes growth more evenly than Option 3. Finally, uncertainty is noted under Option 5. Whilst this option would deliver a higher level of growth across the County Borough, potentially bringing greater benefits, the additional sites included under this option include some that are less accessible to community facilities and retail areas.
Health and wellbeing	Overall, Options 1 and 2 are considered to perform most favourably under the health and wellbeing ISA theme, with significant positive effects anticipated at this stage. This is because they distribute housing in line with the settlement hierarchy, which prioritises the best-connected settlements, thereby maximising accessibility to health and recreational facilities. By delivering a higher level of growth at Caerphilly, Option 2 is considered to perform slightly more favourably than the preferred approach (Option 1) as this principal settlement is considered the most well-connected. No significant effects are noted under Options 3 and 4 as they do not distribute growth as evenly across the County Borough, however minor positive effects are anticipated. Option 3 is ranked slightly more favourably than Option 4 as whilst the Heads of the Valleys is a less accessible part of the County Borough, it will bring benefits related to its proximity to the Brecon Beacons National Park. Finally, uncertainty is noted under Option 5 as whilst this option would deliver a higher level of growth across the County Borough, potentially bringing greater benefits for health and wellbeing, this could be at the expense of protecting existing green infrastructure / open spaces.
Equality, diversity and inclusion	Significant positive effects are predicted across all options as they all meet the identified housing need, including a proportion of affordable housing, and will deliver new jobs. Options 1 and 2 are considered to perform mostly favourably as they distribute growth most evenly across the County Borough. This is followed by Option 3 which focuses growth in the most deprived part of the borough, then Option 5 which will deliver a higher level of growth, thereby maximising opportunities to deliver affordable housing and investment. Finally, Option 4 is ranked least favourably as the distribution of growth under this option is considered to bring fewer benefits for equalities, diversity and social inclusion, particularly to the central part of Caerphilly.
Transport and movement	Overall, Options 1 and 2 are considered to perform most favourably under the transport and movement ISA theme, with significant positive effects anticipated at this stage. This is because they distribute housing in line with the settlement hierarchy, which prioritises the best-connected settlements, thereby maximising the uptake of sustainable modes of transport, encouraging modal shift away from the private vehicle. By delivering a higher level of growth at Caerphilly, Option 2 is considered to perform slightly more favourably than the preferred approach (Option 1) as this principal settlement is considered the most well-connected. No significant effects are noted under Options 3, 4 and 5 as they do not distribute growth as evenly across the County Borough. Option 5 is ranked equal to Option 4 due to the merits and disadvantages outlined above, however a degree of uncertainty is noted in this respect. Option 3 is ranked least favourably as the Heads of the Valleys is the least well-connected part of the County Borough.
Natural resources (air, land, minerals and waste)	Options 1 and 2 are considered to perform most favourably as they will have the lowest predicted impact on natural resources. No significant effects are noted under these options as they preserve productive agricultural land, and whilst this will lead to the sterilisation of some mineral resources, the boundaries of mineral safeguarding areas (MSAs) are adjusted to ensure that they don't overlap with land inside settlement boundaries.

ISA topic	Conclusion
	Options 3 and 4 are ranked slightly less favourably due to the inclusion of additional sites which overlap with MSAs and are in proximity to main rivers, although no significant effects are anticipated under these options either. Option 5 is ranked least favourably, and significant negative effects are noted, because the additional level of growth proposed through this option would lead to the unnecessary loss of additional natural resources.
Biodiversity and geodiversity	Options 1 and 2 are considered to perform most favourably as they will have the lowest predicted impact on biodiversity. No significant effects are noted under these options, although minor negative effects are considered likely given the proximity of some sites under these options to internationally and nationally designated sites for biodiversity. Options 3 and 4 are ranked slightly less favourably due to the inclusion of additional sites which are in proximity to designated sites for biodiversity and priority habitats. Whilst no significant effects are anticipated under these options either, minor negative effects are anticipated. Option 5 is ranked least favourably, and significant negative effects are noted, because the additional level of growth proposed through this option would lead to the unnecessary impact on additional areas of biodiversity value and ecological networks.
Historic environment	Overall, Option 4 is ranked most favourably as the variable sites under this option are relatively unconstrained from a heritage standpoint, whilst the option also omits some of the more sensitive sites included under the preferred strategy (Option 1). This is followed by Options 1 and 2, which include sites which are slightly more constrained. Option 3 is ranked slightly less favourably given the constraints associated with the variable sites under this option, which are likely linked to the more rural focus of this option. Whilst it is anticipated that good design and landscaping could mitigate potential adverse impacts on the setting of heritage assets under these options, this is unknown at this stage and therefore uncertainty is noted. Significant negative effects are anticipated under Option 5 as this option has the potential to adversely impact a much higher number of heritage assets given the increased level and spread of growth proposed. Whilst mitigation measures could also reduce potential adverse impacts to some degree, this is considered more challenging under this option given the level of growth proposed.
Landscape	Overall, Options 2 and 3 are ranked most favourably as the variable sites under this option are relatively unconstrained from a landscape standpoint, whilst these options also omit some of the more sensitive sites included under the preferred strategy (Option 1). This is followed by Options 1 and 4, which include sites which are slightly more constrained. Whilst it is anticipated that good design and landscaping / screening could mitigate potential adverse impacts on landscape character under these options, this is unknown at this stage and therefore uncertainty is noted. Significant negative effects are anticipated under Option 5 as this option has the potential to adversely impact landscape character over a much wider area given the increased level and spread of growth proposed. Whilst mitigation measures could also reduce potential adverse impacts to some degree, this is considered more challenging under this option given the level of growth proposed.
Climate change (mitigation and adaptation)	Overall, it is difficult to differentiate the options regarding both climate change adaptation and mitigation. Nevertheless, Options 1 and 2 are considered to perform marginally more favourably given they direct growth to the most accessible parts of the County Borough. Option 3 is considered to perform least favourably for the inverse reasons. Given the global scale of climate change, and that development will likely come forward with or without the plan, no significant effects are anticipated.

6.6 Detailed findings: Economy and employment

Preferred Strategy

- 6.6.1 By delivering growth which meets the County Borough's identified housing need the preferred strategy (Option 1) will contribute towards the resilience of Caerphilly's economy by increasing the local workforce.
- 6.6.2 Only four of the 20 sites included under the preferred strategy are not within walking distance (<800m) of the nearest employment site. In this respect, Option 1 provides good access to employment opportunities.
- 6.6.3 However, all but two sites are not within walking distance of the nearest rail station, whilst seven are beyond 3km of one. Whilst it is not possible to determine the walking distance of each site to the nearest bus stop, it is considered that the majority will be accessible to rail stations via public transport where they are not close enough to use active travel modes.

Alternative options

- 6.6.4 By delivering growth which meets the County Borough's identified housing need all options will contribute towards the resilience of Caerphilly's economy by increasing the local workforce. However, it is recognised that by delivering additional growth, Option 5 could bring further benefits to the local economy in this respect. Nevertheless, this is largely dependent on whether further employment land would be delivered under this option.
- 6.6.5 The following variable sites are not within walking distance (<800m) of the nearest employment site:
- Land South of Greensway, Abertysswg (Options 3, 4 and 5) is 1.8km from Maerdy, Rhymney
 - Land at Sofrydd Road, Crumlin (Option 5) is 1.2km from North Celynen, Newbridge
 - Land South of Kestrel View, Hengoed (Option 5) is 985m from New Road, Tiryberth
 - Argoed Fawr Farm, The Rock, Argoed (Options 3 and 5) is 880m from Plateau 2 Oakdale
 - Land North of Bryncoed Terrace, Penpedairheol (Option 5) is 877m from Penallta
- 6.6.6 In light of the above, Option 5 can be considered the least accessible to employment opportunities, although it is recognised that this is to be expected given this option delivers a higher level of growth than the other four options. It is also noted that under this option, it could be assumed that a higher level of employment growth would accompany the increased housing growth, minimising any potential adverse impacts in this respect.
- 6.6.7 It is considered that Option 2 performs most favourably as the Caerphilly Basin accommodates the greatest number of existing services and facilities and has the best active travel and public transport infrastructure network. As such, residents will be less likely to have to rely on the private vehicle. This

option also recognises the vision set out in Future Wales, which recognises Caerphilly as a strategically important location for economic growth.

- 6.6.8 By focusing growth in the Heads of the Valleys, which is the most deprived part of the County Borough, it could be argued that Option 3 would encourage investment where it is most needed, potentially leading to lower unemployment levels in this location. However, it is also noted that there would be less growth in Mid Valleys locations under this option. Therefore, the economic benefits of growth would be less well distributed under this option compared to Options 1 and 2.
- 6.6.9 Option 4 would deliver an increased level of growth in Caerphilly, and it performs well in this respect. However, it would deliver less growth in Mid Valleys locations, and therefore investment in the central part of the County Borough may be reduced under this option. However, this option does deliver a higher level of growth at Bargoed and Maesycwmmmer, thereby counteracting this to a degree.

Conclusion

Option	Option 1 – Preferred Strategy	Option 2 – Caerphilly Basin Focus	Option 3 – Heads of the Valleys focus	Option 4 – Continuation of the adopted LDP	Option 5 – Higher growth
Rank	2	1	4	3	5
Significant effect?	Yes – positive	Yes – positive	No	No	Uncertain

- 6.6.10 Overall, **Options 1 and 2** are considered to perform most favourably under the economy and employment ISA topic, with **significant positive effects** anticipated at this stage. This is because they facilitate sustainable growth in accordance with the settlement hierarchy; address localised economic issues; and support a well-connected economy. By delivering a higher level of growth in Caerphilly, Option 2 is considered to perform slightly more favourably than the preferred approach (Option 1).
- 6.6.11 **No significant effects** are noted under **Options 3 and 4** as they do not distribute growth as evenly across the County Borough, however minor positive effects are anticipated. Option 4 is ranked slightly more favourably as it distributes growth more evenly than Option 3.
- 6.6.12 Finally, **uncertainty** is noted under **Option 5** as whilst this option has the potential to lead to an increased level of investment across the County Borough, the additional sites included under this option include some that are less accessible to employment opportunities.

6.7 Detailed findings: Population and communities

Preferred Strategy

- 6.7.1 By delivering growth which meets the County Borough's identified housing need the preferred strategy (Option 1) will contribute towards meeting the needs of Caerphilly's population, including affordable housing, new employment opportunities, and improved community infrastructure.

- 6.7.2 Eleven of the 20 sites included under the preferred strategy are not within walking distance (<800m) of the nearest community facility. In addition, 15 sites are not within walking distance of the nearest retail area, however only one is beyond 3km of one. Whilst it is not possible to determine the walking distance of each site to the nearest bus stop, it is considered that the majority will be accessible to community facilities and retail areas via either public transport or other means of active travel (i.e. bicycle).

Alternative options

- 6.7.3 All options perform positively in terms of providing housing to meet the identified need of the County Borough, with only Option 5 providing an increased level of growth, thereby providing a larger buffer.
- 6.7.4 The following variable sites are not within walking distance (<800m) of the nearest community facility:
- Former Pontllanfraith School, Pontllanfraith (Option 5) is 3.1km from Oakfield Street, Ystrad Mynach
 - Land at Pen y Cwarel Road, Ynysddu (Option 5) is 2.5km from Ystrad Fawr, Ystrad Mynach
 - Land West of Bwl Road, Nelson (Option 5) is 2.1km from Greenhill Primary School, Gelligaer
 - Land South of Greensway, Abertysswg (Options 3, 4 and 5) is 1.8km from Bryn Awel Primary School, Rhymney
 - Argoed Fawr Farm, The Rock, Argoed (Options 3 and 5) is 1.6km from Adjacent Bro Ysgol Sannan, Aberbargoed
 - Former Gellideg Industrial Estate, Maesycwmmmer (Options 4 and 5) is 1.5km from Oakfield Street, Ystrad Mynach
- 6.7.5 The following variable sites are not within walking distance (<800m) of the nearest retail area:
- Land West of Bwl Road, Nelson (Option 5) is 3km from Penallta Colliery, Ystrad Mynach
 - Land at Sofrydd Road, Crumlin (Option 5) is 2.4km from Gateway Site, Newbridge
 - Land at Pen y Cwarel Road, Ynysddu (Option 5) is 2.4km from Blackwood Gate
 - Land South of Greensway, Abertysswg (Options 3, 4 and 5) is 2.1km from The Lawn, Rhymney
 - Former Gellideg Industrial Estate, Maesycwmmmer (Options 4 and 5) is 1.9km from Blackwood Gate
 - Land at Rhos Farm, Penpedairheol (Option 5) is 1.7km from Penallta Colliery, Ystrad Mynach
 - Land North of Bryncoed Terrace, Penpedairheol (Option 5) is 1.6km from Bargoed Retail Plateau

- Argoed Fawr Farm, The Rock, Argoed (Options 3 and 5) is 1.3km from Blackwood
- Land South of Kestrel View, Hengoed (Option 5) is 937m from Penallta Colliery, Ystrad Mynach
- Land adjacent to Tir y Berth Farm, Hengoed Road, Penpedairheol (Option 5) is 928m from Penallta Colliery, Ystrad Mynach

6.7.6 In light of the above, Option 5 can be considered the least accessible to community facilities and retail areas, although it is recognised that this is to be expected given this option delivers a higher level of growth than the other four options. It is also noted that under this option, it could be assumed that a higher number of new community facilities, and potentially new retail areas, would be delivered alongside the increased housing growth, minimising any potential adverse impacts in this respect.

6.7.7 It is considered that Option 2 performs most favourably as the Caerphilly Basin is home to the greatest range of services and facilities and has the best active travel and public transport infrastructure network. As such, residents will likely not have to rely on the private vehicle to access these services and facilities, as well as jobs and educational facilities.

6.7.8 By focusing growth in the Heads of the Valleys, which is the most deprived part of the County Borough, it could be argued that Option 3 would deliver more of the benefits associated with growth where it is most needed. This includes affordable housing and new community infrastructure. However, it is also noted that there would be less growth in Mid Valleys locations under this option. Therefore, the benefits of growth under this option would be less well distributed compared to Options 1 and 2.

6.7.9 Option 4 would deliver an increased level of growth in Caerphilly, and it performs well in this respect. However, it would deliver less growth in Mid Valleys locations, and therefore the central part of the County Borough would see less of the benefits associated with growth under this option. However, this option does deliver a higher level of growth at Bargoed and Maesycwmmmer, thereby counteracting this to a degree.

Conclusion

Option	Option 1 – Preferred Strategy	Option 2 – Caerphilly Basin Focus	Option 3 – Heads of the Valleys focus	Option 4 – Continuation of the adopted LDP	Option 5 – Higher growth
Rank	2	1	4	3	5
Significant effect?	Yes – positive	Yes – positive	No	No	Uncertain

6.7.10 Overall, **Options 1 and 2** are considered to perform most favourably under the population and communities ISA topic, with **significant positive effects** anticipated at this stage. This is because they distribute housing in line with the settlement hierarchy, thereby helping to meet the needs of all communities across the County Borough. By delivering a higher level of growth in Caerphilly, Option 2 is considered to perform slightly more favourably than the preferred approach (Option 1).

- 6.7.11 **No significant effects** are noted under **Options 3 and 4** as they do not distribute growth as evenly across the County Borough, however minor positive effects are anticipated. Option 4 is ranked slightly more favourably as it distributes growth more evenly than Option 3.
- 6.7.12 Finally, **uncertainty** is noted under **Option 5**. Whilst this option would deliver a higher level of growth across the County Borough, potentially bringing greater benefits, the additional sites included under this option include some that are less accessible to community facilities and retail areas.

6.8 Detailed findings: Health and wellbeing

Preferred Strategy

- 6.8.1 The preferred strategy (Option 1) will likely increase opportunities for healthy living by promoting active / sustainable travel, protecting and enhancing green infrastructure, and maximising placemaking opportunities.
- 6.8.2 All 20 sites included under the preferred strategy are within walking distance (<800m) to the nearest leisure facility, and the spatial strategy performs well in this respect, as accessibility to leisure facilities will likely encourage the uptake of exercise, contributing to the health and wellbeing of residents.

Alternative options

- 6.8.3 All options have the potential to increase opportunities for healthy living by promoting active / sustainable travel, protecting and enhancing green infrastructure, and maximising placemaking opportunities. However, by delivering a higher level of growth, Option 5 may have more limited opportunities to protect green infrastructure, although new active travel infrastructure will likely be more widespread under this option.
- 6.8.4 Given the rural nature of the County Borough, it is considered that all options will lead to positive effects in terms of providing residents with access to the countryside surrounding settlements, although the quality of countryside differs across Caerphilly. Option 3 performs most positively in this respect, as it directs a higher level of growth to the Heads of the Valleys, which adjoins the Bannau Brycheiniog (formerly Brecon Beacons) National Park. In doing so this option would likely provide increased access to this nationally important natural space, supporting the mental and physical health and wellbeing of residents.
- 6.8.5 Only one variable site is not within walking distance (<800m) of the nearest leisure facility: Land at Rhos Farm, Penpedairheol (Option 5), which is 1km from South of Gilfach. This is not considered significant given this is still a relatively short distance, only 200m beyond walking distance.
- 6.8.6 In light of the above, it is difficult to differentiate the options based on their proximity to health and wellbeing-related facilities. However, it is considered appropriate to focus on the level of accessibility provided by each option, as well as the spread of growth. This is because accessibility, particularly via active travel and public transport, will allow residents to access a greater range of health and recreational facilities, as well as employment opportunities and educational facilities, which all contribute to quality of life. The conclusions made below are therefore based on this.

Conclusion

Option	Option 1 – Preferred Strategy	Option 2 – Caerphilly Basin Focus	Option 3 – Heads of the Valleys focus	Option 4 – Continuation of the adopted LDP	Option 5 – Higher growth
Rank	2	1	3	4	5
Significant effect?	Yes – positive	Yes – positive	No	No	Uncertain

- 6.8.7 Overall, **Options 1 and 2** are considered to perform most favourably under the health and wellbeing ISA topic, with **significant positive effects** anticipated at this stage. This is because they distribute housing in line with the settlement hierarchy, which priorities the best-connected settlements, thereby maximising accessibility to health and recreational facilities. By delivering a higher level of growth at Caerphilly, Option 2 is considered to perform slightly more favourably than the preferred approach (Option 1) as this principal settlement is considered the most well-connected.
- 6.8.8 **No significant effects** are noted under **Options 3 and 4** as they do not distribute growth as evenly across the County Borough, however minor positive effects are anticipated. Option 3 is ranked slightly more favourably than Option 4 as whilst the Heads of the Valleys is a less accessible part of the County Borough, it will bring benefits related to its proximity to the Bannau Brycheiniog National Park.
- 6.8.9 Finally, **uncertainty** is noted under **Option 5** as whilst this option would deliver a higher level of growth across the County Borough, potentially bringing greater benefits for health and wellbeing, this could be at the expense of protecting existing green infrastructure / open spaces.

6.9 Detailed findings: Equalities, diversity and social inclusion

Preferred Strategy

- 6.9.1 By delivering growth which meets the County Borough's identified housing need the preferred strategy (Option 1) will contribute towards equalities, diversity and social inclusion by providing affordable housing, new employment opportunities, and improved transport infrastructure.
- 6.9.2 Four of the 20 sites included under the preferred strategy are ranked amongst the top 500 (where 1 is most deprived and 1,917 is least deprived) regarding the overall Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation (WIMD) (2025). These sites are:
- Castle Fields, Rhymney (Site 2) – ranked 278
 - Land at Coed-y-Brain House, Aberbargoed – ranked 369
 - Land at Energlyn, Caerphilly – ranked 395
 - Land at Cefn Llwynau Farm, Penallta Road, Penybryn – ranked 454
- 6.9.3 In this respect the preferred strategy performs relatively well by delivering a proportionate amount of growth in more deprived areas of the county

borough. However, it is noted that new development will not automatically lead to improvements in this respect, and the delivery of affordable and accessible housing is a key deliverable in terms of tackling inequality.

Alternative options

- 6.9.4 All options deliver growth which meets the County Borough's identified housing need and will therefore contribute towards equalities, diversity and social inclusion by providing affordable housing, new employment opportunities, and improved transport infrastructure.
- 6.9.5 The following variable sites are ranked amongst the top 500 regarding the overall WIMD (2025):
- Land at Rhos Farm, Penpedairheol (Option 5) is ranked 205
 - Aberbargoed Plateau, Aberbargoed (Options 3, 4 and 5) is ranked 221
 - Land South of Greensway, Abertysswg (Options 3, 4 and 5) is ranked 316
- 6.9.6 Regarding the omitted sites:
- Options 2, 3 and 4 do not include Land at Cefn Llwynau Farm, Penallta Road, Penybryn, which is ranked 454
 - Option 4 does not include Land at Energlyn, Caerphilly, which is ranked 395
- 6.9.7 In light of the above, Option 5 is considered to deliver the most growth to deprived communities, although it is recognised that this is largely accredited to this being a higher growth option. Despite this, the remaining options are still considered to contribute positively towards equalities, diversity and social inclusion by meeting the identified housing and employment growth needs. Nevertheless, options which distribute growth more evenly (Options 1 and 2) are considered to perform most favourably, although it is noted that Option 3 will direct a higher level of growth to the most deprived part of the County Borough.
- 6.9.8 All options would be expected to help support the vitality of existing communities, strengthen town centres and local centres as cultural hubs, support population retention and improve access to Welsh-medium education and services, positively supporting the use of Welsh language.

Conclusion

Option	Option 1 – Preferred Strategy	Option 2 – Caerphilly Basin Focus	Option 3 – Heads of the Valleys focus	Option 4 – Continuation of the adopted LDP	Option 5 – Higher growth
Rank	=1	=1	3	5	4
Significant effect?	Yes – positive	Yes – positive	Yes – positive	Yes – positive	Yes – positive

- 6.9.9 **Significant positive effects** are predicted across all options as they all meet the identified housing need, including a proportion of affordable housing, and will deliver new jobs and likely lead to improvements to

transport infrastructure. Options 1 and 2 are considered to perform mostly favourably as they distribute growth most evenly across the County Borough. This is followed by Option 3 which focuses growth in the most deprived part of the borough, then Option 5 which will deliver a higher level of growth, thereby maximising opportunities to deliver affordable housing and promote investment. Finally, Option 4 is ranked least favourably as the distribution of growth under this option is considered to bring fewer benefits for equalities, diversity and social inclusion, particularly to the central part of Caerphilly.

6.10 Detailed findings: Transport and movement

Preferred Strategy

- 6.10.1 By adhering to the settlement hierarchy and focusing growth in the principal town and local centres, the preferred strategy (Option 1) is considered to perform favourably from a transport and movement standpoint by ensuring new development areas are in accessible locations.
- 6.10.2 Only six of the 20 sites included under the preferred strategy are not within walking distance (<800m) to the nearest cycleway, whilst all sites are within walking distance of the nearest public right of way (PRoW). This will likely encourage the uptake of active travel to access wider services and facilities, amenities, employment opportunities, and educational facilities.
- 6.10.3 However, only two sites are within walking distance of the nearest rail station, whilst seven are beyond 3km of one. Whilst it is not possible to determine the walking distance of each site to the nearest bus stop, it is considered that the majority will be accessible to train stations via public transport where they are not close enough to use active travel modes.

Alternative options

- 6.10.4 Options 2-5 are likely to deliver varying levels of accessibility because they direct growth to various parts of the County Borough. This is explored below.
- 6.10.5 The following variable sites are not within walking distance (<800m) of the nearest cycleway:
- Land West of Bwl Road, Nelson (Option 5) is 3.3km from TR 1.12
 - Land at Rhos Farm, Penpedairheol (Option 5) is 1.3km from TR 1.12
 - Land North of Bryncoed Terrace, Penpedairheol (Option 5) is 1km from TR 1.8
 - Land at Pen y Cwarel Road, Ynysddu (Option 5) is 833m from TR 1.9
 - Land South of Greensway, Abertysswg (Options 3, 4 and 5) is 1,142m away from TR 1.1
- 6.10.6 The following variable sites are not within walking distance (<800m) of the nearest train station:
- Land South of Greensway, Abertysswg (Options 3, 4 and 5) is 9.9km from Nelson Railway Station

- Land at Pen y Cwarel Road, Ynysddu (Option 5) is 5.8km from Crumlin Rail Station
- Aberbargoed Plateau, Aberbargoed (Options 3, 4 and 5) is 5.4km from Nelson Rail Station
- Former Gellideg Industrial Estate, Maesycwmmmer (Options 4 and 5) is 5.2km from Nelson Rail Station
- Former Pontllanfraith School, Pontllanfraith (Option 5) is 4.4km from Crumlin Rail Station
- Land South of Kestrel View, Hengoed (Option 5) is 3.9km from Nelson Rail Station
- Land adjacent to Tir y Berth Farm, Hengoed Road, Penpedairheol (Option 5) is 3.4km from Nelson Rail Station
- Land North of Bryncoed Terrace, Penpedairheol (Option 5) is 3.4km from Nelson Rail Station
- Argoed Fawr Farm, The Rock, Argoed (Options 3 and 5) is 3.2km from Crumlin Rail Station
- Land at Rhos Farm, Penpedairheol (Option 5) is 2.9km from Nelson Rail Station
- Land east of Railway Terrace, Caerphilly (Options 2, 4 and 5) is 1.9km from Energlyn / Churchill Park Rail Station
- Land at Sofrydd Road, Crumlin (Option 5) is 1.1km from Crumlin Rail Station

6.10.7 In light of the above, it can be assumed that the additional growth delivered under Option 5 is in less accessible locations. Nevertheless, it is also noted that the higher level of growth proposed through this option also offers additional opportunities with regard to new transport infrastructure.

Conclusion

Option	Option 1 – Preferred Strategy	Option 2 – Caerphilly Basin Focus	Option 3 – Heads of the Valleys focus	Option 4 – Continuation of the adopted LDP	Option 5 – Higher growth
Rank	2	1	5	=3	=3
Significant effect?	Yes – positive	Yes – positive	No	No	Uncertain

6.10.8 Overall, **Options 1 and 2** are considered to perform most favourably under the transport and movement ISA topic, with **significant positive effects** anticipated at this stage. This is because they distribute housing in line with the settlement hierarchy, which priorities the best-connected settlements, thereby maximising the uptake of sustainable modes of transport, encouraging modal shift away from the private vehicle. By delivering a higher level of growth at Caerphilly, Option 2 is considered to perform slightly more favourably than the preferred approach (Option 1) as this principal settlement is considered the most well-connected.

6.10.9 **No significant effects** are noted under **Options 3, 4 and 5** as they do not distribute growth as evenly across the County Borough. Option 5 is ranked equal to Option 4 due to the merits and disadvantages outlined above, however a degree of **uncertainty** is noted in this respect. Option 3 is ranked least favourably as the Heads of the Valleys is the least well-connected part of the County Borough, although it is recognised that the South Wales Metro could lead to improvements in this part of Caerphilly in the future.

6.11 Detailed findings: Natural resources

Preferred Strategy

- 6.11.1 The preferred strategy (Option 1) will inevitably lead to some impacts on natural resources given the land take needed to meet the housing need requirement. This also reflects the limited availability of brownfield land.
- 6.11.2 None of the 20 sites included under the preferred strategy are within 250m of an Air Quality Management Area (AQMA). In this respect, the preferred strategy is unlikely to lead to worsening air quality where pollution levels are already high, although it is recognised that localised air quality issues could still arise as a result of new development areas.
- 6.11.3 None of the sites are underlain by best and most versatile (BMV) agricultural land (Grades 1-3a). Hence, the preferred strategy is unlikely to lead to the loss of productive agricultural land and it performs well in this respect.
- 6.11.4 In terms of mineral resources, five of the 20 sites overlap with a mineral safeguarding area (MSA) for coal and therefore have the potential to lead to the sterilisation of these resources. These sites are:
- Castle Fields, Rhymney (Site 2) – 99% overlap with East of Rhymney
 - Land south of A472, Ystrad Mynach – 70% overlap with East of Nelson
 - Land at Cefn Llwynau Farm, Penallta Road, Penybryn – 60% overlap with East of Nelson
 - Land at Pengam Road, Penpedairheol – 58% overlap with East of Nelson
 - Land at Ty Du Farm, Nelson – 14% overlap with East of Nelson
- 6.11.5 It is noted that there is no longer a requirement to safeguard coal resources and that Mineral Safeguarded Area boundaries will be adjusted accordingly in plan development – any boundary amendments are not expected to sterilise or prevent future access to mineral resources.
- 6.11.6 In terms of water resources / quality, three of the 20 sites are within 250m of a main river, and therefore development in these locations has the potential to impact water quality. These sites are:
- Welsh Egg Farm, Caerphilly – 48m from the River Nant Yr Aber
 - Land at Cwmgelli Farm, Blackwood – 101m from the River Sirhowy
 - Land at Pandy Road (Phase 2), Bedwas – 155m from the River Rhymney

Alternative options

- 6.11.7 All options (including Option 1 discussed above) have the potential to lead to positive effects through capitalising upon the strategic links to the Cardiff Capital Region (CCR) and the provisions of the City Deal. The CCR is committed to a low carbon future, delivering healthier and sustainable travel options, which would likely provide opportunity for building more sustainable communities and improved air quality.
- 6.11.8 None of the variable sites are within 250m of an AQMA, and therefore growth through any of the options is unlikely to lead to significant effects on air quality. However, it is noted that larger sites – including Bryn Meadows Golf Club, Maesycwmmmer (all options) – could lead to localised air quality issues due to the level of growth proposed. Nevertheless, this is largely dependent on the design of development, including integration of active travel infrastructure and connections to existing public transport nodes.
- 6.11.9 None of the variable sites are underlain by BMV agricultural land, and therefore all options are unlikely to lead to the loss of productive agricultural land. In this sense they perform similarly to the preferred strategy (Option 1).
- 6.11.10 The following variable sites overlap with, or lie adjacent to, a MSA:
- Land West of Bwl Road, Nelson (Option 5) overlaps (88%) with East of Nelson MSA
 - Land adjacent to Tir y Berth Farm, Hengoed Road, Penpedairheol (Option 5) overlaps (43%) with East of Nelson
 - Land South of Greensway, Abertysswg (Options 3, 4 and 5) is adjacent to South of Abertysswg MSA
- 6.11.11 In terms of the omitted sites:
- Options 2, 3 and 4 do not include Land at Cefn Llwynau Farm, Penallta Road, Penybryn, which overlaps (60%) with East of Nelson.
 - Options 3 and 4 do not include Land off Pengam Road, Penpedairheol, which overlaps (58%) with East of Nelson.
- 6.11.12 The following variable sites are within 250m of a main river, and therefore development in these locations has the potential to impact water quality:
- Argoed Fawr Farm, The Rock, Argoed (Options 3 and 5) is 91m from the River Sirhowy
 - Aberbargoed Plateau, Aberbargoed (Options 3, 4 and 5) is 153m from the River Rhymney
 - Land at Pen y Cwarel Road, Ynysddu (Option 5) is 170m from the River Sirhowy
- 6.11.13 In terms of the omitted sites, Option 4 does not include Land at Pandy Road (Phase 2), Bedwas, which is 155m from the River Rhymney.
- 6.11.14 All options are anticipated to deliver neutral effects in terms of impact on water resources, with no best performing option identified, given the legal requirements in place for Water Resource Management Plans (WRMPs). It

is expected that development under any of the options will be encouraged to be water efficient and may deliver mitigation (for example rainwater harvesting measures) to support reduced water use per person per day.

6.11.15 Due to the higher growth proposed under Option 5, additional natural resources will likely be impacted through this option. Given this option goes above and beyond the housing need requirement, it could be argued that this is not a necessary trade-off. This is reflected in the conclusions below.

Conclusion

Option	Option 1 – Preferred Strategy	Option 2 – Caerphilly Basin Focus	Option 3 – Heads of the Valleys focus	Option 4 – Continuation of the adopted LDP	Option 5 – Higher growth
Rank	=1	=1	=3	=3	5
Significant effect?	No	No	No	No	Yes – negative

6.11.16 **Options 1 and 2** are considered to perform most favourably as they have the lowest predicted impact on natural resources. **No significant effects** are noted under these options as they preserve productive agricultural land, and whilst they will lead to the sterilisation of some mineral resources, this is considered largely unavoidable due to coverage of MSAs across Caerphilly.

6.11.17 **Options 3 and 4** are ranked slightly less favourably due to the inclusion of additional sites which overlap with MSAs and are in proximity to main rivers, although **no significant effects** are anticipated under these options either.

6.11.18 **Option 5** is ranked least favourably, and **significant negative effects** are noted, because the additional level of growth proposed through this option would lead to the unnecessary loss of additional natural resources.

6.12 Detailed findings: Biodiversity and geodiversity

Preferred Strategy

6.12.1 Focusing on internationally designated sites for biodiversity first, two of the 20 sites included under the preferred strategy (Option 1) are within 1km of a Special Area for Conservation (SAC), namely:

- Land at Heol y Cefn, Blackwood – 29m from Aberbargoed Grasslands
- Land at Coed-y-Brain House, Aberbargoed – 846m from Aberbargoed Grasslands

6.12.2 In terms of nationally designated sites for biodiversity, three sites are within 500m of a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), namely:

- Bryn Meadows Golf Club, Maesycwmmmer – 3m from Gweunydd Nant y Twyn
- Land at Heol y Cefn, Blackwood – 29m from Aberbargoed Grasslands
- Land at Energlyn, Caerphilly – 193m from Llanbradach Quarry

- 6.12.3 One site overlaps with a Site of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC): Land east of Oakdale Golf Club, Oakdale (5.4ha), which overlaps (7%) with Coed Cwm Philkins, East of Penmaen, Nant Philkins Fields, Oakdale.
- 6.12.4 Only one site overlaps (>25%) with ancient woodland: Land at Watford Road, Caerphilly (1ha), which overlaps with ancient semi-natural woodland.
- 6.12.5 None of the sites included in Option 1 overlap (>25%) with priority habitat.

Alternative options

- 6.12.6 Focusing on internationally designated sites for biodiversity first, the following variable sites are within 1km of a SAC:
- Aberbargoed Plateau, Aberbargoed (Options 3, 4 and 5) is 247m from Aberbargoed Grasslands SAC
 - Argoed Fawr Farm, The Rock, Argoed (Options 3 and 5) is 845m from Aberbargoed Grasslands SAC
- 6.12.7 In terms of nationally designated sites for biodiversity, the following variable sites are within 500m of a SSSI:
- Former Pontllanfraith School, Pontllanfraith (Option 5) is 61m from Memorial Park Meadows Pontllanfraith SSSI
 - Former Gellideg Industrial Estate, Maesycwmmmer (Options 4 and 5) is 62m from Gweunydd Nant y Twyn SSSI
 - Aberbargoed Plateau, Aberbargoed (Options 3, 4 and 5) is 211m from Aberbargoed Grasslands SSSI
 - Land east of Railway Terrace, Caerphilly (Options 2, 4 and 5) is 342m from Wern Ddu Claypits SSSI
 - Land at Pen y Cwarel Road, Ynysddu (Option 5) is 409m from Gweunydd Nant y Twyn SSSI
- 6.12.8 In terms of the omitted sites, Option 4 does not include Land at Energlyn, Caerphilly, which is 193m from Llanbradach Quarry SSSI.
- 6.12.9 Regarding locally designated sites for biodiversity, the following variable sites are within 250m of a SINC:
- Former Pontllanfraith School, Pontllanfraith (Option 5) is adjacent to Penllwyn Woodland SINC
 - Land east of Railway Terrace, Caerphilly (Options 2, 4 and 5) is 3m from Wernddu Woodlands SINC
 - Land North of Bryncoed Terrace, Penpedairheol (Option 5) is 3m from Gelligaer Court Meadows, North of Penpedairheol SINC
 - Land adjacent to Tir y Berth Farm, Hengoed Road, Penpedairheol (Option 5) is 15m from Pottery Road Slopes, East of Gelligaer SINC
 - Former Gellideg Industrial Estate, Maesycwmmmer (Options 4 and 5) is 25m from the Victoria Road Slopes, Fleur De Lys SINC

- Argoed Fawr Farm, The Rock, Argoed (Options 3 and 5) is 31m from Blackwood Riverside Woodlands, North East of Blackwood SINC
- Land West of Bwl Road, Nelson (Option 5) is 33m from Brooklands Marsh, North of Nelson SINC
- Land at Rhos Farm, Penpedairheol (Option 5) is 56m from Gelligaer Court Meadows, North of Penpedairheol
- Land at Pen y Cwarel Road, Ynysddu (Option 5) is 59m from Pontgam Terrace Meadows, Wyllie SINC
- Aberbargoed Plateau, Aberbargoed (Options 3, 4 and 5) is 130m from the River Rhymney SINC
- Land South of Kestrel View, Hengoed (Option 5) is 219m from Penallta Meadows, West of Hengoed SINC

6.12.10 In terms of the omitted sites, Option 3 does not include Land east of Oakdale Golf Club, Oakdale, which overlaps (7%) with Coed Cwm Philkins, East of Penmaen, Nant Philkins Fields, Oakdale SINC.

6.12.11 The following variable sites contain, or are adjacent to, ancient woodland:

- Land at Pen y Cwarel Road, Ynysddu (Option 5) overlaps (55%) with restored ancient woodland
- Land east of Railway Terrace, Caerphilly (Options 2, 4 and 5) overlaps (17%) with ancient semi-natural woodland
- Argoed Fawr Farm, The Rock, Argoed (Options 3 and 5) overlaps (4%) with ancient semi-natural woodland
- Land at Sofrydd Road, Crumlin (Option 5) is adjacent to ancient semi-natural woodland
- Former Pontllanfraith School, Pontllanfraith (Option 5) is adjacent to ancient semi-natural woodland
- Land at Rhos Farm, Penpedairheol (Option 5) is adjacent to ancient semi-natural woodland

6.12.12 The following variable sites contain, or are adjacent to, priority habitat:

- Land at Pen y Cwarel Road, Ynysddu (Option 5) overlaps (71%) with lowland dry acid grassland and wood pasture
- Former Gellideg Industrial Estate, Maesycwmmmer (Options 4 and 5) overlaps (17%) with lowland dry acid grassland and purple moor grass and rush pastures
- Former Pontllanfraith School, Pontllanfraith (Option 5) is adjacent to purple moor grass and rush pastures
- Land North of Bryncoed Terrace, Penpedairheol (Option 5) is adjacent to purple moor grass and rush pastures

6.12.13 In light of the above, due to the higher level of growth proposed under Option 5, a greater proportion of biodiversity designations have potential to be impacted through this option. Given this option goes above and beyond the

housing need requirement, it could be argued that this is not a necessary trade-off. This is reflected in the conclusions below.

Conclusion

Option	Option 1 – Preferred Strategy	Option 2 – Caerphilly Basin Focus	Option 3 – Heads of the Valleys focus	Option 4 – Continuation of the adopted LDP	Option 5 – Higher growth
Rank	=1	=1	=3	=3	5
Significant effect?	No	No	No	No	Yes – negative

6.12.14 **Options 1 and 2** are considered to perform most favourably as they will have the lowest predicted impact on biodiversity. **No significant effects** are noted under these options, although minor negative effects are considered likely given the proximity of some sites under these options to internationally and nationally designated sites for biodiversity.

6.12.15 **Options 3 and 4** are ranked slightly less favourably due to the inclusion of additional sites which are in proximity to designated sites for biodiversity and priority habitats. Whilst **no significant effects** are anticipated under these options either, minor negative effects are anticipated.

6.12.16 **Option 5** is ranked least favourably, and **significant negative effects** are noted, because the additional level of growth proposed through this option would lead to the unnecessary impact on additional areas of biodiversity value and ecological networks.

6.13 Detailed findings: Historic environment

Preferred Strategy

6.13.1 Eight of the 20 sites included under the preferred strategy (Option 1) are within 250m of a listed building and therefore have the potential to impact their setting. These sites are:

- Land at Watford Road, Caerphilly – 49m from Grade II listed Watford Fach Farmhouse with adjoining former barn
- Land at Cefn Llwynau Farm, Penallta Road, Penybryn – 62m from Grade II* listed Penallta Colliery Baths Building and 109m from Grade II listed Penallta Colliery Old Stores
- Land at Cwmgelli Farm, Blackwood – 71m from Grade II listed South Lodge
- Castle Fields, Rhymney (Site 2) – 90m from Grade II listed Boundary Wall and Railings at St David's Churchyard and 122m from Grade II* listed Church of St David
- Land at Elm Drive, Pontymister, Risca – 116m from Grade II listed Canal Bridge over Monmouthshire and Brecon Canal E of Pen y van
- Land at Pengam Road, Penpedairheol – 135m from Grade II listed Tier Pengam including attached barn and byre range to S

- Land east of Oakdale Golf Club, Oakdale – 177m from Grade II listed Cyncoed Farm Cottage
 - Land at Nantycalch Farm (Option A), Caerphilly – 208m from Grade II listed Milestone
- 6.13.2 One site is within 250m of a Scheduled Monument: Welsh Egg Farm, Caerphilly, which is 106m from Caerphilly Iron Furnace. As such, development in this location has the potential to disturb archaeological remains, although it is considered that any planning application would require a detailed archaeological assessment.
- 6.13.3 Another site is within 250m of a registered park and garden: Land at Cwmgelli Farm, Blackwood, which is 9m from Maes Manor Hotel. Therefore, development in this location could impact the setting of this park and garden, particularly given the proximity.
- 6.13.4 Five sites are within 250m of a conservation area, with potential to impact the setting of heritage assets which contribute to its designation, as well as the historic character of the affected settlement. These sites are:
- Castle Fields, Rhymney (Site 2) – 31m from Rhymney Town Conservation Area
 - Land south of A472, Ystrad Mynach – 81m from Tredomen Conservation Area
 - Land at Elm Drive, Pontymister, Risca – 94m from Mon & Brecon Canal (Crumlin) Conservation Area
 - Land at Nant Gau, Oakdale – 99m from Oakdale Conservation Area
 - Land east of Oakdale Golf Club, Oakdale – 192m from Oakdale Conservation Area

Alternative options

- 6.13.5 The following variable sites are within 250m of a listed building:
- Land east of Railway Terrace, Caerphilly (Options 2, 4 and 5) contains Grade II listed building 'Brick stack at Wernddu'
 - Argoed Fawr Farm, The Rock, Argoed (Options 3 and 5) is 17m from Grade II listed 'Gate piers with flanking doorways and walls at entrance to Maes Manor'
 - Land at Pen y Cwarel Road, Ynysddu (Option 5) is 57m from Grade II listed Tyle-gwyn
 - Land North of Bryncoed Terrace, Penpedairheol (Option 5) is 60m from Grade II listed 'Stable at Cascade House drive'
 - Former Pontllanfraith School, Pontllanfraith (Option 5) is 156m from Grade II listed building 'War Memorial' and 230m from Grade II* listed building 'Penllwyn, former manor house now Penllwyn Arms public house'
 - Land South of Kestrel View, Hengoed (Option 5) is 222m from Grade II listed 'Capel Hengoed (also known as Hengoed Baptist Chapel)'

6.13.6 Regarding the omitted sites:

- Options 2, 3 and 4 do not include Land at Cefn Llwynau Farm, Penallta Road, Penybryn, which is 62m from Grade II* listed Penallta Colliery Baths Building and 109m from Grade II listed Penallta Colliery Old Stores.
- Options 3 and 4 do not include Land off Pengam Road, Penpedairheol, which is 135m from Grade II listed 'Tier Pengam including attached barn and byre range to S'.
- Option 3 does not include Land east of Oakdale Golf Club, Oakdale, which is 177m from Grade II listed Cyncoed Farm Cottage.
- Option 4 does not include Land at Watford Road, Caerphilly, which is 49m from Grade II listed 'Watford Fach Farmhouse with adjoining former barn'. Option 4 also omits Land at Nantycalch Farm (Option A), Caerphilly, which is 208m from Grade II listed 'Milestone'.

6.13.7 None of the variable sites are within 250m of a Scheduled Monument.

6.13.8 Only one variable site is within 250m of a registered park and garden: Argoed Fawr Farm, The Rock, Argoed (Options 3 and 5) is 7m from Maes Manor Hotel.

6.13.9 Only one variable site is within 250m of a conservation area: Land at Rhos Farm, Penpedairheol (Option 5) is 242m from Gelligaer Conservation Area.

6.13.10 In terms of the omitted sites, Option 3 does not include Land at Nant Gau, Oakdale (99m from Oakdale Conservation Area); and Land east of Oakdale Golf Club, Oakdale (192m from Oakdale Conservation Area).

6.13.11 In light of the above, Option 4 could be considered the least constrained from a heritage standpoint, followed closely by Option 2 which delivers a higher level of growth in Caerphilly Town. Conversely, Option 5 is the most constrained by quite a margin, which is unsurprising considering not only the higher level of growth proposed at most settlements under this option, but also the wider spread of growth, including more rural settlements.

Conclusion

Option	Option 1 – Preferred Strategy	Option 2 – Caerphilly Basin Focus	Option 3 – Heads of the Valleys focus	Option 4 – Continuation of the adopted LDP	Option 5 – Higher growth
Rank	=2	=2	4	1	5
Significant effect?	Uncertain	Uncertain	Uncertain	Uncertain	Yes – negative

6.13.12 Overall, **Option 4** is ranked most favourably as the variable sites under this option are relatively unconstrained from a heritage standpoint, whilst the option also omits some of the more sensitive sites included under the preferred strategy (Option 1). This is followed by **Options 1 and 2**, which include sites which are slightly more constrained. **Option 3** is ranked slightly less favourably given the constraints associated with the variable sites under this option, which are likely linked to the more rural focus of this option. Whilst it is anticipated that good design and landscaping could mitigate

potential adverse impacts on the setting of heritage assets under these options, this is unknown at this stage and therefore **uncertainty** is noted.

6.13.13 **Significant negative effects** are anticipated under **Option 5** as this option has the potential to adversely impact a much higher number of heritage assets given the increased level and spread of growth proposed. Whilst mitigation measures could also reduce potential adverse impacts to some degree, this is considered more challenging under this option.

6.14 Detailed findings: Landscape

Preferred Strategy

6.14.1 None of the 20 sites included under the preferred strategy (Option 1) are within 1km of a National Landscape or National Park.

6.14.2 Two sites are however within 250m of a Country Park and therefore have the potential to impact their setting. These sites are:

- Land at Cefn Llwynau Farm, Penallta Road, Penybryn – adjacent to Parc Penallta
- Land south of A472, Ystrad Mynach – 128m from Parc Penallta

6.14.3 Three sites overlap with a Green Wedge and therefore have potential to contribute towards the coalescence of settlements. These sites are:

- Land at Pengam Road, Penpedairheol – 100% overlap
- Land at Cwmgelli Farm, Blackwood – 100% overlap
- Land at Elm Drive, Ponymister, Risca – 98% overlap

6.14.4 Seven sites overlap (>25%) with a Special Landscape Area (SLA) and as such would directly impact this designation. These sites are:

- Land at Pandy Road, Phase 2, Bedwas – 100% overlap with North Caerphilly
- Land south of A472, Ystrad Mynach – 100% overlap with Mynydd Eglwysilan
- Land at Watford Road, Caerphilly – 100% overlap with South Caerphilly
- Land at Energlyn, Caerphilly – 100% overlap with Mynydd Eglwysilan
- Castle Fields, Rhymney (Site 2) – 99% overlap with Upper Rhymney Valley
- Land at Cefn Llwynau Farm, Penallta Road, Penybryn – 94% overlap with Mynydd Eglwysilan
- Land at Nantycalch Farm (Option A), Caerphilly – 43% overlap with South Caerphilly

6.14.5 Finally, it is noted that none of the sites are within 250m of a Visually Important Local Landscape (VILL). Importantly Green Wedge and SLA boundaries are likely to be amended to accommodate future growth and the amendments are not expected to undermine the wider purposes of these designations.

Alternative options

6.14.6 None of the variable sites are within 1km of a National Landscape or Park.

6.14.7 The following variable sites are however within 250m of a Country Park:

- Aberbargoed Plateau, Aberbargoed (Options 3, 4 and 5) is adjacent to Parc Coetir Bargod Country Park
- Land at Pen y Cwarel Road, Ynysddu (Option 5) is 37m from Sirhowy Valley Country Park

6.14.8 In terms of the omitted sites, Options 2, 3 and 4 do not include Land at Cefn Llwynau Farm, Penallta Road, Penybryn, which is adjacent to Parc Penallta.

6.14.9 Variable sites will have additional effects for Green Wedges and SLAs. The following variable sites overlap with a Green Wedge and therefore have potential to contribute towards the coalescence of settlements:

- Land adjacent to Tir y Berth Farm, Hengoed Road, Penpedairheol (Option 5) has a 100% overlap
- Land North of Bryncoed Terrace, Penpedairheol (Option 5) has a 99% overlap
- Land West of Bwl Road, Nelson (Option 5) has a 88% overlap
- Former Gellideg Industrial Estate, Maesycwmmmer (Options 4 and 5) has a 21% overlap
- Land at Rhos Farm, Penpedairheol (Option 5) has a 2% overlap

6.14.10 In terms of the omitted sites, Options 3 and 4 do not include Land off Pengam Road, Penpedairheol, which has a 100% overlap with a Green Wedge.

6.14.11 The following variable sites overlap with, or are within 50m of, a SLA:

- Land at Rhos Farm, Penpedairheol (Option 5) overlaps (99%) with Gelligaer SLA
- Land North of Bryncoed Terrace, Penpedairheol (Option 5) overlaps (92%) with Gelligaer SLA
- Land West of Bwl Road, Nelson (Option 5) overlaps (88%) with Mynydd Eglwysilan SLA
- Land east of Railway Terrace, Caerphilly (Options 2, 4 and 5) is adjacent to South Caerphilly SLA
- Former Gellideg Industrial Estate, Maesycwmmmer (Options 4 and 5) is 5m from North Caerphilly SLA

6.14.12 Regarding the omitted sites:

- Options 2, 3 and 4 do not include Land at Cefn Llwynau Farm, Penallta Road, Penybryn (94% overlap with Mynydd Eglwysilan SLA).
- Option 4 does not include Land at Energlyn, Caerphilly (100% overlap with Mynydd Eglwysilan SLA); Land at Pandy Road (Phase 2), Bedwas (100% overlap with North Caerphilly SLA); Land at Watford Road,

Caerphilly (100% overlap with South Caerphilly SLA); or Land at Nantycalch Farm (Option A), Caerphilly (43% overlap with South Caerphilly SLA).

6.14.13 The following variable sites overlap with, or are within 50m of, a VILL:

- Land at Sofrydd Road, Crumlin (Option 5) is 23m from Abercarn VILL
- Land South of Greensway, Abertysswg (Options 3, 4 and 5) is 37m from Northern Rhymney Valley VILL

6.14.14 In light of the above, Option 5 is clearly the most constrained from a landscape perspective by a margin. Whilst Option 4 involves greenfield land release in Caerphilly Basin, where there is the inclusion of more sensitive variable sites, there is also the omission of sensitive sites included under the preferred strategy (Option 1). Options 2 and 3 are relatively unconstrained.

Conclusion

Option	Option 1 – Preferred Strategy	Option 2 – Caerphilly Basin Focus	Option 3 – Heads of the Valleys focus	Option 4 – Continuation of the adopted LDP	Option 5 – Higher growth
Rank	=3	=1	=1	=3	5
Significant effect?	Uncertain	Uncertain	Uncertain	Uncertain	Yes – negative

6.14.15 Overall, **Options 2 and 3** are ranked most favourably as the variable sites under this option are relatively unconstrained from a landscape standpoint, whilst these options also omit some of the more sensitive sites included under the preferred strategy (Option 1). This is followed by **Options 1 and 4**, which include sites which are slightly more constrained. Whilst it is anticipated that good design and landscaping / screening could mitigate potential adverse impacts on landscape character under these options, this is unknown at this stage and therefore **uncertainty** is noted.

6.14.16 **Significant negative effects** are anticipated under **Option 5** as this option has the potential to adversely impact landscape character over a much wider area given the increased level and spread of growth proposed. Whilst mitigation measures could also reduce potential adverse impacts to some degree, this is considered more challenging under this option.

6.15 Detailed findings: Climate change

Preferred Strategy

6.15.1 None of the 20 sites included under the preferred strategy (Option 1) overlap with a medium or high-risk area for river flooding. Nor do any of the sites overlap (>25%) with high-risk areas for surface water flooding. In this respect, the preferred strategy performs well from a climate change adaptation standpoint by avoiding areas of increased flood risk.

6.15.2 In terms of climate change mitigation, as discussed under the transport and movement ISA topic, the site allocations are well located in terms of proximity to active travel infrastructure, although it is not possible to

determine the walking distance of each site to the nearest bus stop. More broadly, most of the sites are located in / on the edge of the principal town and local centres and will therefore likely be located near services and facilities, employment opportunities, educational facilities, and public transport infrastructure. This will likely minimise emissions from transport.

Alternative options

6.15.3 The following variable sites overlap with high-risk areas for surface water flooding:

- Land east of Railway Terrace, Caerphilly (Options 2, 4 and 5) – 8% overlap
- Former Gellideg Industrial Estate, Maesycwmmmer (Options 4 and 5) – 4% overlap
- Land at Rhos Farm, Penpedairheol (Option 5) – 3% overlap
- Land West of Bwl Road, Nelson (Option 5) – 2% overlap
- Aberbargoed Plateau, Aberbargoed (Options 3, 4 and 5) – 1% overlap

6.15.4 In light of the above, Option 5 could be considered slightly more constrained from a climate change adaptation perspective, followed by Option 4. However, it is noted that the overlap with high-risk areas is relatively small, and therefore mitigation – which may include the use of sustainable drainage systems (SuDS) and green infrastructure – is likely to be achievable. As such, it is difficult to differentiate the options on this basis.

6.15.5 It is considered that all new development will accord with Technical Advice Note (TAN) 15: Development and Flood risk (2004), which sets out a precautionary framework to direct new development away from those areas which are at high risk of flooding. To this effect, in accordance with national policy, information will need to be provided to demonstrate that any development proposal satisfies the tests contained in the TAN.

6.15.6 In terms of climate change mitigation, Options 1 and 2 are considered to perform most favourably due to their accordance with the settlement hierarchy. Conversely, Option 3 directs growth to the Heads of the Valley, which is less well-connected, and therefore reliance on the private vehicle could be greater under this option, potentially increasing transport emissions.

6.15.7 Whilst Option 5 includes more sites in lower tiers of the settlement hierarchy, which could increase emissions from transport, it also offers greater potential to deliver transport infrastructure across the County Borough given the likely increased level of investment associated with a higher level of growth. However, there is no certainty that this would be the case.

6.15.8 Development proposed under any of the options has the potential to incorporate renewable or low carbon energy, EV charging and smart infrastructure which can support more resilient community infrastructure. Notably, large strategic sites often have the potential to deliver a greater variety of infrastructure, including active / public transport infrastructure in addition to the provisions mentioned above, as a result of economies of scale. In this respect, Bryn Meadows Golf Club, Maesycwmmmer – the largest

site included under all options – is most likely to deliver climate change mitigation measures, and all options perform well in this respect.

Conclusion

Option	Option 1 – Preferred Strategy	Option 2 – Caerphilly Basin Focus	Option 3 – Heads of the Valleys focus	Option 4 – Continuation of the adopted LDP	Option 5 – Higher growth
Rank	=1	=1	5	=3	=3
Significant effect?	No	No	No	No	No

6.15.9 Overall, it is difficult to differentiate the options regarding both climate change adaptation and mitigation. Nevertheless, **Options 1 and 2** are considered to perform marginally more favourably given they direct growth to the most accessible parts of the County Borough. **Option 3** is considered to perform least favourably for the inverse reasons. Given the global scale of climate change, and that development will likely come forward with or without the plan, **no significant effects** are anticipated.

7. Developing the preferred approach

7.1 The preferred approach

- 7.1.1 Option J continues to be the preferred approach for the level of growth and Option 1 continues to be the preferred approach for the spatial distribution of development.
- 7.1.2 The assessments above demonstrate that Options H (continuation of the adopted LDP) and J (CCR growth in working age population) are the more sustainable scenarios in terms of the level of growth, whilst the same is true of Options 1 (2RLDP preferred strategy) and 2 (Caerphilly Basin focus) in terms of spatial distribution.
- 7.1.3 It is noted that the process adopted by the Council in terms of its consideration of growth scenarios and options for the spatial distribution of development are set out in the Population and Housing Growth Options Background Paper and supplementary evidence.

7.2 Council response to options for the level of growth

- 7.2.1 The justification for the selection of Option J is set out in Table 7.1 below:

Table 7.1: Consideration of the preferred growth option

Option	Outline reasons
Option A – WG 2018-based principal projection	This scenario is proposing a very low level of population growth (1%) over the next 15 years, as a result of negative natural change (higher deaths and lower births). Population growth is entirely due to migration. This scenario would result in a significant decline in both the 0 to 15 and working age population, and a significant increase in the older population (67+). The resultant households based on this population projection are also low (3.2%). This equates to a housing requirement of 170 dwellings a year or 198 dwellings in the adjusted membership rate scenario, which is well below past build rates.
Option H – Continuation of adopted LDP	This scenario projects an increase in population of 8.8%, or 8.3% in the membership adjusted scenario. This is higher than the population growth that has been experienced in recent years and would require a level of migration that is significantly higher than has been experienced when compared with long-term trends. However, this option would reverse the projected decline in the working age population by providing a stronger economically active population to support jobs growth in the County Borough. There will be an increase in the older population above what the principal projection indicates, but due to the profile of migrants, proportionately the growth of this group when compared to the principal projection would not be as significant as for the working age population, helping to support a more balanced population. It would also reduce the extent to which the school age population is projected to decline. In housebuilding terms, whilst 575 dwellings is the annual housing requirement in the adopted LDP, this level of housebuilding has not been met since 2008 and one of the consistent conclusions of successive Annual Monitoring Reports (AMRs) is that the housing requirements in the LDP have not been met. As the past delivery of

Option	Outline reasons
	housing has been lower than 575 per annum, it would need to be demonstrated that the figure of 575 would be deliverable.
Option I – Long-term housebuilding rates	The long-term housebuilding scenario clearly reflects a realistic level of housebuilding, given that it is what has been achieved over a long period, although it is ambitious when compared to shorter term trends. Overall, this dwelling led scenario would result in a positive increase in population (4.9% or 4.4% in the membership adjusted scenario) which is considered ambitious but deliverable. It will help to achieve a population structure where the economically active population can grow and help to support the provision of new jobs. However, it is questioned whether this level of growth is sufficiently ambitious to reflect Caerphilly's position within a National Growth Area, and the economic aspirations of CCR.
Option J – CCR growth in working age population	The level of growth proposed in this scenario would support regional growth aspirations in that there will be an appropriate labour force available to support future job creation in the region. The scenario would require an increase in migration to a level that is higher than long-term trends but is considered achievable. The dwelling requirement of 450 dwellings per annum is higher than long-term past trends but is at a level that is ambitious but deliverable.

7.3 Council response to options for the location of growth

7.3.1 In terms of developing the 2RLDP preferred strategy, the following six options were considered. These were assessed for ISA purposes, with the findings of the assessment being set out in the Initial ISA Report:

- Option 1 – continuation of the adopted LDP strategy;
- Option 2 – Heads of the Valleys Regeneration Area focus;
- Option 3 – Key strategic site (Maesycwmmmer);
- Option 4 – Metro investment focus;
- Option 5 – Town centre first;
- Option 6 – Caerphilly Basin focus.

7.3.2 As a result of this process, Options 3, 4 and 5 were chosen as constituent elements of a hybrid strategy for the initial Pre-Deposit Plan consultation in 2022, although, following a conformity objection from Welsh Government, Option 3, along with the site on which it was based, was later discontinued. As set out elsewhere in this report, the range of options has been reduced to five as a result of the earlier work concerning the consideration of the options and also taking into account those candidate sites that passed both stages of assessment. The options considered now are therefore:

- Option 1 – the 2RLDP preferred strategy;
- Option 2 – Caerphilly Basin focus;
- Option 3 – Heads of the Valleys Focus;
- Option 4 – continuation of the adopted LDP strategy;
- Option 5 – a higher growth strategy.

3.5 Whilst Options 1 (the 2RLDP preferred strategy) and 2 (Caerphilly Basin focus) are considered to be the more sustainable, the justification for the selection of the Metro investment focus and ‘town centre first’ as the basis of the 2RLDP strategy (Option 1) is set out in Table 7.2 below:

Table 7.2: Consideration of the preferred spatial option

Option	Outline reasons
Option 1 – 2RLDP Preferred Strategy	Metro Investment Focus This option seeks to focus development close to the stations on the Rhymney Valley and Ebbw Valley rail lines and to the bus stations at Blackwood and Nelson. This focus accords with the Future Wales ambitions to maximise the benefit of the investment in the Metro. This option can deliver significant benefits in terms of supporting and increasing sustainable transport usage, whilst increasing accessibility. The effect of this option is to develop sites near and within existing settlements, and as such, this option increases pressures on urban open spaces that could adversely impact the quality of life in those settlements. In addition, this option could exclude sustainably located and beneficial sites that are located further from transport nodes than less beneficial sites. Despite the negatives, this option could be taken forward as the preferred strategy for the emerging 2RLDP. Town Centres First This option seeks to focus new development towards the principal town centres of Caerphilly, Risca/ Pontymister, Ystrad Mynach, Blackwood and Bargoed, and the local centres of Bedwas, Nelson, Newbridge and Rhymney. This option accords directly with the Future Wales policy advocating the Town Centre first approach. This option is keenly aligned to placemaking and sustainable settlements. Again, this option seeks to direct new development within existing settlements, which is likely to place urban open spaces under significant pressure for development and could result in disadvantages in terms of the quality of life in these settlements. In addition, this option may miss out on more sustainably located sites, particularly those that are near transport nodes outside of the principal and local centres. Overall, this option is one that could be taken forward as the Preferred Strategy for the emerging 2RLDP.
Option 2 – Caerphilly Basin Focus	This option seeks to target new development within the Caerphilly Basin, in accordance with the Future Wales statement, which states that Caerphilly is a strategic location for sustainable economic growth and regeneration. This option would seek to maximise benefits from the significant level of regeneration investment that is going into Caerphilly

Option

Outline reasons

town by locating a significant proportion of the 2RLDP requirement into this area.

This option would require both greenfield and brownfield development to enable sufficient land to be available to meet the 2RLDP requirements. Greenfield land release would reverse the adopted LDP strategy and would place the landscape within the Caerphilly Basin at threat from adverse impact from new developments. It would also bring previously highly contentious sites into consideration as allocations, and this is likely to give rise to significant objection. The issue of the greenbelt around Caerphilly, although strictly not a matter for the 2RLDP, does come into consideration, although the starting point for any greenbelt boundary is whether sufficient land for future expansion of settlements has been allowed.

This option would provide the opportunity to deliver new development near the Caerphilly interchange and the town centre, delivering sustainable development in an area of high demand and social housing need.

Despite the strong pros for this option, the potential for adverse impact to the landscape, the potential impact of the greenbelt, and the highly controversial nature of greenfield development in the Caerphilly Basin, means that it is considered unlikely that a strategy under this option would be successful in realising an adopted plan. Consequently, this option is not considered to be a realistic option for consideration for the Preferred Strategy of the emerging 2RLDP.

Option 3 – Heads of the Valleys Focus

It is a Council aim to regenerate the Heads of the Valleys (HoV) area of the County Borough to address its inherent socio-economic challenges and deprivation. A strategy that seeks to focus a significant level of development into the HoV area would certainly assist with the regeneration of the area. However, in preparing the plan, the Council will need to demonstrate that the sites allocated to meet the 2RLDP housing and employment land requirements are viable and can be delivered in the plan period.

Unfortunately, the HoV area is an area that has low land values and low house values as well. Because of this, it is extremely difficult to demonstrate that any sites in this area are viable and can be delivered within the plan period. Consequently, only a very small number, if any sites, could be identified to meet the 2RLDP requirements, which does not reflect the purpose of the strategy option to identify a significant amount of the 2RLDP requirement in the area. Given these issues, this option is not appropriate to be considered for the emerging 2RLDP as it will not deliver the level of development in the HoV area that the strategy would require.

It should be noted, however, that whilst this option is not appropriate to be used as the 2RLDP strategy, this does not prevent the plan identifying aspirational sites (ones that could come forward, but do not count towards meeting the requirement) to try to increase development in the area.

Option 4 – Continuation of the adopted LDP strategy

There are many issues arising from this option, but the key issue is the parameters set out in the strategy for new development, i.e. within settlement boundaries and on brownfield land only in the southern connections corridor. Given these restrictions, there are very few sites that could be brought forward to meet this strategy and, as a result, there are insufficient sites available to deliver this strategy. For this

Option	Outline reasons
	reason, it is considered that this strategy is not appropriate for the emerging 2RLDP.
Option 5 – Higher Growth Option	This option includes all those candidate sites submitted for housing that passed both stages of the candidate site assessment, and that are not otherwise contributing to the housing land requirement as either commitments or completions. Taking account of the completion/commitment and windfall figures, this would result in a total number of units slightly in excess of the 575 per annum requirement that would be delivered by option 4, although this would doubtless end up being deficient once a flexibility allowance were to be added. In addition, it does not incorporate a mechanism for the sites in less sustainable locations, or those that do not necessarily align with the settlement hierarchy, to be discounted. Therefore, this option is not considered suitable in terms of the sustainability of its pattern of distribution, nor does it align with the level of growth that the chosen option (J) is seeking to deliver.

8. ISA findings of the Deposit Plan at this stage

8.1 Introduction

- 8.1.1 The aim of this chapter is to present an appraisal of the 2RLDP, as currently presented in the Deposit Plan.

8.2 Methodology

- 8.2.1 The appraisal of the Deposit Plan identifies and evaluates ‘likely significant effects’ of the plan on the baseline, drawing on the ISA objectives identified through scoping (see Table 3.1) as a methodological framework.
- 8.2.2 Every effort is made to predict effects accurately; however, this is inherently challenging given the high-level nature of the policies under consideration and understanding of the baseline (now and in the future under a ‘no plan’ scenario) that is inevitably limited. Given uncertainties there is a need to make assumptions, e.g., in relation to plan implementation and aspects of the baseline that might be impacted. Assumptions are made cautiously and explained within the text (with the aim to strike a balance between comprehensiveness and conciseness / accessibility). In many instances, given reasonable assumptions, it is not possible to predict ‘significant effects’, but it is nonetheless possible and helpful to comment on merits (or otherwise) of the Plan in more general terms.
- 8.2.3 Finally, it is important to note that effects are predicted taking account of the effect characteristics and ‘significance criteria’ presented within Schedules 1 and 2 of the SEA Regulations.¹¹ So, for example, account is taken of the probability, duration, frequency and reversibility of effects as far as possible. Cumulative effects are also considered, i.e., the potential for the Plan to impact an aspect of the baseline when implemented alongside other plans, programmes, and projects. Explicit reference is made within the appraisal as appropriate (given the need to balance the desire of systematic appraisal with a desire to ensure conciseness / accessibility).

8.3 Overview of the Deposit Plan

- 8.3.1 The plan identifies eight key issues which underpin the vision for the plan: climate change; housing; mental and physical health and wellbeing; placemaking; cultural and heritage; active and sustainable travel; economic growth; and natural environment. The vision, which is set out in Chapter 2 of this report, highlights Caerphilly’s location at the heart of the Cardiff Capital Region, as well as the opportunities offered by the South Wales Metro. The eight objectives which follow on from the vision are also listed in Chapter 2.
- 8.3.2 The level of growth proposed through the plan hinges on the ambitious economic and job growth aspirations of the Cardiff Capital Region’s City Deal. It also recognises Caerphilly’s location within the National Growth Area identified in Future Wales, which seeks a commensurate level of growth to

¹¹ Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004

be provided in this area. In light of this, the plan makes provision for 6,165 homes over the plan period, plus a flexibility allowance, including 1,906 affordable homes. This growth scenario supports a projected increase in both overall population and the working-age population. The plan allocates 40.3ha of employment land across a range of sites. It sets the policy framework to support job growth as well as policies designed to facilitate sustainable growth across key foundational sectors.

8.3.3 In terms of the spatial distribution of growth, the 2RLDP sets out two key elements for the location of development, both derived from policies contained in Future Wales:

- A Town Centre First focus – this 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. As such, the preferred strategy focuses new residential development within the tier 1 settlements, comprising Principal Town Centres and Local Centres. However, it is recognised that a level of growth in suitable lower tier settlements will also be required to meet the housing need figure.
- A Metro Investment focus – 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. Focusing new development in and around tier 1 and 2 settlements, and around rail stations, bus stations and interchanges, will contribute to the overall aim of reducing the need to travel and increasing modal shift to walking, cycling and public transport, the underlying aims of Future Wales.

8.3.4 The policies within the policy framework – which comprise strategic and development management (DM) policies – have been broadly arranged into the four themes of PPW:

- Strategic and Spatial Choices – Strategy, Well-being, Climate and Nature Emergencies, Placemaking
- Active and Social Places – Housing, Transport, Retail and Commercial Centres, Community Facilities, Leisure and Recreation
- Productive and Enterprising Places – Employment, Tourism and Visitor Economy, Digital Infrastructure, Energy and Decarbonisation, Minerals and Waste
- Distinctive and Natural Places – Landscape, Nature and Biodiversity, Green and Blue Infrastructure, Development in Open Countryside, Historic Environment

8.3.5 These policies are discussed under the relevant ISA themes below.

8.4 Economy and employment

Spatial strategy

8.4.1 The strategy for the 2RLDP (Policy SP1) makes provision for 40.3ha of employment land for class B use. Policy EM1 allocates the following employment sites for class B use:

- EM1.1 – Heads of the Valleys Industrial Estate, Rhymney (5.2ha)
 - EM1.2 – Land at Ty Du, Nelson (2.8ha)
 - EM1.3 – Tredomen Extension, Ystrad Mynach (4.2ha)
 - EM1.4 – Plateau 1, Oakdale Business Park, Oakdale (17.8ha)
 - EM1.5 – Plateau 2, Oakdale Business Park, Oakdale (7ha)
 - EM1.6 – Plateau 4, Oakdale Business Park, Oakdale (2ha)
 - EM1.7 – Land at Trecenydd Industrial Estate, Caerphilly (1.3ha)
 - EM1.8 – Hawtin Park North, Pontllanfraith (4.5ha) (note: this site does not count towards the employment land supply)
- 8.4.2 The plan performs well by directing employment growth across the County Borough, including the north (Rhymney), east (Oakdale), south (Caerphilly), west (Nelson and Ystrad Mynach), and central region (Pontllanfraith). This will likely ensure that residents across the borough benefit from new employment opportunities, and that these opportunities are accessible.
- 8.4.3 Land is also allocated for three regeneration opportunities – all in Caerphilly Town – through Policy RC4. These are RC4.1 (Land next to Cardiff Road); RC4.2 (Pentrebanne Street); and RC4.3 (Caerphilly Transport Interchange). As the County Borough's main settlement, it is considered appropriate to focus regeneration opportunities in Caerphilly Town.
- 8.4.4 Regarding the housing allocations set out in Policy HO1, 16 of the 20 sites are within walking distance (<800m) of the nearest employment site. In this respect, the spatial strategy performs well by delivering housing in locations accessible to existing employment sites.
- 8.4.5 It is also noted that only two sites are within walking distance of the nearest rail station, whilst seven are beyond 3km of one. Whilst it is not possible to determine the walking distance of each site to the nearest bus stop, it is considered that the majority will be accessible to train stations via public transport where they are not close enough to use active travel modes.

Other policies

- 8.4.6 The retail and commercial centre hierarchy is set out under Policy SP11. Principal Town Centres are placed at the top of this hierarchy, followed by Local Centres. Proposals for retail, commercial or community-oriented uses should adhere to this hierarchy as the basis for the application of a sequential approach to the location of development. In doing so, the plan will likely contribute to the diversification of town centres, ensuring they are able to survive changing shopping habits and maintain / improve footfall.
- 8.4.7 Policy RC3 identifies three existing out of town retail areas: RC3.1 (Gallagher Retail Park, Caerphilly); RC3.2 (Blackwood Gate Retail Park); and RC3.3 (Castle View Retail Park). The policy sets out criteria which proposals for class A1, A2 and A3 uses on new sites or existing out of town locations must meet. This is with the aim of preserving and enhancing the vitality, viability and attractiveness of existing principal town and local centres.

- 8.4.8 Policy SP12 sets out that a range of sites are allocated and protected for class B use, to be categorised as follows: business parks; primary employment sites; and secondary employment sites. Policy EM1 allocates employment sites for class B use (see above), whilst Policy EM2 sets out 37 sites which are safeguarded for class B use.
- 8.4.9 Managing tourism growth is the focus of Policy TM1 where sets out how the Council will seek to expand and enhance sustainable tourism in the County Borough. This is further strengthened through Policies TM2, TM3 and TM4. This is important given tourism is a vital contributor to Caerphilly's economy – particularly in relation to the Bannau Brycheiniog National Park to the north of the County Borough – and strengthening this is likely to provide opportunities for regeneration and job creation. This is particularly important for the Heads of the Valleys area which is the most deprived part of Caerphilly.

Cumulative effects

- 8.4.10 Caerphilly's location within the CCR gives it a broad regional context, and its location to the north of Cardiff and Newport places it in a strong strategic location in terms of the regional economy. In this respect, there is potential for cumulative positive effects on the regional economy resulting from proposed growth in the County Borough and vice versa.
- 8.4.11 The CCR's City Deal identifies regional economic challenges and opportunities for the ten authorities which comprise the CCR, including Caerphilly. Addressing economic challenges and maximising opportunities are key objectives for the City Deal, which has the potential to lead to significant positive cumulative effects for the County Borough in the long term.
- 8.4.12 Caerphilly falls within the National Growth Area of Cardiff, Newport and the Valleys, which is identified through Future Wales as the focus for growth and investment in the South East Region. Development proposals in both Cardiff and Newport are likely to be of particular significance in terms of cumulative effects for the County Borough.
- 8.4.13 The Cardiff Local Development Plan (LDP), adopted in 2016, highlights that 9,700 people commute into Cardiff from Caerphilly each day. Caerphilly's 2RLDP focuses a level of growth to the Principal Town and Centre of Caerphilly, which may lead to increased commuter levels between Cardiff and Caerphilly. The Cardiff LDP proposes a range of bus corridor enhancements, including the Northern Bus Corridor, which is relevant to the A469 Caerphilly Road / A470 Trunk Road. In combination with the South Wales Metro, this has the potential to promote modal shift towards sustainable transport. It is noted that Cardiff Council is currently preparing a new LDP to cover the period 2021 to 2036.
- 8.4.14 The Newport LDP, adopted in 2015, seeks to protect and enhance National Cycle Route 4 (Caerphilly to Newport and Chepstow), which will lead to improved active transport connections between the County Borough and Newport. Increased rates of housebuilding in Newport could also affect the level of development in Risca / Pontymister, which is near the County Borough's border with Newport. Whilst growth could increase traffic between Caerphilly and Newport, strategic infrastructure delivery such as the South

Wales Metro is likely to reduce impact on the road network in the longer term. It is noted that Newport City Council is currently preparing a new LDP to cover the period 2021 to 2036.

- 8.4.15 The visitor economy is potentially significant in Caerphilly, which is largely due to its proximity to the Bannau Brycheiniog National Park to the north of the County Borough. The Brecon Beacons National Park LDP, adopted in 2013, proposes no significant growth during the plan period / near its boundary with Caerphilly. However, growth within Caerphilly, particularly in Rhymney in the north of the County Borough, has the potential to capitalise on its position near the National Park, supporting the visitor economy.
- 8.4.16 There is also potential for cumulative effects in relation to development proposed to the east of Caerphilly, in Torfaen and Blaenau Gwent, as well as Merthyr Tydfil and Rhondda Cynon Taf to the west. This is particularly relevant to the central northern portion of the County Borough, including Nelson, Ystrad Mynach, Pontllanfraith and Newbridge, which are located along the A472. Growth in these neighbouring authorities is likely to compliment growth in Caerphilly, improving cross-boundary connections and strengthening the South East Region as a whole.

Summary of likely effects

- 8.4.17 Overall, the plan is considered likely to lead to **major positive effects** under the economy and employment ISA topic. Not only does the plan allocate land to meet the County Borough's employment land need, but it also encourages regeneration opportunities; directs housing growth in proximity to employment hubs or in locations with good connectivity to these hubs; protects existing retail and commercial areas; and promotes tourism. In doing so, the plan is likely to bolster the local economy and create new jobs for both current and future residents.

8.5 Population and communities

Spatial strategy

- 8.5.1 A key consideration under the population and communities ISA topic is the provision of the right number of homes in the right places, including delivering a sufficient mix of housing types and tenures to meet different identified needs within the community.
- 8.5.2 The strategy for the 2RLDP (Policy SP1) makes provision for 7,151 new homes to meet a housing requirement of 6,165 (based on a 16% flexibility allowance), including 1,906 affordable homes. The spatial distribution of this growth will be in the most sustainable settlements, aligned with a town centre first focus and a metro investment focus. The breakdown for these houses is provided under Policy SP7, and the allocations are set out under Policy HO1. Policy HO2 identifies housing-led regeneration opportunities, whilst the affordable housing target is set out under Policy SP8.
- 8.5.3 Regarding the housing allocations set out in Policy HO1, only nine of the 20 sites are within walking distance (<800m) of the nearest community facility. However, it is recognised that new development could bring forward need community facilities, particularly through planning obligations (S106

Agreements) and the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL). The policy framework (particularly Policy PO1, see below) strengthens this further.

- 8.5.4 Only five sites are within walking distance of the nearest retail area, however only one is beyond 3km of one. Whilst it is not possible to determine the walking distance of each site to the nearest bus stop, it is considered that the majority will be accessible to retail areas via either public transport or other means of active travel (i.e. bicycle). It is also noted that local shops will likely be accessible to some of these sites, meaning that residents will not necessarily have to rely on retail areas to meet their day-to-day needs.

Other policies

- 8.5.5 In terms of affordable housing, Policy SP9 states that planning obligations will be secured to ensure that there is an appropriate level of affordable housing provision, in accordance with an assessment of local need, for all allocated and windfall housing sites. In addition, Policy HO3 outlines that permission will be granted for small sites for affordable housing in or adjoining rural settlements on land where housing would not normally be permitted on the basis that it meets the criteria set out within the policy.
- 8.5.6 The settlement hierarchy is set out under Policy SP2, which states that growth and new development will be targeted towards the tier 1 and 2 settlements in the first instance, then towards the tier 3 settlements. The policy noted that tier 4 and 5 settlement can only accommodate small-scale infill and logical rounding-off development. This will ensure that development is directed to locations which are well-connected, hubs for employment, and have a range of services and facilities, supporting community vitality.
- 8.5.7 Policy PM1 requires development proposals to provide mixed and integrated uses by ensuring access to local services, facilities and public spaces; delivering varied housing types and tenures, including affordable homes; and coordinating development with infrastructure and utilities. In doing so the policy aligns with Planning Policy Wales (PPW) and Future Wales, which place placemaking at the heart of the planning system in Wales.
- 8.5.8 Policy PM2 sets out that development proposals must have regard for all material planning considerations relevant to the level of development applied for. This is to ensure an appropriate mix of uses that reflect the role and function of settlements and a high standard of design. In doing so the policy seeks to safeguard the health and wellbeing of communities.
- 8.5.9 Policy PO1 highlights the Council's intention to secure planning obligations (S106 Agreements) where they are necessary to make the development acceptable in planning terms. Such obligations may include affordable housing and on-site school and ancillary facilities generated by the development proposal. Infrastructure will also be secured through levy receipts under the CIL Regulations 2010 (as amended).
- 8.5.10 Finally, community and social facilities are identified through Policy CF1, and their protection and enhancement (as well as that of new community facilities) is covered by Policy CF2. This is important given opportunities for new community and social facilities are often limited, especially where these are not commercially funded but subsidised by the Council.

Cumulative effects

- 8.5.11 Development proposed within Caerphilly has the potential to lead to positive cumulative effects alongside growth proposed by neighbouring local authority areas within the CCR, particularly in relation to the supply of a sufficient quantity of the new homes in sustainable locations.
- 8.5.12 Both the adopted and emerging LDPs of the surrounding local authority areas propose meeting or exceeding their identified housing need. In this respect, the proposed housing delivery of the 2RLDP has the potential to contribute towards regional growth. The coordinated delivery of new homes has the potential to draw people from outside of the CCR into the region.
- 8.5.13 In this context, there are likely to be positive cumulative effects associated with region-wide growth. These will be strengthened by enhancements to cross-boundary sustainable transport infrastructure proposed through the CCR City Deal. It is likely that this will improve access to existing services and facilities available at a range of Principal Settlements, including Newport and Cardiff.

Summary of likely effects

- 8.5.14 Overall, the plan is considered likely to lead to **major positive effects** under the population and communities ISA topic. This is primarily because it allocates sites which will deliver housing which exceeds the County Borough's housing requirement, including the provision of affordable housing. Moreover, the plan directs growth to the most accessible locations; delivers a mix of housing types; seeks to deliver new, and protect existing, community and social facilities; and encourages good design.

8.6 Health and wellbeing

Spatial strategy

- 8.6.1 A key aspect of achieving positive health and wellbeing outcomes through new development is the extent to which residents are able to make healthy travel choices for accessing key services, facilities, and employment opportunities. In practice this means locating development within reasonable walking or cycling distance of such services and facilities and linking it with suitable walking and cycling infrastructure.
- 8.6.2 In relation to the above, 14 of the 20 sites allocated through Policy HO1 are within walking distance (<800m) to the nearest cycleway, whilst all sites are within walking distance of the nearest public right of way (PRoW). As such, the spatial strategy will likely increase opportunities for healthy living by promoting active / sustainable travel. This is in addition to protecting and enhancing green infrastructure and maximising placemaking opportunities.
- 8.6.3 Focusing on air quality, none of the site allocations are within proximity (250m) of an Air Quality Management Area (AQMA). In this respect, the spatial strategy is unlikely to lead to health issues for new residents, related to poor air quality, although it is recognised that localised air quality issues could still arise as a result of new development areas.

- 8.6.4 All site allocations are within walking distance (<800m) to the nearest leisure facility, and the spatial strategy performs well in this respect, as accessibility to leisure facilities will likely encourage the uptake of exercise, contributing to the health and wellbeing of residents.

Other policies

- 8.6.5 Policy SP3 requires development proposals demonstrate how they contribute positively to the wellbeing of current and future communities by promoting health and quality of life; social inclusion and cohesion; economic wellbeing; environmental sustainability; and cultural and community identity. The policy also states that all major development proposals should be accompanied by a Health Impact Assessment (HIA). This aligns with the statutory duties under the Well-being of Future Generations (WBFG) (Wales) Act 2015 and reflects national planning priorities set out in PPW and Future Wales.
- 8.6.6 Policy SP6 sets out placemaking principles which are designed to ensure development proposals enhance overall wellbeing. These include creating a rich mix of compatible uses; providing a variety of housing types and tenures; supporting walkability; increasing population density; improving public transport and local facilities; establishing a permeable network of streets; and integrating green and blue infrastructure. This also aligns the WBFG Act and PPW, and the plan performs well in this respect.
- 8.6.7 Policy PM1 requires development proposals to safeguard amenity and usability by securing good living conditions; minimising the impacts of noise, artificial light, dust and odours; protecting the amenity of neighbours from overlooking, overshadowing and overbearing; and providing EV charging. This is important given PPW and Future Wales place placemaking at the heart of the planning system in Wales.
- 8.6.8 Policy PM2 sets out that development proposals must have regard for all material planning considerations relevant to the level of development applied for. This is to ensure proposals are designed in accordance with best practice in terms of designing out crime; sustainable transport and accessibility principles to provide full, easy and safe access for all; and the incorporation of mitigation measures that improve and maintain air quality. These measures will all contribute to improved health and wellbeing.
- 8.6.9 Policy PO1 highlights the Council's intention to secure planning obligations (S106 Agreements) where they are necessary to make the development acceptable in planning terms. Such obligations may include green infrastructure, including on site formal and informal open and leisure space and community growing space. This will contribute towards both the physical and mental wellbeing of residents.
- 8.6.10 Policy LE1 sets out that all housing developments of 10 units or more, or greater than 0.3ha in size, should provide leisure facilities to meet the Field in Trust Standards as part of the proposed development. The policy highlights that this provision should be delivered on-site where possible. This will also contribute to physical and mental wellbeing.
- 8.6.11 Finally, Policy EP1 is in place to ensure development does not introduce, or exacerbate, an unacceptable risk of harm to public health or the

environment. This includes (but is not limited to) water, air, noise, dust or light, pollution. This reflects statutory duties under the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004, the Environment (Wales) Act 2016, and the WBFG Act, which require development plans to prevent harm and promote sustainable development.

Cumulative effects

- 8.6.12 Numerous PRoWs within Caerphilly provide cross-county access. This is particularly true for the eastern and southern parts of Caerphilly, where there is a denser coverage of PRoWs. In this respect, there are opportunities to strengthen cross boundary active travel infrastructure, delivering a coherent consolidated network with neighbouring authorities. Due to the Welsh Government's support for a modal shift to active travel, individual authorities are increasingly seeking to incentivise walking and cycling. These efforts will likely contribute towards cross-boundary working, delivering positive cumulative effects on the overall health and wellbeing of residents in the CCR.
- 8.6.13 The Brecon Beacons National Park LDP¹², adopted in 2013, reiterates the role of the National Park as a destination for accessing the natural environment. Growth within Caerphilly will enable a greater number of people to access the National Park for recreation and leisure, with associated health and wellbeing benefits. Of relevance to this is the delivery of growth in Rhymney, and the wider Heads of the Valleys Regeneration Area, which are the most accessible locations to the National Park. Whilst growth is concentrated in the centre of the County Borough, this area, alongside the Caerphilly Basin, can access Rhymney via train, enabling wider access to the National Park.

Summary of likely effects

- 8.6.14 Overall, the plan is considered likely to lead to **moderate positive effects** under the health and wellbeing ISA topic. This primarily reflects the provisions made within the policy framework, including promoting good design and living conditions; providing green infrastructure and leisure facilities; and reducing the risk of harm to public health. It is also recognised that delivering housing and employment growth in line with identified needs will contribute positively towards health and wellbeing.

8.7 Equalities, diversity and social inclusion

Spatial strategy

- 8.7.1 The focus of the equalities, diversity and social inclusion ISA topic is reducing poverty and inequality, tackling social exclusion, and promoting community cohesion. Many aspects of equalities, diversity and social inclusion do not have a spatial dimension and are unlikely to be directly affected by the spatial distribution of growth through the spatial strategy. However, it is likely that the overall provision of land for housing and employment will affect underlying influences, such as access to employment, housing and community facilities. Distributing growth across the County

¹² Ibid.

Borough in a proportionate manner, which the spatial strategy does, will help support and sustain a hierarchy of vibrant centres, particularly in the Principal Town and Local Centres.

8.7.2 Regarding the overall Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation (WIMD) (2025), four of the 20 sites allocated under Policy HO1 are ranked amongst the top 500 (where 1 is most deprived and 1,917 is least deprived). Notably, Caerphilly is the fifth most deprived local authority in terms of overall WIMD. The most deprived sites are:

- Castle Fields, Rhymney (Site 2) (4.9ha) – ranked 278
- Land at Coed-y-Brain House, Aberbargoed (6.3ha) – ranked 369
- Land at Energlyn, Caerphilly (1.7ha) – ranked 395
- Land at Cefn Llwynau Farm, Penallta Road, Penybryn (9.9ha) – ranked 454

8.7.3 In this respect the spatial strategy performs relatively well by delivering a proportionate amount of growth in more deprived areas of the county borough. However, it is noted that new development will not automatically lead to improvements in this respect, and the delivery of affordable and accessible housing is a key deliverable in terms of tackling inequality. This is addressed through the policy framework below, as well as under the population and communities and transport and movement ISA topics.

8.7.4 There is an economic and educational dimension to tackling deprivation, as providing opportunities to acquire skills, through either formal education or apprenticeships, supports access to high-quality, stable employment. In this respect, by making provision for 40.3ha of employment land for class B use (Policy SP1), including the more deprived northern part of Caerphilly (with an allocated employment site in Rhymney), the 2RLDP performs well.

8.7.5 The proposed development, particularly in well-connected areas, could help support the vitality of existing communities, strengthen town centres and local centres as cultural hubs, support population retention and improve access to Welsh-medium education and services. These measures are considered likely to positively affect the continued use of Welsh language. The challenge to this would be inward migration and tackling existing negative trends.

Other policies

8.7.6 Housing mix and density is covered by Policy HO5, which sets out that development must create mixed, socially inclusive, sustainable communities by providing a range of house types and sizes to meet the needs of residents at an efficient and appropriate density. This will ultimately contribute towards equality by addressing the needs of all members of the local community, and the plan performs well in this respect.

8.7.7 Gypsy and traveller accommodation is addressed through Policy HO8, which allocates site HO8.1 (Land at Former Station House, Rhymney) for the provision of a total of 12 pitches. Policy HO9 sets out criteria which must be met by proposals for the provision of new, or extensions to existing, Gypsy and Traveller sites in order for them to be permitted. In doing so the plan

addresses the statutory duty of local authorities set out under the Housing (Wales) Act 2014 and contributes towards the fair and equal treatment of Gypsy and Traveller communities, enabling families to maintain their cultural traditions and way of life.

- 8.7.8 Social inclusion is also addressed through Policy SP10, which covers sustainable transport. The supporting text highlights that improving the ability of residents to access services and facilities is a key factor in realising changes with regard to addressing social exclusion in disadvantaged areas. Whilst the plan acknowledges that a significant proportion of the improvement will be through non-land-use related factors, physical access to services and facilities can be enhanced by appropriate location and design.

Cumulative effects

- 8.7.9 There is a degree of crossover between this topic and other ISA topics, particularly in relation to the role of affordable housing and educational opportunities in tackling deep-rooted poverty and deprivation. In this respect, the fact that Caerphilly and its neighbouring local authority areas are all proposing to meet or exceed their identified housing needs is a positive, as this will likely provide the opportunity to meet complex housing needs within particularly deprived communities.
- 8.7.10 Additionally, it is recognised that the proposed enhancements to regional public transport through the CCR City Deal and South Wales Metro rollout will potentially improve access to employment and training opportunities, as well as key services and facilities. Increased accessibility may lead to a reduction in social exclusion, which is a key contributor to deprivation.
- 8.7.11 Overall, it is considered that cumulative effects in relation to equalities, diversity and social exclusion are likely to be minor. Whilst some aspects of this ISA topic are addressed at a local level, the collective actions of the local authority areas at a regional scale are likely to deliver similar benefits, or potentially even greater benefits, from all the investment being stimulated through the City Deal.

Summary of likely effects

- 8.7.12 Overall, the plan is considered likely to lead to **moderate positive effects** under the equalities, diversity and social inclusion ISA topic. The spatial strategy includes sites in the more deprived parts of the County Borough, whilst the policy framework considers the housing needs of all members of the community, including Gypsy and Traveller communities.

8.8 Transport and movement

Spatial strategy

- 8.8.1 By directing growth the Principal Town and Local Centres the spatial strategy is likely to ensure that new development areas are in accessible locations.
- 8.8.2 Regarding the housing allocations set out in Policy HO1, 14 of the 20 sites are within walking distance (<800m) to the nearest cycleway, whilst all sites are within walking distance of the nearest PRow. This will likely encourage the uptake of active travel to access wider services and facilities, amenities,

employment opportunities, and educational facilities, and the spatial strategy performs well in this respect.

- 8.8.3 In relation to the above, the Active Travel (Wales) Act 2013¹³ requires all local authorities in Wales to deliver improvements to their network of active travel routes and facilities. Caerphilly's PRow network is extensive, with a high concentration of public footpaths in the northern, eastern and southern extents of the County Borough. Although these are largely concentrated in and around the Principal and Local Centres, they also extend out into the countryside and provide connections with neighbouring local authority areas. In this respect, the spatial strategy provides opportunities to link new development areas with the existing active travel network.
- 8.8.4 Only two sites are within walking distance of the nearest rail station, whilst seven are beyond 3km of one. Whilst it is not possible to determine the walking distance of each site to the nearest bus stop, it is considered that the majority will be accessible to train stations via public transport where they are not close enough to use active travel modes.
- 8.8.5 The behavioural shift in people's commuting patterns is supported by the spatial strategy through its attempt to ensure the sustainable co-location of land uses within the Principal Town and Local Centres. In doing so, it encourages the continuation of increased cycling and walking activity and home working patterns as highlighted through Building Better Places¹⁴. The spatial strategy also seeks to maximise opportunities to support modal shift through a range of policies which seek to incentivise walking and cycling, and these are discussed below.

Other policies

- 8.8.6 Policy PM1 requires development proposals to shape built form and movement by prioritising walking, cycling and public transport; creating coherent built form with clear street hierarchy; and delivering high-quality streets and spaces. This will help encourage the use of active travel and public transport, thereby minimising traffic and congestion in the County Borough by reducing the number of private cars on local roads.
- 8.8.7 Policy PM2 sets out that development proposals must have regard for all material planning considerations relevant to the level of development applied for. This is to ensure a location and layout that reflects the sustainable transport hierarchy and promotes modal shift; sustainable transport and accessibility principles to provide full, easy and safe access for all; and higher densities where accessible to key transport nodes. This aligns with national policy, including PPW and Future Wales.
- 8.8.8 Policy PO1 highlights the Council's intention to secure planning obligations (S106 Agreements) where they are necessary to make the development acceptable in planning terms. Such obligations may include infrastructure for walking, cycling, public transport and parking to link development schemes to the strategic transport and active travel network. This is in addition to highway improvements necessary to make the development acceptable in highway and planning terms.

¹³ Legislation.GOV.UK (2013): [Active Travel \(Wales\) Act 2013](#)

¹⁴ Legislation.GOV.UK (2013): [Active Travel \(Wales\) Act 2013](#)

- 8.8.9 Sustainable transport is the focus of Policy SP10, which states that new development must support an enhanced transport network that increases the proportion of journeys being undertaken by sustainable travel modes. This will be achieved through a range of measures, including (but not limited to) siting new developments in sustainable and accessible locations; ensuring that new development is integrated with existing active travel routes; providing bicycle storage and cyclist facilities; and supporting and facilitating the delivery of the South Wales Metro and Regional Transport Plan.

Cumulative effects

- 8.8.10 There is potential for both positive and negative cumulative effects in relation to the transport and movement ISA topic, particularly in relation to cross boundary roads and railways, which stand to be impacted by development both within Caerphilly and the wider South East Wales region.
- 8.8.11 Most residents in the County Borough travel to work by car or van (59.7% by driving, and 5.5% as a passenger) according to the 2021 Census. Furthermore, fewer residents travel to work on foot or by bicycle in Caerphilly in comparison to the average for Wales (by bicycle - 0.5% in Caerphilly, 1.1% in Wales; on foot – 5.2% in Caerphilly, 7.1% in Wales). Generally, the use of buses, minibuses or coaches is broadly the same, however the use of trains in Caerphilly is higher than the average for Wales (1.5% in Caerphilly in comparison to 0.8% for Wales).
- 8.8.12 In respect of the above, improvements to cross-boundary public transport connections will be vital for encouraging residents to make a modal shift from the private car to trains and public buses. The South Wales Metro is key in this respect, with three quarters of a billion pounds currently invested in upgrading the Core Valleys Lines, including the Rhymney line. Modal shift is likely to result from delivering a reliable, easy to use and well-integrated active and public transport network across the South East Wales region, which will require collaboration across the relevant local authorities. In this respect, sustainable transport is a key theme of the neighbouring local authority area's LDPs, particularly Cardiff and Newport which are key transport hubs.
- 8.8.13 Notably, growth in the Heads of the Valleys Regeneration Area, whilst likely to reduce levels of existing deprivation in this area, could lead to increased pressure on the road network, particularly the A465. In this respect, development in neighbouring Merthyr Tydfil and Rhondda Cynon Taf is particularly relevant. The adopted LDPs for both these local authority areas safeguard land for the A465 dualling, which will significantly increase the capacity of the strategic highway.
- 8.8.14 Overall, cumulative effects in relation to public transport are projected to be largely positive, particularly in response to the CCR's City Deal and the South East Metro, which will bolster cross-boundary connectivity in South East Wales.

Summary of likely effects

- 8.8.15 Overall, the plan is considered likely to lead to **moderate positive effects** under the transport and movement ISA topic. The spatial strategy seeks to ensure future development has good access to active travel and public

transport infrastructure, thereby encouraging modal shift away from the private vehicle. Meanwhile, the policy framework seeks to bolster this through means including good design and securing planning obligations.

8.9 Natural resources

Spatial strategy

- 8.9.1 Poor air quality in the County Borough is largely related to vehicle emissions, as evidenced by the two AQMAs in the County Borough: Caerphilly Town Centre AQMA and Hafodyrynys Road AQMA. By distributing growth across the County Borough – rather than concentrating it in the Caerphilly Basin where development pressure is highest – the spatial strategy will likely avoid worsening air quality in this part of the County Borough.
- 8.9.2 Growth will be located near existing sustainable transport nodes, and therefore the spatial strategy further reduces the likelihood of worsening air quality. Directing growth to the County Borough's most sustainable locations is considered to encourage the uptake of active / public transport and support a reduced reliance on the private vehicle.
- 8.9.3 Regarding the housing allocations set out in Policy HO1, none of the 20 sites are underlain by best and most versatile (BMV) agricultural land (Grades 1-3a). Hence, the spatial strategy is unlikely to lead to the loss of productive agricultural land, and it performs well in this respect.
- 8.9.4 In terms of mineral resources, five of the 20 sites overlap with a mineral safeguarding area (MSA) for coal and therefore have the potential to lead to the sterilisation of these resources. These sites are:
- Castle Fields, Rhymney (Site 2) (4.9ha) – 99% overlap with East of Rhymney
 - Land south of A472, Tredomen (16.3ha) – 70% overlap with East of Nelson
 - Land at Cefn Llwynau Farm, Penallta Road, Penybryn (9.9ha) – 60% overlap with East of Nelson
 - Land at Pengam Road, Penpedairheol (8.2ha) – 58% overlap with East of Nelson
 - Land at Ty Du Farm, Nelson (6ha) – 14% overlap with East of Nelson
- 8.9.5 It is noted that there is no longer a requirement to safeguard coal resources. In addition, the boundaries of MSAs will be adjusted accordingly to allow for growth without sterilising or preventing access to these resources.
- 8.9.6 In terms of water resources / quality, three of the 20 sites are within 250m of a main river, and therefore development in these locations has the potential to impact water quality. These sites are:
- Welsh Egg Farm, Caerphilly (1ha) – 48m from the Nant Yr Aber River
 - Land at Cwmgelli Farm, Blackwood (7.7ha) – 101m from the Sirhowy River

- Land at Pandy Road, Phase 2, Bedwas (1.7ha) – 155m from the Rhymney River
- 8.9.7 According to the 2025 classification for overall ecological status, the Rhymney River (which the Nant Yr Aber River flows into) is of good ecological quality overall, although the quality decreases further south, and some tributaries in the north are of poor overall quality. Similarly, the Sirhowy is of good ecological quality. In this respect, growth proposed through the spatial strategy will need to ensure that potential negative effects on the ecological quality of these rivers, resulting from development, is mitigated.
- 8.9.8 Caerphilly falls within the South East Valleys Catchment Management Abstraction Strategy (CAMS) area. Reliability of water availability in this catchment was assessed in 2016 by Natural Resources Wales; areas with higher availability (at least 50%) were found to be in the southern areas, supplying settlements such as Caerphilly town and Blackwood. In this respect, the spatial strategy performs favourably by directing growth to these areas of the County Borough.

Other policies

- 8.9.9 Policy PM1 requires development proposals be sustainable and durable by using materials that are resource-efficient and resilient; managing construction and operational waste in line with the waste hierarchy; and ensuring provision is made for the sustainable management of waste. In addition, Policy PM2 sets out that development proposals must have regard for all material planning considerations relevant to the level of development applied for. This is to ensure the efficient use of land.
- 8.9.10 Mineral resources are covered by Policy MN1, which sets out that the Council will safeguard known resources of sand and gravel and crushed rock; maintain a minimum 10-year land bank of permitted aggregate reserves throughout the plan period; and encourage the efficient and appropriate use of high-quality minerals, safeguarding minerals infrastructure and maximising the potential for the use of secondary and recycled aggregates. In addition, Policy MN2 sets out criteria which proposals for the extraction of mineral resources must meet to be permitted. Mineral safeguarding areas are covered by Policy MN3, whilst development in these areas is addressed through Policy MN4.
- 8.9.11 Waste is the focus of Policy WM1, which sets out how the plan will facilitate the delivery of the sustainable management of waste. This includes (but is not limited to) conforming to the principles of the waste hierarchy and supporting the circular economy. This policy aligns with Towards Zero Waste, which sets out the Welsh Government's high-level policies, targets and principles with respect to waste management. Waste management facilities are addressed through Policies WM2 and WM3.

Cumulative effects

- 8.9.12 Air quality in the County Borough is ultimately impacted by commuters across the wider region. Therefore, there is potential for negative cumulative effects concerning air quality. This is especially true if neighbouring local authority areas fail to reduce private car usage, which could counteract any efforts made in Caerphilly due to in-commuting. Nevertheless, all local

authority LDPs within the CCR seek to improve air quality through various transport and climate change related strategies and policies. Of note are the City Deal and South Wales Metro, which will encourage the uptake of sustainable transport across the wider region. In this respect, negative effects are not anticipated regarding air quality. Nevertheless, the existing reliance on private car is unlikely to disappear, and in this respect minor negative effects are possible.

- 8.9.13 There is the potential for a cumulative loss of greenfield land, as well as productive agricultural land in other local authority areas, as a result of development across the South East Wales region. In this respect, negative cumulative effects are considered likely regarding land resources.
- 8.9.14 Development proposed through the 2RLDP has the potential to interact with development proposed in other local authority areas, leading to both negative and positive cumulative effects on water resources. Notably, water resource and wastewater treatment capacity are generally managed at a catchment level, with Natural Resources Wales, Welsh Water, and wastewater service providers working closely together to monitor the situation and plan ahead to meet predicted demands. Given the total demand for water in the County Borough is forecast to remain relatively stable until 2030, with a decline in demand anticipated up until 2050, it is considered that the spatial strategy will not lead to significant negative cumulative effects on water resources.

Summary of likely effects

- 8.9.15 Overall, the plan is considered likely to lead to minor positive effects under the natural resources ISA topic. This is because the spatial strategy minimises the loss of BMV land and the boundaries of safeguarded **mineral** resources have been adjusted accordingly to allow for growth without **sterilising** or preventing access to these resources. In addition, the policy framework addresses mineral resources in detail and supports the efficient use of resource and reduction of waste.

8.10 Biodiversity and geodiversity

Spatial strategy

- 8.10.1 Regarding the housing allocations set out in Policy HO1, and focusing on internationally designated sites for biodiversity first, two of the 20 sites are within 1km of a Special Area for Conservation (SAC). As such, the development of these sites could impact the Annex I and II species which these SACs are designated to protect. These sites are:
- Land at Heol y Cefn, Blackwood (9.7ha) – 29m from Aberbargoed Grasslands
 - Land at Coed-y-Brain House, Aberbargoed (6.3ha) – 846m from Aberbargoed Grasslands
- 8.10.2 In terms of nationally designated sites for biodiversity, three sites are within 500m of a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) and therefore have the potential to impact the features which these SSSIs are designated to protect. These sites are:

- Bryn Meadows Golf Club, Maesycwmmmer (32ha) – 3m from Gweunydd Nant y Twyn
- Land at Heol y Cefn, Blackwood (9.7ha) – 29m from Aberbargoed Grasslands
- Land at Energlyn, Caerphilly (1.7ha) – 193m from Llanbradach Quarry

8.10.3 Only one site overlaps (>25%) with ancient woodland: Land at Watford Road, Caerphilly (1ha), which overlaps (39%) with ancient semi-natural woodland. Whilst this is over a third of the site, there is still potential for some – if not all – of this woodland to be retained, although a degree of uncertainty is noted in this respect.

8.10.4 None of the sites overlap (>25%) with priority habitat, and therefore the spatial strategy is unlikely to lead to habitat fragmentation or the disturbance of ecological networks, particularly if net benefit for biodiversity (NBB) is delivered by development proposals.

8.10.5 One site overlaps with a Site of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC): Land east of Oakdale Golf Club, Oakdale (5.4ha), which overlaps (7%) with Coed Cwm Philkins, East of Penmaen, Nant Philkins Fields, Oakdale. Given this overlap is relatively small, there is potential for this part of the SINC to be retained as part of the development proposal.

Other policies

8.10.6 The primary strategic policy for biodiversity is SP5, which sets out that development proposals must maintain and enhance biodiversity and demonstrate a net biodiversity benefit, whilst contributing towards improved ecosystem resilience and habitat connectivity. The supporting text for this policy highlights that development proposals will be assessed based on their location, scale and potential impact, and mitigation requirements will be proportionate to the level of proposed development. In addition, the supporting text states that developers must consult the Council's Green and Blue Infrastructure Assessment (GIA) and Nature Network maps.

8.10.7 Policy NA1 designates areas for their nature conservation value as Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC), Local Nature Reserves (LNR), and Regionally Important Geodiversity Sites (RIGS). Policy NA2 is in place to ensure development does not have an adverse impact upon designated local sites for nature conservation. This is important given these sites are not afforded the same protection as internationally and nationally designated sites for biodiversity, and the policy performs well in this respect.

Policy NA3 is in place to ensure trees, woodland and hedgerows on potential development sites are retained, protected and integrated where possible. Where the removal of trees, woodland and hedgerows is unavoidable, they must be suitably replaced. This will help ensure that the local ecological network is retained, and where possible, enhanced.

Finally, the plan seeks to maintain and enhance green and blue infrastructure (GBI) networks through Policy GI1. To achieve this, development proposals will only be permitted where they maintain and integrate existing GBI assets through an appropriate design and site layout,

as well as where they enhance the quality, extent, connectivity and multifunctionality of the GBI infrastructure network.

Cumulative effects

- 8.10.8 Development proposed through the spatial strategy has the potential to interact with growth proposed in neighbouring local authority areas and lead to cumulative effects on biodiversity and geodiversity. As the LDPs of surrounding local authority areas consider biodiversity and geodiversity, including how they seek to protect and enhance it, there is potential for positive cumulative effects to arise, especially given the biodiversity duty.
- 8.10.9 A Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) has been carried out for the Deposit Plan to address the likelihood of adverse effects on the integrity of any European designated sites as a result of development proposed. Several European sites exist in the local authority areas that border Caerphilly. These include Usk Bat Sites SAC in Blaenau Gwent; the Brecon Beacons SAC in the Bannau Brycheiniog National Park; the Cardiff Beech Woods SAC in Cardiff; the River Usk SAC in Newport; and the Severn Estuary SAC/ SPA/ Ramsar site which cover both Cardiff and Newport, but mostly the latter. These sites, in addition to the Aberbargoed Grasslands in Caerphilly, Blaen Cynon SAC and Cwm Cadlan SAC, have been considered through the HRA. The HRA concludes, following Appropriate Assessment, no likely significant effects either alone or in-combination with other plans or projects in most areas. However, two recommendations are made as follows:
- *It is recommended Caerphilly Council commit to liaising with Cardiff Council and Newport Council to input into their recreation management strategies for Severn Estuary SAC/SPA/Ramsar sites as appropriate to ensure that there is no adverse effect on the sites.*
 - *It is recommended Caerphilly Council commit to liaising with Cardiff Council to input into their recreation management strategy for Cardiff Beechwoods SAC as appropriate to ensure that there is no adverse effect on the SAC.*
- 8.10.10 The recommendations seek to address anticipated mitigation requirements necessary to avoid adverse effects on the Severn Estuary SAC/ SPA/ Ramsar and Cardiff Beech Woods SAC. This is predominantly in the form of Strategic Access Management and Monitoring (SAMM). It is expected that these recommendations will be addressed in plan-making prior to submission.
- 8.10.11 In this respect, it will be important for local planning authorities and stakeholders, such as Natural Resources Wales and Natural England, to work closely to identify potential cross-boundary issues and opportunities, and seek to protect and enhance sites for biodiversity, as well as creating and enhancing ecological corridors / green infrastructure networks. Moreover, where possible, any strategic opportunities to deliver net benefit for biodiversity should be explored.

Summary of likely effects

8.10.12 Overall, the plan is considered likely to lead to **minor negative effects** under the biodiversity and geodiversity ISA topic. It is recognised that the policy framework seeks to mitigate adverse impacts on biodiversity through encouraging development which delivers net biodiversity benefit; designating SINC; and protecting and enhancing the GBI network. However, two of the site allocations are in close proximity to internationally and/or nationally designated sites for biodiversity, whilst one site overlaps with a SINC. In this respect, the spatial strategy has potential to lead to adverse impacts on these biodiversity sites, although a degree of uncertainty is noted.

8.11 Historic environment

Spatial strategy

8.11.1 Regarding the housing allocations set out in Policy HO1, eight of the 20 sites are within 250m of a listed building and therefore have the potential to impact their setting. These sites are:

- Land at Watford Road, Caerphilly (1ha) – 49m from Grade II listed Watford Fach Farmhouse with adjoining former barn
- Land at Cefn Llwynau Farm, Penallta Road, Penybryn (9.9ha) – 62m from Grade II* listed Penallta Colliery Baths Building and 109m from Grade II listed Penallta Colliery Old Stores
- Land at Cwmgelli Farm, Blackwood (7.7ha) – 71m from Grade II listed South Lodge
- Castle Fields, Rhymney (Site 2) (4.9ha) – 90m from Grade II listed Boundary Wall and Railings at St David's Churchyard and 122m from Grade II* listed Church of St David
- Land at Elm Drive, Pontymister, Risca (4.3ha) – 116m from Grade II listed Canal Bridge over Monmouthshire and Brecon Canal E of Pen y van
- Land at Pengam Road, Penpedairheol (8.2ha) – 135m from Grade II listed Tier Pengam including attached barn and byre range to S
- Land east of Oakdale Golf Club, Oakdale (5.4ha) – 177m from Grade II listed Cyncoed Farm Cottage
- Nantycalch Farm (Option A) (1.6ha) – 208m from Grade II listed Milestone

8.11.2 One site is within 250m of a Scheduled Monument: Welsh Egg Farm, Caerphilly (1ha), which is 106m from Caerphilly Iron Furnace. As such, development of this site has the potential to disturb archaeological remains, although it is considered that any planning application would require a detailed archaeological assessment.

8.11.3 Another site is within 250m of a registered park and garden: Land at Cwmgelli Farm, Blackwood (7.7ha), which is 9m from Maes Manor Hotel. Therefore, development of this site could impact the setting of this park and garden, particularly given its proximity.

8.11.4 Five of the 20 sites are within 250m of a conservation area, with potential to impact the setting of heritage assets which contribute to its designation, as well as the historic character of the affected settlement. These sites are:

- Castle Fields, Rhymney (Site 2) (4.9ha) – 31m from Rhymney Town Conservation Area
- Land south of A472, Tredomen (16.3ha) – 81m from Tredomen Conservation Area
- Land at Elm Drive, Pontymister, Risca (4.3ha) – 94m from Mon & Brecon Canal (Crumlin) Conservation Area
- Land at Nant Gau, Oakdale (1ha) – 99m from Oakdale Conservation Area
- Land east of Oakdale Golf Club, Oakdale (5.4ha) – 192m from Oakdale Conservation Area

8.11.5 It is worth noting that development also has the potential to deliver neutral / positive effects by positively contributing to an area's character or appearance. This could be achieved through the regeneration of brownfield / mixed sites that are currently detracting from nearby heritage assets, thereby improving the setting of these assets.

Other policies

8.11.6 Policy PM2 sets out that development proposals must have regard for all material planning considerations relevant to the level of development applied for. This will help ensure the integration and enhancement of existing natural heritage features, with positive impacts for the historic environment. This policy is particularly important given the importance of the design of future development in conserving and enhancing the setting of heritage assets.

8.11.7 The primary policy for the historic environment is HE1, which seeks to protect, conserve, enhance and sustainably manage the historic environment. The supporting text for the policy sets out that the Council will work with partners, stakeholders and communities to deliver a proactive and value-led approach to the historic environment, informed by the Historic Environment Record (HER), Conservation Area Appraisals, Supplementary Planning Guidance, and the Historic Environment Strategy.

8.11.8 Heritage-led regeneration and reuse is addressed under Policy HE2, with specific opportunities identified in Policy HE3. These policies seek to retain and enhance the historic character and significance of buildings; support high-quality design that respects the local context and townscape; and involve community or cultural uses, enterprise or tourism that promote public engagement with heritage, among other things. Notably, the policy encourages flexible and innovative approaches to the adaptive reuse of historic buildings, especially those at risk or underused.

8.11.9 Designated heritage assets are covered by Policy HE4, which outlines that development proposals that affected these assets or their setting will only be permitted where they preserve or enhance the significance, character and appearance of the asset; are based on a clear understanding of the asset's

significance, informed by a heritage impact assessment; and contribute positively to local identity, placemaking and environmental sustainability.

8.11.10 Locally important buildings are recognised through Policy HE5, which sets out criteria which development proposals must meet if they have the potential to affect buildings of special local interest. The inclusion of this policy is commended as local heritage assets could include non-designated assets, which are not afforded the same level of protection as designated assets and are therefore more vulnerable to future development.

8.11.11 Policy HE6 sets out that enabling development that would otherwise conflict with planning policies will only be permitted where it can be clearly demonstrated that it is the only viable means of securing the long-term conservation of a designated historic asset, and where the public benefit decisively outweighs the harm. The policy sets out criteria which proposals will be required to demonstrate in these circumstances.

8.11.12 Finally, non-designated archaeological remains are covered by Policy HE7. Development proposals that may affect such remains will only be permitted where they meet the criteria set out within the policy. This includes (but is not limited to) being informed by an appropriate desk-based assessment, and where necessary, field evaluation at a proportionate level.

Cumulative effects

8.11.13 Development proposed through the spatial strategy has the potential to interact with development proposed through other plans and lead to cumulative effects on the historic environment. Interactions of greatest significance are likely to be those plans, programmes and projects that impact upon the Blaenavon Industrial Landscape World Heritage Site (WHS), which is located in Torfaen (and along its boundary with Blaenau Gwent), to the north east of Caerphilly. In this respect, growth proposed through the spatial strategy alongside growth proposed through the Torfaen and Blaenau Gwent LDPs has the potential to cumulatively affect the sensitive historic site and its setting. It is recognised, however, that all LDPs will include policies which seek to protect and enhance the historic environment, in line with higher level policy requirements.

8.11.14 The Blaenavon Industrial Landscape WHS Management Plan seeks to “deliver well-being benefits through heritage management and heritage-led regeneration”. The management plan identifies that Blaenavon has “enjoyed a successful period of heritage-led urban and environmental regeneration”, which has benefitted the historic landscape, delivering substantial improvements and promoting continued inward investment. In this respect, growth around the WHS has the potential to support regeneration and townscape improvements that continue to protect and enhance the designated area and its wider setting.

8.11.15 It will be important for local planning authorities and stakeholders, such as Cadw, to work closely to identify potential cross-boundary heritage issues, protecting and enhancing designated and non-designated heritage assets, particularly those that are at risk. Moreover, where possible, any strategic opportunities to deliver heritage-led regeneration, for example in line with the WHS Management Plan, should be explored.

Summary of likely effects

- 8.11.16 Overall, the plan is considered likely to lead to **neutral effects** under the historic environment ISA topic. Whilst it is recognised that the spatial strategy delivers sites in proximity to designated heritage assets and conservation areas, it is considered that the provisions made through the policy framework appropriately mitigate any potential adverse impacts. This includes working closely with key stakeholders; promoting heritage-sensitive design and heritage-led regeneration; designating locally important buildings; and recognising non-designated archaeological remains.

8.12 Landscape

Spatial strategy

- 8.12.1 Regarding the housing allocations set out in Policy HO1, none of the 20 sites are within 1km of the Bannau Brycheiniog National Park. In relation to this, Planning Policy Wales¹⁵ highlights that "...planning authorities should give great weight to the statutory purposes of National Parks, which are to conserve and enhance their natural beauty, wildlife and cultural heritage, and to promote opportunities for public understanding and enjoyment of their special qualities". As such, by avoiding development within proximity to the National Park the spatial strategy performs well. In addition, by delivering a level of growth to the Heads of the Valleys area, the spatial strategy provides opportunities to improve public understanding and enjoyment of the National Park's special qualities.
- 8.12.2 Two sites are within 250m of a Country Park and therefore have the potential to impact their setting. These sites are:
- Land at Cefn Llwynau Farm, Penallta Road, Penybryn (9.9ha) – adjacent to Parc Penallta
 - Land south of A472, Tredomen (16.3ha) – 128m from Parc Penallta
- 8.12.3 Three sites overlap with a Green Wedge and therefore have potential to contribute towards the coalescence of settlements. These sites are:
- Land at Pengam Road, Penpedairheol (8.2ha) – 100% overlap
 - Land at Cwmgelli Farm, Blackwood (7.7ha) – 100% overlap
 - Land at Elm Drive, Ponymister, Risca (4.3ha) – 98% overlap
- 8.12.4 Seven sites overlap (>25%) with a Special Landscape Area (SLA), namely:
- Land at Pandy Road, Phase 2, Bedwas (1.7ha) – 100% overlap with North Caerphilly
 - Land south of A472, Tredomen (16.3ha) – 100% overlap with Mynydd Eglwysilan
 - Land at Watford Road, Caerphilly (1ha) – 100% overlap with South Caerphilly

¹⁵ Welsh Government (2021): [Planning Policy Wales](#)

- Land at Energlyn, Caerphilly (1.7ha) – 100% overlap with Mynydd Eglwysilan
- Castle Fields, Rhymney (Site 2) (4.9ha) – 99% overlap with Upper Rhymney Valley
- Land at Cefn Llwynau Farm, Penallta Road, Penybryn (9.9ha) – 94% overlap with Mynydd Eglwysilan
- Nantycalch Farm (Option A), Caerphilly (1.6ha) – 43% overlap with South Caerphilly

8.12.5 It is noted that the boundaries of Green Wedges and SLAs will be adjusted accordingly to allow for growth through the 2RLDP. Nevertheless, the sites listed above still have the potential to impact the setting of SLAs.

8.12.6 None of the sites are within 250m of a Visually Important Local Landscape (VILL), and the spatial strategy performs well in this respect.

Other policies

8.12.7 Policy PM1 requires development proposals to respect local context by responding positively to the site and its surroundings, integrating with settlement edges, views and landscapes; contributing to local distinctiveness and townscape; and supporting innovation where it reinforces identity. This policy is particularly important to this ISA topic given sensitive design is essential to avoiding adverse impacts on landscape character.

8.12.8 Special Landscape Areas (SLAs) are designated through Policy LS1, which outlines that proposals within these SLAs will only be permitted where they conserve or enhance the distinctive character and qualities of the SLA. In addition, the design must respect the local vernacular in terms of form, materials and detailing, and sensitively integrate the development into the surrounding landscape. In addition, Visually Important Local Landscapes (VILLs) are designed through Policy LS2, which is in place to ensure proposals within VILLs maintain or enhance the distinctive visual and sensory landscape features or characteristics of the VILL.

8.12.9 Policy LS3 identifies Green Wedges to prevent the coalescence of settlements and to maintain the openness of the land. This will help protect the integrity of both the built and natural environment. The supporting text states that development proposals within Green Wedges will be resisted where they would not maintain the open character of the landscape.

8.12.10 Finally, Policy EP3 is in place to ensure development proposals involving external artificial lighting are accompanied by appropriate lighting details, and where proportionate, a lighting strategy. This is to ensure, amongst other things, that dark skies are maintained in open countryside locations.

Cumulative effects

8.12.11 Development proposed through the spatial strategy has the potential to interact with and have cumulative effects on landscape with growth proposed in neighbouring local authority areas, especially, but not limited to, the Bannau Brycheiniog National Park. However, as all the LDPs of the

neighbouring local authority areas include policies which seek to protect and enhance the landscape, negative cumulative effects should be minimised.

- 8.12.12 In terms of the National Park, the Brecon Beacons National Park Local Plan was adopted in 2013. No significant growth is proposed during the plan period or in close proximity to the Caerphilly administrative boundary. A review of the LDP is underway, and the National Park Authority resolved to consult on a draft Delivery Agreement for the preparation of the LDP before submitting it to the Welsh Government for agreement. This document was available for public consultation between 1st May and 26th June 2025.
- 8.12.13 When assessing potential cumulative effects of development through the Preferred Strategy on the Bannau Brycheiniog National Park, consideration should be given to the protections provided by the National Park's recently adopted Management Plan (2023). In addition to national policy requirements, the current Management Plan sets out, under five 'missions', priorities for managing change in the National Park.
- 8.12.14 Ultimately, the nature and significance of cumulative effects will be dependent on the precise location of development, as well as the design and layout of development and the implementation of mitigation measures. It will be important for local planning authorities to work closely with each other, as well as Natural Resources Wales, to try and plan at an appropriate scale to minimise potential impacts on the wider landscape, as well as identify opportunities to deliver improvements to the landscape where possible.

Summary of likely effects

- 8.12.15 Overall, the plan is considered likely to lead to **minor negative effects** under the landscape ISA topic. Whilst the spatial strategy does not direct growth in proximity to the Bannau Brycheiniog National Park to the north, it will deliver development on greenfield land, and land in the setting of SLAs. In relation to this, it is recognised that the policy framework seeks to ensure development in these identified areas does not adversely impact landscape character. However, it is considered that there remains potential for adverse impacts as a result of the development of these sites, although a degree of uncertainty is noted at this stage.

8.13 Climate change

Spatial strategy

- 8.13.1 Regarding the housing allocations set out in Policy HO1, none of the 20 sites overlap with a medium or high-risk area for river flooding. Nor do any of the sites overlap (>25%) with high-risk areas for surface water flooding. In this respect, the spatial strategy performs well from a climate change adaptation standpoint by avoiding areas of flood risk.
- 8.13.2 In terms of climate change mitigation, as discussed under the transport and movement ISA topic, the site allocations are well located in terms of proximity to active travel infrastructure, although it is not possible to determine the walking distance of each site to the nearest bus stop. More broadly, the majority of the sites are in the principal town and local centres

and will therefore likely be located near services and facilities, employment opportunities, and educational facilities.

- 8.13.3 The largest site proposed through Policy HO1 is Bryn Meadows Golf Club, Maesycwmmmer (32ha). Due to the size of this site, there is potential for it to deliver climate change mitigation measures – such as, for example, localised renewable energy generation – as a result of economies of scale. This is explored through Policy EN2, which is discussed below.
- 8.13.4 The trend of increased home working, which started due to the Covid-19 pandemic in 2020, is anticipated to continue in the long-term. In accordance with the Welsh Government's target of 30% of people working from or near home, the spatial strategy delivers growth in areas which are most likely to support high levels of self-containment, by providing employment, services and facilities within the Principal Town and Local Centres. This, amongst other requirements, will contribute positively towards reducing out-commuting, therefore reducing the carbon emissions associated with commuting, particularly by private car.

Other policies

- 8.13.5 The primary strategic policy for climate change is SP4, which requires development proposals make a positive and proportionate contribution towards addressing the causes of, and adapting to the impacts of, climate change. This is by demonstrating that the design of the development has taken account of the need to use locally sourced materials; promote low / zero carbon energy; reduce energy use; promote sustainable transport; deliver resilient design; promote decarbonisation; mitigate flood risk; maximise water efficiency; and enhance green infrastructure.
- 8.13.6 Policy PM2 sets out that development proposals must have regard for all material planning considerations relevant to the level of development applied for. This is to ensure the incorporation of resource efficiency and passive solar gain through layout, materials, construction techniques, water conservation, and where required, the use of sustainable drainage systems.
- 8.13.7 Policy PO1 highlights the Council's intention to secure planning obligations (S106 Agreements) where they are necessary to make the development acceptable in planning terms. Such obligations may include flood defence measures required to mitigate the risk of flooding, which will contribute towards climate change adaptation across the County Borough.
- 8.13.8 Finally, renewable energy generation is addressed through Policy EN1, which sets out criteria which must be met by development proposals for renewable and low carbon energy to be permitted. Renewable energy generation on large sites is covered by Policy EN2. This policy requires such site submit an Energy Report in order to determine the feasibility and viability of incorporating renewable energy generation, district heating networks, and/or on-site zero / low carbon technology within the development.

Cumulative effects

- 8.13.9 In terms of climate change adaptation, there does not appear to be notable potential for negative cumulative effects from development in Caerphilly in combination with development in neighbouring local authority areas. Notable

areas of fluvial flood risk permeate the County Borough, in alignment with the major watercourses which flow to the Severn Estuary to the south. However, there is a presumption within PPW against development in high-risk flood zones, which is augmented by Technical Advice Note 15 (TAN15). This will help ensure that development in Caerphilly will be part of a regional and national picture of development which is directed away from areas at high risk of flooding. Hence, cumulative effects from the spatial strategy in combination with surrounding authorities are likely to be neutral.

- 8.13.10 In terms of climate change mitigation, there is greater potential for cumulative effects. As noted in the discussions of the air quality and transport and movement ISA topics, positive cumulative effects are anticipated from the proposed South East Metro throughout the CCR. This includes enhanced rail connectivity between Rhymney and Cardiff, and bus rapid transit link servicing the central region of Caerphilly. This will likely contribute to a modal shift away from the private car and towards more sustainable modes of transport. However, regional growth along key strategic highways, such as the A470, A465, A4042 and M4, which enclose Caerphilly, could introduce additional road users to the County Borough and wider region. In this respect, there is also potential for negative cumulative effects to arise across the region.
- 8.13.11 The CCR City Deal outlines an ambition for the ten authorities in the region to come together to deliver strategic solutions, including the generation and use of renewable energy. The City Deal identifies that regional development will present opportunities to deliver “renewable energy-led regeneration and housing programmes”. In this context, there is potential for positive cumulative effects, particularly as larger-scale development offers a greater opportunity to incorporate low carbon energy.

Summary of likely effects

- 8.13.12 Overall, the plan is considered likely to lead to **moderate positive effects** under the climate change ISA topic. The spatial strategy directs growth away from areas of flood risk, whilst prioritising accessible locations which will maximise the uptake of active travel and public transport, thereby minimising emissions from transport. In addition, by including several large sites, the spatial strategy provides opportunities for on-site renewable energy generation. This is supported by the policy framework, which also addresses embodied carbon emissions; energy efficiency; and flood risk mitigation.

9. Conclusions and recommendations

9.1.1 The overall conclusions for each ISA topic are presented in **Table 9.1** below. At this later stage of plan-making no recommendations are identified, recognising that earlier iterations of the ISA have informed plan development

Table 9.1 Conclusions

ISA topic	Conclusion
Economy and employment	Overall, the plan is considered likely to lead to major positive effects under the economy and employment ISA topic. Not only does the plan allocate land to meet the County Borough's employment land need, but it also encourages regeneration opportunities; directs housing growth in proximity to employment hubs or in locations with good connectivity to these hubs; protects existing retail and commercial areas; and promotes tourism. In doing so, the plan is likely to bolster the local economy and create new jobs for both current and future residents.
Population and communities	Overall, the plan is considered likely to lead to major positive effects under the population and communities ISA topic. This is primarily because it allocates sites which will deliver housing which exceeds the County Borough's housing requirement, including the provision of affordable housing. Moreover, the plan directs growth to the most accessible locations; delivers a mix of housing types; seeks to deliver new, and protect existing, community and social facilities; and encourages good design.
Health and wellbeing	Overall, the plan is considered likely to lead to moderate positive effects under the health and wellbeing ISA topic. This primarily reflects the provisions made within the policy framework, including promoting good design and living conditions; providing green infrastructure and leisure facilities; and reducing the risk of harm to public health. It is also recognised that delivering housing and employment growth in line with identified needs will contribute positively towards health and wellbeing.
Equalities, diversity and social inclusion	Overall, the plan is considered likely to lead to moderate positive effects under the equalities, diversity and social inclusion ISA topic. The spatial strategy includes sites in the more deprived parts of the County Borough, whilst the policy framework considers the housing needs of all members of the community, including Gypsy and Traveller communities.
Transport and movement	Overall, the plan is considered likely to lead to moderate positive effects under the transport and movement ISA topic. The spatial strategy seeks to ensure future development has good access to active travel and public transport infrastructure, thereby encouraging modal shift away from the private vehicle. Meanwhile, the policy framework seeks to bolster this through means including good design and securing planning obligations.
Natural resources	Overall, the plan is considered likely to lead to minor positive effects under the natural resources ISA topic. This is because the spatial strategy minimises the loss of BMV land and the boundaries of safeguarded mineral resources have been adjusted accordingly to allow for growth without sterilising or preventing access to these resources. In addition, the policy framework addresses mineral resources in detail and supports the efficient use of resource and reduction of waste.
Biodiversity and geodiversity	Overall, the plan is considered likely to lead to minor negative effects under the biodiversity and geodiversity ISA topic. It is recognised that the policy framework seeks to mitigate adverse impacts on biodiversity through encouraging development which delivers net biodiversity benefit; designating SINCS; and protecting and enhancing the GBI network. However, two of the site allocations are in close proximity to internationally and/or nationally designated sites for biodiversity, whilst one site overlaps with a SINC. In this respect, the spatial strategy has potential to lead to

ISA topic	Conclusion
	adverse impacts on these biodiversity sites, although a degree of uncertainty is noted.
Historic environment	Overall, the plan is considered likely to lead to neutral effects under the historic environment ISA topic. Whilst it is recognised that the spatial strategy delivers sites in proximity to designated heritage assets and conservation areas, it is considered that the provisions made through the policy framework appropriately mitigate any potential adverse impacts. This includes working closely with key stakeholders; promoting heritage-sensitive design and heritage-led regeneration; designating locally important buildings; and recognising non-designated archaeological remains.
Landscape	Overall, the plan is considered likely to lead to minor negative effects under the landscape ISA topic. Whilst the spatial strategy does not direct growth in proximity to the Bannau Brycheiniog National Park to the north, it will deliver development on greenfield land, and land in the setting of SLAs. In relation to this, it is recognised that the policy framework seeks to ensure development in these identified areas does not adversely impact landscape character. However, it is considered that there remains potential for adverse impacts as a result of the development of these sites, although a degree of uncertainty is noted at this stage.
Climate change	Overall, the plan is considered likely to lead to moderate positive effects under the climate change ISA topic. The spatial strategy directs growth away from areas of flood risk, whilst prioritising accessible locations which will maximise the uptake of active travel and public transport, thereby minimising emissions from transport. In addition, by including several large sites, the spatial strategy provides opportunities for on-site renewable energy generation. This is supported by the policy framework, which also addresses embodied carbon emissions; energy efficiency; and flood risk mitigation.

10. Next steps and monitoring

10.1 Next steps

10.1.1 This ISA Report will accompany the Deposit Plan for public consultation. Any comments received will be reviewed and considered as part of the iterative plan-making and ISA process and inform the submission 2RLDP.

10.2 Monitoring

10.2.1 **Table 10.1** below outlines the proposed monitoring for the 2RLDP. This will be refined in the ISA Adoption Statement.

Table 10.1 Proposed ISA monitoring programme for the 2RLDP

ISA topic	Proposed monitoring measure
Economy and employment	• Area of employment floorspace completed. • Cumulative additional jobs created. • Percentage of working age population in employment.
Population and communities	• Net additional dwellings completed. • Monitoring against LDP trajectories. • Developer contributions secured and spent on community infrastructure.
Health and wellbeing	• Number of Health Impact Assessments submitted. • Area of new public open space delivered through new development areas. • Number of recreational facilities delivered through new development areas. • Capacity of GP surgeries.
Equalities, diversity and social inclusion	• Affordable housing completions. • Number of accessible and adaptable and other specialist homes delivered. • Number of gypsy and traveller pitches delivered.
Transport and movement	• Mode share of journeys to / from work. • Length of new walking and cycling routes delivered through new development areas. • Public transport uptake. • Number of major developments delivering active travel infrastructure. • Number of new homes within walking distance (<800m) of public transport nodes. • Number of EV charging points delivered through new development areas. • Delivery of strategic transport schemes.
Natural resources	• Status of AQMAs and air quality more generally. • Development of Grade 1, 2 and 3a agricultural land. • Development of brownfield sites. • Development of mineral safeguarding areas. • Ecological status of waterbodies.
Biodiversity and geodiversity	• Number of NBB consents and contributions. • Condition of European, national and local sites. • Changes in areas of biodiversity importance.
Historic environment	• Number of heritage assets on the 'at risk' register.

ISA topic	Proposed monitoring measure
	• Number of listed building consent applications that are approved / refused. • Numbers of measures to enhance heritage assets delivered through development proposals.
Landscape	• Condition of the Bannau Brycheiniog National Park as reported through their management plans. • Areas of previously developed land regenerated through development.
Climate change	• Total greenhouse gas emissions. • Number of major developments incorporating renewable / low carbon energy. • Number of planning applications permitted including the use of solar panels. • Number of planning permissions within flood zones. • Number of developments delivering natural flood management or blue and green infrastructure. • Mode share of journeys to / from new development areas.

Appendix A – GIS analysis of sites

Methodology

In line with the Development Plans Manual Edition 3 (March 2020), separate quantitative criteria have been developed to assess candidate sites through the ISA, which build on the ISA framework developed at the scoping stage. The methodology for the ISA of candidate sites involves employing GIS data-sets and measuring ('quantitative analysis') how each candidate site relates to various constraint and opportunity features. Specifically, the aim is to differentiate the performance of the candidate sites in respect of different criteria. The ISA methodology allows for the consistent and transparent assessment of candidate sites. The method measures a straight line distance from a feature to a candidate site and percentage overlap of any features within a site. Measurements were taken from the closest boundary of the candidate site and the feature.

Assumptions and limitations

The ISA of candidate sites is limited by the spatial data sets available. It is also important to state that the appraisal is limited on the basis that proximity / percentage intersect is often (i.e. for many objectives) a crude indicator of constraint or opportunity. For example, whilst percentage intersect with a flood risk zone is a strong indicator of actual flood risk constraint, proximity to a designated biodiversity feature, or Air Quality Management Area (AQMA), is less robust as an indicator of biodiversity or air quality constraint. We understand that distance to features in this respect does not indicate a 'significant effect', but aids differentiation, which is the aim at this stage of the ISA process. However, it is important to note that these issues will be explored in further detail through the ISA of strategic options and RLDP policies.

Further criteria specific assumptions are set out below:

- Where candidate sites are brownfield in nature, we assume that any development would be an improvement on the existing form in accordance with principles of sustainable development and placemaking as set out in Planning Policy Wales (PPW).
- It is assumed that all development will deliver appropriate mitigation to address any potential water quality impacts, in accordance with the Water Supply (Water Quality) Regulations 2018 (in Wales).
- The Council is also undertaking a separate candidate sites assessment.

Detailed methodology

The candidate site options appraisal methodology and thresholds is presented in **Tables A.1 and A.2**. The tables set out the criteria and thresholds and provide further commentary as necessary. The tables recognise data limitations and assumptions set out above. Where possible the ISA methodology has sought to remain consistent with the Caerphilly's [candidate site methodology](#) and to reflect guidance in the Welsh Government Development Plans Manual Edition 3 (March 2020). Assessment outcomes are presented in **Table A.3** and detailed reasons for progression of sites is provided by the Council in **Table A.4**.

Table A.1: Site options assessment methodology

Criteria	Data source	Commentary
Employment		
Employment Site	Data provided by CCBC.	Highlights walking distance to an existing protected employment site. There is no clear guidance on distance thresholds, and it is recognised that employment sites will often be reached by car or public transport. It will also serve to highlight where housing development could result in the loss of existing employment land.
Population and communities		
Community facility	Data provided by CCBC.	Highlights walking distance to a community facility. There is no clear guidance on distance thresholds.
Retail area	Data provided by CCBC.	Highlights the proximity of a site to a retail area.
Green wedge	Data provided by CCBC.	Green wedges are an urban containment mechanism intended to restrict the spread of built development beyond designated settlement boundaries and allocated sites. They help to maintain settlement identity and provide countryside access. This criterion will help to identify sites that intersect Green Wedges, and their percentage overlap.
Health and wellbeing		
Formal leisure space	Data provided by CCBC.	Highlights walking distance to a formal leisure space. There is no clear guidance on distance thresholds.
Country Park	Data provided by CCBC.	This criterion seeks to highlight the proximity of sites to the nearest Country Park.
Transport and movement		
Railway station	Data provided by CCBC.	Highlights walking distance to a railway station. Thresholds based on the WG's Active Travel Guidance and Sustrans Walkable Neighbourhoods Report.
Public Rights of Way	Data provided by CCBC.	Highlights the proximity of site options to established walking routes. Informed by the Council's site assessment.
Cycleways	Data provided by Welsh Government and CCBC.	Highlights the proximity of site options to completed national cycling routes and local cycleways.
Natural resources		
Agricultural land classification	Data provided by Welsh Government.	The ALC Predictive Map Version 2 (2019) is available and provides a distinction between Grade 3a (i.e. land classified as the 'best and most versatile') and Grade 3b land (i.e. land which is not

Criteria	Data source	Commentary
		classified as such). Taking the above into account it is appropriate to 'flag' those sites that may include Grade 1 to 3a 'best and most versatile' agricultural land.
Air Quality Management Area (AQMA)	Data provided by Welsh Government.	Air Quality Management Areas (AQMAs) are designated by local authorities where air quality objectives are unlikely to be achieved due to elevated levels of pollutants. Sites within or close to an AQMA may be subject to additional assessment or constraints to ensure compliance with national air quality standards.
Mineral Safeguarding/ Protection Areas	Data provided by CCBC.	This criterion considers the proximity of sites to Coal Safeguarding Areas, Areas of Protection for Sand and Gravel, Limestone Safeguarding Areas, and Minerals and Waste Handling Sites.
Main river	Data provided by CCBC.	Highlights whether there are any main rivers within or near to the site.
Biodiversity		
Ancient Woodland	Data provided by Natural Resources Wales.	This criterion seeks to identify where sites contain Ancient Woodland, which development could impact upon.
European site (SAC, SPA or Ramsar site)	Data provided by Natural Resource Wales and includes sites lying outside of the County Borough.	It is recognised that distance in itself is not a definitive guide to the likelihood or significance of effects on a European site. This criterion will help to highlight the European sites that lie in closest proximity to the site for the purposes of differentiating between sites.
Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)	Data provided by Natural Resource Wales and includes sites lying outside of the County Borough.	As above, it is recognised that distance in itself is not a definitive guide to the likelihood or significance of effects on SSSIs. This criterion will help to highlight the SSSI that lies in closest proximity to the site and together with the criterion below for SSSI Impact Zones, it will help to differentiate between sites.
Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINCs)	Data provided by CCBC.	Highlights where locally designated SINCs intersect sites.
Priority habitats	Data provided by Natural Resources Wales.	This criterion seeks to flag if development at a site could result in the loss of and therefore fragmentation of priority habitats/ sensitive habitats. It also helps to flag if there is the potential for disturbance to priority habitats within 50m of the site.
Historic Environment		
Conservation Area	Data provided by CCBC.	Whilst proximity to heritage assets is not a definitive guide to the likelihood or significance of effects in relation to the historic environment, it is helpful to 'flag' where a site lies wholly or partially within, or near to a Conservation Area.
Scheduled Monument	Data provided by Cadw.	As above.

Criteria	Data source	Commentary
Listed Building	Data provided by Cadw.	As above.
Registered Historic Parks and Gardens	Data provided by Cadw.	As above.
Landscape		
Special Landscape Areas	Data provided by CCBC.	Special Landscape Areas (SLAs) are identified locally. This criterion will highlight a percentage overlap with any designated area.
Visually Important Local Landscape	Data provided by CCBC.	Visually Important Local Landscapes (VILL) are identified locally. This criterion will highlight a percentage overlap with any designated area.
Climate change		
Surface water flood risk	Data provided by CCBC.	This criterion will help to identify sites that fall within areas at risk of surface water flooding, noting that sustainable drainage systems can be effective mitigation to reduce these risks.
Fluvial flood risk	Data provided by CCBC.	This criterion will help to identify sites that fall within high flood risk areas. N.B. While it is important to avoid development in flood zones, there is the potential to address flood risk at the development management stage, whilst noting the requirement for a 'sequential approach'.

Table A.2 presents the candidate site framework and assessment questions, where '++' represents major positive effects, '+' represents minor positive effects, '0' represents neutral/ no effects, '?' represents uncertain effects, '-' represents minor negatives effects, and '--' represents major negative effects.

Table A.2: Site options assessment thresholds

ISA Themes	ISA Objectives	ISA candidate site assessment questions	
Economy and employment	Support a strong, diverse and resilient economy, with innovative responses to changing conditions and support for a strong future workforce.	++	Site has excellent access to existing employment (within 800m of an employment site)
		+	The site has good access to existing employment (within 1,600m of a Protected Employment Site).
		0	N/A

ISA Themes	ISA Objectives	ISA candidate site assessment questions	
Population and communities	To provide enough good quality market and affordable homes, and community infrastructure, in sustainable locations to meet identified needs. To enhance design quality to create places for people that maintain and enhance community and settlement identity.	?	N/A
		-	The site has poor access to existing employment (over 1,600m away from an employment centre).
		--	Development at the site could result in the loss of existing employment land.
		++	The site has good access (less than 800m) to an existing community facility
		+	The site has reasonable access (more than 800m but less than 1,600m) to a community facility
		0	N/A
		?	N/A
		-	The closest community facility is distant from the site (1,600m or more)
		--	N/A
		++	The site has good access (less than 800m) to a retail area
		+	The site has reasonable access (more than 800m but less than 1,600m) to a retail area
		0	N/A
		?	N/A
		-	The closest retail area is distant from the site (1,600m or more)
		--	N/A
		++	N/A
		+	The site does not intersect with a designated Green Wedge
		0	N/A
		?	N/A
		-	The site partially intersects (50% or less) a designated Green Wedge

ISA Themes	ISA Objectives	ISA candidate site assessment questions	
Health and Wellbeing	To improve the health and wellbeing of residents within Caerphilly.	--	More than 50% of the site lies within a designated Green Wedge
		++	The site has good access (less than 800m) to a formal leisure space
		+	The site has reasonable access (more than 800m but less than 1,600m) to a formal leisure space
		0	N/A
		?	N/A
		-	The closest formal leisure space is distant from the site (1,600m or more)
		--	Development at the site could result in the loss of an existing formal leisure space
		++	N/A
		+	The site is within 1,600m of a Country Park
		0	N/A
		?	N/A
		-	The site lies 1,600m or more from a Country Park.
		--	N/A
		++	The site has good access (less than 800m) to a railway station
Transport and Movement	Increase sustainable transport use and reduce the need to travel.	+	The site has reasonable access (more than 800m but less than 1,600m) to a railway station
		0	N/A
		?	N/A
		-	The site closest railway station is distant (1,600m or more) from the site
		--	N/A
		++	N/A
		+	The site does not contain or lie adjacent (within 10m) to Public Rights of Way or Claimed Rights of Way
		0	N/A

ISA Themes	ISA Objectives	ISA candidate site assessment questions	
		?	N/A
		-	The site contains or lies adjacent (within 10m) to Public Rights of Way or Claimed Rights of Way
		--	N/A
		++	The site has good access (less than 800m) to a local cycleway
		+	The site has reasonable access (more than 800m but less than 1,600m) to a local cycleway
		0	N/A
		?	N/A
		-	The closest local cycleway is distant (1,600m or more) from the site
		--	N/A
	Natural Resources	++	N/A
		+	Site does not contain Grades 1-3 agricultural land
		0	N/A
		?	N/A
		-	Site contains Grade 1-3 agricultural land
		--	N/A
		++	N/A
		+	The site is not located within or near (within 500m) to an AQMA

ISA Themes	ISA Objectives	ISA candidate site assessment questions	
		0	N/A
		?	N/A
		-	The site is located near (within 500m) to an AQMA
		--	The site is located either partially or wholly within an AQMA
		++	N/A
		+	The site does not intersect mineral safeguarding area
		0	N/A
		?	N/A
		-	The site intersects a mineral safeguarding area
		--	N/A
		++	N/A
		+	There are no main rivers on or within 200m of the site
		0	N/A
		?	N/A
		-	There are main rivers on or within 200m of the site
		--	N/A
Biodiversity and Geodiversity	Protect and enhance biodiversity within and surrounding the plan area.	++	N/A
		+	The site is not within 1km of any internationally designated sites (SAC, SPA, Ramsar).
		0	N/A
		?	The site lies within a 1km buffer zone of internationally designated sites (SAC, SPA, Ramsar)
		-	The site intersects or is adjacent to an internationally designated site (SAC, SPA, Ramsar)
		--	The site is wholly within an internationally designated site (SAC, SPA, Ramsar)

ISA Themes	ISA Objectives	ISA candidate site assessment questions	
		++	N/A
		+	The site is not within 1km of a nationally designated site (SSSI)
		0	N/A
		?	The site lies within a 1km buffer zone of a nationally designated site (SSSI)
		-	The site intersects or is adjacent to a nationally designated site (SSSI)
		--	The site is wholly within a nationally designated site (SSSI)
		++	N/A
		+	The does not intersect or lie within 500m of a locally designated site (SINC)
		0	N/A
		?	The site lies within 500m of a locally designated site (SINC) and further investigation into ecological links may be required
		-	The site intersects or wholly contains a locally designated site (SINC)
		--	N/A
		++	N/A
		+	The site does not intersect or contain any priority habitats
		0	N/A
		?	N/A
		-	Development could result in the loss/ fragmentation of priority habitat(s) that intersects or lies within the site
		--	N/A
		++	N/A
		+	The site does not intersect or contain any Ancient Woodland
		0	N/A
		?	N/A

ISA Themes	ISA Objectives	ISA candidate site assessment questions	
Historic Environment	Preserve and enhance Caerphilly's heritage resource, including its historic environment and archaeological assets. Promote understanding of Caerphilly's landscape and townscape.	-	Development could result in the loss/ fragmentation of Ancient Woodland that intersects or lies within the site
		--	N/A
		++	N/A
		+	The site does not lie within 200m of a Conservation Area
		0	N/A
		?	The site lies outside of but within 200m of a Conservation Area and further investigation into the visual and character links may be required
		-	The site lies adjacent (within 10m) to a Conservation Area
		--	The site lies either partially or wholly within a Conservation Area
		++	N/A
		+	The site does not lie within 200m of a Scheduled Monument
		0	N/A
		?	A Scheduled Monument lies within 200m of the site and further investigation into the archaeological and character links may be required
		-	A Scheduled Monument lies adjacent (within 10m) to the site
		--	The site contains a Scheduled Monument
		++	N/A
		+	The site lies beyond 200m of a Listed Building(s)
		0	N/A

ISA Themes	ISA Objectives	ISA candidate site assessment questions	
		?	Listed Building(s) lie within 200m of the site and further investigation into the visual and character links may be required
		-	Listed Building(s) lies adjacent (within 10m) to the site
		--	The site contains Listed Building(s)
		++	N/A
		+	The site does not lie within 200m of a Registered Historic Park or Garden
		0	N/A
		?	A Registered Historic Park or Garden lies within 200m of the site and further investigation into the visual and character links may be required
		-	A Registered Historic Park or Garden lies adjacent (within 10m) to the site
		--	The site intersects a Registered Historic Park or Garden
	Landscape	++	N/A
		+	The site does not intersect with a Special Landscape Area
		0	N/A
		?	N/A
		-	The site intersects a Special Landscape Area
		--	N/A
		++	N/A
		+	The site does not intersect with a Visually Important Local Landscape
		0	N/A
		?	N/A
		-	The site intersects a Visually Important Local Landscape
		--	N/A

ISA Themes	ISA Objectives	ISA candidate site assessment questions	
Climate Change	Support the resilience of the Caerphilly Area to the potential effects of climate change, including flooding from fluvial, coastal and surface water -- sources.	++	N/A
	Reduce Caerphilly's contribution to climate change from activities which result in greenhouse gas emissions.	+	The site does not intersect a high / medium surface water / fluvial flood risk area
		0	N/A
		?	N/A
		-	The site does intersects a high / medium surface water / fluvial flood risk area
		-	N/A

Table A.3 presents the outcomes of the assessment

Table A.3 Site assessment outcomes

Site Option	Employment site (m)	Community facility (m)	Retail area	Green wedge	Leisure space	Country Park	Train station	PRoW	Cycleway	ALC	AQMA	Mineral site	Main river
YM013													
CB212													
CB218													
HOV104													

Site Option	Employment site (m)	Community facility (m)	Retail area	Green wedge	Leisure space	Country Park	Train station	PRoW	Cycleway	ALC	AQMA	Mineral site	Main river
GB013													
CB011													
HOV101													
RNC017													
RNC102													
HOV009													
RNC006													
CB017													
HOV102													
CB013													
CB220													
GB023													
HOV209													
HOV107													
RNC107													
HOV016													
RNC007													
HOV105													
CB216													
HOV020													
GB004													
YM005													
RNC026													
HOV012													
YM201													

Site Option	Employment site (m)	Community facility (m)	Retail area	Green wedge	Leisure space	Country Park	Train station	PRoW	Cycleway	ALC	AQMA	Mineral site	Main river
RNC027													
YM025													
RNC013													
YM007													
YM010													
RNC028													
GB201													
HOV014													
GB208													
CB014													
CB024													
YM023													
GB017													
CB222													
CB211													
CB225													
RNC202													
RNC201													
HOV018													
CB208													
HOV005													
HOV202													
RNC210													
GB209													
CB003													

Site Option	Employment site (m)	Community facility (m)	Retail area	Green wedge	Leisure space	Country Park	Train station	PRoW	Cycleway	ALC	AQMA	Mineral site	Main river
RNC008													
GB010													
GB002													
CB026													
CB201													
RNC018													
RNC020													
GB011													
GB005													
CB015													
CB030													
RNC101													
HOV001													
HOV004													
GB018													
RNC002													
CB102													
YM101													
RNC003													
GB006													
RNC001													
CB023													
CB224													
CB205													
GB015													

Site Option	Employment site (m)	Community facility (m)	Retail area	Green wedge	Leisure space	Country Park	Train station	PRoW	Cycleway	ALC	AQMA	Mineral site	Main river
HOV106													
YM205													
CB009													
YM014													
RNC105													
RNC010													
HOV002													
RNC019													
YM019													
CB202													
HOV103													
HOV011													
GB024													
YM015													
GB003													
RNC023													
CB001													
CB203													
RNC009													
CB207													
CB101													
YM006													
GB101													
GB205													
RNC005													

Site Option	Employment site (m)	Community facility (m)	Retail area	Green wedge	Leisure space	Country Park	Train station	PRoW	Cycleway	ALC	AQMA	Mineral site	Main river
CB002													
CB022													
CB206													
CB105													
CB007													
YM020													
GB014													
HOV205													
YM024													
CB008													
RNC016													
HOV109													
CB215													
GB033													
GB204													
GB019													
YM016													
CB227													
GB001													
CB032													
RNC024													
CB028													
YM027													
YM204													
HOV003													

Site Option	Employment site (m)	Community facility (m)	Retail area	Green wedge	Leisure space	Country Park	Train station	PRoW	Cycleway	ALC	AQMA	Mineral site	Main river
CB213													
GB102													
GB008													
RNC025													
HOV019													
GB031													
HOV110													
RNC103													
YM012													
CB034													
HOV207													
HOV017													
GB203													
CB033													
YM028													
YM017													
GB020													
YM022													
GB029													
YM021													
HOV006													
RNC208													
HOV201													
GB021													
RNC209													

Site Option	Employment site (m)	Community facility (m)	Retail area	Green wedge	Leisure space	Country Park	Train station	PRoW	Cycleway	ALC	AQMA	Mineral site	Main river
GB207													
GB026													
YM029													
CB018													
CB217													
HOV008													
RNC015													
GB025													
CB031													
CB004													
YM203													
HOV007													
YM009													
RNC207													
CB016													
CB104													
YM202													
YM018													
CB229													
RNC204													
CB027													
RNC104													
GB103													
HOV206													
YM026													

Site Option	Employment site (m)	Community facility (m)	Retail area	Green wedge	Leisure space	Country Park	Train station	PRoW	Cycleway	ALC	AQMA	Mineral site	Main river
YM011													
GB016													
HOV021													
GB210													
HOV015													
CB020													
YM001													
RNC021													
RNC206													
GB032													
CB209													
YM004													
HOV108													
CB025													
HOV010													
YM008													
RNC205													
CB214													
GB030													
GB022													
CB035													
GB027													
GB009													
RNC014													
GB202													

Site Option	Employment site (m)	Community facility (m)	Retail area	Green wedge	Leisure space	Country Park	Train station	PRoW	Cycleway	ALC	AQMA	Mineral site	Main river
RNC022													
CB029													
HOV204													
CB005													
GB012													
HOV208													
CB221													
RNC012													
CB228													
GB206													
CB204													
CB103													
CB006													
CB012													
CB226													
RNC203													
GB028													
CB021													
CB210													
HOV203													
RNC106													
CB010													
YM002													
CB219													
CB019													

Site Option	Employment site (m)	Community facility (m)	Retail area	Green wedge	Leisure space	Country Park	Train station	PRoW	Cycleway	ALC	AQMA	Mineral site	Main river
CB223													
YM003													
RNC004													
RNC011													
CB106													
HOV013													

Site Option	Ancient woodland	SAC / SPA / Ramsar	SSSI	SINCs	Priority habitat	Conservation Area	Scheduled monument	Listed building	Historic park or garden	SLA	VILL	SW flood risk (high risk)	SW flood risk (medium risk)	Fluvial flood risk (high risk)	Fluvial flood risk (medium risk)
YM013															
CB212															
CB218															
HOV104															
GB013															
CB011															
HOV101															
RNC017															
RNC102															
HOV009															
RNC006															
CB017															

Site Option	Ancient woodland	SAC / SPA / Ramsar	SSSI	SINCs	Priority habitat	Conservation Area	Scheduled monument	Listed building	Historic park or garden	SLA	VILL	SW flood risk (high risk)	SW flood risk (medium risk)	Fluvial flood risk (high risk)	Fluvial flood risk (medium risk)
HOV102															
CB013															
CB220															
GB023															
HOV209															
HOV107															
RNC107															
HOV016															
RNC007															
HOV105															
CB216															
HOV020															
GB004															
YM005															
RNC026															
HOV012															
YM201															
RNC027															
YM025															
RNC013															
YM007															
YM010															
RNC028															
GB201															

Site Option	Ancient woodland	SAC / SPA / Ramsar	SSSI	SINCs	Priority habitat	Conservation Area	Scheduled monument	Listed building	Historic park or garden	SLA	VILL	SW flood risk (high risk)	SW flood risk (medium risk)	Fluvial flood risk (high risk)	Fluvial flood risk (medium risk)
HOV014															
GB208															
CB014															
CB024															
YM023															
GB017															
CB222															
CB211															
CB225															
RNC202															
RNC201															
HOV018															
CB208															
HOV005															
HOV202															
RNC210															
GB209															
CB003															
RNC008															
GB010															
GB002															
CB026															
CB201															
RNC018															

Site Option	Ancient woodland	SAC / SPA / Ramsar	SSSI	SINCs	Priority habitat	Conservation Area	Scheduled monument	Listed building	Historic park or garden	SLA	VILL	SW flood risk (high risk)	SW flood risk (medium risk)	Fluvial flood risk (high risk)	Fluvial flood risk (medium risk)
RNC020															
GB011															
GB005															
CB015															
CB030															
RNC101															
HOV001															
HOV004															
GB018															
RNC002															
CB102															
YM101															
RNC003															
GB006															
RNC001															
CB023															
CB224															
CB205															
GB015															
HOV106															
YM205															
CB009															
YM014															
RNC105															

Site Option	Ancient woodland	SAC / SPA / Ramsar	SSSI	SINCs	Priority habitat	Conservation Area	Scheduled monument	Listed building	Historic park or garden	SLA	VILL	SW flood risk (high risk)	SW flood risk (medium risk)	Fluvial flood risk (high risk)	Fluvial flood risk (medium risk)
RNC010															
HOV002															
RNC019															
YM019															
CB202															
HOV103															
HOV011															
GB024															
YM015															
GB003															
RNC023															
CB001															
CB203															
RNC009															
CB207															
CB101															
YM006															
GB101															
GB205															
RNC005															
CB002															
CB022															
CB206															
CB105															

Site Option	Ancient woodland	SAC / SPA / Ramsar	SSSI	SINCs	Priority habitat	Conservation Area	Scheduled monument	Listed building	Historic park or garden	SLA	VILL	SW flood risk (high risk)	SW flood risk (medium risk)	Fluvial flood risk (high risk)	Fluvial flood risk (medium risk)
CB007															
YM020															
GB014															
HOV205															
YM024															
CB008															
RNC016															
HOV109															
CB215															
GB033															
GB204															
GB019															
YM016															
CB227															
GB001															
CB032															
RNC024															
CB028															
YM027															
YM204															
HOV003															
CB213															
GB102															
GB008															

Site Option	Ancient woodland	SAC / SPA / Ramsar	SSSI	SINCs	Priority habitat	Conservation Area	Scheduled monument	Listed building	Historic park or garden	SLA	VILL	SW flood risk (high risk)	SW flood risk (medium risk)	Fluvial flood risk (high risk)	Fluvial flood risk (medium risk)
RNC025															
HOV019															
GB031															
HOV110															
RNC103															
YM012															
CB034															
HOV207															
HOV017															
GB203															
CB033															
YM028															
YM017															
GB020															
YM022															
GB029															
YM021															
HOV006															
RNC208															
HOV201															
GB021															
RNC209															
GB207															
GB026															

Site Option	Ancient woodland	SAC / SPA / Ramsar	SSSI	SINCs	Priority habitat	Conservation Area	Scheduled monument	Listed building	Historic park or garden	SLA	VILL	SW flood risk (high risk)	SW flood risk (medium risk)	Fluvial flood risk (high risk)	Fluvial flood risk (medium risk)
YM029															
CB018															
CB217															
HOV008															
RNC015															
GB025															
CB031															
CB004															
YM203															
HOV007															
YM009															
RNC207															
CB016															
CB104															
YM202															
YM018															
CB229															
RNC204															
CB027															
RNC104															
GB103															
HOV206															
YM026															
YM011															

Site Option	Ancient woodland	SAC / SPA / Ramsar	SSSI	SINCs	Priority habitat	Conservation Area	Scheduled monument	Listed building	Historic park or garden	SLA	VILL	SW flood risk (high risk)	SW flood risk (medium risk)	Fluvial flood risk (high risk)	Fluvial flood risk (medium risk)
GB016															
HOV021															
GB210															
HOV015															
CB020															
YM001															
RNC021															
RNC206															
GB032															
CB209															
YM004															
HOV108															
CB025															
HOV010															
YM008															
RNC205															
CB214															
GB030															
GB022															
CB035															
GB027															
GB009															
RNC014															
GB202															

Site Option	Ancient woodland	SAC / SPA / Ramsar	SSSI	SINCs	Priority habitat	Conservation Area	Scheduled monument	Listed building	Historic park or garden	SLA	VILL	SW flood risk (high risk)	SW flood risk (medium risk)	Fluvial flood risk (high risk)	Fluvial flood risk (medium risk)
RNC022															
CB029															
HOV204															
CB005															
GB012															
HOV208															
CB221															
RNC012															
CB228															
GB206															
CB204															
CB103															
CB006															
CB012															
CB226															
RNC203															
GB028															
CB021															
CB210															
HOV203															
RNC106															
CB010															
YM002															
CB219															

Site Option	Ancient woodland	SAC / SPA / Ramsar	SSSI	SINCs	Priority habitat	Conservation Area	Scheduled monument	Listed building	Historic park or garden	SLA	VILL	SW flood risk (high risk)	SW flood risk (medium risk)	Fluvial flood risk (high risk)	Fluvial flood risk (medium risk)
CB019															
CB223															
YM003															
RNC004															
RNC011															
CB106															
HOV013															

Table A.4 identifies the progression or non-progression of sites as determined by the Council.

Table A.4: Progression of site options (as determined by the Council)

Site Option	Progression	Reasons
YM013	Not progressed	Woodland, proximity to Industrial units.
CB212	Not progressed	Small site within existing settlement boundary - development in this location acceptable in principle, subject to meeting other planning considerations.
CB218	Not progressed	Small site within existing settlement boundary - development in this location acceptable in principle, subject to meeting other planning considerations.
HOV104	Not progressed	Insufficient supporting information.
GB013	Progressed	Suitable for allocation.
CB011	Not progressed	Poor relationship to settlement, access, ecology.
HOV101	Not progressed	Insufficient supporting information.
RNC017	Not progressed	Unable to demonstrate deliverability and viability, consider as part of settlement boundary review.
RNC102	Not progressed	Below site size threshold. Development in the countryside (site is next to a terrace with no settlement boundary) - does not meet national planning policy.

HOV009	Progressed	Suitable for allocation for Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation, extension to existing site for provision of a total of 12 pitches.
RNC006	Not progressed	TPOs, access, ecology.
CB017	Progressed	Site is suitable for allocation.
HOV102	Not progressed	Insufficient supporting information.
CB013	Not progressed	Access constraint, planning permission refused, insufficient supporting information.
CB220	Not progressed	Insufficient supporting information.
GB023	Progressed	Suitable for allocation when including health provision.
HOV209	Progressed	Suitable for allocation.
HOV107	Not progressed	Development in the countryside, does not meet national planning policy.
RNC107	Not progressed	Site overlaps with candidate site RNC024, which is next to the defined settlement of Risca, and which will be assessed in a settlement-boundary review. The site should be considered as part of the settlement boundary review, along with site RNC024.
HOV016	Progressed	Suitable for allocation.
RNC007	Not progressed	Below site size threshold. Development in the countryside, does not meet national planning policy.
HOV105	Progressed	Does not comply with Strategy - significant growth proposed in a Tier 4 settlement. Whilst adjacent to a Tier 1 settlement, there are alternative sites within the Tier 1 settlement are better positioned to accommodate development. The site should only be considered as a potential reserve site.
CB216	Not progressed	Development in the countryside. Insufficient supporting information to consider renewable energy proposal.
HOV020	Not progressed	Already included in committed supply.
GB004	Progressed	Allocation for submitted education use no longer required.
YM005	Progressed	Suitable for allocation.
RNC026	Not progressed	Development in the countryside. Insufficient supporting information to consider renewable energy proposal.
HOV012	Not progressed	Development in the countryside, does not meet national planning policy.
YM201	Progressed	Suitable for allocation.
RNC027	Not progressed	Site is within site within existing settlement boundary. Development acceptable in principle, subject to meeting other planning considerations.
YM025	Not progressed	Ecology, green wedge, visual impact, drainage, developable area of site.
RNC013	Not progressed	Ecology (woodland).
YM007	Not progressed	Ecology, landscape, lack of footways.
YM010	Progressed	Alternative sites within the settlement are better positioned to accommodate development. The site should be considered as a potential reserve site.

RNC028	Progressed	Does not meet strategy. However, site is within site within existing settlement boundary - development acceptable in principle, subject to meeting other planning considerations.
GB201	Not progressed	Development in the countryside, does not meet national planning policy.
HOV014	Not progressed	To be considered as part of the settlement boundary review.
GB208	Not progressed	Insufficient supporting information.
CB014	Not progressed	Ecology
CB024	Not progressed	Ecology
YM023	Progressed	The site is of value as open space. As within existing settlement boundary - development in this location acceptable in principle, subject to meeting other planning considerations.
GB017	Not progressed	Ecology
CB222	Not progressed	Already included in committed supply.
CB211	Not progressed	Small site within existing settlement boundary - development in this location acceptable in principle, subject to meeting other planning considerations.
CB225	Not progressed	Small site within existing settlement boundary, Flood Zone 3.
RNC202	Not progressed	Ecology, landscape, trees
RNC201	Not progressed	Small site within existing settlement boundary, development in this location acceptable in principle, subject to meeting other planning considerations.
HOV018	Progressed	Unable to demonstrate deliverability and does not meet strategy. However, site is within existing settlement boundary - development acceptable in principle, subject to meeting other planning considerations.
CB208	Not progressed	Small site within existing settlement boundary - development in this location acceptable in principle, subject to meeting other planning considerations.
HOV005	Not progressed	Consider smaller site through settlement boundary review.
HOV202	Not progressed	Insufficient supporting information to consider renewable energy proposal.
RNC210	Not progressed	Below site size threshold. Need to consider as part of the settlement boundary review.
GB209	Not progressed	Ecology
CB003	Not progressed	Below site size threshold. Considered as part of the settlement boundary review.
RNC008	Not progressed	Insufficient supporting information.
GB010	Progressed	Suitable for allocation.
GB002	Not progressed	Ecology, access.
CB026	Not progressed	Ecology, access.
CB201	Not progressed	Development in the countryside. Insufficient supporting information to consider renewable energy proposal.

RNC018	Not progressed	Unable to demonstrate deliverability and viability, consider as part of settlement boundary review.
RNC020	Not progressed	Important area of open space.
GB011	Not progressed	Insufficient information submitted to consider site in isolation.
GB005	Not progressed	Development in the countryside, does not meet national planning policy.
CB015	Not progressed	Below site size threshold. Considered as part of the settlement boundary review
CB030	Not progressed	Already included in committed supply.
RNC101	Not progressed	Ancient woodland.
HOV001	Not progressed	Development in the countryside, does not meet national planning policy.
HOV004	Progressed	Suitable for allocation (with additional land).
GB018	Not progressed	Small site within existing settlement boundary - development in this location acceptable in principle, subject to meeting other planning considerations.
RNC002	Not progressed	Access, ecology.
CB102	Not progressed	Impact on potential reinstatement of railway line.
YM101	Not progressed	Already included in committed supply.
RNC003	Not progressed	Below site size threshold. Consider as part of the settlement boundary review.
GB006	Not progressed	Access, ecology.
RNC001	Not progressed	Below site size threshold. Consider as part of the settlement boundary review.
CB023	Not progressed	Ecology
CB224	Not progressed	Insufficient supporting information.
CB205	Not progressed	Small site within existing settlement boundary - development in this location acceptable in principle, subject to meeting other planning considerations.
GB015	Not progressed	Access, contamination, ecology (SINC, TPO), location
HOV106	Not progressed	Below site size threshold. Consider as part of the settlement boundary review.
YM205	Progressed	Suitable for allocation, with YM017, as part of HO1.3
CB009	Not progressed	Below site size threshold. Considered as part of the settlement boundary review
YM014	Not progressed	Visual impact.
RNC105	Not progressed	Mix of commercial, employment and industrial uses - small site, within settlement, within Flood Zone C1.
RNC010	Not progressed	Developable area for site already within settlement boundary. Remainder of site covered by a SINC. Consider as part of settlement boundary review.
HOV002	Progressed	Suitable for allocation as a mixed-use scheme incorporating leisure, renewable energy and rural skills uses.

RNC019	Not progressed	Important area of open space.
YM019	Not progressed	Ecology.
CB202	Not progressed	Development in the countryside - does not meet national planning policy.
HOV103	Not progressed	Insufficient supporting information.
HOV011	Not progressed	Small site to be considered as part of the settlement boundary review.
GB024	Not progressed	Development in the countryside - does not meet national planning policy.
YM015	Not progressed	Ecology (SINC).
GB003	Not progressed	Already included in committed supply.
RNC023	Not progressed	Already included in committed supply.
CB001	Not progressed	Access, ecology.
CB203	Not progressed	The proposal does not meet the 1 ha threshold for sites proposed for uses other than housing.
RNC009	Not progressed	Only five dwellings proposed. Consider C settlement boundary review.
CB207	Not progressed	Small site within existing settlement boundary - development in this location acceptable in principle, subject to meeting other planning considerations.
CB101	Not progressed	Below site size threshold. Development in the countryside - does not meet national planning policy.
YM006	Not progressed	Ecology, access.
GB101	Not progressed	Largely within a SINC, edge of settlement. Small site to be considered as part of the settlement boundary review.
GB205	Not progressed	Below site size threshold. Need to consider as part of the settlement boundary review.
RNC005	Not progressed	School permitted. Remainder of site to be considered as part of settlement boundary review.
CB002	Progressed	Identified as a Housing-led Regeneration Opportunity as unable to demonstrate deliverability and viability.
CB022	Not progressed	Ecology, landscape.
CB206	Not progressed	Small site within existing settlement boundary - development in this location acceptable in principle, subject to meeting other planning considerations.
CB105	Not progressed	Below site size threshold. Need to consider as part of the settlement boundary review.
CB007	Not progressed	Below site size threshold. Considered as part of the settlement boundary review
YM020	Not progressed	Visual impact (topography, engineering works, retaining structures).
GB014	Not progressed	Development in the countryside, does not meet national planning policy.
HOV205	Not progressed	Ecology (SINC)
YM024	Not progressed	Ecology, green wedge, visual impact, drainage, developable area of site.
CB008	Not progressed	Development in the countryside, does not meet national planning policy.

RNC016	Not progressed	Ecology, landscape, access.
HOV109	Progressed	Suitable for allocation for Education/Leisure.
CB215	Not progressed	Small site within existing settlement boundary - development in this location acceptable in principle, subject to meeting other planning considerations.
GB033	Not progressed	Insufficient supporting information.
GB204	Not progressed	Planning permission 25/0494/FULL granted.
GB019	Not progressed	Ecology, visual impact.
YM016	Not progressed	Landscape.
CB227	Not progressed	Below site size threshold. Need to consider as part of the settlement boundary review.
GB001	Not progressed	Access, green wedge.
CB032	Not progressed	Ecology, SLA.
RNC024	Not progressed	Consider as part of the settlement boundary review.
CB028	Progressed	Identified as a Housing-led Regeneration Opportunity as unable to demonstrate deliverability and viability.
YM027	Progressed	Alternative sites within the settlement are better positioned to accommodate development. The site should be considered as a potential reserve site.
YM204	Not progressed	Insufficient supporting information.
HOV003	Not progressed	Small site to be considered as part of the settlement boundary review.
CB213	Not progressed	Ecology, trees, flood.
GB102	Not progressed	Consider as part of settlement boundary review.
GB008	Not progressed	Ecology.
RNC025	Progressed	Suitable for allocation.
HOV019	Progressed	Identified as a Housing-led Regeneration Opportunity as unable to demonstrate deliverability and viability.
GB031	Not progressed	Ecology (SINC).
HOV110	Not progressed	Withdrawn.
RNC103	Not progressed	
YM012	Progressed	Suitable for allocation.
CB034	Not progressed	Ecology, TPO, flood risk (part).
HOV207	Not progressed	Development in the countryside, does not meet national planning policy.
HOV017	Not progressed	Access, ecology.
GB203	Progressed	Suitable for allocation.

CB033	Not progressed	Ecology, SLA.
YM028	Not progressed	Insufficient supporting information.
YM017	Progressed	Suitable for allocation.
GB020	Not progressed	Small site to be considered (for employment purposes) as part of the settlement boundary review.
YM022	Not progressed	Historic landscape.
GB029	Not progressed	Already included in committed supply.
YM021	Not progressed	Drainage, important public open space.
HOV006	Not progressed	Considered as a part of HOV004.
RNC208	Not progressed	The site has been submitted for a proposed settlement boundary amendment, therefore, should be considered as part of the settlement boundary review.
HOV201	Not progressed	Insufficient supporting information.
GB021	Progressed	Partly within settlement, partly an allocated site with planning permission. Unable to demonstrate deliverability and viability, consider as part of settlement boundary review.
RNC209	Not progressed	The site has been submitted for a proposed settlement boundary amendment, therefore, should be considered as part of the settlement boundary review.
GB207	Not progressed	Insufficient supporting information.
GB026	Not progressed	Ecology.
YM029	Not progressed	Insufficient supporting information.
CB018	Progressed	Site is suitable for allocation.
CB217	Not progressed	Development in the countryside. Insufficient supporting information to consider renewable energy proposal.
HOV008	Progressed	Suitable for allocation for Education.
RNC015	Not progressed	Small site partly within settlement boundary. Consider as part of settlement boundary review.
GB025	Not progressed	Ecology, green wedge.
CB031	Not progressed	Insufficient supporting information.
CB004	Progressed	Site is suitable for allocation.
YM203	Not progressed	Insufficient supporting information.
HOV007	Not progressed	Considered as a part of HOV004.
YM009	Not progressed	Potential flood constraint. However, the site is within existing settlement boundary, no need for allocation.
RNC207	Not progressed	Site is within existing settlement boundary and within a defined town centre, no need for allocation.
CB016	Not progressed	Ecology, TPO, flood risk (part)

CB104	Not progressed	Risk from previous coal mining. Concerns over access. Topography and engineering works required.
YM202	Progressed	Alternative sites within the settlement are better positioned to accommodate development. The site should be considered as a potential reserve site.
YM018	Not progressed	Ecology.
CB229	Not progressed	Flood Zone 3.
RNC204	Not progressed	Access, flood. Site is within existing settlement boundary, no need for allocation.
CB027	Not progressed	Divorced from settlement, drainage, BMV land.
RNC104	Not progressed	Below site size threshold. Consider as part of the settlement boundary review.
GB103	Not progressed	No assessment as considered as a small site.
HOV206	Not progressed	Below site size threshold. Consider as part of the settlement boundary review.
YM026	Progressed	Suitable for allocation.
YM011	Progressed	Suitable for allocation.
GB016	Not progressed	Planning permission recently refused, noise, requirement for employment
HOV021	Not progressed	Manmoel is a settlement without boundary, not suitable for extension other than small scale infill development.
GB210	Not progressed	Insufficient supporting information.
HOV015	Not progressed	Already included in committed supply.
CB020	Not progressed	Ecology, landscape
YM001	Not progressed	Ecology.
RNC021	Not progressed	Ecology (SINC), heritage (SAM).
RNC206	Not progressed	The site has been submitted for a proposed settlement boundary amendment, therefore, should be considered as part of the settlement boundary review.
GB032	Not progressed	Ecology (SINC), access.
CB209	Not progressed	Small site within existing settlement boundary - development in this location acceptable in principle, subject to meeting other planning considerations.
YM004	Not progressed	Below site size threshold. Consider as part of the settlement boundary review.
HOV108	Not progressed	Edge of settlement, consider as part of settlement boundary review.
CB025	Progressed	Site is suitable for allocation
HOV010	Not progressed	Ecology (SINC).
YM008	Not progressed	Access, trees, ecology.
RNC205	Not progressed	Below site size threshold. Consider as part of the settlement boundary review.

CB214	Not progressed	Development in the countryside. Insufficient supporting information to consider renewable energy proposal.
GB030	Progressed	Suitable for allocation.
GB022	Not progressed	Welsh Government objection to strategic site.
CB035	Not progressed	Impact on potential reinstatement of railway line.
GB027	Not progressed	Not a sustainable location and not in a settlement with a settlement boundary.
GB009	Not progressed	Ecology, TPO, in isolation, the site represents an illogical extension to settlement.
RNC014	Not progressed	Ecology, woodland, part of Country Park. Consider smaller site area as part of settlement boundary review, to reflect existing built development.
GB202	Not progressed	Development in the countryside, does not meet national planning policy.
RNC022	Not progressed	Already included in committed supply.
CB029	Not progressed	Access, land ownership.
HOV204	Not progressed	Below site size threshold. Need to consider as part of the settlement boundary review.
CB005	Not progressed	Insufficient supporting information
GB012	Progressed	Suitable for allocation.
HOV208	Not progressed	Not suitable for proposed commercial development.
CB221	Not progressed	Small site within existing settlement boundary - development in this location acceptable in principle, subject to meeting other planning considerations.
RNC012	Not progressed	Considered as a part of RNC011.
CB228	Not progressed	Ecology, Tier 4 settlement.
GB206	Not progressed	Considered as part of GB021, Unable to demonstrate deliverability and viability, consider as part of settlement boundary review.
CB204	Not progressed	Development in the countryside. Insufficient supporting information to consider renewable energy proposal.
CB103	Not progressed	Ecology.
CB006	Not progressed	Ecology
CB012	Not progressed	Already included in committed supply.
CB226	Not progressed	The site is predominantly within the settlement boundary, should be considered as part of settlement boundary review.
RNC203	Not progressed	Below site size threshold. Development in the countryside - does not meet national planning policy.
GB028	Progressed	Identified as a Housing-led Regeneration Opportunity as unable to demonstrate deliverability and viability.
CB021	Not progressed	Below site size threshold. Consider as part of the settlement boundary review.
CB210	Not progressed	Small site within existing settlement boundary - development in this location acceptable in principle, subject to meeting other planning considerations.

HOV203	Not progressed	Insufficient supporting information.
RNC106	Not progressed	Below site size threshold. Consider as part of the settlement boundary review.
CB010	Progressed	Site is suitable for allocation.
YM002	Not progressed	Already considered in committed supply.
CB219	Progressed	Identified as a Housing-led Regeneration Opportunity as unable to demonstrate deliverability and viability.
CB019	Not progressed	Small site within existing settlement boundary - development in this location acceptable in principle, subject to meeting other planning considerations.
CB223	Not progressed	Small site within existing settlement boundary - development in this location acceptable in principle, subject to meeting other planning considerations.
YM003	Progressed	Alternative sites within the settlement are better positioned to accommodate development. The site should be considered as a potential reserve site.
RNC004	Progressed	Does not comply with Strategy. However, small-scale rounding off development could be accommodated. The site should only be considered as a reserve site.
RNC011	Not progressed	Insufficient supporting information.
CB106	Not progressed	Ecology.
HOV013	Not progressed	Proposal for campsite, landscape concerns, address through application process.

