



**RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY
BOROUGH COUNCIL:
LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN
2006-2021**



DEPOSIT DRAFT PLAN

**SUSTAINABILITY APPRAISAL (SA)
STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENTAL
ASSESSMENT (SEA)**



**SUSTAINABILITY APPRAISAL
REPORT**

JANUARY 2009

Prepared by:



enfusion



**RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH
COUNCIL:
LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2006-2021**

DEPOSIT DRAFT PLAN

**SUSTAINABILITY APPRAISAL (SA)
STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT (SEA)**

SUSTAINABILITY APPRAISAL REPORT

<i>date:</i>	January 2009	
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SA of Rhondda Cynon Taf's Local Development Plan 2006-2016 Sustainability Appraisal Report

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INTRODUCTION

- 0.1 This is the summary of the Sustainability Appraisal Report for Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council's Deposit Draft Plan. It describes how the Sustainability Appraisal (SA) process was used to assist in planning for the development and the use of land, as required by planning legislation and Welsh Assembly Government guidance. The SA assists sustainable development through an ongoing dialogue and assessment during the preparation of the Local Development Plan (LDP) and considers the implications of social, economic and environmental demands on land use planning.

THE LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN

- 0.2 The LDP is the new system introduced in Wales by Part 6 of the Planning & Compulsory Purchase Act (2004). The LDP forms the statutory development plan for a local authority area. The plan should include a vision, strategy, area-wide policies for development types, land allocations, and where necessary policies and proposals for key areas of change and protection. The LDP system seeks to achieve: the integration of sustainable development into plan making through Sustainability Appraisal incorporating Strategic Environmental Assessment; effective community involvement in plan making; a more streamlined approach to plan making; producing plans that are strategic, concise and distinctive.

SUSTAINABILITY APPRAISAL & STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

- 0.3 Planning legislation requires that the LDP is subject to an SA, a systematic process that is designed to evaluate the predicted social, economic and environmental effects of development planning. European and UK legislation require that the LDP is also subject to a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA), a process that considers the effects of development planning on the environment. Government guidance advises that these two processes should be carried out together and outlines a number of stages of SA work that need to be carried out as the LDP is being prepared:

Stage A: Setting Context & Scope
Stage B: Developing Options & Assessing Effects
Stage C: Preparing the SA Report
Stage D: Consulting on the Plan & the SA
Stage E: Monitoring Implementation of the Plan

- 0.4 The SA/SEA of the Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough's Local Development Plan has been prepared in accordance with these requirements for SA/SEA.

THE CHARACTER OF RHONDDA CYNON TAF

- 0.5 Rhondda Cynon Taf (RCT) covers an area of the South Wales Valleys, stretching from the Brecon Beacons National Park in the north to the outskirts of Cardiff in the south. It comprises a mixture of urban, semi-urban and rural communities, situated in a varied countryside of valleys, mountains and lowland farmland. It is the second largest local authority in Wales, covering 424 square kilometres, and with a population of 231,946 (2001 Census).
- 0.6 The population of RCT overall has remained largely unchanged since 1991, however, there is significant local variation which has seen the population in the valleys and to the north decline by 5% while population in the southern areas has increased by 10%, drawn by the greater accessibility and economic opportunities present in the south of the County Borough. Rhondda has a legacy of terraced housing stock (52.9%) and a significant disparity in house prices which for comparable properties are 60% higher in the south. Empty properties are an issue in the north, which is also the greatest area of deprivation, and there is shortfall of affordable housing (870) across the County Borough.
- 0.7 There are also identified disparities in economic output between the north and south of the County Borough. An overall figure of 73% of residents economically active is underlain by higher proportions of economically active individuals in the south and above average levels of people claiming Job Seekers Allowance in the north. Of the 38,400 people residing in RCT, 19,000 commute to Cardiff to work.
- 0.8 RCT has a varied and characterful landscape that is important for nature conservation with significant areas of semi-natural habitat and high levels of habitat diversity, protected through local, national and European designations. Much of the landscape is also of cultural and historic significance as provides a living record of the Borough's industrial past. The County Borough also has 16 conservation areas and 366 listed buildings.

SA SCOPING & ISSUES FOR SUSTAINABILITY

- 0.9 During early 2006 a scoping process for the SA was carried out to help ensure that the SA would cover the key sustainability issues that are relevant to the development planning system for Rhondda Cynon Taf. Relevant plans, programmes and other baseline information were reviewed to develop a wider understanding of issues and priorities, together with a description of the current and predicted social, economic and environmental characteristics of the area. This information was updated in 2008.

- 0.10 From these studies, the key sustainability issues and opportunities for the LDP and the SA were identified, as set out in the following table:

Key sustainability Issues/ opportunities identified for Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council
Potential for increased flooding in low lying areas.
Issues of water supply in dry summers and decreases in water quality arising from inadequate drainage systems.
High levels of out commuting and reliance on the private car for transportation.
Development pressures on areas of cultural or archaeological heritage that are not protected by statutory designations.
Increased road development and access routes.
Increasing levels of deprivation, ill health and drug related crime.
Depopulation and loss of economic activity from the valleys and northern area.
Opportunity to stimulate the local economy, through increased tourism
Opportunities for renewable energy projects – range of scales and technologies.

SA Framework

- 0.11 An SA Framework was compiled and it included SA Objectives that aimed to resolve the issues and problems identified; these were used to test the draft plan as it was being prepared. This was included in the SA Scoping Report that was sent to statutory consultees. Comments were invited and received from a number of these organisations, which helped to improve the SA Framework. The following is a list of the SA Objective Headings.

SA Objective headings	
1. Housing	9.. Landscape
2. Culture & heritage	10. Biodiversity
3. Communities	11. Water
4. Health	12. Climate Change
5. Economy	13. Energy
6. Employment	14. Land & soils
7. Transport	15. Waste
8. Built Environment	16. Minerals

SA OF THE LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN

- 0.12 Each stage of the preparation of the Deposit Draft Plan was appraised systematically using the SA Objectives. Where significant adverse effects, including environmental effects, have been predicted, the SA sought where possible to identify means of offsetting these effects, including through the revision/ amendment of policies. Where it was considered that there were opportunities to enhance the sustainability of the proposals, recommendations were made. The appraisal recognised 7 categories of predicted effects, as illustrated in the following key.

Categories of Sustainability Effect	
DG	Development actively encouraged as it would resolve an existing sustainability problem
LG	No Sustainability constraints and development acceptable
B	Neutral effect
Y	Potential sustainability issues; mitigation and /or negotiation possible
O	Problematical and improbable because of known sustainability issues ; mitigation or negotiation difficult and /or expensive
R	Absolute sustainability constraints to development
?	Unknown effect

Appraising the Preferred Strategy Strategic Policies (2006)

- 0.13 The Preferred Strategy contained 12 strategic policies. Each policy was subject to a detailed appraisal using the SA Framework informed by the wider LDP evidence base and the baseline information developed at scoping stage. Recommendations made by the initial Sustainability Report (Dec 2006) were incorporated by RCT in the next stage.

Appraising the Preferred Strategy Spatial Options (2006)

- 0.14 The Draft preferred Strategy identified five strategic options for spatial development and was subject to initial sustainability appraisal by Enfusion Ltd. The Sustainability Threshold Assessment (STA) method was used to provide a strategic overview of the performance of the five options (Trends Based Strategy, Local Needs Strategy, Consolidation Strategy, Sustainable Growth Strategy, Growth/Local Needs Strategy). The appraisal was undertaken using professional judgement and relevant evidence base and baseline data.

Appraising the Preferred Strategy Site Allocations Method (2006)

- 0.15 An SA was undertaken of the proposed Candidate Site Assessment Methodology, to determine whether the methodology used was compatible with the SA Framework and a robust and defensible methodology from a sustainability perspective. The recommendations of the SA were reported in full in the initial Sustainability Report (2006).

HRA Screening of the Preferred Strategy

- 0.16 The HRA Screening of the Preferred Strategy was undertaken in accordance with available official WAG guidance and current best practice. The approach combined a plan and site focus to consider the potential impacts of the LDP proposals on the conservation objectives of identified European sites.

Appraising the Deposit Plan 2008

- 0.17 The Deposit plan was developed taking into account the findings and recommendations of the iterative SA; this included SA of Topic Papers developed by RCT to inform the policies presented in the Deposit Plan. The Deposit Draft Plan policies were then further appraised using the SA Framework of Objectives for Sustainability and the key findings and recommendations are highlighted in [Section 5] this Report.

Appraising the Deposit Plan Site Allocations 2008

- 0.18 The two stage Candidate Site Assessment Method (CSAM) process was developed and refined by the Council with assistance from Enfusion Ltd in 2006, using the SA Framework. The CSAM incorporates the SA Framework and this process was used by the Council in the selection of sites for the Deposit Draft Plan. Enfusion undertook additional SA of the Strategic Sites proposed and provided a strategic appraisal of the non-strategic sites as part of the overarching Core Strategy appraisal. The key findings and recommendation are summarised in [Section 5] this Report.

Habitats Regulations Assessment/ Appropriate Assessment

- 0.19 The HRA Screening for RCT's LDP (Dec 2006) recommended that further 'Appropriate Assessment' be carried out in relation to one European Site (Blaen Cynon SAC). This more detailed analysis was undertaken in parallel with the SA/SEA process, with reference to consultation comments from the statutory body Countryside Council for Wales (CCW). The full assessment analysis and findings are presented in a separate report accompanying the LDP.

Uncertainties

- 0.20 Throughout the development of the Deposit Draft Plan and the Sustainability Appraisal process, data gaps and uncertainties were uncovered. It is not always possible to accurately predict sustainability effects when considering plans at such a strategic scale. Impacts on biodiversity and cultural heritage, in particular given the specific sensitivities identified for RCT, will depend on more detailed information and studies at a site-level. Additionally, whilst climate change science is becoming more accurate, it is difficult to predict impacts likely to result from climate change, including synergistic effects. These uncertainties have been acknowledged in the appraisal matrices, where applicable, and will be further considered at the submission stage.

Significant effects identified

- 0.21 The majority of policies were found to have significant positive sustainability benefits. The following table summarises the key positive effects identified:

Significant Positive Effects Emerging from the LDP	
Key relevant SA Objective:	Positive effects identified:
Housing	The plan will have significant positive effects through meeting the housing needs of the County Borough, particularly affordable housing needs, and in locations where housing is most needed through the explicit focus on 'local needs'.
Transport Climate Change,	The plan responds to existing high levels of car ownership and accessibility issues, by including strong policies in support of public transport and through seeking to minimise out-commuting.
Communities Economy	The plan provides an inclusive approach to infrastructure provision, with particular benefits for existing communities (e.g. families, the elderly).
Balanced Communities, Transport	The plan provides measures to regenerate identified areas of deprivation in the Northern area of the County Borough and their communities including developing better connectivity through improved transport routes.
Biodiversity, Landscape, Water, Land and soil	The plan recognises the distinctive landscape and biodiversity areas in the County Borough (which provide both constraint and opportunity) and takes an approach to development that minimises impacts on these areas through steering development toward existing settlements and to areas of brownfield land that will benefit from regeneration.
Economy, Employment, Communities	The plan will have positive effects for the economic regeneration of existing centres particularly in the Northern Strategy Area and provides opportunities to reduce out commuting across the Borough.
Built Environment Climate Change	The plan has a strong focus on sustainable design and construction, including consideration of travel plans, encouraging sustainable transport, and ensuring high level compliance with codes for sustainable construction.

0.22 Alongside the many positive effects of the plan, negative sustainability effects were also identified, generally as a result of the increased development proposed in the plan. These are outlined below:

Significant Negative Effects Emerging from the LDP	
Key relevant SA Objective:	Negative Effects identified:
Biodiversity, Landscape, Water, Waste, Communities, Health.	The cumulative effects of increased development, including housing, employment development, the development of other infrastructure, in particular major road scheme. These effects include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ pressures on local and national biodiversity designations;

Significant Negative Effects Emerging from the LDP	
Key relevant SA Objective:	Negative Effects identified:
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ increased air pollution (local and regional); ■ direct land-take; ■ pressures on water resources and water quality; ■ increased noise and light pollution, particularly from traffic; ■ increased waste production; ■ loss of tranquillity ; ■ implications for human health (e.g. from increased pollution); and ■ incremental effects on landscape and townscapes. <p>It is noted that whilst some policies relating to development (e.g. the dualling of the A465 Heads of Valleys Road) are determined at a higher policy level by WAG, the environmental effects of development must be taken into account by the LDP to ensure mitigation is adequate.</p>
Climate Change, Energy	An increase in the District's contribution to greenhouse gas production- this is inevitable given the volume of new development proposed and includes factors such as increased transportation costs, embodied energy in construction materials and increased energy use from new housing and employment development.
Cultural and Heritage, Communities Landscape	Less tangible effects of significant physical, economic and social changes for local communities, including impacts on cultural heritage, landscape, community cohesion and identity particularly in locations where there will be significant increases in development.
Water	<p>The cumulative effects of development affecting surface runoff, water flow and the potential to exacerbate flood risk where development is concentrated in valley areas.</p> <p>The increased levels of water demand resulting from new development.</p>

Mitigation and enhancement recommendations

- 0.23 An important role of the SA process is to provide recommendations for the mitigation of negative effects and enhancement of the positive effects identified in the appraisal process. These can then be carried forward in the remainder of the plan-making process and can include further recommendations for other development plan documents (for example Supplementary Planning Guidance) and for processes including development control and site master planning.
- 0.24 In preparing plan policies, Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council has already sought to mitigate the negative effects of

development and maximise the opportunities presented, and they are commended for the work undertaken to date. The SA process has made further recommendations for the plan and these often relate to the linkages between different issues that were identified as a result of the SA. For example, there are strong synergies between the preservation and enhancement of biodiversity, the development of open space and cycle networks and the maintenance of valued landscape integrity, which is of high value to local communities and offers potential for future tourism opportunities.

Monitoring the Implementation of the LDP

- 0.25 Local planning authorities are required to produce Annual Monitoring Reports including indicators and targets against which the progress of the Local Development Plan can be measured. There is also a requirement to monitor the predictions made in the SA and the Welsh Assembly Government advises Councils to prepare a Monitoring Framework that incorporates the needs of the LDP and the SA. Rhondda Cynon Taf has prepared a monitoring framework for the LDP and it is recommended that the targets and indicators proposed for the SA are incorporated in this Framework.

Statement on the Difference the SA/SEA process has made

- 0.26 The Sustainability Appraisal has been carried out on draft plan documents in an iterative and ongoing way. The findings have helped inform the preparation of the LDP by making suggestions for mitigating identified adverse effects and enhancing positive effects through changes to the wording in policies and recommendations for new policies where appropriate.

CONCLUSIONS AND NEXT STEPS

- 0.27 The SA of RCT's Deposit Draft Plan has appraised the effects of individual policies, as well as the overall effect of the plan, including cumulative and incremental effects. The SA has found that the Deposit Draft Plan will make a significant contribution to sustainability in the County Borough, with a particularly strong focus on addressing the respective housing, community and economic needs of the Northern and Southern areas whilst seeking to protect the County Borough's valued natural environment, landscape and cultural heritage. The key negative effects identified relate to the pressure of housing and economic development, including for new infrastructure in areas where there are identified natural environment and flooding constraints. The SA has sought to make recommendations that assist the Council in mitigating the negative effects and enhancing the positive opportunities of development across the County Borough.
- 0.28 This SA report accompanies the draft LDP which will be placed on deposit for 6 weeks during February and March 2009 for consultation. After the close of consultation the Council will advertise alternative

sites proposed by representors and seek comments on those sites in July 2009. The Council will then consider representations and produce a final consultation report, which will be examined by the Planning Inspectorate alongside all the representations the deposit LDP and its evidence base including the Sustainability Appraisal Report. If recommendations or changes are made to the LDP following the examination then it may be necessary to amend the SA report prior to adoption.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

Purpose of the Sustainability Appraisal and the SA Report

- 1.1 The purpose of Sustainability Appraisal (SA) is to promote sustainable development through the integration of environmental, social and economic considerations in the preparation of a Local Development Plan (LDP). This requirement is set out in Section 39 (2) of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act, 2004. Local Development Plans must also be subject to Strategic Environmental Assessment¹² (SEA) and Government advises³ that an integrated approach is adopted so that the SA process incorporates the SEA requirements.
- 1.2 This is the SA Report that documents the Sustainability Appraisal/ Strategic Environmental Assessment process for Rhondda Cynon Taf's County Borough Council's (RCTCBC) Deposit Local Development Plan. The Sustainability Appraisal Framework discussed in Section 3 of this SA Report indicates the relationship between the SA and the SEA; compliance with the SEA Regulations is signposted below in this section and detailed in Appendix I. This SA Report is being published for consultation with the Deposit Plan in accordance with SEA Regulations and SA Guidance.

The Local Development Plan

- 1.3 The UK Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004⁴ Section 62, requires each authority in Wales to prepare a Local Development Plan (LDP) for its area, comprising a strategy, integrated set of policies and site specific proposals. Authorities are required by law to prepare LDPs with the overall objective of contributing to sustainable development (SD). The Welsh Assembly Government's Sustainable Development Scheme (2000, revised 2004, 2008)⁵ defines SD as "development which meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs". Rhondda Cynon Taf's LDP had been prepared in accordance with guidance produced by the Welsh Assembly Government (WAG) "Local Development Plan Manual Consultation Draft, 2005".
- 1.4 Preparation of the RCTCBC LDP commenced in 2006 with the production of a Delivery Agreement which provides the details of the production LDP and the Council's Community Involvement Scheme. The Delivery Agreement was agreed by WAG in February 2006 and published in accordance with the Town and County (Local

¹ EU Directive 2001/42/EC

² Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations (Wales) 2004

³ ODPM, 2005 *Sustainability Appraisal of Regional Spatial Strategies and Local Development Documents*

⁴ The Assembly LDP Regulations became effective On 15 October 2005.

⁵ WAG is currently consulting (end 4 Feb 2009) on the revised Sustainable Development Scheme, One Wales: One Planet, a New Sustainable Development Scheme for Wales.

Development Plans) (Wales) Regulations 2005. The Delivery Agreement was revised in July 2008 to reflect changes to the consultation period for the deposit draft plan.

LDP: Draft Spatial Strategy and Preferred Options Paper 2006

- 1.5 The Draft Spatial Strategy and Preferred Options Paper (June, 2006) set out for consultation the preferred options for the spatial vision, objectives and strategy options, the strategic policies and site-specific allocations. This document was informed by consultation arising in relation to the Delivery Agreement.

LDP: Preferred Strategy 2007

- 1.6 The LDP Preferred Strategy 2007 was made available for public consultation during January and February 2007. The Preferred Strategy used the evidence base prepared by the Council detailing the social, environmental and economic characteristics of the borough to set out the key aims and objectives for the plan. It also provided a detailed spatial strategy, strategic policies and identified eight strategic sites.

LDP: Deposit Draft Plan 2009

- 1.7 Representations received during the consultation on the preferred Strategy were considered in the development of the Deposit Draft Plan which contains specific land use allocation and detailed policies to ensure the delivery of the aims and objectives set out in the evolving development plan. The Deposit Draft Plan was also informed by consultation with WAG.
- 1.8 The Deposit Draft Plan outlines the Council's vision for the development of Rhondda Cynon Taf over the fifteen year period (2006 – 2021) and provides a detailed framework of land use objectives. The Vision states that:

'Rhondda Cynon Taf will be a community where everyone who lives, works in, or visits the area will enjoy the benefits of a better quality of life, achieving their potential, whilst helping to develop and protect the area for future generations.'

- 1.9 The LDP outlines 9 objectives under four key themes of: Sustainable Communities; Achieving Potential; Better Quality of Life; Develop and Protect the Borough for Future Generations. The LDP strategy is a hybrid strategy that seeks to provide development in locations that meet local needs whilst promoting sustainable growth. This approach provides for a Northern Strategy Area and a Southern Strategy Area. The strategy areas are supported by a set of Core Policies and Area Wide Policies which provide a framework for determining development decision in Rhondda Cynon Taf.

Summary of Compliance with the SEA Directive & Regulations

- 1.10 The SEA Regulations set out certain requirements for reporting the SEA process, and specify that if an integrated appraisal is undertaken (i.e. SEA is subsumed within the SA process, as for the SA of the Rhondda Cynon Taf LDP), then the sections of the SA Report that meet the requirements set out for reporting the SEA process must be clearly signposted. **Appendix I** addresses the requirements for reporting the SEA process by highlighting the specific sections of the report that progresses each SEA requirement.

Sustainability Appraisal Work to Date

- 1.11 Enfusion Ltd was commissioned by Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council in 2005 to carry out Sustainability Appraisal (SA) incorporating Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) of the Council's Local Development Plan (2006-2021). In early 2006 an SA Scoping process was undertaken to ensure that the SA addressed the key sustainability issues pertinent to the County Borough. Relevant plans and programmes were also reviewed and from this analysis key sustainability problems, issues and opportunities were identified. An SA Framework was compiled and published as part of the SA Scoping Report. This report was subject to consultation with statutory and wider stakeholder/ interest groups (including through a Technical Workshop in February 2006); and their comments were incorporated in to the SA Framework.
- 1.12 In December 2006 Enfusion took forward the iterative appraisal of the LDP by completing the SA of the Preferred Strategy. A strategic level appraisal of the LDP Vision, and a compatibility analysis of the LDP Objectives with the SA Objectives, was undertaken. Detailed appraisal was also carried out on the Spatial Strategic Options and the Strategic Policies presented. The findings and recommendations of the Appraisal were published for consultation alongside the Preferred Strategy in January/ February 2007.
- 1.13 As part of their pre-Deposit Plan Preparation RCT produced a series of Topic Papers addressing the key policy areas of the LDP. To support the LDP preparation, these Topic papers were subject to detailed SA (May 2008) in line with the appraisal to date. The appraisal findings helped to inform and progress the development of the Deposit Draft Plan.
- 1.14 The Deposit Draft Plan was then further subject to detailed SA by Enfusion Ltd in November/December 2008, which also took into account the consultation commentary received in response to the previous SA Reports (Preferred Strategy). This appraisal covered the Core Strategy (Northern Strategy Area and Southern Strategy Area); the Core Policies, Area Wide Policies and strategic site allocations.

Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA)

- 1.15 The European Directive (92/43/EEC) on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and Wild Flora and Fauna (the Habitats Directive) protects habitats and species of European nature conservation importance. The Habitats Directive establishes a network of internationally important sites designated for their ecological status. These are referred to as Natura 2000 (N2K) sites or European Sites, and comprise Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) and Special Protection Areas (SPAs) [which are classified under the Council Directive 79/409/EEC on the conservation of wild birds, the 'Birds Directive'].
- 1.16 The purpose of HRA/AA is to assess the impacts of a land-use plan, in combination with the effects of other plans and projects, against the conservation objectives of a European Site and to ascertain whether it would adversely affect the integrity of that site. Where significant negative effects are identified, alternative options should be examined to avoid any potential damaging effects. The scope of the HRA/AA is dependent on the location, size and significance of the proposed plan or project and the sensitivities and nature of the interest features of the European sites under consideration.
- 1.17 Habitats Regulations Assessment Screening of the Preferred Strategy was undertaken by Enfusion Ltd in December 2006 and published for consultation alongside the Preferred Strategy. The HRA Screening Report recommended that further 'Appropriate Assessment (AA)' be undertaken in relation to one European site, Blaen Cynon SAC. The assessment method and the findings of the further HRA/AA are published in a separate report accompanying the Deposit Draft Plan

This Report

- 1.18 The Report documents the SA process for Rhondda Cynon Taf's Local Development Plan. Following this first introductory **Section 1**, the report is organised into five further sections.
- **Section 2** outlines the appraisal methods used the consultation undertaken throughout the SA process.
 - **Section 3** describes the key sustainability issues for Rhondda Cynon Taf that emerged from the scoping stage and presents and explains the SA Framework.
 - **Section 4** summarises the findings of the SA of the Preferred Strategy (reported in detail in the SA Report accompanying the Preferred Strategy, Dec 2006).
 - **Section 5** details the finding of the SA of the Deposit Draft Plan and includes consideration of key significant effects and any cumulative effects or recommendations that were highlighted by the SA process.
 - **Section 6** of this SA Report, outlines the proposals for monitoring and includes an explanation of how the SA indicators were developed.

2.0 APPRAISAL METHODS

Introduction

- 2.1 The SA has been undertaken in accordance with the statutory requirements set out in formal guidance for the sustainability appraisal of Local Development Documents which incorporates Strategic Environmental Assessment.⁶ Where there were any potential adverse effects predicted for sustainability or opportunities identified to improve the sustainability of the emerging LDP, recommendations were made. Professional judgement, available baseline information and the analysis of relevant plans and programmes has informed the assessment of the LDP.

Scoping the Key Sustainability Issues

- 2.2 During early 2006 a scoping process for the SA was carried out to help ensure that the SA would cover the key sustainability issues that are relevant to the development planning system for Rhondda Cynon Taf. Relevant plans, programmes and other baseline information were reviewed to develop a wider understanding of issues and priorities, together with a description of the current and predicted social, economic and environmental characteristics of the area.
- 2.3 From these studies, the key sustainability problems, issues and opportunities identified are associated with: the need to manage/adapt to climate change; the inter-related problems of high levels of economic inactivity, poor quality housing and health problems; transport & accessibility; protection of landscape & biodiversity with development pressure on greenfield sites; retaining town centre vitality; and protection of cultural heritage.
- 2.4 An SA Framework was compiled and included SA Objectives that aim to resolve the issues and problems identified. It was proposed to use these SA Objectives to test the LDP during its preparation. This approach and the proposals for testing the development planning process was written up into an SA Scoping Report that was sent to a wide range of organisations including statutory consultees, and was also made available on the Council's website. Comments were invited and received from a number of these organisations, which helped to improve the SA Framework.

Appraising the Local Development Plan

- 2.5 The SA Method involved appraising each element of the draft LDP systematically against the SA Framework of objectives developed through the scoping process. Comments and analysis of whether the policies and proposals contained within the LDP were likely to progress or conflict with, SA objectives were recorded in matrices with

⁶ Sustainability of Regional Spatial Strategies and Local Development Documents (ODPM, Nov 2005).

supporting evidence drawn from the baseline work, as appropriate. Where potential conflicts were identified or opportunities existed to enhance the sustainability of the proposals, potential mitigation measures were considered, and recommendations provided to amend the LDP policies and proposals accordingly.

Appraising the Local Development Plan Vision and Strategic Objectives

- 2.6 A compatibility analysis of the Preferred Strategy Strategic Objectives was carried out using the SA Framework. Recommendations made by the initial Sustainability Report (Dec 2006) were incorporated and are in **Section 4** of this report. A strategic overview of the sustainability implications of the draft vision was also undertaken.

Appraising the Preferred Strategy Strategic Policies (2006)

- 2.7 The Preferred Strategy contained 12 strategic policies. Each policy was subject to a detailed appraisal using the SA Framework informed by the wider LDP evidence base and the baseline information developed at scoping stage. Recommendations made by the initial Sustainability Report (Dec 2006) were incorporated and are summarised in **Section 4** of this report.

Appraising the Preferred Strategy Spatial Options (2006)

- 2.8 The Draft Preferred Strategy identified five strategic options for spatial development and was subject to initial sustainability appraisal by Enfusion Ltd. The Sustainability Threshold Assessment (STA) method was used to provide a strategic overview of the performance of the five options (Trends Based Strategy, Local Needs Strategy, Consolidation Strategy, Sustainable Growth Strategy, Growth/Local Needs Strategy). The appraisal was undertaken using professional judgement and relevant evidence base and baseline data.

Appraising the Preferred Strategy Site Allocations Method (2006)

- 2.9 An SA was undertaken of the proposed Candidate Site Assessment Methodology, to determine whether the methodology used is compatible with the SA Framework and a robust and defensible methodology from a sustainability perspective. The recommendations of the SA are summarised in **Section 4** of this report and reported in full in the initial Sustainability Report (2006).

HRA Screening of the Preferred Strategy (2006)

- 2.10 The HRA Screening of the Preferred Strategy was undertaken in accordance with available official WAG guidance and current best practice. The approach combined a plan and site focus to consider the potential impacts of the LDP proposals on the conservation objectives of identified European sites.

Appraising the Deposit Plan 2008

- 2.11 The Deposit plan was developed, taking into account the findings and recommendations of the iterative SA; this included SA of Topic Papers developed by RCT to inform the policies presented in the Deposit Plan. The Deposit Plan policies were then further appraised using the SA Framework of Objectives for Sustainability and the detailed working matrices are reported in **Appendix VI** of this SA Report. The key findings and recommendations are highlighted in Section 5 of this Report.

Appraising the Deposit Plan Site Allocations 2008

- 2.12 The two stage Candidate Site Assessment Method (CSAM) process was developed and refined by the Council with assistance from Enfusion Ltd in 2006, using the SA Framework. The CSAM incorporates the SA Framework and this process was used by the Council in the selection of sites for the Deposit Draft Plan. Enfusion undertook additional SA of the Strategic Sites proposed and provided a strategic appraisal of the non-strategic sites as part of the overarching Core Strategy appraisal. The detailed assessments are presented in **Appendix VI** and the key findings and recommendation are summarised in Section 5 of this Report.

Habitats Regulations Assessment/ Appropriate Assessment of the Deposit Plan

- 2.13 The HRA Screening for RCT's LDP (Dec 2006) recommended that further 'Appropriate Assessment' be carried out in relation to one European Site (Blaen Cynon SAC). This more detailed analysis was undertaken in parallel with the SA/SEA process, with reference to consultation comments from the statutory body CCW. The full assessment analysis and findings are presented in a separate report accompanying the LDP.

Consultation on the SA

- 2.14 The issues for sustainability at Rhondda Cynon Taf and the Draft SA Framework were debated and agreed at a Technical Workshop with key stakeholders in February 2006. This approach and the proposals for testing the LDP were presented in the SA Scoping Report which was sent to statutory consultees and wider stakeholders, as well as being made available on the Council's website (March/April 2006). Comments received from this consultation process were incorporated into the SA Framework and the subsequent SA Reports accompanying the Draft Preferred Strategy (January/ February 2007). Consultation comments received on the SA of the Draft Preferred Strategy were considered during the SA of the Deposit Plan Draft and are recorded in **Appendix II**.

- 2.15 Further consultation with the Statutory Bodies and wider stakeholders was also undertaken in the development of the Sustainability Indicators to monitor the identified significant effects of the LDP. This consultation involved a workshop and opportunity to review the revised indicator set (July 2007/December 2008). Consultation comments were incorporated and are summarised in **Appendix II**.

Summary of SA Method

- 2.16 The method used for this Sustainability Appraisal of the Local Development Plan comprises the following elements:
- Identifying relevant baseline information and other plans or programmes that influence the Local Development Plan, its proposals and policies
 - Using the SA Framework with professional expertise and drawing upon evidence, trends and comparators in the Review of Plans and Programmes, and the Baseline Information
 - Commenting on the areas where each element of the Local Development Plan has specific potential impacts - highlighting where possible, positive/ negative effects, short/ long term effects, indirect/ direct effects, cumulative effects, and the reversibility, scale and likelihood of effects, together with recommendations for proposed mitigation or enhancement where identified
 - Consultation with statutory and wider stakeholders

3.0 SUSTAINABILITY CONTEXT AND OBJECTIVES

Introduction

- 3.1 The SA scoping process was undertaken by Enfusion Ltd with RCT [in consultation with stakeholders], and reported in the published SA Scoping Report (March 2006). The full details of the scoping process, including the review of relevant plans and programmes, the baseline information analysis and the sustainability characteristics of RCT are contained in the SA Scoping Report (2006). This section summarises the key issues, problems, objective and opportunities for sustainable development and spatial planning that were identified through the scoping process.

Review of Relevant plans and Programmes

- 3.2 In order to establish a clear scope for the SA of the LDP it is necessary (and a requirement of SEA) to review and develop an understanding of the wider range of *"policies, plans, programmes and sustainability objectives"*⁷ that are relevant to the LDP. This includes International, European, National, Regional and Local level policies, plans and strategies. Summarising the aspirations of other relevant policies, plans, programmes and sustainability objectives promotes systematic identification of the ways in which the LDP could help fulfil them and avoid conflict.
- 3.3 The key issues and opportunities identified for RCT through the review of relevant plans and programmes included:
- the need for a coherent framework for service delivery across the Borough
 - recognising the importance of good housing conditions to good health, well being and education
 - developing an integrated transport structure
 - the need for public transport to combat social exclusion
 - the need to support the creation of new employment and regeneration opportunities
 - protecting and enhancing the quality of the environment, local distinctiveness, cultural and historical heritage
 - adhering to the waste hierarchy and maximising recycling
 - promoting sustainable travel and access to services and facilities
 - conserve and enhance the biodiversity of RCT
 - protection and enhancement of the Brecon Beacons National Park
 - the role of education in promoting employment opportunities and standards of living

⁷ *Sustainability Appraisal of Regional Spatial Strategies and Local Development Documents*
ODPM, November 2005

Description of Baseline Conditions

- 3.4 Collection of baseline information is required under SEA legislation, and is fundamental to the SA process to provide a background to, and evidence base for, identifying sustainability problems and opportunities in RCT and providing the basis for predicting and monitoring effects of the LDP. To make judgements about how the emerging content of the LDP will progress or hinder sustainable development, it is essential to understand the economic, environmental and social circumstances in RCT County Borough today and their likely evolution in the future. The aim of this process is to collect only relevant and sufficient data on the present and future state of the County Borough to allow the potential effects of the LDP to be adequately predicted.
- 3.5 The LDP Manual produced by the WAG in 2006, proposes a practical approach to data collection, recognising that information may not yet be available, and that information gaps for future improvements should be reported as well as the need to consider uncertainties in data. Collection of baseline information should be continuous as the SA process guides plan making and as new information becomes available.
- 3.6 As part of the Scoping stage Enfusion Ltd compiled a baseline showing data for RCT compared with data, where available, for South East Wales, and Wales nationally. The baseline sought to identify targets and trends, while also summarising the key issues arising for particular SA topics.
- 3.7 SA Guidance advises that, where possible, information should be collated to include:
- 'comparators' - (i.e. the same information for different areas) - as points of reference against which local data may be compared
 - established targets, which will highlight how far the current situation is from such thresholds
 - trends - to ascertain whether the situation is currently improving or deteriorating
- 3.8 The collected baseline information together with the key issues of the PP review, informed the development of the SA Framework. The final version of the Framework is set out in **Table 3.1** and the baseline conditions that informed the summary of sustainability characteristics and issues are noted below.

Limitations and Assumptions

- 3.9 The LDP Manual⁸ (WAG 2006) requires that difficulties encountered with data collection be identified. There is a wide range of information available for the County Borough that can be used to profile the current conditions of the environment. However, the information is

⁸ *Local Development Plan Manual*, WAG, June 2006

often held by a range of national and regional organisations within different datasets. In addition, the baseline dates relative to those datasets are sometimes inconsistent.

- 3.10 The main issues surrounding the collection of the baseline information were identified in the SA Scoping Report (2006). Where possible, those gaps have been progressively filled as part of the iterative appraisal process. In particular, additional work was undertaken to ensure that information was available and appropriate to support indicator development.

Sustainability Characteristics & Issues for Rhondda Cynon Taf

- 3.11 Rhondda Cynon Taf covers an area of the South Wales Valleys, stretching from the Brecon Beacons National Park in the north to the outskirts of Cardiff in the south. It comprises a mixture of urban, semi-urban and rural communities, situated in a varied countryside of valleys, mountains and lowland farmland. It is the second largest local authority in Wales, covering 424 square kilometres, and with a population of 231,946 (2001 Census). The key sustainability characteristics and issues for RCT arising from the review of baseline data are summarised below.

Environment

- Rhondda Cynon Taf has a large amount of land designated for biodiversity protection.
- The previous industrial use of the area has led to degradation of the water environment.
- There are 20 wind turbines in the Plan area. Part of the County Borough is encompassed by one of the proposed TAN8 Strategic Search Areas Wales.
- The topography and water environment of Rhondda Cynon Taf means that it is prone to flooding, especially along river frontages where ribbon development has occurred.
- 4.2% of the Brecon Beacons National Park lies within the plan area to the north.
- 94.1% of the land in Rhondda Cynon Taf is of Agricultural Land Classification Grade 4 or 5 (low grade).
- Degradation of the landscape.

Waste

- Rhondda Cynon Taf shows a net import of waste to its landfill sites of 132,000 tonnes in 2003.
- Rhondda Cynon Taf has shown a relative decrease in municipal waste generated compared to neighbouring County Boroughs.

Development

- The undulating nature of the topography of the area will guide suitability of locations for development.
- Rhondda Cynon Taf's foul drainage system is dated and overloaded.

Communities/Health

- Rhondda Cynon Taf ranks 5th in England and Wales (out of 376 areas), for the proportion of population with a limiting long-term illness, and general health 'not good'.
- 17 of Rhondda Cynon Taf's 53 electoral wards are amongst the 100 most deprived in Wales.
- 53% of the housing stock is terraced.
- Depopulation affecting the valleys
- Decreasing population in the Northern Strategy Area

Transport

- Away from the two-north/south main routes, accessibility in the County Borough is poor.
- 62% of people travel to work by car, ranking 19th out of 376 for England and Wales, however, 31.6% of households do not have a car.
- There is poor access to facilities.

Culture

- Rhondda Cynon Taf has a rich cultural heritage but few sites are statutorily protected.
- Rhondda Cynon Taf has the highest percentage of Welsh speakers in Mid Glamorgan.

Employment

- 18.8% of all residents work outside the County Borough, the third largest percentage net outflow in Wales.
- The County Borough is covered by Objective 1 European funding. The Gross Domestic Product for Rhondda Cynon Taf was estimated, at the time of Objective 1 designation, as being 64.5% of the EU average.
- The majority of people are employed in manufacturing (22.9%).
- 221.61 ha of land allocated for employment in the previous plan has not been taken up.
- 44% of the population have no qualifications.
- Mineral extraction is an important industry within the economy of Rhondda Cynon Taf.

Key Sustainability Issues

3.12 It is important to distil the key sustainability issues, problems and opportunities relevant to the County Borough from the collated information and consideration of the particular character of the area. These issues are considered to be priorities for consideration through the Sustainability Appraisal, and the SA Framework of sustainability objectives seeks to address them. In summary the potential sustainability issues identified for RCT are:

- An increase in emissions per capita of carbon dioxide (CO₂) as a result of car usage over other forms of transport

- A difficulty in providing adequate water supplies for parts of Wales during dry summers by 2025
- An increase in flooding in low lying areas
- An increase in renewable energy projects
- A decrease in water quality through an inadequate sewerage system
- A decrease in municipal waste generated
- An increase in household waste recycling
- A decrease in soil quality
- Continuing depopulation
- An increase in deprivation
- An increase in ill-health
- An increase in drug-related crime
- An increase in development on unprotected sites which are potentially of importance for cultural or archaeological heritage
- A decrease in speakers of the Welsh Language
- Increase in tourism
- An increase in people travelling to work by car
- An increase in roads and other access routes

THE SA FRAMEWORK

- 3.13 The SA Framework provides a system for describing, analysing and comparing the sustainability effects of the LDP.
- 3.14 The SA Framework presented in **Table 3.1** (below) includes a set of sustainability objectives together with decision-aiding questions. The decision aiding questions have been designed to aid the appraiser by improving objectivity as they clarify the details of the sustainability issues relevant to the sustainability objectives. They help avoid duplication and demonstrate a clear audit trail.
- 3.15 To effectively aid the LDP preparation process, it is important that the SA Framework reflects local circumstances specific to Rhondda Cynon Taf that can be influenced by the new development planning system. As a spatial plan the LDP will not be able to address every sustainability issue and the decision-aiding questions intend to reflect the *potential* of the LDP to progress sustainability objectives.
- 3.16 The table below shows the SA Framework Objectives and decision-aiding questions. Changes and additions to the table recommended during the public consultation period (March-April 2006) are in red and have been ~~struck through~~ and *italicised* respectively

Table 3.1 SA FRAMEWORK

	SA Objective	Decision Aiding Questions Will the Policy ...?
1	Housing: SEA topic population and human health	
	Provide for the overall housing requirement through a mix of dwelling types catering for all needs to promote integrated and thriving communities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Deliver good quality housing ▪ Promote a mix of housing size, type and tenure within each settlement? ▪ Promote housing that meets the requirements of those with special needs? ▪ Help meet affordable housing needs to allow local people to remain within communities? ▪ Protect and enhance the existing housing stock including the characteristic terraces
2	Culture and Heritage: SEA topic cultural heritage	
	Promote, protect and enhance the Culture and Heritage including landscape, archaeology and language	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Protect and enhance areas and buildings of historical, archaeological or cultural importance, and the historic landscape ▪ Have regard for the entire historic environment, whether protected by legislation or not. ▪ <i>Promote, protect and enhance the Culture and Heritage, including landscape, archaeology and language</i> ▪ Protect and enhance the industrial heritage ▪ Promote the retention of the Welsh language ▪ Promote sustainable access to cultural sites
3	Communities: SEA topic population	
	Promote integrated communities, with opportunities for living, working and socialising for all	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Encourage provision of local community facilities and employment opportunities in accessible locations ▪ Help reduce disparities between the northern and southern wards ▪ Promote access to education for all ▪ Consider the needs of vulnerable groups ▪ Plan places with opportunities for active citizenship to promote community engagement ▪ Accommodate meeting places for different cultures ▪ Promote mixed development ▪ Provide equality of access for all
4	Health: SEA topic human health	
	Provide an environment that encourages a healthy and safe lifestyle and promotes well-being	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Promote provision of and access to healthcare facilities ▪ Prevent unacceptable levels of noise, light, odour and air pollution ▪ Provide spaces such as allotments which will promote healthy eating ▪ Protect existing open spaces ▪ Promote provision of facilities for physical recreational activities and play ▪ <i>Public access to natural greenspace</i> ▪ <i>Air quality indicators including NOx and ozone figures</i>
5	Economy: SEA topic population	

Table 3.1 SA FRAMEWORK

Table 3.1 SA FRAMEWORK		
	SA Objective	Decision Aiding Questions Will the Policy ...?
	Provide for a sustainable economy.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Encourage local growth, especially in areas of high unemployment and economic inactivity ▪ Encourage appropriate inward and indigenous investment ▪ Support the rural economy ▪ Promote good quality sustainable tourism ▪ Ensure the allocation of land to accommodate the economic needs of the population ▪ Maintain an appropriate land bank ▪ Promote healthy town centres
6	Employment SEA topic population	
	Provide for a diverse range of job opportunities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Maximise employment opportunities ▪ Provide various opportunities for a range of skills levels ▪ Provide jobs in accessible locations ▪ Accommodate training facilities to help develop a flexible skills base ▪ Promote good quality jobs within key sectors ▪ Reduce the need for out commuting from the Borough for work ▪ Support the retail hierarchy ▪ Promote healthy, vibrant and attractive town centres
7	Transport: SEA topic population and climatic factors	
	Reduce the need to travel and promote more sustainable modes of transport	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Provide for alternatives to the private car and improve public transport links within an integrated transport strategy ▪ Improve the existing road and rail network, especially to provide access to isolated areas ▪ Provide for safe and attractive walking and cycling ▪ Provide for appropriate levels of car parking to serve the needs of Rhondda Cynon Taf ▪ Reduce the need to travel in new developments
8	Built Environment: SEA topic material assets	
	Provide a high quality built environment that promotes community pride	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Ensure high standards of design in all new development ▪ Protect and enhance local character and distinctiveness, but recognise the role of innovation in the built environment ▪ Promote methods of sustainable construction ▪ <i>Energy and water efficiency of new buildings and developments</i> ▪ Promote Green Infrastructure for people and wildlife ▪ Promote high density development where appropriate
9	Landscape: SEA topic landscape	
	Improve, protect and enhance the countryside	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Promote the improvement of the landscape where it has been degraded as a legacy of previous industrial use

Table 3.1 SA FRAMEWORK		
	SA Objective	Decision Aiding Questions Will the Policy ...?
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Protect and enhance designated areas ▪ Increase opportunities for enjoyment of the countryside where appropriate
10	Biodiversity: SEA topic biodiversity, fauna and flora	
	Protect and enhance the diversity and abundance of wildlife habitats and native species	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Protect and enhance valuable wildlife habitats and species, both those statutorily designated and those of local value ▪ Avoid and, where possible, reverse habitat fragmentation ▪ Improve, protect and enhance the biodiversity within the water environment ▪ Integrate protection and creation of habitat into the design of new development from the outset ▪ Promote ecologically based land management
11	Water: SEA topic water	
	Promote <i>sustainable water management including promoting use of sustainable drainage systems</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Reduce and/or avoid pollution to water <i>environment</i> ▪ Promote use of sustainable drainage systems ▪ Manage and avoid exacerbating flood risk especially along river frontages ▪ Manage and reduce flood risk rivers, minor water courses and sewerage by adopting SUDS and avoiding flood risk areas for new development ▪ Use water efficiently ▪ Protect groundwater sources ▪ Prevent new development that will exacerbate current foul drainage problems
12	Climate Change: SEA topic climatic factors	
	Manage the effects of climate change	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Consider the likely impacts of climate change on all types of infrastructure, existing and new ▪ Provide habitat routes to allow species to adapt to the changing environment ▪ Minimise greenhouse gas emissions ▪ Contribute to a carbon-neutral community ▪ <i>Reduce flood risk to people, property and maintain integrity of floodplain.</i>
13	Energy: SEA topic climatic factors and air	
	Increase the supply of renewable energy and reduce energy consumption	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Promote energy efficiency ▪ Encourage the development of renewables, including micro-generation ▪ Encourage high standards of energy efficiency in all new developments
14	Land and soils: SEA topic soil	
	Promote efficient use of land and soils	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Encourage safe restoration of previously developed land ▪ Re-use previously developed land and buildings as a priority, where appropriate ▪ Optimise use of greenfield land ▪ Prevent and control pollution to land

Table 3.1 SA FRAMEWORK		
	SA Objective	Decision Aiding Questions Will the Policy ...?
15	Waste; SEA topic water, soil, human health and population	
	Minimise waste, especially waste to landfill	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Further improve on good recycling performance including provision of facilities (domestic and commercial) ▪ Avoid, reduce, re-use, recycle and recover before disposal to landfill ▪ Support development of alternatives to landfill, including composting facilities and energy from waste ▪ Promote self sufficiency in terms of waste management where appropriate
16	Minerals: SEA topic material assets	
	Promote efficient and appropriate use of minerals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Safeguard mineral resources ▪ Reuse and recycle aggregates on site

3.17 Undertaking the Sustainability Appraisal of the emerging Local Development Plan involved appraising the Preferred Strategy and the subsequent Deposit Plan against the SA Framework. For each option/policy, a matrix is prepared. Within the matrix, a 'score' is assigned for each sustainability objective using the key shown below. This score is accompanied by commentary, evidence and references as appropriate setting out the justification for the score. The scores and commentary are then used to identify opportunities to reduce conflicts with sustainability objectives, and increase the progression of more sustainable outcomes.

Table 3.2: Sustainability Appraisal Key	
DG	Development actively encouraged as it would resolve an existing sustainability problem
LG	No Sustainability constraints and development acceptable
B	Neutral effect
Y	Potential sustainability issues; mitigation and /or negotiation possible
O	Problematical and improbable because of known sustainability issues ; mitigation or negotiation difficult and /or expensive
R	Absolute sustainability constraints to development
?	Unknown effect

4.0 SA OF PREFERRED STRATEGY 2006

- 4.1 SA incorporating Strategic Environmental Assessment was carried out on the Preferred Strategy for Rhondda Cynon Taf in 2006. This section summarises the key findings from the process; the full report including the main report text and detailed appendices was previously published for consultation and can be viewed at www.rhondda-cynon-taff.gov.uk.

SA of LDP Vision & Strategic Objectives

- 4.2 The overall aim of the Rhondda Cynon Taf LDP is derived from its Community Plan. The LDP will seek to ensure that:

"Rhondda Cynon Taf will be a community where everyone who lives, works in or visits the area will enjoy the benefits of a better quality of life, achieving their potential, whilst helping to develop and protect the area for future generations."

- 4.3 Given that the draft Vision comprised an overarching and succinct statement, it cannot be expected to refer explicitly to all the different sustainability priorities for the Borough. Consequently, it was not considered appropriate to undertake a detailed appraisal of the draft Vision against each SA Objective. Rather, a strategic overview of the sustainability implications of the draft Vision was undertaken.
- 4.4 It was considered that the Vision would provide a sustainable and positive component of the LDP, appropriate to the local context. The Strategic Objectives were subject to a compatibility analysis and found to be broadly compatible with the sustainability objectives concerning economic and social issues. Minor amendments were suggested to more effectively progress environmental SA objectives. The detail of these changes was reported in the SA of Draft Preferred Strategy (Dec 2006).

SA of Strategic Policies

- 4.5 The Preferred Strategy outlined 12 strategic policies, which were subject to detailed appraisal using the SA Framework. The detailed assessment matrices are at **Appendix V** (SA Draft Preferred Strategy, 2006) and the main findings are summarised below.

SP 1 – Locational Strategy - Development in the North

- 4.6 The policy performs well on social and economic objectives, but there are some environmental concerns relating to increased development pressure in rural areas and how this would impact upon the rural environment and environmental and cultural heritage. Therefore the overall effect is neutral. The policy could receive a higher rating if a requirement is added to take into account local environmental and

built characteristics as well as heritage. Further policies should ensure the reuse of land, buildings and materials, employ energy efficient construction and management techniques and consider the impact of construction on climate change.

SP 2 – Locational Strategy - Development in the South

- 4.7 The policy progressed most sustainability objectives positively through consolidating development and having regard to function and identity. It could be more explicit about what is meant by 'function', and include specific reference to the need to address high levels of out-commuting.

SP 3 - Sustainable Development

- 4.8 The policy positively progresses most of the SA objectives, but could better reflect the UK Sustainable Development Strategy through consideration of environmental limits.

SP 4 - Housing Requirements

- 4.9 The policy performs well in meeting social and economic SA objectives, but could be expanded to consider environmental concerns equally well. It is recommended that the policy include reference to energy efficiency, sustainable construction and management techniques as well as a preference to reuse land, building and material.

SP 5 – Employment Requirements

- 4.10 The concept of a flexible land bank for employment land and the promotion of high value and well-paid employment are supported, however the policy could be strengthened with stronger consideration of the environment. Further consideration should be given to opportunities to promote mixed-use development, rather than separating housing and employment development.

SP 6 Town Centres

- 4.11 The policy performs well against economic, social and cultural SA objectives. Potential sustainability issues arise regarding environmental objectives, especially energy efficiency and use of resources. The inclusion of a reference to energy efficiency, biodiversity and reduction of greenhouse gases is recommended. Town centres could become showcases for good practice in sustainable urban design and architecture.

SP 7 – Transportation

- 4.12 Although the policy adequately addresses those SA objectives relating to the economy, housing and communities, there are some

problematic areas where mitigation would be difficult or expensive. The policy could perform better against environmental objectives if a requirement was added to reduce the need to travel by car and to better promote use of public transport, walking and cycling. This will have a positive effect on climate change, energy efficiency, biodiversity, use of land and protection against water, air and soil pollution.

SP 8 - Environmental Protection and Enhancement

- 4.13 The policy attempts to address a wide range of environmental issues and the current policy wording may not be as effective as it could be in preventing proposals with a potential harmful effect. It is recommended to devise two separate policies, one addressing environmental concerns relating to physical appearance and cultural values, and another that deals with ecological aspects in terms of climate change and use of resources.

SP 9 - Community Infrastructure

- 4.14 The policy could be expanded to enable the use of planning obligations to provide environmental benefits as well as social ones. This would mainly relate to buildings and physical infrastructure where contributions could be required to employ sustainable, energy efficiency construction and building management technology or enable the use of renewable energy sources. Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 provides guidance on the scope and potential to impose planning obligations.

SP 10 – Waste

- 4.15 The policy should be more specific in promoting the avoidance of waste, recycling facilities and sustainable treatment of residual waste. A statement could be included that any further landfill sites will not be permitted, and that incineration should be connected to energy recovery if possible.

SP 11 – Renewable Energy

- 4.16 It is recommended that the second part of the policy starting with: “where it can be demonstrated that there is no unacceptable impact upon the interests of ...” be deleted. Any short term impact on agriculture, conservation, areas of ecological, wildlife and landscape importance and residential amenity would be reversed into a positive effect due to the long-term benefits of not burning fossil fuels.

SP 12 – Minerals

- 4.17 The policy has a neutral effect on social, cultural and economic SA objectives, but would positively progress the more environmental objectives. The sustainability performance of the policy could be

increased by requiring stricter reclamation and remedial measures. The phrase "acceptable" (2nd bullet point) ought to be defined within the policy or qualified by adding "as defined by Rhondda Cynon Taf" or "to a limit proven safe."

Summary of SA of Strategic Policies

- 4.18 All of the strategic policies received an average overall rating of blue (neutral) or green (no sustainability constraints and development acceptable). Recommendations were provided to further improve the sustainability rating of individual policies. Some policies performed negatively against a number of the environmental SA objectives, in particular those relating to the use of resources, climate change and energy efficiency. This is particularly the case with the strategic transportation policy. A more indirect or neutral impact has been observed for SA objectives relating to waste and minerals. Overall, the set of strategic policies performs well against social and economic SA objectives, such as the development strategy, housing, culture, employment and community.

SA of Spatial Strategy Options

- 4.19 Five options were put forward by Rhondda Cynon Taf for their Spatial Strategy. A number of strategy options were originally identified involving different levels and distribution of growth of potential growth distribution. These were refined through the pre-deposit consultation process to the following options:

Trends Based Strategy

- 4.20 This strategy would involve a non-intervention or non-strategy scenario where the scale and location of development would be determined by market forces. This would probably result in large-scale growth in the south which would reflect previous and ongoing development pressures and rates of growth. Again, if linked to past trends, development in the valleys areas would be limited in comparison.

Local Needs Strategy

- 4.21 By concentrating on addressing development needs of each individual settlement a dispersed form of growth would be encouraged. This would reflect previous Local Plan policies where, in broad terms, proportionate development allocations were made to reflect the size and scale of associated settlement patterns.

Consolidation Strategy

- 4.22 By restricting development in the south to local needs only, growth would be encouraged in the upper and lower valley areas to maximise regeneration opportunities. This strategy would reflect that which was

derived through the early stages of Unitary Development Plan preparation, which puts an emphasis on major policy intervention.

Sustainable Growth Strategy

- 4.23 This strategy option would involve the concentration of growth in several key areas which could potentially provide benefits of scale in terms of infrastructure improvements and enhance existing communities by provision of an appropriate mix of uses. Such sustainable and comprehensively planned growth could also assist in achieving regeneration objectives by focussing growth in locations where wider benefits are more likely to occur.

Growth / Local Needs Strategy

- 4.24 This strategy was derived as a result of the Visioning Events which took place in late January 2006. It acknowledged that due to constraints such as landform and topography, the sustainable growth scenario may be difficult to apply to valleys where there are limited opportunities for the lateral expansion of settlements. A hybrid strategy combining a growth scenario, where appropriate, and linked to a local needs strategy, which reflects the needs of all communities was considered to be a more sustainable and realistic option.

Table 4.1: Sustainability of Spatial Strategy Options				
Trends Based Strategy	Local Needs Strategy	Consolidation Strategy	Sustainable Growth Strategy	Growth/ Local Needs Strategy
Absolute sustainability constraints to development	No sustainability constraints and strategy acceptable	Potential sustainability issues, mitigation or negotiation possible	No sustainability constraints and strategy acceptable	Strategy actively encouraged as it would resolve existing, identified sustainability problems

- 4.25 The hybrid Local Needs/Sustainable Growth Strategy was assessed as the most sustainable option, progressing the greatest number of sustainability objectives. Concentrating development in key settlements was identified as assisting in meeting environmental objectives in terms of energy and resource efficiency, use of previously developed land, and a reduced need to travel. It was also assessed as assisting in addressing social and economic objectives by creating a critical mass for accessible community, health and education facilities, supporting the viability of town centres, and encouraging economic diversification by developing geographic clusters and new sectors in strategic locations. The positive effects were considered to be enhanced when tailoring this strategy to local circumstances based on

the social needs of the population, economic requirements in terms of access to resources or markets, environmental features, such as topography or habitats; and culture and heritage characteristics regarding historic legacy and local tradition. The detailed appraisal matrices for the spatial strategy options are at **Appendix V**.

Compatibility Analysis of Site Specific Allocations Selection Method

- 4.26 Rhondda Cynon Taf has used a Candidate Site Assessment Methodology (CSAM) to identify preferred site allocations over 0.3 hectares for housing, employment and mixed uses. An SA was undertaken of the proposed methodology to consider whether the methodology used was compatible with the SA Framework, and whether it was a robust and defensible methodology from a sustainability perspective.
- 4.27 The CSAM involves a two stage assessment process. The first stage consists of initial appraisal, examining the physical characteristics, history, location and potential for development. The initial selection process is followed by a more detailed performance analysis against 18 objectives divided into 6 areas:

***Economic viability** – considering the location of the site with regard to market and workforce characteristics;*

***Accessibility and ease of movement** – considering the suitability of vehicular access to the site, location of the site with regard to public transport routes, and accessibility by foot or cycle to a range of community facilities;*

***Environmental capital** – considering whether or not the site is at risk from flooding, would there result in the loss of agricultural land, is the site considered to be greenfield or brownfield land, whether or not the site is protected by environmental designations, whether the site would present an opportunity to remove an eyesore, and whether or not the site is considered to have environmental value;*

***Site context and character** – whether topographical characteristics of the site may present an obstacle to development, whether development would have an impact on important views/vistas, whether the site is in close proximity to existing infrastructure and whether or not there would be potential adverse impact from adjoining land uses;*

***Continuity and enclosure** – whether development of the site would provide continuity and enclosure in respect to adjacent land uses and whether it would contribute to an active high street frontage.*

***Potential use** - Finally, an assessment will be made as to the potential use of the site.*

- 4.28 These 6 assessment categories were subject to Sustainability Appraisal, and it was found that generally, the CSAM would lead to a selection of sites that should positively progress most of the SA objectives. However, it was recommended that the sustainability of the method could be

improved by adding a 7th category that estimates the potential of the site for environmentally sound building construction, management or production techniques, for example proximity to renewable energy source (water/wind), orientation (passive solar energy), existing resources or features on site (topography and foliage to achieve shading/cooling), and the possibility to reuse existing buildings, demolition materials or infrastructure.

- 4.29 SA objective 14 seeks to protect land and soil. The site selection criteria would be more compatible (currently neutral/uncertain) by including the degree of contamination, scope for reclamation and potential for save restoration of existing structures. This is especially important for Rhondda Cynon Taf given its industrial legacy.
- 4.30 It was recommended that the criteria "site context and character" could be expanded to consider acceptance of potential uses by the local community. It would be valuable to take the existence of locally well-known present or past landmark features into account when determining suitable uses in respect of cultural heritage. Site selection could also consider the potential of sites to enhance the environment, for example through providing green corridors between wildlife habitats.
- 4.31 The ability to replace existing features or facilities (expected to be lost by the proposed use/development) to the same or better quality in reasonable proximity, as well as the potential to offset an identified shortfall within the local areas, should also be assessed. This not only concerns ecologically but also recreationally important assets.
- 4.32 It was recommended that in more detailed site selection assessments, further sustainability appraisal be carried out individually on the larger strategic sites, as necessary, to evaluate any potential impact and inform possible mitigation measures for strategic development sites.

Habitats Regulations Assessment Screening

- 4.33 The HRA Screening of the Preferred Strategy identified four European sites (Cwm Cadlan SAC, Coedydd Nedd y Mellte SAC, Blaen Cynon SAC and Cardiff Beech Woods SAC) within the plan's administrative area and a 5km area around the Authority's boundaries. Information on each site was gathered, including their conservation objectives and the environmental conditions necessary to support site integrity.
- 4.34 A review of the LDP policies considered the nature and spatial extent of proposed developments and the potential for the plan to have a significant effect on the conservation objectives of the European sites. The screening also examined the potential for other plans and programmes to result in 'in-combination' effects at the sites considered.

- 4.35 The screening assessment concluded that there is potential for significant effect at Blaen Cynon SAC through proposed residential/mixed use development south of Hirwaun, in-combination with the widening of the A465 head of the valleys road. The screening also noted the potential for 'in-combination' effects at Cardiff Beech Woods SAC which should be considered further when greater spatial definition of the LDP is known. Consultation comments from the statutory body Countryside Council for Wales (CCW) are taken forward in the next stage Appropriate Assessment.

5.0 SA OF DEPOSIT PLAN 2009

Introduction

- 5.1 Producing the Deposit Draft Plan is the next stage of production in the Local Development Plan timetable for RCT. Work on the Deposit Draft Plan followed on from the public consultation on the Preferred Strategy in Jan/Feb 2007. In accordance with the ongoing and iterative approach to appraisal in support of the LDP development, SA incorporating SEA was carried out on the emerging Deposit document.
- 5.2 In particular, detailed SA/SEA was carried out on a series of Topic Papers produced by RCT which provided additional appraisal analysis to inform the development of the Deposit Draft Plan. The SA/SEA covered a range of topics papers which covered key elements of the RCT LDP including: waste; climate change; minerals, housing; tourism; natural environment; design; retail; town centres; transport; green wedges; built environment; infrastructure; renewable energy; employment and leisure & recreation.
- 5.3 SA of the Deposit Draft Plan was undertaken in December 2008. The appraisal was focused on the Core Strategy, the Area Wide Policies and the two Strategy Area policies. The Vision and Strategic Objectives of the LDP remain unchanged from the Preferred Strategy and have not been appraised further as part of this iterative stage. The key findings from the appraisal of the Deposit Draft Plan are summarised in the paragraphs and tables below. The detailed assessment matrices are provided at Appendix VI
- 5.4 Following the SA of the Deposit Draft Plan (Dec 2009) some further amendments, changes and improvements were made to policies (Jan 2009) as a result of information provided by the SA process. These changes are noted and discussed with commentary provided in relation to the SA Framework where appropriate, in Para 5.34 / Table 5.5, SA Recommendations and Progression. It should be noted that: policy numbering in the Deposit Draft Plan has altered from the version appraised (Dec 2009) and reported here; and that a number of policies appraised have been removed; and/or replaced by new policies. Key changes are highlighted next to policy number where relevant.

CORE POLICIES

Policy CS1 Development in the North

- 5.5 The policy addresses the socio economic problems associated with this part of the County Borough and provides a strong framework to help reverse existing trends in the pockets of unemployment, deprivation and poor housing. Cultural and environmental issues are also given consideration to ensure that economic pressures do not result in

adverse impacts on the existing built environment, landscape and biodiversity. However the policy could be improved by specific reference to the water environment, [this is a policy area that is lacking in the plan generally and is required to meet the Water Directive Framework). An overarching climate change and water policy embedded in the plan core policies would also significantly improve the environmental performance of this policy and the plan as a whole.

Policy CS2 Development in the South

- 5.6 The policy clearly reflects the identified differences and the distinct requirement of the northern and southern strategy area. It provides a strong policy base to implement the overall strategy, although as noted in relation to Policy CS1 Development in the North, specific attention to the water environment is required to ensure that the plan meets the requirements of the Water Framework Directive and SA objectives. It seeks to control levels of development to that which do not exceed environmental capacity and will have strong social and economic benefits.

Policy CS3 Strategic Sites

- 5.7 The strategy generally performs well against the SA objectives and will progress sustainable development issues relevant to the County Borough as identified through the scoping process. However there are issues that require further consideration, in particular the site specific and cumulative impacts of this scale of development on biodiversity [specifically local level designations] and the capacity of identified flood risk zones. The policy does indicate the likelihood of a high level of degradation/ development of land which is also identified as SINCs and the cumulative impact must be considered as part of the development strategy, both at a strategic level and through site specific mitigation measure were appropriate. The site assessments are contained in the Northern and Southern Strategy Area sections of this appraisal **Tables 5.1 & 5.2**.

Policy CS4 Housing Requirements

- 5.8 No adverse impacts have been identified in relation to this policy as a result of the strategic level appraisal. It is noted that all sites have, as part of the selection process, been subject to a Candidate Site Assessment Method that has been subject to sustainability appraisal and that incorporates the SA Objectives identified through the scoping process. More detailed appraisal of the strategic sites has been undertaken in relation the individual strategy area policies.

Policy CS5 Affordable Housing

- 5.9 The policy will ensure that affordable housing is provided through both strategic and non-strategic developments which will have direct, positive long term impacts on social objectives such as housing and

health. This approach may also have indirect positive impacts on the economy through the retention of young people and families, particularly in the northern strategy area where depopulation is an identified issue impacting on wider economic objectives. Landscape cultural and biodiversity impacts will have been considered on the major sites where most of the affordable housing will take place and mitigation measures secured as necessary.

Policy CS 6 Employment Requirements

- 5.10 This policy performs well against key SA objective for the economy and the community. This is particularly relevant for the Northern Strategy area where economic growth will support identified community need and has the potential to reduce out commuting and depopulation issues. The appraisal notes the potential for adverse impacts against objectives for waste and minerals, and specific policies focused on design and resource protection should ensure that mitigation measures are effective in preventing long term and/or cumulative impacts.

Policy CS7 Retail Development

- 5.11 The policy for retail allocations is particularly effective in progressing community and wider economic objectives through providing potential employment opportunities and easily accessible facilities for goods and services which local communities may otherwise be required to travel longer distances to reach. Wider cumulative effects for the local economy should arise through the reduction in spending leakage from the County Borough, achieved by improving the availability/ accessibility of goods and services for communities. Wider indirect, positive effects will also potentially be realised against transport objectives – where the result of policy implementation is a reduction in journeys outwith the Borough.

Policy CS 8 Transportation

- 5.12 There will inevitably be some adverse environmental impact, particularly in relation to landscape and biodiversity SA objectives from the implementation of a road building programme. Short term impacts from construction and development can be minimised and managed. The potential long term and cumulative impacts must be carefully assessed (for biodiversity through the HRA process and for landscape through site specific environmental impact assessment methods) to ensure that the landscape character of RCT is not adversely affected. The implementation of the road building schemes will, however, provide significant positive benefits for social and economic SA objectives and address identified sustainability issues for RCT noted during the scoping process and in the development of the evidence base for the LDP (issues include out-commuting, access to services and facilities, including health care).

Policy CS 9 Waste Management

- 5.13 Allocating waste facilities on existing industrial estates minimises environmental impacts, in particular this approach directs waste developments away from sites which may be sensitive for biodiversity or landscape issues. By locating waste facilities near to source and in accessible locations, there are also minor positive impacts for transport SA objectives by reducing the distance that waste is required to be transported. No adverse social or economic impacts are identified. Overall this is a positive policy for wider sustainability aims and objectives and that will help improve the Council's aims of minimising landfill and increasing recycling and composting.

AREA WIDE POLICIES

Policy AW1 New Housing

- 5.14 The policy takes a wide ranging and innovative approach to meeting the projected housing requirement and performs well against the sustainability framework objectives for housing, communities the economy and employment. The policy makes use of all existing resources and does not rely on new build any more than necessary, which addresses identified sustainability issues that there is good potential to reuse and refurbish existing buildings. Most of the potential impacts identified relate to environmental objectives (landscape, climate change) and the issues identified can be effectively resolved through the requirement for, and enforcement of specific standards of design, construction and operation. Many of the potential adverse issues discussed in the detailed appraisal are addressed by the supporting policy AW2, which specifies the requirement for sustainable locations and notes key environmental constraints. The policy tackles identified social and economic sustainability issues and SA objectives well.

Policy AW2 Sustainable Locations

- 5.15 The policy generally performs well against SA Objectives, given its focus on ensuring sustainable settlements and the inclusion of key constraints around environmental/ infrastructure issues. Two recommendations are made which would further improve the performance of the policy:
- Make reference to local nature conservation designations in criterion viii
 - Amend criterion ix to "are well related to existing water, sewerage, electrical, gas and telecommunications infrastructure and *improvements to such services will be provided where necessary*"
 - All applications in Flood Zone C will require a Flood Risk Assessment to accompany any planning application it is recommended that criterion v. omit item b) and replace it with a requirement for sustainable urban drainage systems.

Policy AW 3 Exception Sites For Affordable Housing In The Countryside

- 5.16 The appraisal identified no unacceptable adverse impacts apart from the need to clarify the wording of the policy which in its present form could deter the provision of affordable housing. It is recommended that the policy should be amended to clearly reflect the intention and wording of TAN 2 as follows:
- Criterion i) “The proposed development cannot be accommodated within the defined residential settlement boundaries *on land which private market housing would not permitted*”.
- 5.17 Additional recommendations to strengthen the policy include ensuring the use of sustainable materials and construction methods including high levels of insulation and the adoption of the Code for Sustainable Homes or EcoHomes very good and reference in the policy to a preferred level of community facilities such as shop, primary school, church, public house so that accessibility issues are not exacerbated.

Policy AW 4 Community Infrastructure & Planning Obligations

- 5.18 Whilst the policy performs very well against the majority of sustainability framework objectives, there is an underlying issue that the list of contributions sought may deter, or render unviable, development which is needed to bring about the regeneration of the County Borough, particularly in the northern strategy area. It is recommended that the potential to include sustainable water initiatives as an area where contributions may be sought is also considered within the policy. The policy wording should clarify that contributions will vary and be sought according to the nature and scale of the proposal and their likely impacts. Both developers and development management planners require clear guidance on this topic and it is recommended that the SPG gives clear and understandable guidance on the level of contribution which will be expected.

Policy AW5 New Development

- 5.19 The policy covers three aspects of development amenity and accessibility issues and sustainable design and construction, and all aspects perform well against the Sustainability Framework objectives. No adverse impacts have been identified and there should be a cumulative, ongoing progression of all the objectives. Recommendations for further improving the positive effects of implementing the policy include making specific reference to the landscape and biodiversity; and considering lowering the site threshold of 10 or more units and requiring every dwelling to meet that standard. Proposed changes to the Building Regulations will bring insulation standards and energy performance requirements to this standard in the very near future. The Code for Sustainable Homes also incorporates the requirement for at least 10% energy from renewables and this standard is likely to be adopted in Wales superceding EcoHomes.

Policy AW6 Design and Placemaking

- 5.20 This is a specific policy addressing design issues from the small i.e. extensions and shop front replacements to large i.e. the design of public places and spaces and the need for masterplanning on significant sites. The policy performs well against built environment, social, economic and cultural objectives and also on transport issues. No adverse environmental impacts have been identified as it is considered that landscape and biodiversity issues are covered by Policy AW9. However, the appraisal has noted the potential to take greater account of the water environment and it is recommended that an appropriate water policy is incorporated in the plan to meet the requirements of the Water Framework Directive and consultations are carried out with the EA as necessary.

Policy AW 7 Protection And Enhancement Of The Built Environment

- 5.21 The policy has two distinct parts, the protection of the historic built environment and the protection of open space, allotments, bridleways and cycle tracks and it progresses social, environmental and economic objectives effectively with no identified adverse impacts on sustainability. The policy provides a broad interpretation of the term "built environment" and the real intention of the policy is only clear on reading the supporting text.
- 5.22 Although no adverse impacts are identified, the implementation of this policy may be improved by changes to wording and possibly the title, or even splitting the policy into two distinct parts. It is also recommended that the policy would be more robust if the wording were amended to "will only be permitted" to emphasise that development in, near or on such historic sites, and development which improves or enhances public open space, allotments and rights of way, will not be an everyday occurrence and that such opportunities may be quite limited. Although it is preferable for policies to be written in the affirmative, protection policies, and the supporting text does refer to national designations such as SAMs, are acceptable in the negative (e.g. Policy AW9).

Policy AW 8 Protection and Enhancement Of The Natural Environment

- 5.23 The policy performs extremely well against the environmental and economic objectives and provides a robust foundation to ensure the continuing protection of the natural environment from inappropriate development. No adverse impacts have been identified against the SA Framework objectives. In line with planning guidance the policy does not repeat the requirement of protection of statutory [European] designated sites, which are protected through wider regulations and assessment requirements.

Policy AW9 Buildings in the Countryside

- 5.24 The policy makes best use of substantial buildings in the countryside which leads to the identified positive impacts in particular for social objectives. A recommendation is made that ecological surveys with reference to protected species are required as a matter of course on rural buildings proposed for conversion/renovation. This amendment to the supporting text would improve the biodiversity assessment to 'no sustainability constraints and development acceptable'.

Policy AW10 Public Health and Protection

- 5.25 The policy will have a positive impact on the quality of the environment of RCT and no adverse impacts have been identified in the appraisal against the SA Framework. It is recommended that the policy would be improved by the addition "water pollution" to criterion (vii) to ensure clarity of protection for the water environment. This could be further explained in the supporting text to cover rivers, groundwater sources and wetlands. The overarching impact of the policy approach should be long term and positive for the health of RCT's population and local environmental conditions.

Policy AW11 Existing Employment and Retail Uses

- 5.26 The appraisal identified no significant adverse impacts against the SA Framework of objectives. The policy balances the social and economic objectives well, ensuring that employment is not lost unnecessarily and that use is made of previously developed land for housing where there will be no adverse economic impact. This flexibility of approach supports SA objectives and overarching policy commitments to respond to local needs in securing development.

Policy AW12 Renewable Energy

- 5.27 The policy directly addresses the energy and climate change objectives and will have indirect positive impacts on health and the economy. The policy also balances the need for renewable energy supplies and the need to protect the landscape, biodiversity and cultural assets of the County Borough. Overall this policy had significant positive effects for RCT and more widely, and which will be long term.

Policy AW13 Large Wind Farm Development

- 5.28 The major impact is on landscape value and this policy requires that sites are located within the site search area. The appraisal noted that onshore wind turbines have the greatest capacity to meet renewable targets in the short to mid term. Issues of necessary transmission cables and pylons to serve developments of this scale are even more significant in terms of impacts on landscape and biodiversity and site restoration needs to be appropriately considered to improve the performance of the policy. Therefore, whilst the policy refers to

appropriate land management agreements it is recommended that this be improved by stipulating after use site restoration proposals. These changes would lead to an assessment of 'no sustainability constraints, development acceptable' as it will ensure that the impacts are reversible.

Policy AW14 Safeguarding Minerals

Policy AW15 Community Amenity Protection Buffer Zones

5.29 These two policies have been appraised together as jointly they provide a more holistic view of the mineral extraction process in terms of the national requirements and the protection of amenity in the vicinity of abstraction. The policies perform well against most objectives; whilst ensuring that mineral resources are exploited fully and that regional and national requirements are met, the amenity of residential settlements is protected and environmental and transport considerations are taken into account.

5.30 Whilst the use of local stone and slate will add to local distinctiveness in new development and minimise transport impacts they will not necessarily fulfil the requirements/ specifications necessary to meet high sustainable construction standards. Equally the extraction and burning of coal contradicts the objective to reduce carbon emissions and minimise the impacts of development on climate change. However, in the context of current national legislation this policy must be included in the LDP and the adverse impacts are minimised (as in Policy AW17). The policies promote wastes minimisation and encourages on site recycling of materials, which is appraised as effective mitigation within the context of this policy.

STRATEGY AREA POLICIES

5.31 The key appraisal findings for the Northern Strategy Area and Southern Strategy Areas are summarised in **Tables 5.1 & 5.2** below, with the detailed appraisal matrices provided at **Appendix VI**.

STRATEGY AREA POLICIES: NORTHERN STRATEGY AREA

Table 5.1: Summary of SA Northern Strategy Area	
Policy Number/ Title	Appraisal Summary
Policy NSA1 Development in the Principal Town of Aberdare	The appraisal demonstrated that the policy effectively progresses key sustainability objectives for the community and the environment. In particular positive, long term impacts are noted against transport objectives by improving access and providing for development in a sustainable location. No significant, adverse impacts were identified and overall the policy supports objective for achieving sustainable development aims in the long term.
NSA2	This policy approach effectively progresses SA objectives,

Table 5.1: Summary of SA Northern Strategy Area	
Policy Number/ Title	Appraisal Summary
Development in the Town Centre of Key Settlements	in particular for communities, employment and the built environment. No significant adverse impacts were identified by the appraisal and it assessed that in implementation the policy will assist in addressing sustainability issues identified in the County Borough.
NSA3 Development in the Key Settlement of Hirwuan	<p>Although the policy is appraised as progressing key sustainability objectives, Hirwaun does have identified problems with relation to the provision of community facilities. The LDP policy NSA 8 seeks to resolve this through the development of a strategic site with new retail, leisure, health and education facilities. However, only 400 dwellings of this development are expected to be built during the plan period with the community facilities being in place after 750 of the proposed total 1,000 dwellings are built.</p> <p>There fore, there could be a significant amount of development with no improved facilities unless his policy is stringently implemented; potential for short to medium term adverse impacts for communities. Hirwaun is well connected to other settlements by public transport (bus) and this may potentially provide some mitigation for short term access to facilities for the existing and new community.</p>
Policy NSA4 Former Maerdy Colliery Site, Rhondda Fach	The site makes use of an unused Colliery Site and proposes a mixture of employment, tourist and recreation uses which meet the sustainability framework objectives. The proposal provides a good opportunity to progress SA objectives across the social and economic dimensions without significant detrimental environmental impacts, and should bring about long term social, economic and environmental improvements.
Policy NSA5 Former Fernhill Colliery Sites, Blaenrhondda	The policy proposal for this site is assessed as having positive impacts on landscape issues. However, the appraisal noted the potential for adverse effects due to the lack of availability of public transport, and in particular the largely unknown, but potentially negative impacts on the nature conservation interests in the area and on the water environment. At this strategic level of assessment the site could have negative impacts which will require further more detailed assessment to determine the scale and extent of impacts and appropriate mitigation measures.
Policy NSA6 Former Phurnacite Plant, Abercwmboi	The site will have a positive economic impact in relation to key SA objectives for health, communities, the economy and employment. However, the appraisal has identified the potential adverse effects from development in the floodplain, which has been identified as a potentially

Table 5.1: Summary of SA Northern Strategy Area	
Policy Number/ Title	Appraisal Summary
	cumulative issue – and it is recommended that this be addressed. RCT have established the avoidance of development in flood risk areas and a key sustainability indicator, and any development contrary to TAN15 will perform negatively against this performance measure
Policy NSA7 Land at Robertstown/ Abernant, Aberdare	The proposal has the potential to bring significant economic and social gains to the area as noted in the positive appraisal against housing, community, employment and economy objectives. There are potential adverse impacts identified on biodiversity and landscape issues in particular, the presence of local level designations and the value of the landscape character must be thoroughly considered and addressed prior to development. Additionally, the appraisal notes that development (excluding residential) is proposed in areas of flood risk which must be adequately mitigated, with a particular view to the potential for cumulative flooding issues to result from increased development in flood prone areas.
Policy NSA8 Land South of Hirwaun/ Penywuan	The proposal has the potential to bring significant economic and social gains to the area, through the progression of objectives for housing, communities, employment and the economy. The appraisal identifies the potential for significant adverse impacts identified on the biodiversity designation at an adjacent European Site. The issues specific to this site, including the potential for significant effect were identified as part of the HRA Screening undertaken at Preferred Strategy stage, and a more detailed 'Appropriate Assessment' for this site accompanies the Deposit Plan in the Habitats Regulations Assessment report.
Policy NSA 9 Housing Allocations	Overall the sites perform acceptably well against the sustainability criteria when taken within the context that this level of development is required by national development spatial strategy. A number of issues were noted by the sustainability appraisal in relation to transport, landscape and biodiversity impacts of some sites and it is recommended that these are revisited to ascertain that acceptable mitigation is possible and consideration given to any other possible alternative sites.
Policy NSA 10 Housing Density	It is noted by the appraisal that the northern strategy area already has areas of densely developed terraced housing (approx 70dph) and that a mix of housing is required, but having stated that the minimum density will be 30dph, the policy could do more to facilitate dwellings at a higher density per hectare where appropriate. This could be, for example, through the development of flats or three storey development in urban areas with good public transport connections. This would improve the performance of the policy in the light of transport, climate change and housing

Table 5.1: Summary of SA Northern Strategy Area	
Policy Number/ Title	Appraisal Summary
	<p>SA objectives.</p> <p>As noted by the appraisal, 25% affordable housing on sites of 30 dwellings will bring forward a maximum of 7/8 such units per hectare assuming that other site costs render the provision of affordable housing viable. Therefore, the provision of family housing may be at the expense of providing secure rented accommodation for those unable to enter the housing market. It is recommended that consideration be given to amending the policy to offer more encouragement for higher density development in appropriate locations.</p>
Policy NSA 11 Affordable Housing	<p>The appraisal notes that the percentage of affordable housing sought by the policy is low in UK/ national terms. However, it is acknowledged that this policy reflects the specific economy and existing dwelling stock in the northern strategy area and is a component part of the regeneration strategy and need for a wider mix of house types. As the affordable housing will generally be part of allocated sites which have been subject to the site selection methodology (incorporating sustainability appraisal) there will be no specific environmental impact from the inclusion of affordable housing that is not addressed by an appraisal of the wider sustainability implications.</p>
Policy NSA 12 Housing Development within or Adjoining Settlement Boundaries	<p>The appraisal noted a number of key issues that it is recommended are addressed. The policy has the potential to undermine the provision of affordable housing built under the affordable housing exceptions policy and to disrupt the balance of the carefully balanced strategic sites through the addition of incremental development. It is recommended that :</p> <p>If more development than can be accommodated within settlement boundaries is to be allowed, a more positive approach would be to widen the settlement boundaries in settlements with appropriate location and facilities. This would also give more clarity to the purpose of Policy AW 3 – Exception Sites For Affordable Housing In The Countryside.</p> <p>It is recommended that the reference to development adjacent to the boundaries of strategic sites should be removed.</p>
Policy NSA13 Rehabilitation/ Conversion of Large Buildings	<p>The policy performs well against key SA objectives and will make best use of land and resources whilst providing a further source of potential employment or residential premises. Protection of historic buildings is a key issue for the Borough where the built heritage is under threat providing potential for positive impacts in the longer term.</p>
Policy NSA 14	<p>The appraisal noted that due to allocations being on land</p>

Table 5.1: Summary of SA Northern Strategy Area	
Policy Number/ Title	Appraisal Summary
Employment Allocations	in existing employment uses there should be no significant adverse impacts. The policy encourages new and more diverse uses across the northern strategy area and there is potential for benefits across the range of objectives, particularly on socio-economic and community objectives which are identified issues for RCT.
Policy NSA 15 - Small Industrial and Business Sites	Employment land can be easily lost due to the higher return provided by residential development on such sites. Small employment sites can be hard to replace once lost and often play vital parts in local economies as noted in the appraisal against employment and economic SA objectives. Therefore, the policy performs well against economic and wider transport and climate change SA objectives. However, the policy also recognises that some historic employment sites generate noise and air pollution or have inadequate access and these are exempt to protect the environmental quality of residential areas.
Policy NSA 16 Re-development of Vacant/Redundant Industrial Sites	The appraisal identified no significant adverse impacts against the SA Framework objectives and the policy should have long term positive impacts. However, the policy could make reference to the location of the sites, as the redevelopment of sites in situations with no access to public transport or walking and cycling should be given careful consideration. Although the impact will be on a relatively small scale there will be significant benefits in the medium and longer term from encouraging and facilitating redevelopment of the old industrial sites.
Policy NSA 17 Retail Allocations	Allocation of land for retail use will support the local economy and employment opportunities and discourage proposals on land which is not as suitable. Positive long term impacts for socio-economic impacts with no significant adverse impacts for environmental SA objective identified.
Policy NSA 18 The Retail Hierarchy	The policy seeks to provide local retail facilities in proportion to the size of settlement and public transport. It should have positive effects on transport and climate change objectives through trying to manage use of the private car and positive effects on the local economy through facilitating retail development.
Policy NSA 19 Retail Development in Principal Towns and Key Settlements	The approach to the retail function of Aberdare and the retail/social role of the other smaller northern strategy area settlements will have positive impacts for the economy, transport and climate change. No adverse impacts identified through the appraisal against wider environmental SA objectives.
Policy NSA 20 Major Road Schemes	There will inevitably be adverse environmental impact through the implementation of the road building schemes but this should be assessed and avoided, minimised and

Table 5.1: Summary of SA Northern Strategy Area	
Policy Number/ Title	Appraisal Summary
	managed as suggested in order that the identified economic and social benefits of producing east/west links can be realised with minimal impacts on RCT's valued landscape and designated areas.
Policy NSA 21 Park and Ride (Bus) / Park and Share Provision	Provision of park and ride/ park and share facilities, supports overarching objectives for more sustainable travel and a reduction in the use of the private car for commuting and leisure journeys. Indirect benefits for climate change objectives are also likely and the positive, long term effects of making improvements to transport provision should be cumulative.
Policy NSA 22 - Rail Network and Station Improvements	Reuse of existing railway lines and station improvements perform well in terms of transport, social, economic and climate change objectives. This policy approach is strongly supported by the appraisal findings and will enhance wider development proposals.
Policy NSA 23 - Cycle Network Improvements	The appraisal provides strong support for this policy which is assessed as having the potential to bring about direct positive effects on transport and climate change objectives, as well as minor but positive indirect impacts on health, communities and the economy.
Policy NSA 26 Green Wedges	The appraisal demonstrates that this policy performs well against key environmental SA objectives and that it will protect the quality of both the built environment and the landscape. No significant adverse impacts were identified.
Policy NSA 25 Special Landscape Areas	Landscape protection also has direct benefits for biodiversity through the indirect protection of habitats. The appraisal notes there may be conflict with renewable energy projects and mineral working and it is recommended that the policy should be supported by text which clarifies that mitigation will not always be possible whatever the benefits of the development (although this is dealt with in the detailed policies). Overall a positive long term impact.
Policy NSA 26 Cynon Valley River Park	Whilst performing well against landscape and biodiversity objectives the appraisal draws attention to issues around water quality and the capacity of the floodplain. It is recommended that a clear, stronger revised policy incorporating specifically wording on water quality and flood plain capacity, would greatly improve the potential benefits of this policy.
Policy NSA 27 Land Reclamation Schemes	The appraisal suggests that this policy will be instrumental in undoing some of the land degradation which has occurred over the last two centuries in the RCT area. Landscape restoration also has direct benefits for biodiversity through the creation or improvement of habitats. Overall a positive long term impact for core

Table 5.1: Summary of SA Northern Strategy Area	
Policy Number/ Title	Appraisal Summary
	environmental objectives, by addressing identified sustainability issues within the County Borough.
Policy NSA 28 Provision Of Community Recycling Facilities	The appraisal notes that the policy builds on existing facilities and proposes new recycling facilities to improve the service across the County Borough. Very positive effects predicted for key sustainability objectives in the medium to long term and no significant adverse impacts identified.
Policy NSA 32 - Safeguarding of Sandstone (Now POLICY AW 14&15)	The use of non renewable materials does not meet the overall objective of sustainable development. However, the appraisal notes that materials are required for essential infrastructure projects and that that the plan is fulfilling its statutory obligation to include such policies.

STRATEGY AREA POLICIES: SOUTHERN STRATEGY AREA

Table 5.2: Summary of SA Southern Strategy Area	
Policy Number/ Title	Appraisal Summary
Policy SSA 1 Development in the Principal Town of Pontypridd	Generally the policy will assist in achieving sustainable development. However the appraisal noted the potential for adverse effects which would require mitigation, over the requirement for improvements to car parking which contradicts the aims of the transport objective. It is recommended that the criterion should either be removed or a justification given for this move away from sustainability objectives.
Policy SSA 2 - Pontypridd Town Centre Enhancement	The appraisal identified no significant adverse impacts identified and noted that the policy will assist in achieving sustainable development and the regeneration of Pontypridd with particularly positive and long term benefits for culture and heritage objectives, and the progression of health and community objectives. .
Policy SSA 3 – Development in the Principal Town of Llantrisant / Talbot Green	<p>The policy builds on and supports the ongoing development of the more buoyant southern economy and encourages the development of all functions of the Llantrisant/Talbot Green area. Improvement to the retail and employment function may reduce out commuting for work and reduce the spend leakage to Cardiff and Bristol which progresses objectives for employment, the economy and climate change effectively.</p> <p>The policy also ensures that the role of Llantrisant will continue should there be a delay in implementing the strategic site proposal. Although on a relatively small scale,</p>

Table 5.2: Summary of SA Southern Strategy Area	
Policy Number/ Title	Appraisal Summary
	the policy has the potential to progress sustainable development in the County Borough.
Policy SSA 4 Development in the Key Settlement of Tonyrefail	The policy builds on the more buoyant southern economy and encourages the development of all functions of Tonyrefail. Improvement of the retail and employment function may reduce out commuting for work and reduce the spend leakage to Cardiff and Bristol. It is recommended that a reference in the supporting text could clarify that community facilities such as health and education will not be allowed to be overwhelmed by new development. The appraisal notes that the policy ensures that the role of Llantrisant will continue if there is delay in implementing the strategic site proposal. Overall this policy progresses core social and economic objectives, through minor but positive benefits in the medium and longer term.
Policy SSA 5 New Educational Facilities in Tonyrefail	The appraisal suggests that there will be positive impacts for communities, travel and climate change with indirect benefits for health through the implementation of this policy. No significant adverse impacts were identified.
Policy SSA 6 Development in the Key Settlement of Llanharan	No significant adverse impacts were identified through the appraisal, however, it is recommended the policy implementation ensures that community facilities, including health and education, keep abreast with the level of development permitted so that the existing situation (lack of key facilities) is not exacerbated. The appraisal also notes the potential for negative impacts, particularly given the dependence on the proposed strategic site in providing the new facilities for the locality. There is the potential for movement away from key sustainability objectives on health and for communities if the site is not implemented.
Policy SSA 7 Former Cwm Colliery and Coking Works, Beddau	Generally the site effectively progresses key sustainability objectives and should have positive economic and social effects in a location with good public transport links which are proposed for further improvement. The landscape should also see improvement through development and the cultural aspects of the site will be retained by keeping the significant industrial features. The appraisal has highlighted a key issue - over part of the site being in a flood zone, which is counter to RCT's sustainability indicators. There is potential for mitigation, developed in conjunction with the Environment Agency Wales, and the masterplan for the site must produce a Flood Risk Assessment to demonstrate how mitigation will occur and that it will be effective.
Policy SSA 8 Mwyndy/Talbot Green Area	The appraisal identified that this policy provides strong progression against housing, communities, health and economy objectives and there are clear opportunities to

Table 5.2: Summary of SA Southern Strategy Area	
Policy Number/ Title	Appraisal Summary
	<p>progress sustainable design objectives. The policy also has the potential to improve the existing settlement in terms of built environment, reduction of transport movements and employment opportunities. However, the appraisal has highlighted that the area is of significant nature conservation importance and that development without strong and effective mitigation will result in adverse impacts and potentially irreversible damage to parts of the site and this issues must be carefully addressed against the other identified benefits. Additionally, the appraisal identified potential negative cumulative impacts arising from development in flood risk areas which must be considered holistically in relation to wider development within the Borough.</p>
Policy SSA 9 Former OCC Site Llanilid, Llanharan	<p>The appraisal notes that the proposal has the potential to bring significant economic and social gains to the area through building on established economic opportunities. Development at the site has the potential to have significant, adverse impacts on local biodiversity designations and more detailed studies will be required to determine the nature of the impact and whether there are acceptable mitigation measures. This work should inform decisions on the nature and extent of development.</p>
Policy SSA 10 Housing Allocations	<p>In general the sites perform well against the sustainability framework objectives and provide for progression in a number of the key areas identified by the scoping process. The potential for adverse impacts, and effects that will run counter to aims of the SA Framework have been identified, particular issues are noted in relation to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The appraisal has noted the potential for adverse impacts given the scale of development proposed at Trane Farm, Tonyrefial and South of the Ridings and further work on the ability of existing facilities to sustain these levels of development should be carried out to inform the required levels of planning contribution if existing facilities are not sufficient. 2. The site at Collenna Farm appears to incorporate a SSSI and the site South of the Ridings incorporates part of a SINCC and it is recommended that ecological surveys should be undertaken and mitigation strategies in place prior to allocations being finalised. The potential for adverse impacts on biodiversity objectives must be noted until these issues are addressed. 3. The appraisal notes flood risk issues connected with the site South of the Ridings which is of a significant scale (500 dwellings) and it is recommended that a full flood risk assessment on the south of Ridings site

Table 5.2: Summary of SA Southern Strategy Area	
Policy Number/ Title	Appraisal Summary
	<p>should be carried out before the site is allocated. Potential for significant adverse effects on SA objectives for water.</p> <p>4. The appraisal highlighted issues of poor access to public transport at the site in Pontypridd (13.) and recommends a reconsideration of this site taking these issues in to account.</p>
Policy SSA 11 – Housing Density	The appraisal demonstrates that this policy has the capacity to deliver and that the socio-economic impacts of development are positive and will improve the situation in the long term. However, it is strongly recommended that there is greater emphasis on higher densities in appropriate locations. This approach would limit identified [negative] impacts on landscape, soils and biodiversity and improve the performance of the policy in progressing SA objectives for energy, affordable housing provision and transport.
Policy SSA 12 Affordable Housing	As the affordable housing will generally be part of allocated sites which have been subject to the candidate site selection methodology, incorporating sustainability objectives, there be no specific environmental impact from the inclusion of affordable housing that will not have been addressed as part of the site selection method. The appraisal highlights a very positive impact on the provision of housing to meet the needs of those who cannot enter the private market for either sale or rent, which has the potential to result in long term and cumulative positive effects for local communities.
Policy SSA 13 Housing Development Within Settlement Boundaries	The appraisal identifies that this policy performs well against key SA objectives and that this approach will make best use of land and resources and provide a further source of potential housing land. No significant adverse impacts are identified.
Policy SSA 14 Employment Allocations	No adverse impacts have been identified and the policy aims to improve and diversify the RCT local economy. Allocation of available and suitable land for employment purposes may encourage inward investment and a more diverse range of job opportunities with positive long term impacts predicted. The sites' location in or near key settlements will encourage reduced reliance on the private vehicle for trips to work with potentially wider benefits for environmental objectives and climate change aims.
Policy SSA 15 Retail Allocations	The appraisal demonstrates that the allocation of land for retail use will support the local economy and employment opportunities and discourage proposals on land which is not as suitable. This approach provides for positive long term impacts.

Table 5.2: Summary of SA Southern Strategy Area	
Policy Number/ Title	Appraisal Summary
Policy SSA 16 - The Retail Hierarchy	The policy seeks to provide local retail facilities in proportion to the size of settlement and public transport. The appraisal shows that it will have a positive effect on transport and climate change objectives through trying to manage use of the private car and positive effects on the local economy through facilitating retail development.
Policy SSA 17 Retail Development in Principal Towns and Key Settlements	The appraisal highlights that the approach to the retail function of Pontypridd and the retail/social role of Llanharan and Tonyrefail will have positive impacts for the economy, transport and climate change SA objectives with long term benefits predicted. No adverse impacts are identified by the appraisal.
Policy SSA 18 Major Road Schemes	The socio-economic effects of developing road schemes are for this policy appraised as largely positive and beneficial for community development. There will inevitably be some adverse environmental impact through the implementation of the road building schemes (particularly for landscape and biodiversity issues) and these effects should be avoided, minimised and managed as recommended by the appraisal so that the economic and social benefits of producing east/west links outweigh the environmental effects.
Policy SSA 19 - Rail Network And Station Improvements	Any policies which facilitate the use of railways rather than the private vehicle will have positive environmental impacts, particularly for climate change SA objectives, with indirect benefits for the economy and predicted improvements in access for those members of the community without a car.
Policy SSA 20 Park and Ride (Bus) / Park and Share Provision	Provision of park and ride/ park and share facilities, supports overarching objectives for more sustainable travel and a reduction in the use of the private car for commuting and leisure journeys. Indirect benefits for climate change objectives are also likely and the positive, long term effects of making improvements to transport provision should be cumulative.
Policy SSA 21 - Cycle Network Improvements	The policy which supports improvements to the cycle network will bring about direct positive effects on transport and climate change objectives with minor but positive indirect impact on health, communities and the economy. Potential for long term positive effects.
Policy SSA 22 Green Wedges	The policy for Green Wedges performs well and will protect the quality of both the built environment and the landscape. No adverse impacts identified and potential for long term positive impacts through the establishment and maintenance of wildlife corridors and open spaces for public enjoyment offers long term cumulative & synergistic benefits.

Table 5.2: Summary of SA Southern Strategy Area	
Policy Number/ Title	Appraisal Summary
SSA 23 Special Landscape Areas	The policy will be instrumental on protecting the landscape quality of the Borough on which tourism potential will be largely dependant. Landscape protection also has direct benefits for biodiversity through the indirect protection of habitats and the maintenance of wildlife corridors and networks. The appraisal notes that there may be conflict with renewable energy projects and mineral working, which will need to be considered. Overall this policy in implementation should provide for a positive long term impact.
Policy SSA 24 Land Reclamation Schemes	The policy will be instrumental in supporting and enhancing the protection of landscape quality within the Borough on which tourism potential will be largely dependant. Landscape restoration also has direct benefits for biodiversity through the creation or improvement of habitats. Restoration also offers indirect benefits for community (pride in sense of place and health benefits from the creation of accessible open spaces). Overall a positive long term impact.
Policy SSA 25 Provision Of Community Recycling Facilities	No adverse impacts are identified in relation to this policy and the appraisal indicates that it will assist progress towards sustainable development with potential positive outcomes for waste, transport, energy and climate change SA objectives.
Policy SSA 26 Preferred Area of Known Mineral Resource	New policy. Issues as identified for SSA 30/31/32
Policy SSA 30 (Now POLICIES AW 14 & 15) Safeguarding of High Purity Carbonate and Carboniferous Limestone.	The use of non renewable materials does not meet the overall objective of sustainable development, although opportunities exist e.g. for habitat creation/ restoration as part of overall restoration activities. It is accepted that materials are required for essential infrastructure projects and that the plan is fulfilling its statutory obligation to include such policies, additionally sourcing materials close to where they will be used minimises the negative effects of transport.
Policy SSA 31 - Safeguarding of Sandstone (Now POLICIES AW 14 & 15)	Assessment conclusions as for Policy SSA 30.
Policy SSA 32 Preferred Area of Known Mineral Resource (Now POLICIES AW 14 & 15)	Assessment conclusions as for Policy SSA 30.
Policy SSA27 Land at Beddau Park	New policy. Issues as identified in pre-deposit draft plan. The policy helps meet the objective to provide

Table 5.2: Summary of SA Southern Strategy Area	
Policy Number/ Title	Appraisal Summary
	accommodation for all. The policy clearly recognises the need to take account of established communities whilst providing for travelling people who are part of British heritage and tradition. Recognising the need for sites and setting out a clear policy framework will have a positive benefit in the long term.

Cumulative Effects Analysis

- 5.32 In addition to the appraisal of individual policies undertaken in the SA/SEA the SEA Directive requires consideration of the overall effects of the plan including secondary, synergistic and cumulative effects of plan policies. The may include incremental effects that can have small effects individually but can accrue to have significant environmental effects. The following tables summarise the key effects including the cumulative effects (intra-plan effects) and where relevant the combined effects with other relevant plans and projects (inter-plan effects).

Table 5.3: Significant Positive Effects Emerging from the LDP	
Key relevant SA Objective:	Positive effects identified:
Housing	The plan will have significant positive effects through meeting the housing needs of the County Borough, particularly affordable housing needs, and in locations where housing is most needed through the explicit focus on 'local needs'.
Transport Climate Change,	The plan responds to existing high levels of car ownership and accessibility issues, by including strong policies in support of public transport and through seeking to minimise out-commuting.
Communities Economy	The plan provides an inclusive approach to infrastructure provision, with particular benefits for existing communities (families, the elderly).
Balanced Communities, Transport	The plan provides measures to regenerate identified areas of deprivation, in the Northern area of the County Borough and their communities including developing better connectivity through improved transport routes.
Biodiversity, Landscape, Water, Land and soil	The plan recognises the distinctive landscape and biodiversity areas in the County Borough (which provide both constraint and opportunity) and takes an approach to development that minimises impacts on these areas through steering development toward existing settlements and to areas of brownfield land that will benefit from regeneration.
Economy, Employment, Communities	The plan will have positive effects for the economic regeneration of existing centres particularly in the Northern Strategy Area and provides opportunities to reduce out commuting in
Built Environment Climate Change	The plan has a strong focus on sustainable design and construction, including consideration of travel plans, encouraging sustainable transport, and ensuring high level compliance with codes for sustainable construction.

5.33 Alongside the many positive effects of the plan identified by the SA, some significant negative effects were also identified. These primarily relate to the increased residential, employment and infrastructure development when considered in the context of the geographical and historical constraints of the County Borough area.

Table 5.4: Significant Negative Effects Emerging from the LDP	
Key relevant SA Objective:	Negative Effects identified:
Biodiversity, Landscape, Water, Waste, Communities, Health.	<p>The cumulative effects of increased development, including housing, employment development, the development of other infrastructure, in particular major road scheme. These effects include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ pressures on local and national biodiversity designations; ■ increased air pollution (local and regional); ■ direct land-take; ■ pressures on water resources and water quality; ■ increased noise and light pollution, particularly from traffic; ■ increased waste production; ■ loss of tranquillity ; ■ implications for human health (e.g. from increased pollution); and ■ incremental effects on landscape and townscapes. <p>It is noted that whilst some policies relating to development (e.g. the dualling of the A465 Heads of Valleys Road) are determined at a higher policy level by WAG, the environmental effects of development must be taken into account by the LDP to ensure mitigation is adequate.</p>
Climate Change, Energy	<p>An increase in the District's contribution to greenhouse gas production- this is inevitable given the volume of new development proposed, and includes factors such as increased transportation costs, embodied energy in construction materials and increased energy use from new housing and employment development.</p>
Cultural and Heritage, Communities Landscape	<p>Less tangible effects of significant physical, economic and social changes for local communities, including impacts on cultural heritage, landscape, community cohesion and identify particularly in locations where there will be significant increases in development.</p>
Water	<p>The cumulative effects of development affecting surface water runoff, water flow and the potential to exacerbate flood risk where development is concentrated in valley areas.</p> <p>The increased levels of water demand resulting from new development. Increased demand on a sewerage system that is outdated.</p>

SA Recommendations and Progression

5.34 The SA process has predicted the significant environmental and wider sustainability effects likely to occur as a result of the implementation of RCT's LDP. Where possible, the process has also identified opportunities to enhance the positive effects of the plan and mitigate the negative effects. In line with the iterative approach to appraisal, RCT has used the findings to progressively develop the Deposit Draft Plan by taking full account of the SA recommendations. The detailed account of how the Deposit Draft Plan SA recommendations have been taken forward in the development of the LDP is provided in **Appendix VII**, and the key SA recommendations and changes made as a result, are briefly summarised below.

Table 5.5: Summary of Key Recommendations & LDP Progression	
SA Recommendation	LDP Progression
Core Policies	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (CS1) include an overarching climate change and water policy embedded in plan core policies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> LDP to include new core policy on climate change
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (CS8) minimise and manage the adverse impact of road building schemes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPG) will be produced in respect of the strategic transportation management scheme
Area Wide Policies	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (AW 2) ensure reference to nature conservation designations, amend criterion ix. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Agreed and policy amended, wording in line with recommendation
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (AW3) Amend policy working to reflect TAN2 planning and affordable housing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Policy wording amended
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (AW7) provide more robust policy wording to protect the built environment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Policy wording amended
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (AW9) ensure that ecological survey is a requirement for new buildings in the countryside 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> reasoned justification amended
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (AW10) include water pollution criteria when addressing environmental protection and public health 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> amended to include water pollution
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (AW13) issues of the impacts of transmission on landscape (from large wind farms) must be addressed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> issues raised to be dealt with in the SPG on renewable energy
Northern Strategy Area	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (NSA3) policy needs to address issues of phasing in relation to community facilities provision (strategic site at Hirwuan) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> reasoned justification for policy amended in line with recommendation

Table 5.5: Summary of Key Recommendations & LDP Progression

SA Recommendation	LDP Progression
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ (NSA6) issues of cumulative impact of development near floodplain (Phurnacite Plant site) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ allocation withdrawn until flood issues resolved
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ (NSA20/ SSA20) adverse environmental impacts of road schemes should be addressed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ an amendment has been made to policy CS8
Southern Strategy Area	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ (SSA11) encouragement for higher densities of housing where appropriate 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ reasoned justification amended

5.35 A key progression of the LDP as a result of SA recommendations, which significantly improves the performance of the plan against climate change and water SA objectives, is the inclusion of a new Climate Change policy. The policy (detailed in **Appendix VII**) seeks to address both the causes of climate change and adaptation measures that can be influenced by the plan. By requiring reductions in CO₂ emissions in new development; promoting renewables at the appropriate scale; seeking to reduce water demands; and including proactive measures for flood risk management; the policy provides a much stronger framework for addressing the sustainability issues identified at scoping & through iterative appraisal for the County Borough.

Habitats Regulations Assessment: Appropriate Assessment

- 5.36 The HRA Screening for RCT's LDP (Dec 2006) recommended that further 'Appropriate Assessment' be carried out in relation to one European Site (Blaen Cynon SAC). This more detailed analysis to determine the likely impacts of the RCT's LDP, in particular the strategic allocation to the south of Hirwuan, was undertaken in parallel with the SA/SEA process, with reference to consultation comments from the statutory body CCW.
- 5.37 The findings indicate that the proposed developments will not have a significant effect on the conservation objectives & site integrity at Blaen Cynon, subject to the recommendations for avoidance and mitigation measures being affectively addressed through the implementation of the plan. The full assessment analysis and findings are presented in a separate report accompanying the LDP.

6.0 IMPLEMENTATION AND MONITORING

Introduction

- 6.1 This section outlines potential indicators and targets which will be used to help monitor the sustainability effects of RCT's LDP as identified through the SA/SEA process. Possible targets and/or indicators for each sustainability objective have been identified (from the SA Framework) and these indicators have been iteratively developed by the Council and Enfusion Ltd.
- 6.2 The proposed indicators reflect: those proposed in the scoping report (Jan/Feb2006) and the consultation comments received on the Scoping Report, including through the Technical Workshop with stakeholders. Indicator development also underwent a further, more detailed development following consultation comments received on the SA of the Preferred Strategy (2006). This aim of this consultation was produce a more concise and workable indicator set that avoided duplication of monitoring efforts undertaken by other (statutory) organisations, and that was focused on the key issues pertinent to RCT's LDP. This consultation involved a workshop and opportunity to review the revised indicator set (July 2007/December 2008). Changes made as result of the Dec 2008 consultation are highlighted in **red text** in Table 6.1 and are summarised in the consultation record at **Appendix II**.

SA Monitoring Proposals for Local Development Plan

- 6.3 The Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive requires that the significant environmental effects of implementing a plan or programme are monitored in order to identify unforeseen adverse effects and if necessary, to identify the need for remedial action. Government also requires local planning authorities to produce Annual Monitoring Reports to track the progress of Local Development Document implementation. According to official guidance, 'These need to include the findings of SA monitoring'⁹. Therefore, the monitoring strategy for the SA/SEA should aim to be integrated with the Local Development Framework Annual Monitoring Report.
- 6.4 The proposed monitoring strategy for the SA/SEA, as set out below, should:
- Clearly set out who is responsible for the monitoring, as well as its timing, frequency and format for presenting results;
 - Provide for the collection of new information, thereby updating and strengthening original baseline data, rectifying any deficiencies, and providing an improved basis for the formulation of future plans;

⁹ *Sustainability Appraisal of Regional Spatial Strategies and Local Development Documents* ODPM, November 2005

- Establish a mechanism for action to enhance positive effects of the plan, mitigate any negative ones and assess any areas that were originally identified as containing uncertainty. The aim should be to keep the LDP working at maximum effectiveness for the benefit of the community; and,
- Support wider community engagement by providing a clear and easily understandable picture of how actual implementation of the LDP is affecting the authority areas. Is it moving the area towards or away from the more sustainable future we intended? Are any significant effects identified actually happening? Are any unforeseen consequences being felt? Are any mitigation measures that were proposed operating effectively?

6.4 Indicators seek to measure all relevant aspects of the areas addressed by the SA/SEA - social and economic as well as environmental and they are drawn from:

- Objectives and targets set out in the LDP – some of which are quantitative and may be expressed as maps, graphs, diagrams or percentages (e.g. Percentage of new housing built on brownfield land, target of 10% of energy on major new developments to be provided by renewables etc.);
- Indicators already identified and used in the SA process,
- Measures drawn from the baseline data collected during the early stages of the LDP or from the previous Local Plan (e.g. air quality, extent of wildlife habitats, need for affordable housing); and,
- Measures suggested by the community which are typically more qualitative (e.g. quality of life) and could be useful in enriching understanding and giving people a sense of ownership of the LDP.

6.5 To ensure compatibility with, and reference to, regional and national sustainability aims; sustainability targets and indicators have also been developed with reference to the Welsh Assembly Government Sustainable Development Scheme (2008), and in particular the Wales Spatial Plan Update and the Sustainable Development Indicators for Wales (2008). These indicators link to the UK indicators produced nationally by the Department for the Environment and Rural Affairs (Defra). The indicators therefore reflect the sustainable development aims and priorities for Wales whilst ensuring consistency with the UK sustainable development framework.

Table 6.1: Sustainability Monitoring Proposed Targets and Indicators			
SA Target	SA Indicator	Shared Indicator - Source	Comments
1. Housing			
Reduce discrepancies between requirement and availability of affordable and special needs housing stock.	Number of new affordable housing units provided during the year as a percentage of all housing units provided during the year [from social landlords/ section 106 agreements & through old housing stock]	Improvement Plan 2007 PI Ref LPA/006	New indicator in improvement plan, part of Core Data set – targets expected to be developed through LDP.
2. Culture and Heritage			
Reduce number of buildings on at risk register (year on year) <i>(target could also include scheduled ancient monuments & number of conservation areas reviewed)</i>	Buildings at Risk (absolute number)		There are no extant indicators for the historic environment either within the Local Improvement Plan 2007 or at national level. Assuming Rhondda grant funded by CADW to gather data on buildings at risk? Does RCT have Scheduled ancient monument [SAM] data from CADW?
Maintain/ protect locally designated sites of cultural value and areas of high archaeological value	Number of Designated Sites with Management Plans		

Table 6.1: Sustainability Monitoring Proposed Targets and Indicators			
SA Target	SA Indicator	Shared Indicator - Source	Comments
3. Communities			
Improve access to public transport and community facilities for all	Percentage of total population with access to services		A study examining accessibility in RCT and looking at quantitative and qualitative assessment of greenspace (likely to be targets for 2007-2010) Community Plan objectives for 2007/08 are to develop and promote new and improves Accessible Transport provision in partnership with the 'Better Transport' Forum. No proposed indicators for 2007/08, but series of actions noted.
Increase % of people with qualifications and improve skills	Number of enrolments on adult education courses per 1000 population % of 15/16 year olds achieving the 'core subject indicator' (grade C in GCSE English or welsh and Science in combination)	Improvement Plan 2007 Local PI Ref C6 Improvement Plan 2007 Local PI Ref 2.6	

Table 6.1: Sustainability Monitoring Proposed Targets and Indicators			
SA Target	SA Indicator	Shared Indicator - Source	Comments
4. Health			
Increase access to recreation and sports facilities & the countryside	Number of visits to indoor and outdoor sports and recreational facilities per 1000 population	Improvement Plan 2007 PI Ref LCS/001 a) b) NEW INDICATOR	
5. Economy			
Broaden the Economic base by creating more varied and stronger businesses	Economic activity by sector		Target reflects 2007/08 objectives from Improvement Plan 2007 (Boosting our Local Economy) RCT development and regeneration – potential information resources?
6. Employment			
Increase opportunities to work within the district.	[%] increase in local job growth by sector/ reduction in numbers of economically inactive [%] of resident working age population employed	SD indicator for Wales	No existing/ extant indicator – data gathering mechanism required. Target reflects Improvement Plan 2007 (Boosting our Local Economy) objective in relation to the delivery of the RCT Economic Regeneration Strategy. Proposed measures include increase in local job growth by sector and reduction of numbers of economically inactive

Table 6.1: Sustainability Monitoring Proposed Targets and Indicators			
SA Target	SA Indicator	Shared Indicator - Source	Comments
7. Transport			
All new developments located to support and encourage sustainable travel choices	% [or absolute number of] developments that deliver sustainable transport solutions [number of new developments with travel plans/ home zones/ car clubs]		No existing/ extant indicator – data gathering mechanism required. LDP to develop targets/ indicators that can be shared by SA?
8. Built Environment			
Promote improved design standards and encourage community participation in the planning process	% (or number of) new developments and buildings meeting BREEAM and/or Code for Sustainable Homes Standards		No existing/ extant indicator – data gathering mechanism required.
9. Landscape			
Achieve favourable conditions of nationally and locally important landscape designations	% designations reporting favourable condition status		Information from LDP?
10. Biodiversity			
Protect and enhance biodiversity and geodiversity of the area	% change in RCT BAP priority habitats and species	SD Indicator for Wales	Information from RCT Countryside/ CCW

Table 6.1: Sustainability Monitoring Proposed Targets and Indicators			
SA Target	SA Indicator	Shared Indicator - Source	Comments
11. Water			
Promote sustainable water resource management	% [or number of as proportion of total] of new development with integrated sustainable drainage systems		No existing/ extant indicator – data gathering mechanism required
Reduce Flood risk to people, property and maintain integrity of the floodplain Avoid development in flood risk areas.	Amount of new development in C1 and C2 as a proportion of the total development allowed contrary to TAN 15		No existing/ extant indicator – data gathering mechanism required. RCT data available?
12. Climate Change			
Reduce greenhouse gas emissions	% change in carbon dioxide emissions in the housing stock	Improvement Plan 2007 PI Ref PAPI 07 EEF/001 b) ii)	Opportunity to extend indicator measure beyond housing and to include other greenhouse gases
13. Energy			
Improve energy efficiency and maximise the use of renewable energy	% reduction in energy use in housing stock	Improvement Plan 2007 PI Ref PAPI 07 EEF/001 b) i)	Shared indicators also national strategic indicators and policy agreement PIs [PAPI 7]
Encourage energy efficient design in development	% [or number of as proportion of total] new developments and buildings meeting BREEAM and/or Code for Sustainable		No existing/ extant indicator – data gathering mechanism required

Table 6.1: Sustainability Monitoring Proposed Targets and Indicators			
SA Target	SA Indicator	Shared Indicator - Source	Comments
	Homes Standards		
14. Land and Soils			
Increase proportion of development on previously developed land	The number of new housing units provided during the year on previously developed land as a percentage of all new housing units provided during the year.	Improvement Plan 2007 PI Ref PLA/007 [Core Data Set]	This is a new indicator - target to be developed through the LDP. Opportunity for analogous target/indicator for non-housing development
15. Waste			
Reduce tonnage of waste to landfill	% of municipal wastes sent to landfill	Improvement Plan 2007 indicator PI Ref WMT/004 b)	Info also from LDP & regional waste strategy?
Move Waste up the Waste Hierarchy	% of municipal waste reused and/or recycled	National Strategic Indicator PI Ref WMT/001 bi)	
16. Minerals			
Increase % of secondary and recycled aggregate sources in all developments	% use of aggregates from secondary and recycled sources		No existing/ extant indicator – data gathering mechanism required. Information sources – annual returns from operators.
17. Air Quality			
Maintain and improve air quality	% decrease in pollutants monitored through Air Quality Management Area (NOx, NO2, PM10)		AQMA statistics

7.0 NEXT STEPS

Submission of LDP to WAG

- 7.1 Submitting RCT's LDP for Independent Examination involves sending the Deposit Plan and all accompanying documents to the Assembly Government and to the Planning Inspectorate in accordance with the LDP Regulations. The submission will include an updated version of the Consultation Report, which summarises the representations made at Deposit stage including any new or alternative sites that have been suggested. The Report will also set out the Council's views and recommendations on those representations and sites including those it considers could amend the Deposit Plan without compromising its soundness. The accompanying SA Report [this Report] may also need to be updated if comments or changed circumstances at deposit /alternative site stage require further appraisal or commentary.

Independent Examination

- 7.2 The LDP accompanied by the SA Report and wider evidence base documents is then submitted for Independent Examination and RCT will publicise the submission and make available all relevant documentation. A Planning Inspector will determine the format of the Examination and will hold a pre-examination meeting with all those that are entitled to participate. Following this, RCT will notify interested parties of the examination details and timing. The Inspector will lead all the oral Examination sessions and will also examine any written representations received by the submission deadline.

Publication of Inspectors Recommendations

- 7.3 Following the Examination, the Inspector will prepare a report that details, as necessary, where changes to the LDP should be made. The Inspector's overall aim is to ensure that the LDP quickly and efficiently reaches a stage where it can safely be adopted. Unlike the previous development plan system, the Inspectors Report is binding on the Council and any changes made by the Inspector must, therefore, also be demonstrably sound.
- 7.4 The Council will publish the Inspectors Report prior to the completion of the 8-week statutory period following receipt of the document from the Planning Inspectorate. At the same time, a statement indicating the Plan's adoption will also be published.

Sustainability SA/SEA Statement

- 7.5 The SA/SEA guidance notes that LPAs are required, as part of their adoption statement, to outline how they have taken the findings of the SA into account and how sustainability considerations have been integrated into the LDP. A Sustainability SA/SEA Statement will, therefore, be produced alongside the final adopted plan.

Appendix I:

Statement on Compliance with the SEA Directive Regulations

- I.1 *An outline of the contents, main objectives of the plan and relationship with other relevant plans:*
- Section 1 of this SA Report sets out the key aspects and main objectives of the Deposit Plan. The relationship with other relevant plans is summarised in Section 3 and Appendix III of this report.
- I.2 *The relevant aspects of the current state of the environment and the likely evolution thereof without implementation of the plan:*
- Section 3 of this SA Report summarises the relevant baseline conditions for sustainability (including the state of relevant environmental aspects) in the Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough area. Appendix IV sets out this information in more detail. The likely evolution of current conditions ('trends') is detailed in Appendix IV where available.
- I.3 *The environmental characteristics of areas likely to be significantly affected:*
- Where relevant and available, information regarding particular areas has been included in Appendix IV.
- I.4 *Any existing environmental problems which are relevant to the plan including, in particular, those relating to any areas of a particular environmental importance:*
- Section 3 of this SA Report summarises existing sustainability problems (including environmental problems) for the Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough area.
- I.5 *The environmental protection objectives relevant to the plan and the way those objectives and any environmental considerations have been taken into account during its preparation:*
- Appendix III of this SA Report provides the summary of objectives for sustainability in the Rhondda Cynon Taf area (including environmental objectives), and the implications of these objectives for the LDP.
- I.6 *The likely significant effects on the environment including on issues such as biodiversity, population, human health, fauna, flora, soil, water, air, climatic factors, material assets, cultural heritage including architectural and archaeological heritage, landscape and the interrelationship between the above factors. These effects should*

include secondary, cumulative, synergistic, short, medium and long-term permanent and temporary, positive and negative effects:

- The SA Framework of objectives presented in Section 3 of this SA Report shows which of the issues listed by the SEA Regulations are progressed by which SA Objectives. This assures that all of the issues are considered during the assessment of each part of the Deposit Plan, since each policy is assessed against each SA Objective.
- The likely sustainability effects of implementing the Deposit Plan (including environmental effects) is summarised in Section 5 of this SA Report, and detailed in Appendix V & VI. Where possible, an indication of whether effects are likely to be cumulative, short, medium and long-term etc has been included.

1.7 *The measures envisaged to prevent, reduce and as fully as possible offset any significant adverse effects on the environment of implementing the plan:*

- Where significant adverse effects, including environmental effects, have been predicted, the SA has sought where possible to identify means of offsetting these effects. These are provided in the form of recommendations in the appraisal matrices (Appendix V & VI) and summarised in Sections 4 and 5 of this SA Report.

1.8 *An outline of the reasons for selecting the alternatives dealt with, and a description of how the assessment was undertaken including any difficulties encountered in compiling the required information:*

- Justification for the different options considered for the Deposit Plan is provided in the matrix based assessment of options and summarised in Section 4 of this Report. Details of how the assessment was undertaken are provided in Section 2 of this SA Report (appraisal methodology), and any difficulties encountered in compiling information are summarised in Section 3 of this Report.

1.9 *A description of the measures envisaged concerning monitoring:*

- Measures envisaged concerning the monitoring of the sustainability effects (including environmental effects) of implementing the Deposit Plan are provided in Section 6 of this report.

1.10 *A non-technical summary of the information provided under the above headings:*

- The Non-Technical Summary is set out at the beginning of this report.

Appendix II: Summary of Consultation Responses

SCOPING CONSULTATION RESPONSES (2006)	
Organisation/ Comment	Response/Action
Pontypridd YMCA	
<p>Question 1</p> <p>Education: The need to develop better ways of planning future education provision in the borough to eliminate duplication of school transport. To link also with future economic and commercial demands on CBC.</p> <p>Question 3:</p> <p>Housing: Look at rented accommodation in light of second homes used for pension plans hence maybe increase affordable rental accommodation.</p> <p>Culture and Heritage: Look at access to such sites by public transport</p> <p>Health: Community access to medical provision away from town centres look out for increased drug/alcohol/mental health problems and need in planning centres capable of meeting need.</p> <p>Question 4:</p> <p>Housing – rethink valley floor</p>	<p>The Scoping Report recognises that access to facilities, including education, is a key issue for the Borough. Objectives 3 (Communities), 6 (Employment) and 7 (Transport) provide the framework for appraisal.</p> <p>The issue of second homes is difficult to address through planning policy. This is a matter for the Borough’s Housing Strategy.</p> <p>This is addressed in bullet point 5 under Objective 2.</p> <p>The Scoping Report recognises that access to facilities, including education, is a key issue for the Borough. Objectives 3 (Communities), 4 (Health) and 7 (Transport) provide the framework for appraisal.</p> <p>The location of development will be addressed through the allocations of land and related sites which will be produced as part of the LDP.</p> <p>Noted and was discussed in both the Visioning and Technical</p>

SCOPING CONSULTATION RESPONSES (2006)	
Organisation/ Comment	Response/Action
<p>Minerals – Still over 300 yrs of coal left in the valleys</p> <p>Employment – Social enterprise/construction skills.</p> <p>General comment:</p> <p>The targets and indicators were appropriate in the scoping report though sustainability is linked to how the local economy is managed, to include all within the community.</p>	<p>Workshops.</p> <p>This need is recognised in Objectives 3 (Economy) and 4 (Employment).</p> <p>Support noted and the importance of inclusion in the local economy is recognised.</p>
Cynon Valley Business Community	
<p>Question 1:</p> <p>R.C.T should benefit by bringing tourism to the forefront and forming a strategy to link possible heritage sites as industrial trail.</p>	<p>Objective 5 (Economy), bullet point 4 recognises the role of tourism. However, the SA Framework is a tool to assess policies and strategies rather than to require the production of specific policies.</p>
Cwmni Community Group	
<p>Additional key sustainability problems, objectives or issues relevant to land use planning:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Accessibility 2. Ongoing economic advantage to land development 3. Use of available land to upgrade the borough in the eyes and opinions of outsiders 4. Stricter Control over planned development (planning applications and associated conclusions) and enforcement action taken in event of non-adherence to conditions 	<p>These issues are reflected and recognised in the Scoping Report and the proposed SA Objectives.</p> <p>These are matters for the Development Control Section of RCT CBC.</p>

SCOPING CONSULTATION RESPONSES (2006)	
Organisation/ Comment	Response/Action
<p>5. Stricter limits on completion of developments and refusal of extensions when no effort has been made on implementing the development. Developers should be given start and finish dates for development, so that development process can be instituted.</p> <p>6. The new Environment Act requirements should be enforced on all land particularly where planning permission granted as well as on all industrial sites.</p>	<p>Noted.</p>
<p>Other relevant decision aiding questions that could help with the Appraisal and what the LDP can do:</p> <p>1. The scoping report on page 6 says "The undulating nature of the topography of the area will guide suitability for development". This is a known fact – but who is looking at this problem? If indeed is a problem, to solve what suitable development can take place that is of benefit to the community</p> <p>On page 6 it says "R.C.T. drainage system is old and overloaded" and page 7 it says "a decrease in water quality through an inadequate sewerage system" surely one follows the other. Yet in the Visioning Report page 5 it refers to the need for more housing in both towns and valleys. It seems there is a lack of communication as if the drainage system is inadequate now; more housing and town centre development will exacerbate the problem. This seems to be an overriding problem that needs solving if the development envisaged is to come to fruition.</p>	<p>The location of development will be addressed through the allocations of land and related sites which will be produced as part of the LDP.</p> <p>There is general agreement that new development is required to achieve sustainable communities. Existing problems have been identified which will need resolution with the appropriate service providers and agencies.</p> <p>(see responses to Welsh Environment Agency and Dwr Cymru/Welsh Water.)</p>
<p>Further information available that could be used to measure whether sustainability objectives are being progressed:</p>	<p>A potential target under communities is an increase in the</p>

SCOPING CONSULTATION RESPONSES (2006)	
Organisation/ Comment	Response/Action
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Raising of educational standards. 2. The provision of more skilled training courses available to school leavers and unemployed. 3. An increase in the GDP within each of the Boroughs. Rhondda Cynon Taf. So that residents can see where economic activity is paying off. 4. The WAG annual budget report on funding for the valleys and need schemes to make the valleys more accessible. 5. The number of new businesses in each borough at the start of the year (year by year comparison) and numbers employed north and south of RCT. 	<p>percentage of people with qualifications. As above. And also covered under Objective 3, bullet point 3.</p> <p>Potential indicator 2 under Economy targets.</p> <p>This will not necessarily measure sustainability.</p> <p>Agreed.</p>
<p>Question 4:</p> <p>Residents' satisfaction survey based on 1 in 10 households.</p>	<p>Noted.</p>
Dwr Cymru/Welsh Water	
<p>Question 1:</p> <p>Is there adequate water supply and sewerage infrastructure in place to accommodate development?</p>	<p>This will be subject to consultation when the location and extent of development is addressed through the allocations of land and related sites which will be produced as part of the LDP.</p>
Environment Agency Wales	

SCOPING CONSULTATION RESPONSES (2006)	
Organisation/ Comment	Response/Action
<p>Are there any additional key sustainability problems, objectives or issues relevant to land use planning for which sustainability objectives should be developed?</p> <p>11. Water; Following amendments/additions: "Promote <u>sustainable water management including promoting use of sustainable drainage systems</u>".</p> <p>Manage and avoid exacerbating flood risk especially along river frontages: to be replaced with: "Manage and reduce flood risk rivers, minor water courses and sewerage by adopting SuDS and avoiding flood risk areas for new development".</p> <p>Addition of: "Need to reduce impact from sewers and urban run-off on water quality of rivers by employing separate drainage systems for new and replacement development (reducing surface water discharge to combined sewers) and source control of industrial/urban drainage using passive treatment methods.</p> <p>12. Climate Change: Addition of: "Reduce flood risk to people, property and maintain integrity of floodplain.</p> <p>14. Land and Soils: Amendment: "Prevent and control pollution to land, <u>soils and controlled waters</u>."</p>	<p>Agreed. Amend to read : "Promote sustainable water management including promoting use of sustainable drainage systems".</p> <p>Agreed. Amend to read: Manage and reduce flood risk rivers, minor water courses and sewerage by adopting SuDS and avoiding flood risk areas for new development".</p> <p>Objective 11 states "reduce and/or avoid pollution to water". Amend by the addition of word environment to read: "reduce and/or avoid pollution to water environment" thereby covering these comments strategically. The full text recommended here would be more appropriate as part of a development control policy.</p> <p>Agreed. Amend to read: "Reduce flood risk to people, property and maintain integrity of floodplain.</p> <p>It is considered that is adequately covered by the Water Objective.</p>

SCOPING CONSULTATION RESPONSES (2006)	
Organisation/ Comment	Response/Action
<p>15. Waste: Addition of: "Need to reduce litter, fly tipping, graffiti, dog mess etc. by education, financial incentives and better enforcement".</p> <p>16. Minerals: Amendment: "limit environmental impact of mineral extraction <u>and in relation to water resources</u>".</p>	<p>This cannot be controlled or influenced through the LDP and is therefore outside the scope of this report.</p> <p>It is considered that is adequately covered by the Water Objective and also implicit in environmental impact.</p>
Environment Agency Wales	
<p>Are there any additional key sustainability problems, objectives or issues relevant to land use planning for which sustainability objectives should be developed?</p> <p>11. Water; Following amendments/additions:</p> <p>"Promote <u>sustainable water management including promoting use of sustainable drainage systems</u>".</p> <p>Manage and avoid exacerbating flood risk especially along river frontages to be replaced with: "Manage and reduce flood risk rivers, minor water courses and sewerage by adopting SuDS and avoiding flood risk areas for new development".</p> <p>Addition of: "Need to reduce impact from sewers and urban run-off on water quality of rivers by employing separate drainage systems for new and replacement development (reducing surface water discharge to combined sewers) and source control of</p>	<p>Agreed. Amend to read : "Promote sustainable water management including promoting use of sustainable drainage systems".</p> <p>Agreed. Amend to read: Manage and reduce flood risk rivers, minor water courses and sewerage by adopting SuDS and avoiding flood risk areas for new development".</p> <p>Objective 11 states "reduce and/or avoid pollution to water". Amend by the addition of word environment to read: "reduce and/or avoid pollution to water environment" thereby</p>

SCOPING CONSULTATION RESPONSES (2006)	
Organisation/ Comment	Response/Action
<p>industrial/urban drainage using passive treatment methods.</p> <p>12. Climate Change: Addition of: "Reduce flood risk to people, property and maintain integrity of floodplain.</p> <p>14. Land and Soils: Amendment: "Prevent and control pollution to land, <u>soils and controlled waters</u>."</p> <p>15. Waste: Addition of: "Need to reduce litter, fly tipping, graffiti, dog mess etc. by education, financial incentives and better enforcement".</p> <p>16. Minerals: Amendment: "limit environmental impact of mineral extraction <u>and in relation to water resources</u>".</p>	<p>covering these comments strategically. The full text recommended here would be more appropriate as part of a development control policy.</p> <p>Agreed. Amend to read: "Reduce flood risk to people, property and maintain integrity of floodplain.</p> <p>It is considered that is adequately covered by the Water Objective.</p> <p>This cannot be controlled or influenced through the LDP and is therefore outside the scope of this report.</p> <p>It is considered that is adequately covered by the Water Objective and also implicit in environmental impact.</p>
<p>Is there any further information available that could be used to measure whether sustainability objectives are being progressed?</p> <p>It is appreciated that much strategic environmental information is not yet collected but should be recorded to encourage instigation of monitoring to address existing deficiencies and improve the availability of such information for subsequent SEA and plan making. We welcome the inclusion of statements in the report that identify this shortfall/deficiency.</p>	<p>Support noted - the baseline and PP review are living documents that can be continually updated.</p>

SCOPING CONSULTATION RESPONSES (2006)	
Organisation/ Comment	Response/Action
<p>Consideration for the following information: Catchment Abstraction Management Strategy (CAMS), drawing attention to the recent strategy for this area, which indicates the likely restrictions that would be placed on any new abstraction licenses granted in this area.</p> <p>Asset Management Plan (AMP); AMP, produced by the Sewerage Undertaker (Welsh Water/Dwr Cymru and Severn Trent Water). These plans will identify where there are sewerage infrastructure constraints planned improvements. Consultations with the Sewerage Undertaker and/or their agents is advised.</p> <p>High Level Target Report; The High Level Target Report provided to the Welsh Assembly Government may be a useful source of information with regard to flood risk measures.</p> <p>A Living and Working Environment for Wales: the state of the Welsh Environment 2003. The SA should consider issues identified at all levels and this document refers to sustainability issues facing Wales, including climate change, energy supply, wildlife, pollution, land use and use of resources. This document may be a useful source for comparable data at a Wales level.</p>	<p>Noted.</p> <p>Noted.</p>
<p>Which Targets and indicators are most appropriate for future measurement of progress towards each sustainability objective?</p> <p>Table 2: Potential Targets and Indicators;</p>	

SCOPING CONSULTATION RESPONSES (2006)	
Organisation/ Comment	Response/Action
<p>Transport: Indicators: Addition of: "Percentage of residents working population commuting to work outside council area" "average commuting distance" "average shopping distance per trip"</p> <p>Biodiversity: Indicators: Amendment: " area, quality of habitats created, maintained and enhanced and connectivity of biodiversity habitats (potentially categorised e.g. woodland)" Addition: "Areas of habitat lost as a result of development". Amendment: "changes in population size and distribution". Addition: "Area of buffer zones protecting habitats from potentially disturbing/damaging developments, length of linear habitats created, maintained or enhanced, which increase the connectivity of biodiversity habitats"</p> <p>Water: Targets: Amendment: "Flood Risk to be considered in new development Reduce flood risk to people, property and maintain integrity of floodplain"</p> <p>Indicators:</p>	<p>Agreed will be useful to consider when refining indicators.</p> <p>Agreed.</p> <p>Agreed will be useful to consider when refining indicators.</p> <p>Covered by "changes in population".</p> <p>Agreed would be useful to consider when refining indicators.</p> <p>Agreed.</p>

SCOPING CONSULTATION RESPONSES (2006)	
Organisation/ Comment	Response/Action
<p>Amendment: "River water quality % of total classified river length complying with water quality objective (or of "good status")".</p> <p>Amendment: "properties at risk from flooding Amount of development within C1 and C2 defined by TAN15"</p> <p>Climate Change: Targets: Addition: "Reduce flood risk to people, property and maintain integrity of floodplain"</p> <p>Indicators: Amendment: "Flood events Amount of development within C1 and C2 as defined by TAN15"</p> <p>Waste: Indicators: Addition: "Number of fly-tipping incidents reported per annum" Addition: "Quantity of commercial waste produced, recycled, landfilled etc"</p>	<p>Agreed.</p> <p>The existing indicator covers existing, as well as new properties, and the reference to Government documents needs explanation to ensure the document is in plain English/Welsh. recommend amendment to read: "Properties at risk of flooding and amount of development within C1 and C2 defined by TAN15"</p> <p>Agreed will be useful to consider when refining targets.</p> <p>Covered above and the document should avoid duplication.</p> <p>It is considered that these are covered by the existing indicators.</p>

SCOPING CONSULTATION RESPONSES (2006)	
Organisation/ Comment	Response/Action
<p>Comments on the SA Report Text: Paragraph 1.3, introduction: We note comments contained within paragraph 1.3 of the draft scoping report, that is, the SA/SEA is being undertaken as one integrated process and referred to as SA.</p>	<p>Noted.</p>
<p>Review of Relevant Plans and Programmes</p> <p>Paragraph 2.2, Methodology, Review of Relevant Plans and Programmes: To aid clarity and understanding, it would be helpful for the text contained in Appendix I to clearly state which comments applies to SA and LDP process more generally and to which text refers to RCT SA/LDP process specifically.</p>	<p>It is considered that this is evident in the comments.</p>
<p>Appendix 1: Review of other plans and programmes.</p> <p>Page 15/38, TAN15 Development and Flood Risk, Objectives, Targets and Indicators. The following replacement text to the second bullet is requested: Highly vulnerable development should not be permitted in zone C2. Any other development should only be made in zone C if it can be justified that development/use has to be located there in accordance with section 6 and if consequences of locating development are acceptable, in accordance with section 7 and appendix 1.</p>	<p>Agreed. Amend accordingly.</p>

SCOPING CONSULTATION RESPONSES (2006)	
Organisation/ Comment	Response/Action
Baseline Conditions	
<p>Paragraph 3.4, Environment Although the text contained within paragraph 3.4 refers to a summary of key characteristics apparent from baseline information, environmental issues appear to be summarised under two sub headings i.e. environment and waste. This summary appears to be very short and should be expanded due to SEA emphasis on environmental issues.</p>	<p>It is considered that this section is adequate.</p> <p>Environment – 94.1 – grade 4/5 Agricultural.</p>
<p>Paragraph 3.4, Development The link between the bullet points and sub heading of ‘Development’ is not apparent. It may be more appropriate to place the text of the first bullet point under the sub heading of Environment and a new sub heading for the second bullet ‘Existing Utilities/Infrastructure’?</p>	<p>No change.</p>
<p>Paragraph 3.5, baseline conditions, the following amended bullet is requested; An increase in flooding in low lying areas (frequency and magnitude.</p>	<p>Agreed. Amend to read: An increase in flooding in low lying areas in both frequency and magnitude.</p>
<p>Appendix 2: Collation and Analysis of Baseline Information: Page 1/67, Biodiversity, Environmental Stress, the context with regard to flood risk is unclear. Introducing SUDs to new developments does restrict run-off and therefore is likely to prevent erosion to habitats. The LDP and sustainability issues may also need to consider culverting aspects.</p>	<p>Noted.</p>

SCOPING CONSULTATION RESPONSES (2006)	
Organisation/ Comment	Response/Action
<p>Page 14/67, Main River Catchments, the River Ely should also be included.</p> <p>Page 15/67, Properties at risk from flooding, we welcome the seeking of advice on development and flooding. We agree that an objective should be included in the SA to prevent risk of flooding. "Issues for the LDP" may also include;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. No increase in development in floodplain causing exacerbated flooding to current at risk properties ii. Flood awareness/warning. iii. Managed Retreat, to reduce the number of existing properties from areas at risk of flooding. 	<p>Amend accordingly.</p> <p>Support noted.</p> <p>Noted.</p>
<p>Page 15, Ribbon development in floodplains Page 16, Flood Defences: As a point of clarity the flood alleviation schemes were designed to provide alleviation for a 1 in 100 year flood event at the time of construction and therefore the current standard of service may be less. The LDP issues must consider Planning Policy Wales (March 2000). Paragraph 13.2.3 identifies a move away from flood defence and mitigation of consequences of new development in areas towards a more positive avoidance of development in areas defined as being of flood hazard.</p>	<p>Noted.</p>
<p>Future Monitoring:</p> <p>We would welcome any further details of monitoring, setting out targets and indicators, reviews and/or the reporting regime to be put in place. In instances where baseline data is not available, not</p>	<p>The EA will be consulted and informed of each stage of the process.</p>

SCOPING CONSULTATION RESPONSES (2006)	
Organisation/ Comment	Response/Action
comparable or out-of-date then the Environment Agency would request clarification on what will be used as baseline information or comparable data.	

SA OF PREFERRED STRATEGY CONSULTATION RESPONSES (2007)	
Organisation/ Comment	Response/Action
Environment Agency Wales: Jackie Walters	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Paragraph 4.3 refers to strategic polices, indicators and targets. As the Local Planning Authority is aware paragraph 4.43 of Local Development Plan Wales 2005 also refers to specific matters which should also be assessed. ▪ We would recommend that the strategic policies be assessed against relevant SA/SEA objectives. For example; SP11 ▪ Development incorporating sustainable drainage systems - % of new development with sustainable drainage systems. ▪ Maintain integrity of floodplain- amount of development within zone C2 	<p>Noted. Policies have been assessed using the SA Framework of objectives developed in consultation with stakeholders including EAW.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ We support the recommendation contained within paragraph 6.44 for the sustainability appraisal (SA) to be applied to identified strategic sites in the preferred strategy and upon future proposals for larger candidate sites. Explanation should also be provided as to the size and type of candidate sites, in which SA needs to be applied. ▪ Environment Agency Wales requests to be consulted on the subsequent SA. 	<p>Candidate site selection methodology has been subject to SA and the SA Framework of objectives incorporated into the selection process.</p> <p>In addition strategic sites, identified in line with the LDP as sites capable of accommodating significant development, have undergone additional SA as part of the overall SA process.</p> <p>EAW is will consulted alongside the other statutory consultees and wider stakeholders.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ It is noted that a sustainability appraisal (SA) was undertaken of the proposed methodology of the first stage of the candidate site assessment methodology (CSAM) and 	

SA OF PREFERRED STRATEGY CONSULTATION RESPONSES (2007)	
Organisation/ Comment	Response/Action
<p>that this would lead to a selection of sites that should positively progress the SA objectives</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Whilst Environment Agency Wales appreciates that the applied SA may result in the same outcome of selected strategic sites and site allocations, the SA must be applied to these strategic sites and proposed relevant site allocations to be compliant with the test of soundness. 	<p>Strategic sites, identified in line with the LDP as sites capable of accommodating significant development, have undergone additional SA as part of the overall SA process.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Paragraph 8.1 concludes "The SA of Rhondda Cynon Taf's LDP has found that the Preferred Strategy will make a significant contribution to the progression of sustainable development objectives for the county borough within the context of the expected growth in population and employment." Environment Agency Wales are not in a position to support this conclusion. Whether the Preferred Strategy will make a significant contribution to sustainable development will only be demonstrated through subsequent monitoring. 	<p>Noted, monitoring measures are identified in the SA Report at Section 6.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The sustainability appraisal should also be applied to the identified strategic sites within the Preferred Strategy and to any relevant candidate allocations. 	<p>Noted.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Welsh Assembly Government: Rosemary Thomas 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We note that:- Para 3.5 advises that SA/SEA was undertaken between January & April 2006, identifying key 	<p>Noted</p>

SA OF PREFERRED STRATEGY CONSULTATION RESPONSES (2007)	
Organisation/ Comment	Response/Action
<p>strategic problems, objectives and issues for sustainability. - The SA/SEA Scoping Report (March 2006) is also referenced. - The Preferred Strategy SA/SEA, January 2007 has been made available for comment alongside the Preferred Strategy document. We note that it makes clear that there has been appraisal so far of the LDP vision, objectives, spatial options and strategic policies and candidate site assessment methodology. - The Appropriate Assessment Screening has been conducted to date (Preferred Strategy SA/SEA, paras 23-25 & 2.25ff); The Screening Report, Jan'07 provided in package of documents conclusions are that an appropriate assessment should be undertaken to ascertain the effect of the LDP on the integrity of one Natura 2000 site, the Blaen Cynon SAC, that RCT discuss with Cardiff CC in relation to an appropriate assessment for the Cardiff Beech Woods SAC, and that a precautionary approach be adopted in relation to Cwm Cadlan and Coedydd Nedd y Mellte SACs).</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ We note that chapter 2 of the Preferred Strategy outlines the policy framework within which the LDP is being prepared and refers to a number of the key relevant plans, policies and strategies (WSP, Strategy for the Heads of the Valleys area: Heads - We win..., SEW Regional Waste Plan, SW Regional Technical Statement for Aggregates, Community Strategy The RCT Community Plan 2004-14; also at para 6.28 the Local Transport Plan). - In addition the Draft SA/SEA Scoping Report references other national, regional and local plans, policies and programmes (its Appendix I). - 	<p>Noted, Plans and Programmes review, republished as Appendix 3 in SA of Deposit Plan.</p>

SA OF PREFERRED STRATEGY CONSULTATION RESPONSES (2007)	
Organisation/ Comment	Response/Action
<p>The Preferred Strategy SA/SEA refers at para 2.2 to a list of relevant plans and programmes at appendix 1 – however that appendix this does not appear to have been included in the SA document.</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Climate Change This is identified as an issue in para 3.5 (SA/SEA) but it is not clear as to what climate change specifically means for RCT and, it follows, how it is being (or how it intends to be) addressed. Comments above have already alluded to the need to consider energy efficiency, conservation and renewable energy as part of new development. The Assembly Government's current consultation package on climate change provides more information, and is particularly pertinent for RCT and its areas of major growth where there should be opportunities for local energy provision on major sites. The proposed Climate Change MIPPS states that: ▪ "Local planning authorities should include within development plans a policy requiring major developments to reduce their predicted CO2 emissions by a minimum of 10% (from the current baseline required by building regulations) through improvements to the energy performance of buildings, efficient supply of heat, cooling and power and/or on site renewable energy. The scale of development for the application of the policy and the percentage reduction selected will need to be determined locally, based on sound evidence and the need for planning policy to interact effectively with developing 	<p>Noted, Climate Change issues considered as part of the SA process, particularly in relation to SA Objectives for transport; climate change; energy and waste.</p>

SA OF PREFERRED STRATEGY CONSULTATION RESPONSES (2007)	
Organisation/ Comment	Response/Action
building control requirements."	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ I feel that the current Sustainability Appraisal should be redone- as it does not address the impact of the proposed development in sufficient depth. ▪ Moreover, the County Borough should make more effort to engage with local people on its content / evidence base, methodology and implications for the local environment. 	<p>The SA of the Preferred Strategy provided detailed appraisal of the proposed strategic policies and spatial options. This work has been taken into account in the development of the Deposit Plan which has also been subject to SA in an ongoing and iterative manner.</p> <p>Noted. Consultation is an integral part of the SA process from the outset to ensure that evidence base is appropriate and SA Framework inclusive of the key issues affecting the County Borough. RCT has ensured that all documents detailing the SA process are publicly available.</p>

SA MONITORING AND INDICATORS DEVELOPMENT CONSULTATION (2008)	
Organisation/ Comment	Response/Action
Countryside Council for Wales, Maggie Hill	
CCW generally supports the overall scope of the refined targets and indicators which are roughly in line with our previous comments on the SA/SEA scoping document.	Noted.
Target/Indicator 3 CCW welcomes the inclusion of an indicator for access to public transport and community services but there is no measure of the quality of the services to be accessed within the indicator. While this may be beyond the scope of the table it should be considered when developing the detail of the monitoring plan for the LDPSA/SEA.	Noted and agreed, for future development.
Target/ Indicator 4 We are disappointed that this target and indicator so not also include specific reference to the countryside or natural environment in line with the Accessible Nature Green Space Assessment that was carried out in RCT on behalf of CWW and the Heads of the Valleys programme.	Noted, reference to countryside includes. Relevant indicator to be developed.
Target/ Indicator 7 CCW welcomes this indicator but once again would encourage RCT to develop more detail for the indicator within the final monitoring plan (for example the number of new developments with travel plans/home zones/ car clubs etc).	Noted and agreed, suggested indicator included.
Target/ indicator 9 While CCW support and encourage the inclusion of a landscape indicator we would welcome clarification on how Favourable Condition status will be either measured or be made responsive to the plan. The European Landscape Convention sets out the necessity of enabling landscapes to evolve and it may be useful to reference both this and the recent work carried out by the Heas of the Valleys	Noted and agreed.

SA MONITORING AND INDICATORS DEVELOPMENT CONSULTATION (2008)	
Organisation/ Comment	Response/Action
Programme on developing a landscape framework for a more detailed monitoring programme.	
Target/Indicator 10 CCW welcomes the inclusion of a specific biodiversity target and indicator and their link to the RCT Biodiversity action plan. However, we are unsure of what is meant by % change in this context and would recommend clarifying whether this relates to % increase in area of habitat and/or numbers of BAP species and how it is reactive to the plan. An alternative indicator might be to look at how the plan will contribute to achieving better ecological functioning, for example through enhancing ecological connectivity.	Noted. % change indicators relate to both habitats and species and allow seek to monitor improvement/ or deterioration against the measures set for favourable condition by CCW/ management plans etc.
Target/ Indicator 11 CCW welcomes the inclusion of a sustainable water resource management Target and welcomes the use of SuDs as an indicator. Ideally we would want to see the percentage of schemes incorporating SuDs increase on a year on year basis and the inclusion of some measure of water supply/usage/reduction. We particularly welcome the target of maintaining the integrity of the flooplain.	Support of indicator noted.
Targets/Indicators 12/13 Given that the indicators chosen for these two targets are closely related and line to Target 8 we would like to have seen some reference to energy strategies within one of these indicators (which would cover both energy use/ conservation and provision). Similarly while % reduction in Co2 emission in the housing stock may be reactive to the plan it is somewhat limited in scope compared to the potential capacity of the plan to both minimise green house gas production and also show how the County Borough intends to adapt to climate change effects.	Noted, indicator currently a good measure given that housing is responsible on average for approximately 27% of CO2 emissions and household energy use up to 38% of CO2 produced. LDP is well placed to ensure that new housing produces net decrease in emissions.
Target/Indicator 14	Noted.

SA MONITORING AND INDICATORS DEVELOPMENT CONSULTATION (2008)	
Organisation/ Comment	Response/Action
CCW welcomes the inclusion of a target and an indicator for soils, however, whilst this is an acceptable indicator for quantity (providing it is suitably qualified, for example, if gardens are classified as 'previously developed' or 'brown field' land the in-filling can effectively decrease the amount) we would wish to see an indicator for 'quality ' as well, possibly through the requirement for new developments to have a soil management plan.	
Fernhill Rhondda Conservation Group -	
Target 1 Availability of affordable homes is provided by several methods. Social landlords undertaking new builds, section 106 agreements with developments bringing back to use older housing stock.	Noted.
Indicator 1 An overall indicator is meaningless is no account of how the houses have been provided isn't incorporated into the calculation. The LDP was also formulated giving a certain mix of tenures and an attempt at measure this against supply should be undertaken. Social land lords, section 106 agreements, old housing stock numbers emerging from each as percentage of total houses built.	Noted. Indicator amended.
Indicator 4 No attempt to capture the number of people who just enjoy the open air. Number of visits of member of walking clubs/ rambler groups.	Noted, however not an indicator that can be accurately measured.
Indicator 11 Floodplain is an area of land and no attempt has been made to quantify this. Also should be cross referenced to major rivers in RCT. Include another indicator – area of floodplain lost per river catchment.	Target seeks to protect the floodplain and is focused on issues that the LDP can manage. Environment Agency Wales has overarching responsibility for issues raised.
Indicator 14 No attempt made to incorporate the size of the development. The	Noted, indicators addresses issues raised as recording of housing units includes associated land/ infrastructure.

SA MONITORING AND INDICATORS DEVELOPMENT CONSULTATION (2008)	
Organisation/ Comment	Response/Action
available land is not finite and should be expressed as acres or hectares. Large proportions of developments are used for infrastructure or possibly leisure and therefore the size of the whole development should be taken into account, not just the houses provided.	
Fernhill Rhondda Conservation Group -	
<p>Target/ Indicator 1</p> <p>Housing is supplied in a number of ways, new build both private and developer led, private owned occupier, social and other landlords, 106 agreements, refurbishments etc. They have to be quantified separately in order to assess overall need before providing otherwise you create more unneeded properties.</p> <p>What is the point of putting housing where transport (especially roads) is bad every project needs to be assessed as to its viability and correct provision for the community concerned.</p>	<p>Noted, this is a matter for the LDP not the SA Monitoring process.</p> <p>Noted, this is a matter for the LDP not the SA Monitoring process.</p>
<p>Target/ Indicator 2</p> <p>Nothing has been done in the past and there are very few remaining historic buildings in Rhondda. This seems to be the way the 'at risk register' was formally reduced. The LDP is advocating the reduction of conservation areas in the plan in contradiction to this proposal, to suit the forcing through of planning for houses.</p> <p>Very little is being done to preserve the Landscape and Archaeology in the Rhondda Fawr either. More needs to be done to identify areas and designate them as areas of outstanding natural beauty to protect them against indiscriminate development, this for example, the Wind factories in the hills around Cwmparc, Cwmsaerbren, Blaencwm and Fernhill Blaenrhondda an area of significant glacial formation and great beauty.</p> <p>Much more attention is needed here, most of our Archaeological sites</p>	<p>The target and indicators seek to address the concerns raised. Comments are a matter for the LDP.</p>

SA MONITORING AND INDICATORS DEVELOPMENT CONSULTATION (2008)	
Organisation/ Comment	Response/Action
are neglected and buildings destroyed at the expense of money waste to print everything in Welsh and encourage the language as some sort of save all.	
Target/ Indicator 3 Increase wealth and health with better, well paid jobs and improves facilities and services. Stop messing about with area boundaries to force facilities into adjoining areas to make figures look good – case in point 2 chemists yards apart in Tynewydd, on show as being Treherbert, the other in Tynewydd, many other examples of this misrepresentation.	Comment does not relate to SA target and indicator development.
Target/Indicator 4 Sports and recreation are not the best markers, many people take alternative exercise. A better marker would be the number visits to doctors per head of population and the number of hospital visits for health problems. Health is regulated by living standards, there are very bad and neglected in the Rhondda this can only be improved by better, well paid jobs and better healthcare and services to the sick, stress is the killer and there is plenty of that here. Sports are not indicators of health.	Noted, health statistics collected by LDP as part of overall LDP monitoring. Sports an exercise participation activities are directly linked to health. Other indicators are monitored by the LDP and statutory agencies.
Target/ Indicator 5 All land has been sold off for housing, where will the jobs be created? The roads need major upgrading to entice any prospective boost in the economy of the Rhondda north of Pontypridd. Yes.	Noted. Comment does not relate to SA target and indicator development.
Target/Indicator 6 New businesses need new communication roads, no plans seem to be forthcoming to improve the situation for jobs within the community so travel to other areas is essential building more housing is making the situation and road travel impossible but how otherwise do you get	Comment does not relate to SA target and indicator development. Comments a matter for the LDP.

SA MONITORING AND INDICATORS DEVELOPMENT CONSULTATION (2008)	
Organisation/ Comment	Response/Action
from Treherbert to Swansea to work? But bring jobs up the valleys – better well paid jobs.	
Target/ Indicator 7 As 6, too many houses not enough jobs. Appalling roads need major improvements.	Comment does not relate to SA target and indicator development. Comments a matter for the LDP.
Target / Indicator 8 Lets get jobs first but good well designed offices, laboratories, science park, factories etc near the housing must be matched with transport integration. Look to your documents practice what you preach.	Comment does not relate to SA target and indicator development. Comments a matter for the LDP.
Target/ Indicator 9 Agee but this requires proper identification of the landscape which is presently sadly lacking. Windfarms will destroy our landscape, encourage tourism to our Rhondda Fawr and designate the are one of Outstanding Natural Beauty and geological Importance.	Noted. Comment does not relate to SA target and indicator development. Comments a matter for the LDP.
Target/ Indicator 10 Agree Given Rhondda its country park in Fernhill.	Noted. Comment does not relate to SA target and indicator development. Comments a matter for the LDP.
Target/ Indicator 11 The Environment Agency has much to answer for, the Rhondda River is a tip, it is repulsive to visitors to Wales and brings shame on RCT and the cleaning up must be a priority. The EA must be force to comply with TAN15 which they are ignoring by allowing developers to raise ground levels to put flood plains out of C2 category area – which is expressly forbidden by TAN15 as the flooding only passed downriver to endanger other sites. Sustainable drainage n developments are a cop out, they just mean	Comment does not relate to SA target and indicator development. Comments a matter for the Environment Agency Wales.

SA MONITORING AND INDICATORS DEVELOPMENT CONSULTATION (2008)	
Organisation/ Comment	Response/Action
an excuse for building on the floodplain.	
<p>Target/ Indicator 12 More needs to be done, tree planting and other active measures.</p> <p>All you targets and indicators seem to relate to housing whatever the category, it is not housing that is the problem, it is everything but mainly transport, cares, boats, planes and trains you should be addressing these.</p>	Noted.
<p>Target/Indicator 13 But not by defacing our biggest asset the landscape. We have masses of untapped energy, water power and tidal water power does not necessarily meant dams and eyesore generating stations, this can all be hidden, many little generating stations will soon mount up to a massive generation countrywide and Wales has it! Bring the full scale barrage, this will not destroy the tides just use them, we must be bold and brave, but do not destroy our countryside. More housing, use alternative thinking, hydro, wave, solar etc</p>	Comment does not relate to SA target and indicator development, issues are a matter for the LDP.
<p>Target/ Indicator 14 Only where appropriate, just because land was previously defiled does note mean we should again! Every site must be properly assessed by experts. Housing again!</p>	Comment does not relate to SA target and indicator development.
<p>Target/ Indicator 15 Remove cost of disposal to prevent fly tipping. Set up recycling research center to pool technology and source the best methods of disposal/ recycling.</p>	Comment does not relate to SA target and indicator development.
<p>Target/Indicator 16 Agree. Sites should be investigated, categorise and used to best advantage,</p>	Noted.

SA MONITORING AND INDICATORS DEVELOPMENT CONSULTATION (2008)	
Organisation/ Comment	Response/Action
including restoration of recreational areas viz Fernhill.	
Residents Group Tonyrefail/ Coedely	
Target 3 We wholeheartedly agree with that.	Noted.
Targets 4-16 We have to as laymen respect the fact that this RCT County Council has such experts on board to enable the County Borough to conjoin the rest of the UJ in achieving these aims, however an input by way of information would be appreciated.	Noted.
SA Target 8 As an area with special interest in Candidate site 403 we can by hope that you will be able to encourage other communities to participate such has been the case down here.	Noted.
Environment Agency Wales Christian Servini	
Target/ Indicator 11 The target is not appropriate and does not relate directly to its indicator. We recommend 'avoid development in flood risk areas' The indicator is not appropriate for the target. The amount of development in C1 and C2 does not directly relate to reducing flood risk to people and property, particularly those living in at risk areas. Recommend – 'number as a proportion of total of new development allowed in C1 and C2 contrary to TAN15.	Noted, and amended.
The SA target wording in not appropriate. We advise the word 'resource' is deleted and 'surface' inserted.	Noted. Target unchanged as intended to cover more than just surface water; hence the term resource.
There is no target for improving water quality. Include target for improving water quality.	Baseline identified water quality issues in RCT, with general improvements.

SA MONITORING AND INDICATORS DEVELOPMENT CONSULTATION (2008)	
Organisation/ Comment	Response/Action
<p>Include the following indicators</p> <p>% of total classified river length complying with water quality objectives GOA general quality assessment or of 'good' status % if total classified river length complying with RQO/RE river quality objective/ river ecosystem target.</p>	<p>Noted.</p> <p>EA monitor and are responsible for quality aspects, including gathering and reporting data. LDP can make most effectively contributions in reducing demand and ensuring more sustainable housing and infrastructure developments.</p>
<p>There is no SA target regarding air quality Include target 'improve air quality'. Include an indicator that measure the decrease in the pollutants that the Air Quality Management Area has been declared for.</p>	<p>Noted and amended.</p>

Appendix III: Review of Plans and Programmes

A: International Plans, Policies and Programmes

EU Habitats Directive [Directive 92/43/EEC]	
<p>The Habitats Directive is a major European initiative that aims to contribute towards protecting biodiversity - the variety of life - through the conservation of natural habitats and wild plants and animals. Recognising that wildlife habitats are under pressure from increasing demands made on the environment, the Directive provides for the creation of a network of protected areas across the European Union to be known as 'Natura 2000' sites. This network includes Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) and Special Protection Areas (SPAs), which, on land, are already Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs).</p>	
Objectives, Targets and Indicators	Implications for the Plan and the SA
<p>Maintain or restore in a favourable condition designated natural habitat types and habitats of designated species listed in Annexes I and II respectively of the Directive. If a project compromising one of these habitats must proceed in spite of negative conservation impacts due to it being in the public interest, compensatory measures must be provided for. Linear structures such as rivers/streams, hedgerows, field boundaries, ponds, etc., that enable movement and migration of species should be preserved.</p> <p>NOTE: case C-6/04: Commission of the European Communities v United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. The case was ruled in favour of the Commission of European Communities, and therefore it is likely that the application of the Habitats Directive in assessing plans will be necessary.</p>	<p>Accept the primacy of nature conservation objectives, and clearly take note of these designations in setting SA objectives and defining options. Particular regard should be taken to designated habitats and linear habitat structures.</p> <p>Requires compensatory measures for negative conservation impacts if development has to proceed on grounds of human health and safety. This should be reflected in the mitigation strategies for all plans and the potential for more strategic mitigation between the plans should be considered. Mitigation should be pro-active through site selection, alternatives and timing.</p>

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European Commission White Paper on the European Transport Policy (2001)	
This paper describes what has been achieved so far both at the Union and the Member State levels and what should be done in the near future.	
Objectives, Targets and Indicators	Implications for the Plan and the SA
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The principal measures suggested in the White Paper include: ▪ Revitalising the railways ▪ Improving quality in the road transport sector ▪ Striking a balance between growth in air ▪ Transport and the environment ▪ Turning intermodality into reality ▪ Improving road safety ▪ Adopting a policy on effective charging for ▪ Transport ▪ Recognising the rights and obligations of users ▪ Developing high-quality urban transport ▪ Developing medium and long-term environmental objectives for a sustainable transport system 	<p>RCT should consider how the LDP can address these issues.</p> <p>The SA should develop environmental objectives for a sustainable transport system.</p>
Kyoto Protocol on Climate Change	
Signing up to the 1997 Kyoto Protocol, 38 Countries (plus the EU) have committed to individual, legally-binding targets to limit or reduce their greenhouse gas emissions. These add up to a total cut in greenhouse-gas emissions of at least 5% from 1990 levels in the commitment period 2008-2012. The UK has committed to an 8% reduction (base year = 1990).	
Objectives, Targets and Indicators	Implications for the Plan and the SA
Achieve a reduction in anthropogenic CO2 levels to at least 5% below 1990 levels by 2012. Consider afforestation and reforestation as carbon sinks.	Ensure all reasonable opportunities are taken forward to encourage development which is energy efficient and reduces reliance on private cars and reduces kilometres travelled.

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	<p>The proximity principle needs to be built into site selection.</p> <p>The LDP should place primacy on reducing the need to travel and developing alternative means of travel. The impact of likely climate change on all types of infrastructure (i.e. impact on future drainage requirements) should also be considered.</p>
<p>The EC Directive on the Conservation of Wild Birds 79/409/EEC 1979</p>	
<p>The Birds Directive has created a protection scheme for all of Europe's wild birds, identifying 194 species and sub-species (listed in Annex I) among them as particularly threatened and in need of special conservation measures. There are a number of components to this scheme. Within others, Member States are required to designate Special Protection Areas (SPAs) for the 194 threatened species and all migratory bird species. SPAs are scientifically identified areas critical for the survival of the targeted species, such as wetlands. The designation of an area as a SPA gives it a high level of protection from potentially damaging developments.</p>	
<p>Objectives, Targets and Indicators</p>	<p>Implications for the Plan and the SA</p>
<p>Imposes duty on Member States to sustain populations of naturally occurring wild birds by sustaining areas of habitats in order to maintain populations at ecologically and scientifically sound levels.</p>	<p>The SA should consider the effects of the Plan on European protected bird species as part of the scoping process if the relevant data is available. Regard should be had to avoiding/compensating for habitat loss from new and existing operations, and other factors such as interruption to migratory routes.</p>
<p>The Convention on Biological Diversity, Rio de Janeiro 1992</p>	
<p>This convention was agreed among the vast majority of the world's governments and sets out their commitments to maintaining the world's biodiversity so to achieve a more sustainable economic development. The Convention establishes three main goals: the conservation of biological diversity, the sustainable use of its components, and the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits from the use of genetic resources.</p>	

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Objectives, Targets and Indicators	Implications for the Plan and the SA
Article 6a requires each Contracting Party to develop national strategies, plans or programmes for the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity.	SA should consider biodiversity impacts within its objectives. It should take a holistic view of ecosystems rather than a focusing on 'islands' of protected species. The plans should be consistent with the objectives of national conservation strategies and their local implementation mechanisms - e.g. Action for Nature 2000- the RCT Biodiversity Action Plan.
Directive 2000/60/EC Establishing a Framework for the Community Action in the Field of Water Policy (The Water Framework Directive)	
<p>The Water Framework Directive has the following key aims:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Expanding the scope of water protection to all waters, surface waters and groundwater ▪ Achieving "good status" for all waters by a set deadline ▪ Water management based on river basins ▪ "Combined approach" of emission limit values and quality standards ▪ Getting the prices right ▪ Getting the citizen involved more closely ▪ Streamlining legislation 	
Objectives, Targets and Indicators	Implications for the Plan and the SA
Requires all Member States to achieve 'good ecological status' of inland water bodies by 2015, and limits the quantity of groundwater abstraction to that portion of overall recharge not needed by ecology.	Surface water run off from paved surfaces and built up areas can cumulatively pollute watercourses. Watercourses polluted by industrial and mining history of area. SA should include objectives on water quality/quantity. Policies to protect water resources should be developed. Groundwater may have been affected by deep mining. SA should consider the capacity of groundwater areas to support new development

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	without harming connected ecological systems
Directive 1966/62/EC on Ambient Air Quality and Management	
<p>This Directive covers the revision of previously existing legislation and the introduction of new air quality standards for previously unregulated air pollutants. the Daughter Directives of 1999-2002 for specific compounds (SO₂ NO₂, NO_x, PM₁₀ and lead (1999/30/EC), CO and benzene (2000/69/EC) and ozone (2002/3/EC) represent a new way of dealing with and controlling the air quality problems in Europe. The directives prescribe how they should be assessed in a way that covers the entire EU territory, in terms that are sometimes general and sometimes specific, how the assessment should be reported to the Commission as well as to the public and when reduction plans should be developed to reduce the pollutant concentrations where they are too high.</p> <p>The list of atmospheric pollutants to be considered includes sulphur dioxide, nitrogen dioxide, particulate matter, lead and ozone – pollutants governed by already existing ambient air quality objectives- and benzene, carbon monoxide, poly-aromatic hydrocarbons, cadmium, arsenic, nickel and mercury.</p>	
Objectives, Targets and Indicators	Implications for the Plan and the SA
Establishes mandatory standards for air quality and sets limits and guides values for sulphur and nitrogen dioxide, suspended particulates and lead in air.	<p>The location of new developments should take into account any emissions caused by transportation. SA should include objectives for air quality. The LDP should place primacy on reducing the need to travel and developing alternative means of travel.</p> <p>Consideration of how site management can positively contribute to air quality should be included.</p>
The Johannesburg Declaration of Sustainable Development 2002	
<p>This declaration was signed at the World Summit on Sustainable Development, where the principles of international commitment to sustainable development were reaffirmed, 30 years after the Stockholm Summit and ten years after the Stockholm and Declaration of 1992.</p>	
Objectives, Targets and Indicators	Implications for the Plan and the SA

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<p>Undertake to strengthen and improve governance at all levels, for the effective implementation of Agenda 21.</p>	<p>The Plan should support the sustainability aims of Agenda 21 at the local level. The Plan will need to reflect the principles of sustainable development within its objectives.</p>
<p>European Spatial Development Perspective 1999</p>	
<p>By adopting the ESDP, the Member States and the Commission reached agreement on common objectives and concepts for the future development of the territory of the European Union. The aim of spatial development policies is to work towards a balanced and sustainable development of the territory of the European Union. The ESPD aims to ensure that the three fundamental goals of European policy are achieved equally in all the regions of the EU:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Economic and social cohesion; ▪ Conservation and management of natural resources and the cultural heritage; ▪ More balanced competitiveness of the European territory. 	
<p>Objectives, Targets and Indicators</p>	<p>Implications for the Plan and the SA</p>
<p>European cultural landscapes, cities and towns, as well as a variety of natural and historic monuments are part of the European Heritage. Its fostering should be an important part of modern architecture, urban and landscape planning in all regions of the EU.</p> <p>A big challenge for spatial development policy is to contribute to the objectives, announced by the EU during international conferences concerning the environment and climate, of reducing emissions into the global ecological system.</p>	<p>The Plan could influence the historic environment in several ways, including impacts upon landscape, townscape, historic structures and features.</p> <p>The SA should include objectives related to protecting historic heritage and reducing CO₂ emissions. The contribution to the form and function of the rural and urban areas of the county should be viewed positively and the plan's objectives should reflect this.</p>
<p>Waste Framework Directive (91/156/EEC)</p>	
<p>The Waste Framework Directive (WFD) requires Member States of the EU to establish both a network of disposal facilities and competent authorities with responsibility for issuing waste management authorisations and licenses. Member States may also introduce regulations which specify which waste recovery operations and businesses</p>	

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<p>are exempt from the licensing regimes and the conditions for those exemptions.</p> <p>An important objective of the WFD is to ensure the recovery of waste or its disposal without endangering human health and the environment. Greater emphasis is also placed on the prevention, reduction, re-use and recycling of waste.</p>	
Objectives, Targets and Indicators	Implications for the Plan and the SA
<p>Article 4. Member States shall take the necessary measures to ensure that waste is recovered or disposed of without endangering human health and without using processes or methods which could harm the environment, and in particular:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Without risk to water, air, soil and plants and animals, ▪ Without causing a nuisance through noise or odours, ▪ Without adversely affecting the countryside or places of special interest. 	<p>RCT should consider these impacts when deciding on locations for waste disposal or processing. This will feed into SA objectives for noise, air, landscape, and biodiversity.</p>
Environment 2010: Our Future, Our Choice (EU Sixth Environment Action Programme)	
<p>The latest Environment Action Programme gives a strategic direction to the Commission's environmental policy over the next decade, as the Community prepares to expand its boundaries.</p> <p>The new programme identifies four environmental areas to be tackled for improvements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Climate Change ▪ Nature and Biodiversity ▪ Environment and Health and Quality of Life ▪ Natural Resources and Waste 	
Objectives, Targets and Indicators	Implications for the Plan and the SA
<p>Recognises that land use planning and management decisions in the Member States can have a major influence on the environment, leading to fragmentation of the countryside and pressures in urban areas and the coast. Also</p>	<p>In developing policies the plan makers need to be aware of these strategies and consider how their plan can influence positively issues such as air quality, the urban environment, natural</p>

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<p>includes objectives on stabilising greenhouse gases, halting biodiversity loss, reducing pollution and resource use. Under the EAP framework, Thematic Strategies are being developed on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Air quality ▪ Soil Protection ▪ Sustainable use of Pesticides ▪ Marine Environment ▪ Waste Prevention and Recycling ▪ Sustainable Use of Natural Resources ▪ Urban Environment 	<p>resource use and waste prevention and recycling.</p>
<p>Århus Convention</p>	
<p>The Århus Convention establishes a number of rights of the public (citizens and their associations) with regard to the environment. Public authorities (at national, regional or local level) are to contribute to allowing these rights to become effective. The Convention provides for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The right of everyone to receive environmental information that is held by public authorities. This can include information on the state of the environment, but also on policies or measures taken, or on the state of human health and safety where this can be affected by the state of the environment. Public authorities are obliged, under the Convention, to actively disseminate environmental information in their possession; ▪ The right to participate from an early stage in environmental decision-making. Arrangements are to be made by public authorities to enable citizens and environmental organisations to comment on, for example, proposals for projects affecting the environment, or plans and programmes relating to the environment ▪ The right to challenge, in a court of law, public decisions that have been made without respecting the two aforementioned rights or environmental law in general. 	
<p>Objectives, Targets and Indicators</p>	<p>Implications for the Plan and the SA</p>
<p>The Convention creates obligations in three fields or 'pillars':</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Public access to environmental information ▪ Public participation in decision-making on matters related 	<p>Public consultation and access to information supporting the decision-making process must be introduced in the procedures for the drawing up</p>

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<p>to the environment: provision</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Access to justice (i.e. administrative or judicial review proceedings) in environmental matters 	<p>of the Plan in respects of matters covered by the legislation and Directives mentioned. The SEA Directive requires that public consultation is carried out on the Draft Plan and its accompanying Environmental Report.</p>
<p>Nitrates Directive (91/676/EEC)</p>	
<p>The Directive addresses water pollution by nitrates from agriculture. It seeks to reduce or prevent the pollution of water caused by the application and storage of inorganic fertiliser and manure on farmland. It is designed both to safeguard drinking water supplies and to prevent wider ecological damage in the form of the eutrophication of freshwater and marine waters generally.</p>	
<p>Objectives, Targets and Indicators</p>	<p>Implications for the Plan and the SA</p>
<p>Every four years member states shall report on polluted or likely to be polluted waters and designed vulnerable zones, and measures and actions taken to reduce the pollution from nitrates.</p> <p>Polluted waters are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Surface freshwaters, in particular those used or intended for the abstraction of drinking water, that contain or could contain, than the concentration of nitrates laid down in accordance with Directive 75/440/EEC; ▪ Groundwaters containing or that could contain more than 50 mg/l nitrates; ▪ Natural freshwater lakes, other freshwater bodies, estuaries, coastal waters and marine waters found or likely to be eutrophic. 	<p>SA should include objectives on water quality.</p>
<p>Waste to Landfill Directive (99/31/EC)</p>	
<p>The Directive aims at reducing the amount of waste going to landfill, to promote recycling and recovery and to establish high standards of landfill practice across the EU and, through the harmonisation of standards, to</p>	

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<p>prevent the shipping of waste from one Country to another. The objective of the Directive is to prevent or reduce as far as possible negative effects on the environment from the landfill of waste, by introducing stringent technical requirements for waste and landfills.</p> <p>The Directive also intends to prevent or reduce the adverse effects of the landfill of waste on the environment, in particular on surface water, groundwater, soil, air and human health. It defines the different categories of waste (municipal waste, hazardous waste, non-hazardous waste and inert waste) and applies to all landfills, defined as waste disposal sites for the deposit of waste onto or into land.</p>	
Objectives, Targets and Indicators	Implications for the Plan and the SA
<p>Reduction of the amount of biodegradable municipal waste sent to landfill to 75% of the total generated in 1995 by 2006, 50% by 2009 and 35% by 2016.</p>	<p>The LDP should take into account the reduction targets, in particular when considering the management of biodegradable municipal waste (BMW). The SA should include objectives on reduction of BMW sent to landfill.</p>

B: National Plans, Policies and Programmes

Planning Policy Wales (2002)	
<p>Planning Policy Wales (PPW) sets out the land use planning policies of the Welsh Assembly Government (the Assembly Government). It is supplemented by a series of Technical Advice Notes. Procedural advice is given in National Assembly for Wales / Welsh Office circulars. PPW, the TANs and circulars together comprise national planning policy which should be taken into account by local planning authorities in Wales in the preparation of unitary development plans (UDPs).</p>	
Objectives, Targets and Indicators	Implications for the Plan and the SA
<p>Key issues at European and international levels and for Wales are climate protection and preparing for the effects of climate change. It is essential to continue to promote actions which do not exacerbate climate change, but it is too late to</p>	<p>Planning also has a direct role to play in relation to the effects of climate change, especially to avoid mis-matches between likely future effects – especially severe winter storms, subsidence</p>

prevent some changes from occurring. Although it is not certain how much the climate will change, the UK Climate Impacts Programme predicts that the climate of Wales will become warmer and wetter, with more precipitation in winter and less in summer. Predictions indicate that sea levels will rise and that there will be higher wind speeds, with more frequent and more violent storms and more very severe gales.

Planning policies and proposals should:

- Promote resource-efficient settlement patterns that minimise land-take (and especially extensions to the area of impermeable surfaces) and urban sprawl, especially through preference for the re-use of suitable previously developed land and buildings, wherever possible avoiding development on greenfield sites
- Locate developments so as to minimise the demand for travel, especially by private car
- Contribute to climate protection by encouraging land uses that result in reduced emissions of greenhouse gases, in particular energy-efficient development, and promoting the use of energy from renewable sources
- Minimise the risks posed by, or to, development on, or adjacent to, unstable or contaminated land and land liable to flooding. This includes managing and seeking to mitigate the effects of climate change
- Play an appropriate role in securing the provision of infrastructure (including water supplies, sewerage and associated waste water treatment facilities, waste management facilities, energy supplies and distribution

resulting from the ground drying out in summer, flooding and, in the longer term, possible sea level rise - and the location and design of buildings. Both planning and the building industry must take account of the weather conditions that may prevail during the life of a development. Since warmer, drier summers will lead to increased pressure on water supplies, the planning of new development should be linked to the availability of water resources and environmentally-sound ways of managing demand. Planning of developments in flood prone coastal areas and flood plains should take account of the likely frequency and severity of floods expected during the life of buildings.

networks) – the basis for sustainable communities - and telecommunications infrastructure, while ensuring proper assessment of their sustainability impacts

- Contribute to the protection and improvement of the environment, so as to improve the quality of life, and protect local and global ecosystems. In particular, planning should seek to ensure that development does not produce irreversible harmful effects on the natural environment. The conservation and enhancement of statutorily designated areas and of the countryside and undeveloped coast; the conservation of biodiversity, habitats, and landscapes; the conservation of the best and most versatile agricultural land; and enhancement of the urban environment all need to be promoted
- Help to ensure the conservation of the historic environment and cultural heritage, acknowledging and fostering local diversity
- Minimise the use of non-renewable resources, and, where it is judged necessary to use them, maximise efficiencies in their use. The use of renewable resources and of sustainably-produced materials from local sources should be encouraged
- Encourage opportunities to reduce waste and all forms of pollution and promote good environmental management and best environmental practice
- Ensure that all local communities – both urban and rural – have sufficient good quality housing for their needs, including affordable housing for local needs

<p>and for special needs where appropriate, in safe neighbourhoods</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Promote access to employment, shopping, education, health, community, leisure and sports facilities and open and green space, maximising opportunities for community development and social welfare▪ Foster improvements to transport facilities and services which maintain or improve accessibility to services and facilities, secure employment, economic and environmental objectives, and improve safety and amenity. In general, developments likely to support the achievement of an integrated transport system should be encouraged▪ Foster social inclusion by ensuring that full advantage is taken of the opportunities to secure a more accessible environment for everyone which the development of land and buildings provides. This includes helping to ensure that development is accessible by means other than the private car▪ Promote quality, lasting, environmentally-sound and flexible employment opportunities▪ Support initiative and innovation and avoid placing unnecessary burdens on enterprises (especially small and medium sized firms) so as to enhance the economic success of both urban and rural areas, helping businesses to maximise their competitiveness▪ Respect and encourage diversity in the local▪ Promote a greener economy and social enterprises▪ Contribute to the protection and, where possible, the	
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<p>improvement of people’s health and well-being as a core component of sustainable development. Consideration of the possible impacts of developments – positive and/or negative – on people’s health at an early stage will help to clarify the relevance of health and the extent to which it needs to be taken into account</p>	
<p>People, Places and Futures- The Wales Spatial Plan (2004)</p>	
<p><i>“ We will sustain our communities by tackling the challenges presented by population and economic change; we will grow in ways which will increase our competitiveness while spreading prosperity to less well-off areas and reducing negative environmental impacts; we will enhance our natural and built environment for its own sake and for what it contributes to our well-being; and we will sustain our distinctive identity.”</i></p>	
<p>Objectives, Targets and Indicators</p>	<p>Implications for the Plan and the SA</p>



The LDP should take into account the spatial development aims of the national plan when devising policies. Both the SA and the LDP should consider the objectives outlined to ensure compatibility.

SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES

- Address health inequalities by: helping people to look after their health through healthier lifestyles; ensuring good access to all local services and; tackling other socio-economic determinants of health, addressing the barriers to enable people to make healthy life choices. Concerted efforts are in particular needed in

<p>the most deprived communities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Ensure all areas have access to high quality schools.▪ Retain balanced communities by ensuring access to affordable housing, to buy or rent, in locations which are convenient for local work and services and by ensuring a range of housing types are available in high quality environments▪ Ensure that we provide high quality services as accessibly as possible by reflecting changing demographic structure and distribution, providing community services in the main local settlements and specialist services in the area centres.▪ Support local community voluntary action and volunteering, fostering social capital and seeking to improve people's personal aspirations and expectations.▪ Address poor environmental quality which often affects economically and socially disadvantaged communities in particular - through degraded urban environments, as well as higher exposure to pollution. <p>PROMOTING A SUSTAINABLE ECONOMY</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Reconnect people with labour markets and improve skills through focused investment in our less well-off communities. This demands action at all stages to avoid people dropping out of education or work, but especially needs targeted investment in children's early years▪ Achieve a critical mass of population and business activity in our key economic areas for our long-term	
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<p>competitiveness on the European and International stage</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Ensure area hubs, as important economic drivers and service providers, are attractive for private sector investment and as places where people want to live, work and visit▪ Develop areas of Wales to function as broader based economic units with complementary activities in the different centres.▪ Increase the pool of skilled people within the areas and build on local strengths of places rather than each competing to be the same▪ Attract and retain well-educated and skilled migrants, as well as attracting back young people born in Wales, responding to demographic trends▪ Build on our distinctive economic advantages and potential, from tourism to specialist high-tech industries▪ Promote the efficient management and use of resources for the benefit of business, local communities and the environment▪ Work to achieve reliable routes by land, sea and air and high speed internet, necessary for our trade with the UK, mainland Europe and internationally, whilst meeting our commitments for CO2 reductions▪ Improve regional collaboration between education and training institutions and employers to maximise the benefits for Wales' economy and society and to retain and attract skilled people▪ Enhance the natural and built environment, which is an	
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economic asset, both as a source of direct activity in tourism and leisure and as part of wider quality of life

VALUING OUR ENVIRONMENT

- Manage the environment comprehensively with respect to its distinctive characteristics, so that it contributes to sustainable development, including maintaining soil carbon, reducing contamination, managing diffuse pollution sources to water, protecting landscapes and enhancing habitats
- Adapt the land-based economy to focus on high value-added products, and links with tourism and recreation; this should support the enhancement of landscape and biodiversity
- Integrate spatial management and development of the marine and coastal environment and our inland waters to make use of Wales' maritime potential in a sensitive and sustainable way
- De-couple growth of waste from economic growth. Waste management initiatives need to be developed so that waste can be dealt with as near to source as possible and to ensure the waste hierarchy is implemented as set out in our waste strategy
- Reduce Wales' contribution to climate change by, for example, increasing its share of renewable energy in those areas best suited to provide it and by increasing energy efficiency in industry, housing and transport, as well as by protecting existing carbon sinks
- Work now to help the environment, economy and society adapt to climate change's potential impacts,

including flood risk

- Develop sustainable demonstration projects to promote best practice in delivering economic as well as environmental and social benefits
- Tackle existing infrastructure constraints, supporting the sustainable futures of communities by investment in our infrastructure: in water, sewerage, waste and energy for example

ACHIEVING SUSTAINABLE ACCESSIBILITY

- Further develop integrated public transport within the urban networks of North East Wales, Swansea Bay and South East Wales to provide more travellers with real options for how they make their journeys
- Maintain and improve the facility of strategic gateways and corridors .The majority of movements of people and goods will remain along East -West corridors. The internationally designated transport corridors (TEN) to South West and South East England and further to mainland Europe, the West Midlands and North West England and Ireland will continue to play a key role
- Make progressive improvements to North – South links within Wales and through England, which are important for connecting Wales as a country
- Focus new transport investment to improve public transport links between centres and their catchments and safeguard the effectiveness of UK and international connections
- To ensure decisions on the location of major retail development take account of the opportunities

<p>provided by integrated transport in the urban networks and consider the impact on neighbouring centres</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Improve links between settlements, their hinterlands, and with regional centres in ▪ sparsely populated areas to provide access to employment, shops and services, appropriate to the needs of the local population. ▪ Develop ICT to provide innovative solutions for the delivery of public services, education and training and business opportunities locally. This needs to be complemented by strategies to ensure social inclusion and capacity building. ▪ Increase levels of walking and cycling both through promotion and provision of facilities ▪ Reflect the roles of different settlements and their transport connections in planning policies and the location of major investments of public importance such as hospitals and education and waste facilities. These should seek to promote polycentric development based on sustainable means of travel. <p>RESPECTING DISTINCTIVENESS</p> <p>A cohesive identity which sustains and celebrates what is distinctive about Wales, in an open and outward-looking way, is central to promoting Wales to the world, as well as to our future economic competitiveness and social and environmental well-being.</p>	
Consultation Draft Wales Spatial Plan Update 2008: People, Places Future	
<p>The Plan Update sets out a vision for how each part of Wales should develop economically, socially and environmentally over the next 20 years. The document further develops the concept of a Capital Region and provides a more detailed context for the development</p>	

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of the Rhondda Cynon Taf LDP. The Wales Spatial Plan proposes distinct approaches for the three areas that make up the Capital Region. The three areas are:

- City / Coast
- Heads of the Valleys Plus, and
- Connections Corridor

Rhondda Cynon Taf is within the Heads of the Valleys Plus and the Connections Corridor.

The Spatial Plan Update identifies 14 hub settlements which it sees as vital to the success of the city-region. Included are the Rhondda Cynon Taf settlements of Aberdare, Pontypridd and Llantrisant.

In addition to the strategy areas and hub settlements the document also identifies 3 Strategic Opportunity Areas (SOA). The SOAs are centred around:

- The Heads of the Valley Road (A465);
- Llantrisant and North West Cardiff, and
- St Athan in the Vale of Glamorgan

Objectives, Targets and Indicators

Implications for the Plan and the SA

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<p>The National Vision</p> <p>National Vision – Key Features</p> <p>Fuzzy Boundaries – the Spatial Plan Areas are not defined by administrative boundaries. This enables partners to work together on common issues in a flexible way, and some may be involved in more than one Spatial Plan Area Group.</p> <p>Key Settlements – each Spatial Plan Area Group has identified the centres likely to form the focus for the region’s future development. Those of national importance are shown</p>	<p>The LDP should take into account the spatial development aims of the national update plan when devising policies. Both the SA and the LDP should consider the objectives outlined to ensure compatibility.</p>
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here and the full range is shown in the Area maps.

Cross-boundary Settlements – some settlements are particularly important for the development of more than one Area because they look in many directions. They will feature in more than one Area strategy.

Socio-economic Hubs – these illustrate where there are greater concentrations of population and economic activity compared to the rest of the region.

International / Interregional Links / Regional Links – the international, interregional and regional links are an indication of the need to look outwards, working together with neighbouring sub-regions within Wales and in England and Ireland.

Environment Strategy for Wales 2006

The Environment Strategy is the Assembly Government's long term strategy for the environment of Wales, setting the strategic direction for the next 20 years. It provides the framework within which to achieve our vision for the environment of Wales. The Strategy has five main environmental themes:

- Addressing climate change
- Sustainable resource use
- Distinctive biodiversity, landscapes and seascapes
- Our local environment
- Environmental hazards

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<p>For each of these subjects, the Strategy explains the issues and where we are now. It sets out the environmental outcomes we want to achieve and the associated indicators and timelines for delivery.</p>	
Objectives, Targets and Indicators	Implications for the Plan and the SA
<p>Various targets and indicators given under the main environmental themes shown above.</p>	<p>Targets and indicators in the plan should be taken into consideration when formulating policies to ensure that the Plan is contributing to national environmental aims. The progress reports will provide valuable information for the SA baseline.</p>
One Wales: One Planet: Consultation on a new sustainable development scheme for Wales	
<p>The main aims of the Scheme are to set out:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ a long-term Vision of a sustainable Wales that is real, relevant and meaningful to the people of Wales and its organisations; ▪ specific outcomes that the Assembly Government will seek to achieve through its main policies and programmes; and ▪ processes that the Assembly Government will put in place to ensure its work coherently reflects the goals of sustainable development. 	
Objectives, Targets and Indicators	Implications for the Plan and the SA
<p>Sustainable development should be the central organising principle for Government and the wider public sector in Wales, so that sustainable development becomes the overarching aim of Government and the public sector. Such an approach will be underpinned by the following 2 core principles, and 6 supporting principles:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Core principle 1: Involvement 	<p>Targets in the plan should be taken into consideration when formulating policies to ensure that the Plan is contributing to national sustainability aims. Sustainability issues should be integral to the policy making process.</p>

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Core principle 2: Integration ■ Supporting principle 1: Decoupling ■ Supporting principle 2: Full costs and benefits ■ Supporting principle 3: Precautionary principle ■ Supporting principle 4: Polluter pays principle ■ Supporting principle 5: Proximity principle ■ Supporting principle 6: Reflecting distinctiveness <p>Progress reports will be completed annually using Sustainable Development indicators.</p>	
The Sustainable Development Action Plan 2004-2007	
<p>The Action Plan is intended to: Implement the new Sustainable Development Scheme; Stand as a formal addition to the Welsh Assembly Government's strategic agenda <i>Wales: A Better Country</i>; Fulfil commitments we have made internationally through our membership of the sustainable development networks; Form part of the framework for the sustainable development strategy of the UK; Complement the first Wales Spatial Plan; Ensure our progress is kept under review.</p>	
Objectives, Targets and Indicators	Implications for the Plan and the SA
<p>Various targets and indicators given under the following headings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Climate Change Liveable Places, Strong Communities Our Natural Environment Supporting Welsh Business in Sustainable Production Reducing Consumption Leadership and Delivery Creating Organisational Excellence Delivering through our Agents 	<p>Targets in the plan should be taken into consideration when formulating policies to ensure that the Plan is contributing to national sustainability aims. Sustainability issues should be integral to the policy making process.</p>

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<p>Delivering with Local Government Delivering with Partners Wales: A Global Citizen Promoting Awareness and Leadership Education for a Sustainable Future Making our Money Talk Procurement Grants Food Estates Management Targets will: reflect cultural, social, economic and environmental issues, to gauge progress towards sustainable development, and as part of its performance management framework; use the indicators to inform the development of its sustainability appraisal tools; keep this set under review.</p>	
TAN1: Joint Housing Land Availability Studies 2006	
<p>Local planning authorities must ensure that sufficient land is genuinely available to provide a 5 year supply of land for housing. This land supply must inform the strategy contained in the development plan. Local planning authorities should also have regard to the requirement to prepare and provide timely housing land supply figures to satisfy the requirements of the Wales Programme for Improvement Core Planning Indicators³ and Local Development Plans Annual Monitoring Reports (AMR)⁴.</p>	
Objectives, Targets and Indicators	Implications for the Plan and the SA
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Local planning authorities should integrate development plan and JHLA processes. JHLA studies provide an important part of the evidence base for plan preparation. ■ The results of the Joint Housing Land Availability Studies should be treated as a material consideration in determining planning applications for housing. 	<p>The LDP should consider the requirements of the Technical Advice Note, and ensure there is sufficient housing land allocations in the LDP, as a result of a Housing Land Availability Study. The SA should include objectives to ensure that housing allocations are in sustainable locations.</p>

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Housing land supply can change rapidly and it is therefore important that the Housing Land Availability Studies are produced on an annual basis. 	<p>This may include objectives such as reducing the need to travel, and implications on the natural environment.</p>
TAN2: Planning and Affordable Housing	
<p>This guidance sets out how affordable housing should be provided. Assessments should reflect a good understanding of the plan area.</p>	
Objectives, Targets and Indicators	Implications for the Plan and the SA
<p>In LDDs, local authorities should: define affordable housing and set indicative targets for specific sites. Rural sites will provide a small source of affordable housing. Land should be developed to ensure mixed development that contributes to the demand for affordable housing.</p>	<p>The local authority should consider how the development plan will encourage the inclusion of affordable housing in developments.</p>
TAN4: Retailing and Town Centres	
<p>The guidance outlines how retail developments and town centre developments should be assessed.</p>	
Objectives, Targets and Indicators	Implications for the Plan and the SA
<p>Information on the retail industry in a local planning authority's area together with information on the functioning of their town centres will assist the preparation of development plans and the consideration of planning applications. Baseline information and time series data can provide a picture of change and a guide to future trends. All applications for retail developments over 2,500 square metres gross floor space should be supported by an impact assessment.</p>	<p>Baseline information will help the preparation of the LDP policies. The local authority should assess and encourage the vitality, attractiveness and viability of town and retail centres.</p>
TAN5: Nature Conservation and Planning	
<p>TAN5 provides guidance on how local authorities should integrate nature conservation issues in development plans and in assessing development proposals.</p>	

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Objectives, Targets and Indicators	Implications for the Plan and the SA
<p>To ensure that development plans are based on adequate information about geology, landform, habitats and species, nature conservation issues should be included in surveys of local authority areas. Nature conservation policies in development plans should indicate the criteria against which a development will be judged, having regard to the relative significance of international, national and local designations. A local planning authority proposing to allow development which would adversely affect an SPA or SAC must notify the Secretary of State in advance. Authorities must ensure that developments are not in breach of the habitats directive.</p>	<p>Accept the primacy of nature conservation objectives, and clearly take note of these designations in setting SA objectives and defining options. CCW to be consulted on all developments likely to affect protected sites. Mitigation measure to be included where policies and proposals are likely to have a negative impact.</p>
TAN6: Agricultural and Rural Development	
To protect land from unnecessary development on agricultural land to minimise environmental impacts	
Objectives, Targets and Indicators	Implications for the Plan and the SA
<p>The TAN covers: agriculture; rural buildings; farm diversification; forestry; horses and dwellings. Local planning authorities should bear in mind that, once land is built on, the restoration of semi-natural and natural habitats and landscape features is rarely possible and usually expensive, and archaeological and historic features cannot be replaced. When developing redundant rural buildings or creating farm diversification, the cumulative impacts of such developments must be considered. Outlines schedule of permitted development rights.</p>	<p>The local authority should observe the need to reduce development in the countryside, as unnecessary impacts are difficult to reverse. Development policies must take into account the cumulative affects certain developments may have on other areas. For example, farm diversification to include a farm shop may have a negative impact on a nearby village shop. Golf course development may have negative environmental and archaeological impacts.</p>
TAN 8: Renewable Energy	
Encourages the use of renewable energy sources as a substitution for valuable finite energy sources.	
Objectives, Targets and Indicators	Implications for the Plan and the SA

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<p>Where local authorities are satisfied that a condition (for renewable energy) cannot be imposed, they may seek to enter into a planning obligation with a developer.</p> <p>Where the impact of renewable energy projects on the local environment is particularly uncertain, local planning authorities may consider granting a temporary planning permission.</p> <p>Environmental Assessment (EA) is, therefore, required if a particular development proposal would be likely to have significant effects on the environment as a result of its nature, size or location.</p> <p>Where projects are to be connected to the Regional Electricity Company's distribution system, the guidance in paragraph A13 of Annex A on Wind Energy, should be taken into consideration.</p>	<p>There may be potential to exploit the use of renewable sources of energy in the plan areas. The Plan and the SA should encourage the use of renewable energy where appropriate, taking into account the potential environmental implications of such developments.</p>
<p>TAN11: Noise</p>	
<p>TAN11 outlines how the planning system can be used to minimise the adverse impact of noise without placing unreasonable restrictions on development or adding unduly to the costs and administrative burdens of business.</p>	
<p>Objectives, Targets and Indicators</p>	<p>Implications for the Plan and the SA</p>
<p>Where it is particularly difficult to separate noise sensitive development from noisy activities, plans should contain an indication of any general policies which the local planning authority proposes to apply in respect of conditions or planning obligations.</p> <p>Noise Exposure Categories (NECs) (see Annex A) have been derived to assist local planning authorities in their consideration of planning applications for residential development near transport related noise sources.</p>	<p>Area specific noise policies may be necessary for some areas. The LDP should try to ensure that effects of noise on residential areas are minimised through affective spatial strategies.</p>

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<p>Local planning authorities must ensure that noise generating development does not cause an unacceptable degree of disturbance. They should also bear in mind that if subsequent intensification or change of use results in greater intrusion, consideration should be given to the use of appropriate conditions.</p>	
<p>TAN12: Design</p>	
<p>The design of development in the environment is significant to the quality of our lives and is a major factor in sustaining a positive image for Wales. Good design has the potential to assist environmental sustainability, economic growth, and social inclusion.</p>	
<p>Objectives, Targets and Indicators</p>	<p>Implications for the Plan and the SA</p>
<p>Design issues should be considered early on in the development process. The planning system needs to be proactive in raising awareness about the importance of design issues.</p> <p>Objectives: achieving sustainable design solutions; sustaining or enhancing character; promoting innovative design; promoting a successful relationship between public and private space; promoting high quality in the public realm; ensuring ease of access for all; promoting legible development; designing for change; promoting quality, choice and variety</p>	<p>The LA is to provide an advisory as well as regulatory role. Use design as a mechanism to achieve sustainability objectives by: by making prudent use of natural resources, incorporate sustainable energy use, waste control measures and provide the means for effective long-term maintenance, efficient operation and management, and adopting inclusive design principles.</p>
<p>TAN13: Tourism</p>	
<p>Outlines specific guidance about tourist accommodation</p>	
<p>Objectives, Targets and Indicators</p>	<p>Implications for the Plan and the SA</p>
<p>While it cannot be regarded as a single or distinct category of land use, the issues it raises should be addressed in preparing or revising development plans and may feature in</p>	<p>The LDP should address and provide guidance on opportunities for tourism development.</p>

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<p>development control decisions. Development plans may provide guidance on opportunities for larger scale or innovative projects, appropriate facilities for the countryside or designated areas and the provision of facilities in historic towns and seaside resorts.</p>	
TAN15: Development and Flood Risk	
The aim of the guidance is to restrict development in areas at risk of flooding	
Objectives, Targets and Indicators	Implications for the Plan and the SA
<p>The general approach is to advise caution in respect of new development in areas at high risk of flooding by setting out a precautionary framework to guide planning decisions. The overarching aim of the precautionary framework is, in order of preference, to:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Direct new development away from those areas which are at high risk of flooding. • Where development has to be considered in high risk areas (zone C) only those developments which can be justified on the basis of the tests outlined in section 6 and section 7 are located within such areas. 	<p>This constraint is important and should guide the LDP when development areas are considered.</p>
TAN16: Sport and Recreation	
Provides guidance on recreational space in lieu of government regulations.	
Objectives, Targets and Indicators	Implications for the Plan and the SA
<p>The government does not prescribe standards for recreational provision. Undeveloped land which has recreational or amenity value should be protected if it can be demonstrated that there is (or would be) a deficiency in accessible public open space</p>	<p>There are no legal requirements but the TAN recommends that space for sport and recreation is preserved. The LDP should seek to retain open space, bearing in mind sustainability principles.</p>

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in the area.	
TAN18: Transport	
Integration of land use planning and development of transport infrastructure has a key role to play in addressing the environmental aspects of sustainable development, in particular climate change and the outcomes identified in the Assembly Government's Environment Strategy.	
Objectives, Targets and Indicators	Implications for the Plan and the SA
The development plan could generate a requirement for transport schemes to support the implementation of the plan strategy and enable development. Such proposals should be covered by one or more policies, supported by an evidence base, including the extent to which the plan is dependent on the proposals and the risks involved in its delivery. The evidence should include an indication of the funding source and where there is a requirement for developer funding this should be made clear in the plan. Where planning permission will be required for a road scheme, its inclusion in the plan should normally provide the means to examine the need for, and the alignment of, the route. In setting out policy for minor improvements, authorities may appropriately deal with detailed planning considerations or programme issues through supplementary planning guidance (SPG), which is related to an adopted plan.	Transport implications are integral to most development decisions. This matter is also of utmost importance when considering sustainability issues. The LDP should encourage sustainable transport methods, whilst reducing the need to travel.
TAN 19: Telecommunications	
This advice takes account of the growth of the telecommunications industry and technology, of the new social and economic demands for communications, and of the Welsh Assembly Government's (the Assembly Government's) environmental policies.	

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Objectives, Targets and Indicators	Implications for the Plan and the SA
<p>Development plans should cater for telecommunications development by taking account of the strategic requirements of telecommunications networks.</p> <p>Protection from visual intrusion and the implications for subsequent network development will be important considerations in determining applications. The nature of some telecommunications development may in some cases bring it into apparent conflict with established local and national planning policies.</p> <p>High priority should be given to protecting such areas and the need to safeguard areas of particular environmental importance.</p>	<p>The local authority should consider the sustainability impacts of telecommunications development, balancing the need for economic growth, with social and environmental impacts.</p>
TAN20: The Welsh Language	
TAN20 provides guidance on how the welsh language should be preserved	
Objectives, Targets and Indicators	Implications for the Plan and the SA
<p>Where the use of the Welsh language is part of the social fabric of a community, the needs and interests of the language should be taken into account in the formulation of the policies set out in Unitary Development Plans. The Unitary Development Plan written statement should include a reasoned Planning Guidance (Wales), Technical Advice Note (Wales) 20, June 2000 justification of all the Plan's policies and proposals.</p>	<p>Where Welsh is spoken in the community, policy must regard the social implications this may have, and the preservation of the cultural heritage must be considered.</p>
TAN21: Waste	
The guidance is intended to facilitate the introduction of a comprehensive, integrated and sustainable land use planning framework for waste management in Wales.	
Objectives, Targets and Indicators	Implications for the Plan and the SA

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<p>Development proposals should consider the proximity and self-sufficiency principle and the waste hierarchy. The following techniques should be incorporated into development proposals: the Best Practicable Environmental Option; Sustainable Waste Management Options; Life Cycle Assessment; Eco-Design and Health Impact Assessment. The Assembly's preference is to maximise waste prevention, recycling and composting and to minimise incineration and disposal of waste to landfill.</p>	<p>Local planning authorities should incorporate the provisions of this TAN at the earliest opportunity. There should be a balance of site specific and criteria based policies to provide as much information as possible on the locations likely to be acceptable for such development.</p>
<p>MTAN1: Aggregates</p>	
<p>Minerals Technical Advice Note 1 provides guidance on ensuring that mineral extraction is managed as sustainably as possible</p>	
<p>Objectives, Targets and Indicators</p>	<p>Implications for the Plan and the SA</p>
<p>To ensure supply is managed in a sustainable way so that the best balance between environmental, economic and social considerations is struck, while making sure that the environmental and amenity impacts of any necessary extraction are kept to a level that avoids causing demonstrable harm to interests of acknowledged importance.</p>	<p>There are specific policies in relation to designated areas and specific issues, such as groundwater, and how they should be managed. This guidance should be taken into account while formulating the LDP in order to ensure that effects of mineral extraction are minimised and mitigated.</p>
<p>Defra (2005): Securing the Future: The Government's Sustainable Development Strategy</p>	
<p>This is a review of the original sustainable development strategy produced in 1999</p>	
<p>Objectives, Targets and Indicators</p>	<p>Implications for the Plan and the SA</p>
<p>The new objectives included within the strategy are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Living within environmental limits; ▪ Ensuring a strong healthy and just society ▪ Achieving a sustainable economy 	<p>The aim of the Plan should reflect the first three objectives of the strategy and these should form the basis for the SA objectives.</p>

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Promoting good governance ▪ Using sound science responsibly 	
Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended)	
<p>The act implements the Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats (the 'Bern Convention') and the European Union Directives on the Conservation of Wild Birds and Natural Habitats. The Act is concerned with the protection of wildlife and their habitat (countryside, national parks and designated protected areas).</p>	
Objectives, Targets and Indicators	Implications for the Plan and the SA
<p>Addresses the problem of species protection and habitat loss by setting out the protection that is afforded to wild animals and plants in Britain.</p>	<p>There is significant interaction between wildlife and different types of land use. The SA should consider the effects of the plans on biodiversity.</p>
Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 (CRoW)	
<p>CROW extends the public's ability to enjoy the countryside whilst also providing safeguards for landowners and occupiers. It creates a new statutory right of access to open country and registered common land, modernise the rights of way system, give greater protection to Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs), provide better management arrangements for Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONBs), and strengthen wildlife enforcement legislation.</p>	
Objectives, Targets and Indicators	Implications for the Plan and the SA
<p>Emphasises the public's right of access to open country and common land, and gives additional protection to Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI).</p>	<p>Certain land uses and development might hinder accessibility to open country and common land. The plan should consider these issues which have relevance to SA objectives on human health, population, and severance. The CRoW Act strengthened conservation and management of AONBs (established under the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949), which may have implications for proposed new mineral extraction and waste</p>

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	management sites.
Our Energy Future – Creating a Low Carbon Economy	
The White paper defines a long-term strategic vision for energy policy combining our environmental, security of supply, competitiveness and social goals.	
Objectives, Targets and Indicators	Implications for the Plan and the SA
Stimulate new, more efficient sources of power generation, and cut emissions from the transport and agricultural sector.	The LDP should take account of the proximity principles and should attempt to reduce the need for long distance car travel.
Climate Change: The UK Programme.	
The UK's programme is a significant contribution to the global response to climate change. It sets out a strategic, far reaching package of policies and measures across all sectors of the economy, to achieve the targets set.	
Objectives, Targets and Indicators	Implications for the Plan and the SA
Cutting UK Carbon Dioxide emissions by 60% by 2050.	The plans should have regard to climate change when developing policy options. The SA should contain objectives for reducing emissions and coping with the effects of climate change. The Plan could contribute to UK greenhouse gas reduction targets, for instance through encouraging industrial efficiency, procurement of renewable energy, and more sustainable transport of materials and personnel.
Air Quality Strategy: Working Together for Clean Air	
This Strategy describes the plans drawn up by the Government and the devolved administrations to improve and protect ambient air quality in the UK in the medium-term, so to protect people's health and the environment without imposing unacceptable economic or social costs.	
Objectives, Targets and Indicators	Implications for the Plan and the SA
Sets objectives for eight main air pollutants to protect health.	The Plan should include general traffic reduction

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	strategies and also strategies for any Air Quality Management Areas. Site selection should also take into account air quality impacts where possible. The Plan should include air quality policies for instance with regard to dust, and emissions from machinery and vehicles.
The Historic Environment: A Force for Our Future	
This statement sets out the intention of the Government to protect the historic environment recognising its major contribution to the economy in rural and deprived communities as well as in traditional economic centres. It also states the need for the development of new policies to further realise economic and educational potential.	
Objectives, Targets and Indicators	Implications for the Plan and the SA
The historic environment should be protected and sustained for the benefit of our own and future generations.	The Plan could influence the historic environment in several ways, including impacts upon townscape, historic structures and features. The contribution to the form and function of the County should be viewed positively and the plan's objectives should reflect this.
Communities Plan (Sustainable Communities: Building for the Future) 2003	
The Plan sets out a long-term programme of action for delivering sustainable communities in both urban and rural areas. It aims to tackle housing supply issues in the South East, low demand in other parts of the country, and the quality of our public spaces.	
Objectives, Targets and Indicators	Implications for the Plan and the SA
To transform Regional Planning Guidance into a Regional Spatial Strategy which increases delivery and targets for brown field development; affordable housing issues; in rolling forward annual new housing provision; identifies strategic employment locations; clearly defines transport priorities; addresses waste and renewable energy and reinforces	The Plan should be consistent with RPG / RSS with regard to the implications of the plan on employment, transport, waste, energy, land use, etc.

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<p>urban and rural renaissance. The South West suffers the double impact of higher than average house prices and lower than average incomes in the region. This creates particular difficulties for key workers and young people starting out.</p>	
<p>DfT (2000): Ten Year Plan for Transport</p>	
<p>This document sets out a ten year vision for the transport in the UK, providing detailed analysis of historic and predicted use statistics and declaring the spending priorities and investment plans for the next ten years.</p>	
<p>Objectives, Targets and Indicators</p>	<p>Implications for the Plan and the SA</p>
<p>Overarching objective: tackle congestion and pollution by improving provision of transport services. It contains a number of targets which are relevant at local level, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Double light rail use ▪ 10% increase in bus passenger journeys ▪ Extensive implementation of bus priority and park and ride schemes ▪ Safer cycling and walking routes 	<p>The LDP should reflect the overarching and detailed objectives of the plan, within the framework of the Regional Transport Strategy.</p>
<p>DfT (2004): The Future of Transport: A Network for 2030.</p>	
<p>A long term strategy that looks at the factors that will determine transport needs over the next 25 years and explains how the UK intends to satisfy such needs in a sustainable manner.</p>	
<p>Objectives, Targets and Indicators</p>	<p>Implications for the Plan and the SA</p>
<p>The strategy has three main themes: sustained investment over the long term; improvement in transport management and planning ahead. It describes the long term goals, as ultimate targets for the short term policies.</p>	<p>The LDP should take into account the themes of the document in association with the shared priorities.</p>
<p>DETR (2000): Government Urban White Paper: Our Towns, Our Cities, the Future. Delivering an urban renaissance.</p>	

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Sustainable economic growth is based on thriving towns and cities, which are the economic hubs of large areas.	
Objectives, Targets and Indicators	Implications for the Plan and the SA
To arrest urban decline by taking a joined approach to policies on housing, planning, transport and education in and for cities and town.	The Plan should take into account the overarching aims of this document and consider the PSA targets this White paper refers to.
DETR (2000): Government Rural White Paper: Our Countryside, the future – A deal for rural England	
To maintain and protect a living and vibrant countryside, the government has identified a number of key actions, all informed by the principles of sustainable development.	
Objectives, Targets and Indicators	Implications for the Plan and the SA
There are five objectives, which will be transposed into the PSA and Service Delivery Agreements: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Facilitate sustainable economies ▪ Maintain and stimulate communities ensuring fair access to services ▪ Conserve rural landscape and wildlife ▪ Increase opportunities to enjoy the countryside ▪ Promote collaboration amongst all Government tiers to ensure responsiveness to local communities' requests. 	The Plan and the SA should reflect the priorities and actions of the White paper and include SA objectives regarding access to services and landscape and biodiversity issues.
Warm Homes and Energy Conservation Act 2000- A fuel Poverty Commitment for Wales	
Objectives, Targets and Indicators	Implications for the Plan and the SA
The highest concentration of owner-occupier potential beneficiaries of enhanced New HEES (which includes central heating) are in the rural areas of Gwynedd and Isle of Anglesey (4.5% and 3.1% respectively) and in the predominantly urban authority area of Rhondda Cynon Taff (3.9%). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 10% or more owner occupied houses in RCT could benefit 	The SA should include an objective to encourage energy efficiency in residential development.

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 42% in social housing could benefit ▪ 30% of private rented households could benefit 	
Water Resources for the Future: A Summary of the Strategy for Wales March 2001	
The strategy covers all of Wales, together with those parts of the Dee and Wye catchments that lie in England.	
Objectives, Targets and Indicators	Implications for the Plan and the SA
<p>The strategy is designed to improve the environment, while allowing enough water for human uses</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Farmers should also consider crop suitability and the possibility of increasing their winter storage of water in areas where spray irrigation is important; ▪ Commerce and industry should pay more attention to water efficiency. In many cases, water-saving initiatives can pay for themselves in less than a year and so contribute to long-term profitability and viability. Active promotion of opportunities is essential; ▪ Working together will be the key to delivering the sustainable development of water resources. We will work to ensure that institutional structures and legislation assist <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ effective water management; ▪ We see no need for new large reservoir schemes to support demand from within Wales. 	<p>The LDP and the SA should consider the necessity to use water efficiently, for the benefit of the environment and the economy, alongside the impending implications of climate change.</p>
Walking and Cycling Strategy for Wales 2003	
The vision of the Welsh Assembly Government is to halt the decline in walking and cycling and then to increase their role in how we travel in Wales.	
Objectives, Targets and Indicators	Implications for the Plan and the SA
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The Welsh Assembly Government is committed to improving the health of the people of Wales. Walking and cycling can bring about tremendous health 	<p>The LDP and the SA should consider ways in which walking and cycling may be encouraged as a means of transport, as well as a means of</p>

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<p>benefits to individuals, as well as wider community benefits from reduced vehicle emissions. More walking and cycling means less car use.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ It is a core aim of the Assembly Government that all young people in Wales should be given every chance to fulfil their potential - to have a safe community that supports physical and emotional well-being, and to have access to play, leisure and sporting facilities. Providing for walking and cycling is important in realising this aim.▪ The public health recommendation for adults is to take at least 30 minutes of moderate intensity physical activity (like brisk walking) on five or more days of the week . For children the recommendation is at least 60 minutes of moderate intensity activity on most days. Over 70% of the Welsh population do not take enough exercise to benefit their health.▪ Detailed planning for pedestrians and cyclists within development plans is essential. For example, routes should be provided for pedestrians and cyclists within residential developments that are less tortuous than by road, e.g. through the provision of well lit and maintained 'short-cuts' , rather than assuming that pedestrians must use footpaths (or that cyclists must use cyclepaths) provided on the edge of carriageways which have been designed for motor vehicles.▪ Of equal importance is the provision of facilities for cyclists at their destinations, such as parking and provision of changing and shower facilities. For	<p>promoting more healthy lifestyles and reducing the polluting effects of the use of the private car.</p>
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<p>commercial premises, secure spaces should be provided for employees along with accessible parking for visitors to the premises.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ It is essential that local authorities reflect consideration of the needs of walkers, cyclists and horse riders in all planning decisions and negotiations as well as in their Unitary Development Plans. In addition, they should take a strategic approach to the protection and enhancement of green spaces, and to safeguarding disused railway lines in both rural and urban areas as routes for walkers, cyclists, the less able and horse riders. ▪ New developments can provide a major opportunity for developing walking and cycling facilities. Transport assessment supplied by revised guidance (Technical Advice Note 18) can provide a key tool in assessing proposals. 	
<p>The Transport Framework for Wales November 2001</p>	
<p>The Transport Framework sets out how the National Assembly for Wales aims to lead and support the delivery of the transport infrastructure and services that needed in Wales both internally and to connect to the rest of the world.</p>	
<p>Objectives, Targets and Indicators</p>	<p>Implications for the Plan and the SA</p>
<p>The National Assembly has formally adopted three main principles, endorsed by the Partnership Government in Wales:</p> <p>(i) sustainable development (overarching theme), aiming to promote development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs;</p> <p>(ii) tackling social disadvantage, aiming for the development</p>	<p>The local authority should use the framework aims to guide the policies of the Plan, and to help towards meeting national targets. The LDP and SA should also consider the aims and objectives included.</p>

of a safer and more inclusive society where everyone has the chance to fulfil their potential; and

(iii) **promoting equal opportunities** to promote a culture in which diversity is valued and equality of opportunity is a reality.

Three of the five key action areas in the Assembly's first strategic plan, *BetterWales*, are particularly relevant to this Framework:

(i) better quality of life;

(ii) a better, stronger economy; and

(iii) promoting better health and well-being.

The overall transport target set in *BetterWales* was to:

'Develop a better co-ordinated and sustainable transport system to support local communities and the creation of a prosperous economy'.

Aim to:

- improve public and community transport in all areas to improve accessibility for those who do not have a car; in urban areas we have an added aim to attract people away from travelling by car;
- maintain and enhance strategic transport corridors within Wales to provide high quality access and mobility; for internal movement and journeys and those wanting to gain access to the rest of the UK, Europe and beyond for economic, social or other reasons;
- facilitate the sustainable development of the full strategic potential of major ports and Cardiff International Airport;
- maintain and improve regional and local roads to

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<p>preserve our assets, and to provide better access and mobility for road based public transport, freight and private travel;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ contribute to the UK Government's target to increase by 80% the amount of freight moved by rail and to improve the efficiency and quality of the way freight is moved by road; ▪ improve safety, health and environmental conditions particularly on roads; ▪ increasing the amount of walking and cycling for necessary journeys, whether for the whole of short journeys or as part of a longer journey involving other means of transport. <p>The aim is to achieve all this in an integrated, environmentally, socially and economically sustainable way.</p>	
Trunk Road Forward Programme 2002	
<p>In November 2001 we published <i>The Transport Framework for Wales</i>. This policy document set down the vision for transport, which will enable the wide range of authorities and operators responsible for the transport system in Wales to achieve the aim of improving it. The vision identifies what we (the Welsh Assembly Government) would like to see the public and private transport system achieve on all modes including rail, road, water and air.</p>	
Objectives, Targets and Indicators	Implications for the Plan and the SA
<p><i>The Transport Framework for Wales</i> sets out objectives for transport including the trunk road network in Wales.</p> <p>The trunk road objectives: To maintain and improve the trunk road network in Wales in a sustainable manner, taking into account the social, economic and environmental needs and obligations of the nation.</p> <p>Network Objectives:</p>	<p>The LDP and the SA should consider the implications of the programme.</p>

<p><i>Accessibility</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ To improve strategic (national and international) and regional accessibility and mobility.▪ To reduce community severance.▪ To meet the needs of disabled people.▪ To give priority to the core network. <p><i>Safety</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ To contribute towards safer communities including managing the speed of traffic to appropriate levels.▪ To make a positive contribution to national road safety targets.▪ To provide or encourage appropriately spaced stopping/resting places and facilities on the network.▪ To improve personal security for travellers and others.▪ To improve the detection, response and management of incidents on the trunk road network. <p><i>Environment</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Improve the quality of life for people in communities close to the trunk road network.▪ To promote cycling and walking, and provide opportunities for healthy lifestyles.▪ To minimise any adverse effects on the environment generally; to conserve and enhance, where appropriate, landscapes, townscapes and historic and cultural resources.▪ To conserve and enhance, where appropriate, biodiversity on the network through the Biodiversity Action Plan. <p><i>Economy</i></p>	
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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ To bring up to standard and maintain the function of the trunk road network and to improve and maintain the trunk road asset. ▪ To preserve and enhance the operational efficiency of the trunk road network and help meet Wales' wider economic needs in a cost effective manner. ▪ To monitor and reduce journey time variability on the trunk road network. <p><i>Integration</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ To facilitate improved interchanges between transport modes for people and freight. ▪ To take into account the needs for local and national planning and agriculture. ▪ To improve and develop travel and transport information systems. 	
<p>Wales: A Vibrant Economy- The Welsh Assembly Government Strategic Framework for Economic Development Consultation Nov 2005</p>	
<p>Our vision is of a vibrant Welsh economy delivering strong and sustainable economic growth by providing opportunities for all. Our approach for realising this vision is built around Wales' core strengths: an increasingly skilled, innovative and entrepreneurial workforce; an advanced technology and knowledge base; strong communities; a stunning natural environment; and an exceptional quality of life. Our growing range of powers, short decision chains, close partnerships, local knowledge and willingness to engage will help us in building an ever stronger competitive advantage for Wales.</p>	
<p>Objectives, Targets and Indicators</p>	<p>Implications for the Plan and the SA</p>
<p>Our priorities in pursuit of our vision will be to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ increase employment still further, so that over time the Welsh employment rate matches the UK average, even as the UK employment rate itself rises; and ▪ raise the quality of jobs, so that average earnings 	<p>The LDP and the SA should consider the implications of the Framework. It should be ensured that employment grows in a sustainable manner.</p>

increase and close the gap with the UK average.

Our key actions for achieving these priorities will be:

- supporting job creation and helping individuals to tackle barriers to participation in the world of work;
- investing to regenerate communities and stimulate economic growth across Wales;
- helping businesses to grow and to increase value-added per job and earnings by:
 - investing in our transport networks and other economic infrastructure;
 - attracting more high value-added functions to Wales and supporting businesses and sectors with strong growth potential, notably through the new *Knowledge Bank for Business*;
 - further improving our skills base and using the opportunities created by the mergers to deliver more demand-led training tailored to the needs of businesses; and
 - helping businesses to become more competitive by supporting other drivers to business growth: entrepreneurship, innovation, investment and trade; and
- ensuring that all economic programmes and policies support sustainable development, in particular by encouraging clean energy generation and resource efficiency.

Our principles to guide us in this work will be:

- ensuring that the mergers of the WDA, WTB and ELWa with the Assembly Government deliver more effective

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<p>and efficient services to Welsh firms and individuals; joining up policy agendas across the Assembly Government and meeting our corporate commitments to social justice, sustainable development, equality and the Welsh language;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ working in partnership to deliver improvements across Wales through the Spatial Plan; ▪ focusing support where it can make most difference; and ▪ promoting closer working between the public and private sectors on business advice and finance, to ensure that firms in Wales have access to world-class support. 	
Wales: A Better Country (2003)	
<p>Issued by the Welsh Assembly Government in September 2003 outlines the Assembly's commitment to developing a diverse, competitive, high added value economy with high quality skills and education that minimises demand on the environment.</p>	
Objectives, Targets and Indicators	Implications for the Plan and the SA
<p>The Assembly's planning policy objectives for economic development are to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Enhance the economic success of both urban areas and the countryside, helping to businesses to maximise their competitiveness; ▪ support initiatives and avoid placing unnecessary burdens on enterprise; ▪ respect and encourage diversity in the local economy, for example, in rural areas encouraging farm diversification and in urban areas promoting mixed use development; ▪ promote the exploitation of new technologies which can provide new opportunities; and ▪ ensure that development for enterprise and employment uses 	<p>To be considered in the LDP and SA</p>

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is in line with sustainability principals, respecting the environment in its location, scale and design.	
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C: Regional Plans, Policies and Programmes

Turning Heads... A Strategy for the Heads of the Valleys 2020	
<p>Strategy set within context of Wales Spatial Plan - sets a shared vision for planning for the Heads of the Valleys.</p> <p>Preferred Approach - Option A 'Developing Balanced Communities'</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ mix strong employment opportunities with distinctive communities. ▪ provide mix of housing, retail, leisure/ tourism. ▪ exploit internal and external employment opportunities including along M4 corridor. <p>Public Sector Investment for 2006-09 includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Environment c£300m, including improvements to Merthyr Tydfil, Ebbw Vale, Bargoed, Abertillery, Blaenavon and Mountain Ash Town Centres. ▪ Economy c£500m including the next phase of the A465(T) dualling. ▪ Tourism and leisure - c£50m, including local authority investment in community facilities. ▪ Continued major public investment in the area, including the regeneration of the former Ebbw Vale Steelworks site. ▪ Housing renewal £0.6billion investment in social housing stock between now and 2012. 	
Objectives, Targets and Indicators	Implications for the Plan and the SA
STRATEGIC GOALS AND PROGRAMMES	The LDP should take into account the spatial

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<p>The Strategy has been developed around five priority themes, each underpinned by a number of key Strategic Programmes (SPs):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ An attractive and well-used natural, historic and built environment SP1: A sub-regional approach to the regeneration of settlements SP2: A perception-changing landscape SP3: Well-used and easily accessed amenities ■ A vibrant economic landscape offering new opportunities SP4: Directly linking people with work SP5: Joined-up solutions for business SP6: Linked opportunities for businesses and individuals ■ A well-educated, skilled and healthier population SP7: Improving health through prevention SP8: Integrated lifelong learning ■ An appealing and coherent tourism and leisure experience SP9: Linked local and regional attractions and facilities SP10: An integrated 'offer' ■ Public confidence in a shared bright future SP11: Visualising the Strategy SP12: Pro-active communications and engagement 	<p>development aims of the strategy when devising policies. Both the SA and the LDP should consider the objectives outlined to ensure compatibility.</p>
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South East Wales Regional Waste Plan: 1st Review (October 2007)	
The Regional Waste Plan provides a long-term strategic waste management strategy and land-use planning framework for the sustainable management of waste and recovery of resources in South East Wales.	
Objectives, Targets and Indicators	Implications for the Plan and the SA
<p>Vision & Aims of the RWP 1st Review</p> <p>Vision: To provide a land use planning framework for the sustainable management of wastes and recovery of resources in South East Wales, with the following aims:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Aim A: To minimise adverse impacts on the environment and human health. ■ Aim B: To minimise adverse social and economic impacts and maximise social and economic opportunities. ■ Aim C: To meet the needs of communities and businesses. ■ Aim D: To accord with the legislative requirements, targets, principles and policies set by the European <p>Objectives of the RWP 1st Review</p> <p>Environmental and Health Objectives (Aim A)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Ensure prudent use of land and other resources ■ Safeguard soil quality ■ Minimise greenhouse gas emissions ■ Adapt to the effects of climate change ■ Minimise adverse impacts on air quality and public health 	<p>Provision must be made in the LDP to meet the capacity requirements for each facility type. The underlying principles are based on national principles including sustainability and the waste hierarchy.</p> <p>The National Waste Strategy for Wales and TAN 21 require that provision should be made in each local planning authority's Unitary Development Plan (now being replaced by the LDP) for meeting waste management requirements. TAN21 makes clear what is expected to be included in Unitary Development Plans. Among the requirements on UDPs are that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ there should be a balance of site specific and criteria-based policies to provide as much information as possible on the locations likely to be acceptable for development of waste treatment and disposal facilities; ■ they should include a statement to explain how the Regional Waste Plan impacts upon the UDP policies and proposals and how the proposals and policies in the UDP help to

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Conserve landscapes, townscapes and cultural heritage ■ Protect local amenity ■ Minimise adverse effects on water quality ■ Minimise requirements for water use ■ Avoid increasing flood risk ■ Protect biodiversity and valuable sites <p>Socio-Economic Objectives (Aim B)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Minimise local transport impacts ■ Provide employment opportunities ■ Provide opportunities for public involvement and education <p>Waste Management Service Delivery Objectives (Aim C)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Minimise the costs of waste management ■ Ensure reliability of delivery of waste management services <p>Policy Framework Objectives (Aim D)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Conform to waste legislation and policy – European, UK and Welsh waste management / resource recovery targets, principles and policies 	<p>facilitate implementation of the RWP;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ They must demonstrate that there is adequate provision for waste management facilities to meet the targets in EU Directives.
Regional Technical Statement for Aggregates 2007	
<p>The Regional Technical Statement (RTS) has been produced by the South Wales Regional Aggregates Working Party (SWRAWP). Minerals TAN1 sets an overarching objective which seeks to ensure a sustainably managed supply of aggregates (which are essential for construction), striking the balance between environmental, economic and social costs. The RTS has been formulated to help guide individual Local Authorities in South Wales on how to implement these mineral planning policies in the formulation of their individual Local Development Plan (LDP) policies and allocations.</p>	

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Objectives, Targets and Indicators		Implications for the Plan and the SA	
<p>In accordance with the objective outlined above, the RTS therefore seeks to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Maximise the use of secondary and recycled materials and mineral wastes. ■ Safeguard land-based minerals which may be needed in the long term. ■ Acknowledge that where the principles of sustainable development can be achieved, the extension of existing aggregate quarries is likely to be appropriate. ■ Where there is a need for new areas of aggregates supply, these should come from locations of low environmental constraint and take into account transport = implications. ■ Maintain supply of marine aggregate consistent with the requirements of the Interim Marine Aggregates Dredging Policy (IMADP). 		<p>The Plan needs to incorporate the suggested mineral planning policies.</p>	
Strategic Planning Guidance for South East Wales (Volume 2, July 2001)			
<p>Current members of the Group are Blaenau Gwent CBC; Bridgend CBC; Caerphilly CBC; The City and County of Cardiff; Merthyr Tydfil CBC; Monmouthshire CC; Newport CBC; Rhondda Cynon Taff CBC; Torfaen CBC; the Vale of Glamorgan Council, and the Brecon Beacons National Park Authority.</p>			
Objectives, Targets and Indicators		Implications for the Plan and the SA	
<p>It is intended that this guidance will serve the following purposes:-</p> <p>i) To provide a context for the preparation, consideration and revision of Unitary Development Plans (UDPs).</p>		<p>The Plan should take into account the 'recommendations' outlined in the Plan.</p> <p>Development proposals that may affect other authorities in the region should be discussed with</p>	

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<p>ii) To minimise delays and conflicts between planning authorities at the public inquiry stage.</p> <p>iii) To identify areas of agreement on common issues.</p> <p>iv) To identify strategic spatial policy issues that may need resolution and identify the mechanisms for resolving them.</p> <p>v) In addition, it provides an opportunity for interested organisations to contribute to the Regional Planning process. The strategy covers: minerals; waste management; energy; sports, leisure and recreational development; tourism development and coastal issues.</p> <p>The plan includes a series of recommendations under each of the above headings.</p>	<p>the relevant councils. Local authorities in Wales are advised to liaise on strategic planning matters under the provisions of the 1994 Local Government (Wales) Act.</p>
<p>South Glamorgan (Cardiff Area) Replacement Structure Plan (1991-2011)</p>	
<p>Adopted by Cardiff County Council 3rd April 1997.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Provides a policy framework for strategic land use and movement for the period up to 2011. ▪ Gives a broad strategic framework for the more detailed local plans. ▪ Policies are based on environmental, economic and social principles which will ensure that an appropriate balance is achieved between meeting the needs of existing and future generations for homes, jobs and facilities, and protecting and enhancing the environment of Cardiff. <p>Under the transitional arrangements of the Local Government (Wales) Act 1994, the Replacement Structure Plan remains in force until it is replaced by a fully operative Unitary Development Plan (UDP) for Cardiff.</p>	
<p>Cardiff Unitary Development Plan (to 2016)</p>	
<p>The Town and Country Planning Act 1990, as amended by the Local Government (Wales) Act 1994, requires the County Council to prepare a unitary development plan (UDP) for Cardiff. When adopted, the UDP will become the development plan for Cardiff and supersede all existing structure, local and other development plans covering the area.</p> <p>The UDP must provide a framework within which:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ development and conservation needs in Cardiff can be met, having regard to economic, social and 	

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<p>environmental considerations; and</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ individual planning decisions can be made in a rational and consistent manner. Section 54A of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 requires that planning decisions be made in accordance with the development plan, unless material considerations indicate otherwise. 	
Objectives, Targets and Indicators	Implications for the Plan and the SA
<p>The Strategy focuses on the need:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ to work closely with public, private and voluntary sector organisations and local people to map out a shared agenda for Cardiff; ▪ to develop the economic and social infrastructure necessary to attract investment and generate local prosperity; ▪ to ensure that Cardiff continues to succeed as the driver of Welsh prosperity and that the people of Cardiff and Wales benefit from the City's growth. <p>It identifies the following key priorities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The continued development of Cardiff as a City of Learning - providing first-class schools, opportunities for lifelong learning and fostering links with local colleges and universities - to ensure local prosperity and individuals' self-betterment; ▪ Making Cardiff a Healthy City - with an emphasis on deprived communities that continue to be affected disproportionately by poor health; ▪ Looking after the Environment that influences the health, well-being and quality of life of local people - including promoting sustainability and creating a top-class transportation system; ▪ Caring for the Vulnerable members of society - 	<p>The LDP may be affected by some of the development schemes planned for Cardiff, especially the "new high quality international business park on land north of M4 junction 33". The SA and the LDP should ensure that the influence from Cardiff is beneficial, and take advantage of the potential increase in development. However, this should not be to the detriment development in the north and, wherever possible, inequalities between the north and south of the County should be addressed.</p>

particularly the elderly, the young, people with mental health problems and other disabilities;

- Tackling Deprivation and Discrimination - particularly such problems as unemployment, poor skills, low incomes, poor housing, high crime environments, bad health, poverty and family breakdown, which are often linked and concentrated in local communities;
- Promoting Safer Communities and tackling the causes of crime and fear of crime in Cardiff;
- Continuing to attract well-paid, skilled jobs to generate Prosperity for All and opportunities for people to maximise their potential;
- Continuing to develop Sport and Culture at all levels, which support the economy, improve health and foster local pride;
- Improving Access to Information and Services; and
- Facilitating Democratic Engagement.

POLICY 1.E: THE ECONOMY AND EMPLOYMENT

The economy and employment base of Cardiff will be enhanced by:

- a. promoting the provision of new offices within the Central and Waterfront Business Areas and district centres;
- b. providing 220 hectares of land for industry and warehousing, including new allocations in South Cardiff, Wentloog and St Mellons and safeguarding existing industrial and warehousing land for which there

<p>remains a need or demand and which remains well located for such use;</p> <p>c. promoting the provision of new and improved retail facilities of an appropriate scale within the Central Shopping Area and district and local centres in accordance with the retail hierarchy and retail strategy;</p> <p>d. promoting the provision of major sports and visitor facilities within the Central and Waterfront Business Areas and around the Bay waterfront.</p> <p>Proposed change to policy following consultation: response by Welsh Development Agency & Westgate Park (Cardiff)</p> <p>Amend policy 1.E by introducing a new section (b) and re-lettering the other sections accordingly. Section (b) to read as follows:</p> <p>"b) promoting a new high quality international business park on land north of M4 junction 33"</p>	
<p>Bridgend Unitary Development Plan 2001-2016</p>	
<p>Adopted May 2005. LDP: Formal Preparation commencement estimated: December 2005 / January 2006 Guiding Principle: To Improve the Quality of Life for the residents of Bridgend County Borough in ways which are compatible with the principles of sustainable development.</p>	
<p>Objectives, Targets and Indicators</p>	<p>Implications for the Plan and the SA</p>
<p>Objectives listed under the following headings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Environment ▪ Housing ▪ Employment 	<p>The LDP should consider the implications of its policies on surrounding areas, and how surrounding areas may affect RCT.</p>

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Transportation ▪ Retailing ▪ Tourism and Leisure ▪ Sport and Recreation ▪ Social and Community Facilities ▪ Minerals ▪ Waste Disposal ▪ Unstable Land ▪ Energy and Utilities ▪ Regeneration ▪ Implementation, Resources & Monitoring 	
<p>Caerphilly County Borough Council Unitary Development Plan</p>	
<p>The Council has decided to approve the use of the Caerphilly UDP in its present form for all planning purposes, but to stop any further work on its preparation. The council has consolidated all of the changes approved to the plan in the 'Council Approved Unitary Development Plan' (April 2003)'</p>	
<p>Objectives, Targets and Indicators</p>	<p>Implications for the Plan and the SA</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ To protect and enhance the quality and diversity of both the rural and urban environments ▪ To increase the economic prosperity of the people and communities of the county borough ▪ To facilitate improved living, working and leisure provision for the people of the county borough. 	<p>The LDP should consider the implications of its policies on surrounding areas, and how surrounding areas may affect RCT.</p>
<p>The Merthyr Tydfil Borough Local Plan</p>	
<p>Adopted May 1999.</p>	
<p>Objectives, Targets and Indicators</p>	<p>Implications for the Plan and the SA</p>
<p>In this local plan, the Council is committed to the creation of a good quality of life for all the citizens of the Borough. The three main aims are set out below.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · To promote a stronger economy for the Borough supported 	<p>The LDP should consider the implications of its policies on surrounding areas, and how surrounding areas may affect RCT.</p>

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<p>by a high quality well maintained infrastructure.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · To promote a good quality of life with an emphasis on services provision, heritage and quality of new developments. · To promote a sustainable future by ensuring that development does not compromise the protection of the environment. 	
Neath Port Talbot UDP Deposit Draft 2003	
Objectives, Targets and Indicators	Implications for the Plan and the SA
<p>The Community Plan has set out the vision that by 2012 our communities will be: -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • healthier, more prosperous, attractive and welcoming; • able to offer an increasingly skilled and qualified workforce; • able to offer a better quality of life; and • able to offer a wider range of facilities, services and jobs within easy travelling distance. <p>The need to work towards Sustainable Development is a central theme which is at the core of the UDP. While addressing more local issues, it will also help the County Borough make its contribution to tackling global environmental problems.</p>	<p>The LDP should consider the implications of its policies on surrounding areas, and how surrounding areas may affect RCT.</p>
The Vale of Glamorgan Unitary Development Plan 1996-2011	
<p>On the 18th April 2005, the Vale of Glamorgan Council formally adopted its Unitary Development Plan. Vision: 'To make the Vale of Glamorgan the best Unitary Authority in Wales by providing the highest quality of services.'</p>	
Objectives, Targets and Indicators	Implications for the Plan and the SA
<p>Key Values:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Quality and Equality 	<p>The LDP should consider the implications of its policies on surrounding areas, and how</p>

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Working together ▪ Fairness ▪ Accountability and Accessibility ▪ A Positive, Responsive, Caring Attitude ▪ Openness and Honesty <p>In respect of the Planning function the Council's overall aim is: " To provide a planning framework for the development of the Vale of Glamorgan that reflects the need to conserve the best of the natural environment and yet to allow beneficial land use development in a sustainable way."</p>	<p>surrounding areas may affect RCT.</p>
Brecon Beacons National Park Management Plan	
<p>The National Park Management Plan is the National Park Authority's leading document, which it is required to prepare under the 1995 Environment Act. It sets out a vision for the whole Park over the coming years, which has been endorsed by a wide range of consultees. It also includes aims and objectives for all the NP's activities, and the actions needed to bring these about, whether by the NPA itself or by partner organisations. The existing Management Plan covers the period 2000 to 2005. The National Park Authority is starting to prepare a new management plan for the next 5 years.</p>	
Objectives, Targets and Indicators	Implications for the Plan and the SA
<p>Vision: A partnership of all those who live and work in, enjoy or care for the Brecon Beacons National Park to conserve its beauty, character and tranquillity, its natural and cultural heritage and its way of life, both for their own sakes and in order that the Park may continue to be a source of inspiration and enjoyment for all.</p> <p>During the next Park Management Plan period, the NPA will be aiming to realise this vision by working towards the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Common land and moorland to remain open and extensive in character, managed to maintain grazing, increase the 	<p>The LDP and SA should seek to enhance the policies and vision of the National Park Management Plan.</p>

<p>diversity of vegetation and wildlife habitats and provide access.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Native broadleaved woodlands to be well managed, diversified and extended as the basis of a developing wood products industry. · The traditional pattern of farmed land and its characteristic, historic features and varied habitats to remain, as the basis of a thriving agricultural economy. · Opportunities to be extended for people of all abilities and social backgrounds to enjoy activities in and learn about the Park sustainably, without harming its special qualities. · A sustainable tourist industry to be fostered, contributing to public enjoyment and the local economy. · A reduced need to rely on private cars for journeys to and within the Park. · Healthy, socially inclusive local communities with access to sustainable employment and modern amenities, where culture and the Welsh language thrive. · An area and a National Park Authority which are models of sustainability. 	
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D: Local Plans, Policies and Programmes

Action for Nature: A Local Biodiversity Action Plan for Rhondda Cynon Taff, January 2008	
The local BAP is fed from the UK plan. The overall aim is to 'conserve and enhance the biodiversity of Rhondda Cynon Taff'	
Objectives, Targets and Indicators	Implications/ Issues for the Plan and the SA

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<p>The overall aim of the Rhondda Cynon Taf Local Biodiversity Action Plan is “to conserve and enhance the biodiversity of Rhondda Cynon Taf”.</p> <p>The following objectives describe what is needed to achieve this:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • translate UK Action Plans to the local level • identify other locally important habitats and species, through local consultation • identify key partners • develop achievable actions • monitor progress in achieving Local Biodiversity Action Plan actions • monitor biodiversity in Rhondda Cynon Taf 	<p>The SA should have regard to data collected as a result of monitoring the actions implemented through the LBAP.</p>
<p>RCT Improvement Plan 2005 (Community Plan)</p>	
<p>The Local Government Act 2000 placed on local Authorities the duty to promote the social, economic and environmental wellbeing of their community and charged them with producing a Community Plan as a long-term framework to improve the quality of life in their area. The Council recognised that improved working, both within the Council and with other key local organisations, at strategic and operational levels, could increase the capacity and resources available to our local communities and deliver better services to local people. The Council has put the Community Plan at the forefront of its activities to provide a coherent framework for its, and its partner’s, service planning which is recognised and understood at all levels within the Council.</p>	
<p>Objectives, Targets and Indicators</p>	<p>Implications/ Issues for the Plan and the SA</p>
<p>The Community Plan Strategic objectives are currently delivered by the following 5 Strategic Partnerships:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Community Safety Partnership; ▪ Environmental Improvement Partnership; ▪ Health, Social Care and Well-Being Partnership; 	<p>The formation of plan policies must involve the local communities in order that they are ultimately successful. The four main issues, particularly in relation to the three vulnerable groups stated, are fundamental, and should be</p>

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Economic Regeneration Partnership; ▪ Bro Dysg, the “Learning for Growth” Partnership <p>The five main themes of the plan all form the key components of an integrated policy and partnership framework, designed to join up the various interdependent strands of social, economic and environmental policy making. The five main themes, with the key objectives and outcomes, the community needs to deliver “ A Better Life” by 2014 are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Safer Communities ▪ Our Living Space ▪ Our Health and Well Being ▪ Boosting our local economy ▪ Learning for growth <p>A range of cross-cutting issues, and the main groups who need to benefit most from our progress, are also highlighted for specific attention across all the Themes and strategies. The partnership and planning framework supporting the Community Plan is committed to describing how all action taken, benefits or impacts on this range of issues and groups: -</p> <p>Issues Social Inclusion and Equality Information, Involvement Empowerment Social and Cultural identity Sustainability</p> <p>Groups</p>	<p>included in the SA framework.</p>
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Children and Young People Older People Families	
Rhondda Cynon Taf Local Housing Strategy 2004-2009	
The Strategy is set within the context of the Authority's Community Plan "A Better Life" and aims to re-establish the importance of good housing conditions to good health, well being and education. The Strategy also provides the overall framework for housing sub-strategies which include Homelessness, Empty Homes, Minority Ethnic and Home Energy Conservation.	
Objectives, Targets and Indicators	Implications for the Plan and the SA
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ All social housing to meet the Welsh Housing Quality Standard by 2012 ▪ The need for additional social housing to be met in a sustainable way ▪ Promoting the principles of the Egan Report in the construction of new social housing ▪ Improving overall quality of housing stock ▪ Implementing planned UK government legislation to license houses in multiple occupation ▪ Eradicate fuel poverty by 2010 ▪ Promoting lifetime homes that better meet the needs of people with a physical disability ▪ Improving services, including grant claims, management, advice etc 	The LDP will need to provide sufficient land in sustainable locations for a range and choice of housing needs including affordable and special needs housing. The LDP will need to contain policies in order to encourage the sustainable design of buildings and developments Consideration of the proportions of affordable housing required on large sites will be made in the context of local need and market studies. Supplementary Planning Guidance on Affordable Housing and Planning Obligations will be necessary.
The Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council Landscape Strategy	
The report is an amalgamation of the three landscape strategy reports produced for the former local authorities of Cynon Valley, Rhondda and Taff Ely.	
Objectives, Targets and Indicators	Implications for the Plan and the SA
Following the methodology for landscape assessment determined by the Countryside Commission the Landscape	The SA must have regard for designated protected areas. The design principles and vision should also be incorporated into policies.

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<p>Strategy identifies the landscape zones and types and describes the landscape character of the land area outside the designated settlement boundaries. The draft strategy identifies 41 landscape character areas. Sites Important for Nature Conservation Interest (SINC) are proposed to be identified within the Landscape Strategy. The descriptions of each landscape character area details the existing character, the desired future landscape character and the aims that should be used to achieve the future landscape image for that specific area. The report also identifies the vision for the County Borough's landscape and design principles that should be followed to fulfill the goals of the landscape vision.</p>	<p>incorporated into policies.</p>
<p>Local Wanless Action Plan for Rhondda Cynon Taf April 2004</p>	
<p>The Review of Health and Social Care Report (The Wanless Report) was published in July 2003. The Welsh Assembly Government accepted its conclusions and set in train a range of actions to implement the recommendations. The recommendations set out in the Review present significant challenges for health and social care in Wales. One key focus was the need to remodel and redesign services across the health and social care spectrum to ensure the appropriate balance of provision to meet the health and social care needs of the population.</p>	
<p>Objectives, Targets and Indicators</p>	<p>Implications for the Plan and the SA</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Local people whose health and access to high quality health services is equal to the best in Britain. ▪ Local communities where action is taken to protect and care for those who are vulnerable and where we all act to promote our own health and well-being. ▪ Services in the health, social care and voluntary sectors that support individual needs for independence and personal choice and that enable individuals to take 	<p>Access, especially to health care, in RCT is a major issue that need to be addressed. The plan must address this issue and try to solve problems through policies.</p>

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responsibility for their own health and well-being.	
Local Transport Plan	
The Council's Local Transport Plan was produced in August 2000. Annual Progress Reports have been subsequently produced as a requirement of the Welsh Assembly Government. These seek to inform on progress made towards the Action Plan objectives of the original plan and includes details of the Council's future programme.	
Objectives, Targets and Indicators	Implications for the Plan and the SA
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Maintain the Highway Network in a structurally sound and safe condition ▪ Construct the Porth/Rhondda Fach Relief Road and Church Village By Pass ▪ Support the creation of new employment and regeneration opportunities with the provision of road infrastructure ▪ Implement an integrated Transport Strategy for Pontypridd Town Centre ▪ Contribute to regional public transport objectives by implementing bus and rail schemes ▪ Procure bus services to combat social exclusion ▪ Completion of the National Cycle Network in RCT ▪ Implement and encourage Green Travel Plans ▪ Improve Road Safety 	<p>Although the area is well served by passenger rail facilities further additions and improvements to public transport facilities will be necessary to contribute to overall sustainability aims.</p> <p>The LDP should encourage sustainable modes of transport.</p> <p>Poor road infrastructure remains a problem in some valley areas and contributes to factors which result in reduced inward investment.</p>
Waste Strategy - "Respecting Waste"	
The Strategy recognises that previous attitudes to waste disposal have to change and that a holistic approach to the complete waste disposal process is needed. The Strategy was formulated in conjunction with the establishment of a Community Waste Forum consisting of stakeholders with particular responsibilities or interests in the process.	
Objectives, Targets and Indicators	Implications for the Plan and the SA
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Encouraging the public, businesses and organizations to minimize the creation of waste ▪ Taking strong enforcement action against littering, 	<p>In addressing land use implications of meeting waste objectives, providing for an adequate hierarchy of facilities in sustainable locations will be necessary.</p>

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> fly tipping and promoting a culture of consideration ▪ Adopting reduction, re-use and recycling initiatives ▪ Taking a proactive approach to economic development opportunities by supporting the creation of appropriate enterprises ▪ Adopting the most environmentally friendly processes for the final disposal of waste ▪ Increasing resources directed to cleaning up litter ▪ Meeting all environmental legislation targets 	<p>The Plan should consider encourage methods to move waste up the hierarchy, encouraging waste minimisation and recovery.</p>
Health and Well – Being Strategy	
<p>A Needs Assessment was carried out in December 2003 and a Technical Resource Document subsequently prepared and consulted on in 2004. The document:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Describes the statutory background to the development of the first Health, Social Care and Well-being strategy for RCT and the assessment of local needs on which the strategy will be based. ▪ Explains what has been done in Rhondda Cynon Taff to fulfil its statutory obligations. ▪ Shows results of the needs assessment process, and groups these needs into the six key themes which are the main priorities for partnership working to improve health and well-being for all. ▪ Makes suggestions as to how RCT, in partnership, can address these needs over the next few years. 	
Objectives, Targets and Indicators	Implications for the Plan and the SA
<p>The six key themes are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Work and health ▪ Mental health and emotional well-being ▪ Children and young people ▪ Transport and access ▪ Maintaining independence ▪ Healthy environments 	<p>The need to address factors such as poor quality housing, access to services, creating better quality environments and the regeneration of areas which experience high levels of multiple deprivation can be linked to SA and LDP objectives.</p>
School Organisation Plan	
<p>The School Standards and Framework Act 1998 (Section 26) requires local authorities to prepare school organisation plans. It is the duty</p>	

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of the Local Education Authority to secure sufficient and suitable school places in its area. The current Plan has been subject to extensive consultation and covers the period Jan 2004 to August 2009.	
Objectives, Targets and Indicators	Implications for the Plan and the SA
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Promote greater use of school buildings by the community ▪ Reduce surplus capacity ▪ Improve access for children with mobility problems ▪ Reduce the level of temporary accommodation ▪ Review catchment areas of schools ▪ Reduction in size of primary classes ▪ Placing split site schools on one site ▪ Obtain credit approval for PFI schemes ▪ Review sixth form provision 	New housing identified in the Plan could address the issue of surplus capacity. Planning gain from new housing could also contribute to school improvements and if of sufficient scale could provide new facilities. Education provision will therefore be a factor in considering areas for potential releases.
Economic Regeneration Strategy	
The Strategy represents the framework for improving the economy of RCT between 2004 and 2014. It is one of the 5 key themes within the wider Community Plan.	
Objectives, Targets and Indicators	Implications for the Plan and the SA
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Creating more varied and stronger businesses ▪ Reduce numbers of economically inactive ▪ Stimulating community enterprise ▪ Promoting increased training opportunities ▪ Improving quality of living environment, transportation and regeneration opportunities ▪ Spending public money locally ▪ Promoting a more positive image to attract inward investment and tourism opportunities. 	Most objectives of the Economic Development Strategy are directly relevant to the Plan in terms of providing an appropriate supply of employment land, regenerating communities and preserving and enhancing environmental features which contribute to positive images of the area. The SA should include objectives to ensure that economic growth is sustainable, providing a range of opportunities. Areas allocated for employment land should be in sustainable locations, including minimising the need to travel.
Bro Dysg Strategy	
The Bro Dysg Strategy will guide and inform the future direction and the activities of the learning network in RCT consistent with the goals for learning articulated within the Community Plan. Bro Dysg will facilitate and monitor the work of the partner organisations and	

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working groups so that the network stays on course.	
Objectives, Targets and Indicators	Implications for the Plan and the SA
<p>Key Priorities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Supporting learners to achieve their personal potential ▪ Improving the quality and accessibility of information, advice and guidance for all learners ▪ Providing high level skills for life and work <p>Overall Aims</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ High Standards of Education for All ▪ Enabling Everyone to Fulfill their Potential ▪ Local Workforce Equipped for Future <p>Outcomes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Pupils achieving adequate GSE grades or vocational equivalent ▪ Increased participation in cultural and recreation activities ▪ Reduction in people without qualification by 10% by 2011 ▪ Partners achieving Information Standard Quality Mark 	<p>Location of housing development will influence local school provision. Tertiary education, particularly in the Pontypridd and Aberdare areas, with increased student numbers during the plan period, will create demand for associated housing. Resultant employment gain and economic diversification will be encouraged.</p>
Our Living Space – An Environmental Improvement Strategy for RCT	
<p>The Strategy forms the framework for improving the living space of Rhondda Cynon Taf from 2005 and up to 2015. It oversees environmental improvement and addresses appropriate action in one of the 5 Community Plan themed areas. It is not designed to replace existing strategies but provides a framework within which to integrate different objectives and direct activities to target areas where change is most needed. It also provides a way of drawing together the views of a wide range of interests into one coherent strategy.</p>	
Objectives, Targets and Indicators	Implications for the Plan and the SA
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ To increase the biodiversity value of land within RCT ▪ To improve the quality of local rivers ▪ To develop a sustainable waste management 	<p>Environmental considerations will be an integral part of the LDP process in line with SEA requirements.</p>

<p>culture to reduce the current emphasis on landfill</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ To successfully clean up land, streets and rivers and create a climate of civic pride▪ To reduce the pollution to which residents are exposed▪ To improve the quality and attractiveness of our green spaces▪ To increase the safe re-use and appropriate redevelopment of former industrial land▪ To improve the quality and attractiveness of the built environment▪ To develop an integrated accessible transport network▪ To reduce the waste of natural resources▪ To improve environmental awareness	
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Appendix IV: SA/SEA Baseline Data

Indicator	Source	Current Data	Comparators and Targets	Trend	Issues for sustainability / Issues for the LDP
SEA Topic: Biodiversity					
Environmental Stress	57				Spatial planning may help to reduce the impacts of air pollution through control over traffic generation. Other pollution may also be resisted through spatial planning. Flood risk may also be minimised through the use of SUDs and defences, as well as flood risk minimisation measures in buildings.
Special Areas for Conservation	1.	4 SACs in Rhondda Cynon Taff Blaen Cynon Cardiff Beech Woods			Legislation affecting protected areas. Will

(SAC)		Coedydd Nedd a Mellte Cwm Cadlan		potentially affect Plan, and will guide the pattern of development, so needs to be considered. The SA Framework should include an objective to protect and enhance areas designated for their biodiversity.
Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)	2.	<p>Northern Strategy Area:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Blaenrhondda Road Cutting 2. Bryncarnau Grasslands, Llwydcoed 3. Cors Bryn-y-gaer, Hirwaun 4. Craig Pont Rhondda 5. Craig-Y-Llyn, Rhigos (part) 6. Dyffrynoedd Nedd A Mellte & Moel, Penderyn (part) 7. Mynydd Ty-Isaf, Rhondda <p>Southern Strategy Area:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Brofiscin Quarry, Groesfaen 2. Brynna A Wern Tarw (part) 3. Castell Coch Woodlands, Taffs Well (part) 4. Ely Valley, Miskin (part) 5. Llantrisant Common Pastures 6. Nant Gelliwion Woodland, Pontypridd 7. Rhos Tonyrefail 		Legislation affecting protected areas. Will potentially affect Plan, and will guide the pattern of development, so needs to be considered. The SA Framework should include an objective to protect and enhance areas designated for their biodiversity.

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Key Countryside Sites		32 Managed by Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council		Legislation affecting protected areas. Will potentially affect Plan, and will guide the pattern of development, so needs to be considered. The SA Framework should include an objective to protect and enhance areas designated for their biodiversity.
Local Nature Reserves (LNR)		Glyncornel (Craig yr Hesg (Pontypridd) and Llwydcoed/Cwmbach (Aberdare) are being considered for designation).		Legislation affecting protected areas. Will potentially affect Plan, and will guide the pattern of development, so needs to be considered. The SA Framework should include an objective to protect and enhance areas designated for their biodiversity.
Sites of		Local Plans include policies to protect Sites of Importance for Nature	Need input and	Legislation

Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC)		Conservation (SINC). These are defined by scientific criteria and a provisional list of over 200 sites is currently being assessed. The sites, most of which are privately owned, will require positive management if the habitat is to remain of wildlife value and this is a major concern.	support of local land owners. Trend-improvement in protection of land by increasing amount of protected areas. Concern-wildlife value	affecting protected areas. Will potentially affect Plan, and will guide the pattern of development, so needs to be considered. The SA Framework should include an objective to protect and enhance areas designated for their biodiversity.
Sites Managed for Wildlife		Coed Cymru manages various woodland types		Legislation affecting protected areas. Will potentially affect Plan, and will guide the pattern of development, so needs to be considered. The SA Framework should include an objective to protect and enhance areas designated for their biodiversity.
RSPB Reserves	3	There are no RSPB Nature Reserves in Rhondda Cynon Taf		

Important Bird Areas	4	There are no Important Bird Areas in Rhondda Cynon Taf		
Population of wild birds		<i>Data Gap</i>		
Glamorgan Wildlife Trust Nature Reserves		Glamorgan Wildlife Trust Nature Reserves are owned or leased by the Trust and managed for nature conservation. At present there are four Trust reserves in Rhondda Cynon Taff, at: Nightingale's Bush (Pontypridd) (owned), Aberdare Canal (leased), Nant Myddlyn (Beddau) (leased) and Pwll Waun Cynon (Mountain Ash) (owned)		Need to be taken into account
Fish Stocks	7	The Coal industry has had major adverse impacts on the quality of the environment such that most of the rivers were severely polluted to the exclusion of all fish life. Recent decades have shown great improvement with Salmon recorded from the River Taff and the River Rhondda . Migratory fish and otters, including other wildlife, are also now returning to rivers. However, the continued presence of man-made obstacles (weirs and flood defences) in the rivers is inhibiting their return to their pre-industrial condition.		Improvement in fish stocks but improvement schemes and protection still required. The SA

Salmon	8	The Taff and Ely, while not being renowned salmon rivers, have a considerable salmon run. Both are recovering rivers, the improving salmon population being a good indicator of the water quality improvements in these once heavily polluted rivers. Currently the Taff salmon fishery relies largely upon stocked and stray fish from other catchments to make up the bulk of the run.	required. The SA should include and objective to protect and enhance biodiversity, especially in river habitats. The quality of the river environment may also have impacts for tourism. This may be especially important for the economy in the less prosperous areas of the north of the County Borough.
Locally Important Habitats	62	Planted coniferous Ffridd/ bracken slopes Mineral and Coal spoil Urban Road verges Industrial estates Disused railway lines	Need to be taken into account
Locally Important Species	62	Heron Buzzard Peregrine Barn owl Swift Kingfisher	Need to be taken into account

	<p>House martin Dipper Whinchat Stonechat Vascular Plants Monk's-hood Cornish moneywort Ivy-leaved bellflower Black knapweed Bluebell Heath spotted-orchid Green-winged orchid Generic Lower Plant Plans Ferns Mosses and Liverworts Lichens Fungi Invertebrates Bombus monitcola Double-line moth Generic Species Group Plans Odonata (dragonflies and damselflies) Orthoptera (grasshoppers, crickets and allies) Mammals all non-priority bats Badger</p>	
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Indicator	Source	Current Data	Comparators and Targets	Trend	Issues for sustainability / Issues for the LDP																																															
SEA Topic: Air Quality																																																				
Air Quality Management Areas (AQMA)	9	A review has been completed. No Air Quality Management Area has been declared by this Local Authority.																																																		
Estimated background Air Pollution Data RCT Figures derived by calculating the average of all grid points from which data was taken.	10/11	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th rowspan="2">Pollutant</th> <th colspan="3">Rhondda Cynon Taff</th> </tr> <tr> <th>2001</th> <th>2005</th> <th>2010</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Benzene*</td> <td>0.35</td> <td>0.31</td> <td>0.26</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1,3-butadiene*</td> <td>0.12</td> <td>0.10</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td>CO (Carbon Monoxide)</td> <td>0.23</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td>NO2 (Nitrogen Dioxide)</td> <td>18.0</td> <td>16.0</td> <td>13.1</td> </tr> <tr> <td>PM10*</td> <td>18.0</td> <td>17.3</td> <td>16.0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>SO2 (Sulphur Dioxide)</td> <td>2.9</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td>NOX (Nitrogen Oxides)</td> <td>26.1</td> <td>22.3</td> <td>17.3</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		Pollutant	Rhondda Cynon Taff			2001	2005	2010	Benzene*	0.35	0.31	0.26	1,3-butadiene*	0.12	0.10	-	CO (Carbon Monoxide)	0.23	-	-	NO2 (Nitrogen Dioxide)	18.0	16.0	13.1	PM10*	18.0	17.3	16.0	SO2 (Sulphur Dioxide)	2.9	-	-	NOX (Nitrogen Oxides)	26.1	22.3	17.3	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Pollutant</th> <th>National Target (England and Wales) Annual mean to be below:</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Benzene</td> <td>5ug/m³ by 31/12/2010</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1,3-Butadiene</td> <td>2.25ug/m³ by 31/12/2003</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Carbon monoxide</td> <td>Running 8 hour mean to be below 10.0ug/m³ by 31/12/2003</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Lead</td> <td>0.5ug/m³ by 2004 and below 0.25ug/m³ by 31/12/2008</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Nitrogen dioxide</td> <td>1 hour mean not to exceed 200ug/m³ more than 18 times per year by 31/12/2005. Annual mean to be below</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Pollutant	National Target (England and Wales) Annual mean to be below:	Benzene	5ug/m ³ by 31/12/2010	1,3-Butadiene	2.25ug/m ³ by 31/12/2003	Carbon monoxide	Running 8 hour mean to be below 10.0ug/m ³ by 31/12/2003	Lead	0.5ug/m ³ by 2004 and below 0.25ug/m ³ by 31/12/2008	Nitrogen dioxide	1 hour mean not to exceed 200ug/m ³ more than 18 times per year by 31/12/2005. Annual mean to be below	National targets to be taken into account. Policies should be devised to enable targets to be reached or exceeded. The LDP may wish to ensure development creates minimal impact in terms of traffic generated in order to protect the air quality.
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		<p>Figures rounded to 1 d.p (NOX, NO2, PM10 and SO2), all other figures rounded to 2 d.p *Figure for PM10 2005 relates to 2004; Figures for benzene and 1,3-butadine in the 2005 column relate to 2003.</p> <p>Units: NOx (ugm-3 as NO2 annual mean); NO2 (ugm-3 annual mean); PM10 (ugm-3 grav. annual mean); S02 (ugm-3 annual mean); Benzene (ugm-3 annual mean); CO (mgm-3 annual mean); 1,3-butadine (ugm-3 annual mean)</p> <p>Figures show levels of pollution lower than national target, with improvements since 2001.</p>		<p>40ug/m³ by 31/12/2005.</p> <p>PM10 Annual mean less than 40 ug/m³ by 31/12/2004 No more than 35 days where daily mean >=50 ug/m³ by 2004.</p> <p>Sulphur dioxide 15 minute mean not to exceed 266ug/m³ more than 35 times per year by 31/12 2005 1 hour mean not to exceed 350ug/m³ more than 24 times per year by 31/12/2004 24 hour mean not to exceed 125ug/m³ more than 3 times per year by 31/12/2004</p>																														
<p>Climate Change - Estimated Emissions (million tonnes carbon equivalent) Wales</p>	<p>14 walesstats</p>	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th>1990</th> <th>1995</th> <th>1998</th> <th>1999</th> <th>2000</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Carbon dioxide</td> <td>11.1</td> <td>10.7</td> <td>11.3</td> <td>11.3</td> <td>12.3</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Methane</td> <td>1.6</td> <td>1.3</td> <td>1.3</td> <td>1.2</td> <td>1.2</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Nitrous oxide</td> <td>1.0</td> <td>1.0</td> <td>1.1</td> <td>1.1</td> <td>1.0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Basket of greenhouse gasses (a)</td> <td>13.8</td> <td>13.1</td> <td>13.7</td> <td>13.8</td> <td>14.5</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>(a) Also includes hydroflourocarbons, perfluorocarbons and sulphur hexafluoride.</p>		1990	1995	1998	1999	2000	Carbon dioxide	11.1	10.7	11.3	11.3	12.3	Methane	1.6	1.3	1.3	1.2	1.2	Nitrous oxide	1.0	1.0	1.1	1.1	1.0	Basket of greenhouse gasses (a)	13.8	13.1	13.7	13.8	14.5	<p>Emissions of C02 increasing. Methane- slight decrease. Nitrous Oxide no change Greenhouse gases are increasing overall.</p>	<p>The SA Framework should include and objective to reduce the production of greenhouse gases, through for example, reducing the need to travel.</p>
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<p>Ozone</p>	<p>11</p>	<p>2002- Three sites (Flintshire, Pembrokeshire and Rhondda Cynon Taff) had more than the ten exceedences of the standard allowed by the objective (29, 13 and 15, respectively). Ozone levels in RCT in 2002 were of the worst three in Wales. Ozone (O₃) is not a primary pollutant such as Benzene and Carbon Monoxide, being generated by a complex series of chemical reactions in the atmosphere involving oxides of nitrogen and volatile organic compounds. This fact makes air quality strategies particularly difficult as controls must address the precursor pollutants. A further factor is that the time required for generating ozone means that air masses containing pollutants move over time and so ozone is a transboundary pollutant.</p> <p>The second stage review and assessment carried out by RCT in 2003 concluded that air quality generally complies with the government's standards and is expected to improve as national and local policy initiatives provide continuing reductions in industrial and road traffic emissions.</p>	<p>Policies in the LDP will need to pay particular attention to locational factors which could contribute to traffic congestion. The cumulative impact of industrial and waste related activities which have air quality implications will also have to be considered.</p>
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Indicator	Source	Current Data	Comparators and Targets	Trend	Issues for sustainability / Issues for the LDP																			
SEA Topic: Climatic Factors																								
Greenhouse gas emissions (overall / per capita)		<i>Data gap</i>																						
National targets		See air quality (above)																						
Emissions of CO ₂ by Region, 2001	17	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th>Unallocated</th> <th>England</th> <th>Scotland</th> <th>N. Ireland</th> <th>Wales</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Emissions (ktonnes carbon)</td> <td>7,085</td> <td>116,206</td> <td>13,113</td> <td>5,696</td> <td>9,244</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Emissions/Capita (kg/cap)</td> <td></td> <td>2,336</td> <td>2,562</td> <td>3,366</td> <td>3,147</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Wales has comparatively low emissions of CO₂ compared to other UK countries. However, emissions per capita are larger. There is a heavier reliance on car use in Wales, and especially RCT.</p>					Unallocated	England	Scotland	N. Ireland	Wales	Emissions (ktonnes carbon)	7,085	116,206	13,113	5,696	9,244	Emissions/Capita (kg/cap)		2,336	2,562	3,366	3,147	See Transport and Employment. There is a need to provide more local employment opportunities.
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Reductions in CO ₂ emissions buildings	18	<p>1.11% Reduction in carbon dioxide emissions in the non domestic public stock</p> <p>% Reduction in carbon dioxide emissions in the housing stock is not available</p> <p>The building regulations (2005) will require low and zero Carbon (LZC) technologies within new build non residential developments through a notional LZC contribution of</p>				There is a need for more sustainable construction in the Plan area.																		

		10% additional reduction in carbon emissions. CO2 emissions reducing marginally.																						
Climate Change Impacts Wales	16	<p>There may be difficulty providing adequate water supplies for parts of Wales during dry summers by 2025 Much low lying coastal land in Wales is critical for its importance economically, for habitation, tourism, or for its natural habitats Sea level is expected to rise by about 40cm by 2080</p>			<p>Climate change may impact on water supply, farming, low lying coastal areas. Long term effects to be considered. Water use may be an issue in the future. Sustainable water use must be implemented now in order to mitigate long term effects. The SA should include an objective encouraging sustainable water management.</p>																			
	15/51/53	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Energy Type</th> <th>Wales</th> <th>UK Total</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Hydro</td> <td>386.0</td> <td>5107.8</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Wind</td> <td>346.4</td> <td>945.8</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Landfill Gas</td> <td>75.8</td> <td>2187.8</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Other biofuels</td> <td>20.0</td> <td>2233.0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>GWh</td> <td>828.2</td> <td>10474.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total</td> <td></td> <td>5</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Energy Type	Wales	UK Total	Hydro	386.0	5107.8	Wind	346.4	945.8	Landfill Gas	75.8	2187.8	Other biofuels	20.0	2233.0	GWh	828.2	10474.	Total		5	<p>The Government has set a target to generate 10 per cent of the UK electricity from renewable sources by 2010. At the beginning of 2004, 3% of the UK's electricity was generated from renewable sources. Rhondda Cynon Taf has 20 operational wind turbines in a cluster at Gilfach Goch with planning consent for 8 at Ferndale. Part of the County Borough is encompassed by one of the proposed TAN8 Strategic Search Areas Wales generates approximately 7.8% of UK total</p>
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		GWh Total	828.2	10474. 5		electricity generated from renewable sources.	<p>ongoing studies have refined boundaries.</p> <p>The SA Framework should include and objective encouraging the use of renewable energy sources in new development. The LDP should include an objective to enable renewable energy projects.</p>
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Indicator	Source	Current Data	Comparators and Targets	Trend	Issues for sustainability / Issues for the LDP
SEA Topic: Water Resources					
Water Use	50	<p>Water use in the catchment peaked in 1970 and then declined through the 1970s due to the fall in demand from traditional heavy industries. It has slowly risen since then but is still only just half of the peak in 1970. The dominant use of water is for public drinking water supply with Taff catchment sources forming an important part of the integrated water supply system for South East Wales.</p> <p>Possible water shortages during peak summer periods. See Climate Change above.</p> <p>Coal mining lead to the unbalancing of the coal measures/ groundwater flows (see groundwater flow regime)</p>			
River Habitats Classification		<i>Data Gap</i>			
Industrial history	22/ 50	<p>The wastes from the iron and steel works, coal mines, power stations, coke ovens caused a detrimental effect on the environments of the surrounding areas. The power of the River Taff and its tributaries was harnessed by the construction of weirs, and controlled by the most extensive system of flood defences of any river in South Wales. Improvements have been made since the 1970s due, in part, to pollution control legislation, economic development initiatives and the decline in heavy industry. Reclamation schemes and redevelopment offer opportunities for environmental improvements.</p> <p>Whilst the water pollution caused by traditional industries has largely ended, concerns remain over the risks posed by the widespread use of oils and chemicals in the new industries.</p> <p>Ongoing colliery spoil tipping at Tower Colliery continues to be monitored in terms of impact on local water quality in rivers and streams by the EA and regular liaison meetings organised by the local authority.</p> <p>The past and present disposal of waste has left a legacy, which continues to have an impact on the environment.</p>			<p>The SA Framework should include an objective to improve, protect and enhance the water environment especially that which has been subject to industrial pollution.</p>

Chemical river water quality	19	Chemical River Water Quality					Trends show that quality was generally improving across the borough until 2000. Between 2000 and 2003 there was a slight decline in chemical river quality.		
			GOOD	FAIR	POOR	BAD			HIGH
		Total Km	%	%	%	%			%
		1990	127	61	33	2			4
		1995	145	87	9	3			1
		2000	145	97	3	0			0
		2003	145	88	12	0	0		
Biological river water quality	19	Biological River Quality					Trends show an increase in percentage of river km with a 'good' biological water quality. Percentage 'poor' decreased, showing an overall improvement. (see waste – sewerage- for explanation of poor biological water quality)		
		Total k m	GOOD	FAIR	POOR	BAD			HIGH
			%	%	%	%			%
		1990	123	33	61	6			0
		1995	145	39	58	4			0
		2000	145	46	54	0			0
		2003	145	50	49	1	0		
River water phosphate levels	19	River Water Phosphate Levels						Trends show a decrease of river km classed within grades 4-6. Grades 3-4	
		A km	B km	C km	D km	E km	F km		

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1990	0	0	0	0	0	0	0																													
1995	112	23	10	0	0	0	0																													
2000	110	27	8	0	0	0	0																													






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		2000	110	27	8	0	0	0	moderately	
		2003	109	28	6	0	0	0	low	142
River Quality failure	22	Nant Clydach at Tonypany from the confluence with Rhondda Fawr to Nant yr Haul. One result for ammonia was significantly higher than normal putting this section of the river in RE4. This was probably the result of the inadequate sewerage system along this part of the river. Some improvement works have subsequently been completed. The target class is RE2 (Action Plan Issue TA/19) Some areas of river suffer from severe pollution levels.								The LDP should include an objective for development to not exacerbate existing problems of foul drainage capacity.
Contaminated Land	50	Redevelopment or disturbance of contaminated land sites could result in the mobilisation or leaching of any contaminants present into the water environment.	The Council's Contaminated Land Strategy has to date only identified a few sites which may meet the statutory definition of contaminated land which are being prioritised for further investigation in conjunction with other relevant bodies.						Schemes will require special precautions to be taken to prevent problems arising from the contaminated land on the sites.	
Sewerage system	50	Sewage is collected in extensive trunk sewer systems and either treated for discharge into the river at Cilfynydd, or conveyed all the way to the Severn Estuary where it is macerated before discharge at Rover Way, Cardiff. The sewerage systems are old and overloaded, so premature overflows from the many combined sewer overflows cause widespread water pollution problems and aesthetic nuisance due to sewage derived debris. (leads to poor biological water quality- see Water Resources).								The LDP may include policies that necessitate the improvement of the sewerage infrastructure as a condition of permission for new development. The SA Framework should include an objective to reduce pollution from sewage.
Sewerage	30	We are recommending to Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council that development at Hirwaun and Penderyn is restricted due to the inadequate local sewerage system (Action Plan Issue TA/29) A poor sewerage infrastructure can lead to problems of pollution in watercourses and therefore possible widespread pollution in a worse case scenario.								
Groundwater	50	Over most of the catchment (of the Taff) the groundwater contributions to summer								

		flows are modest, emanating from the carboniferous Limestone, the Coal Measures or from superficial deposits along the river channels. Because of this, river levels fall quite rapidly during dry periods.	
Groundwater flow regime	50	In places, the natural groundwater flow regime has been disrupted as a result of historical mining activities. Complex flow patterns have evolved along the shafts and adits of the old mineworkings. Iron-rich groundwaters are known to emerge from the old mineworkings at various locations in the area, some causing significant pollution problems. There are warm groundwater springs at Taffs Well which have, in the past, been used for bathing.	Groundwater protection is an issue that needs to be considered.
Abstraction from groundwaters	20		The LDP and SA should include objectives to protect groundwater source protection zones.

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Aquifers	50	The Carboniferous Limestone is considered to be a major Aquifer. Overall, groundwater resources are not exploited within the area. There are two boreholes in the northern area of the borough. With one large source protection zone in the Brecon Beacons	
Main River Catchments	50	The River Taff rises on the open moorland and forestry plantations of the Old Red Sandstone escarpment of the Brecon Beacons. The Taff is joined by the River Cynon and Abercynon and the River Rhondda at Pontypridd whilst falling through its narrow, urbanized valley. It then flows in a south easterly direction through the narrow limestone gorge at Taffs Well. From here it cuts a green corridor through the suburbs of the Cardiff Plain to the Severn Estuary. The River falls at an average gradient of 1:100 which, although steep, is typical of the South Wales valleys. Steep river gradients indicate possible short lag times in times of high precipitation which may lead to a flood risk.	Flood risk is an issue for the Plan and the SA

<p>Properties at risk from flooding</p> <p> Flooding from rivers or sea without defences</p> <p> Extent of extreme flood</p> <p> Flood defences</p> <p> Areas benefiting from flood defences</p>	<p>20</p>	 <p>Development Advice Maps, issued with TAN15 are based on the EA's extreme flood outlines (Zone C) and British Geological Survey (BGS) drift data (Zone B). Floodplain areas without significant flood defence infrastructure (C2) indicate that only less vulnerable development should be considered.</p>	<p>The LDP should include policies reflecting EA advice on development and flooding. An objective should be included in the SA to prevent increase risk from flooding.</p>
<p>Ribbon development in flood plains</p>	<p>50</p>	<p>Housing and Industry have extended in ribbon development along the river frontages on what was the natural floodplain. Over the years a number of these areas have flooded resulting in the construction of major flood defences by the Environment Agency and its predecessors.</p>	<p>The LDP should include policies reflecting EA advice on development and</p>

			flooding. An objective should be included in the SA to prevent increase risk from flooding in the valleys.								
Flood Defences	44	<p>Overview of 1998 October Floods in Wales – Performance of Flood Defences</p> <p>At many sites on the flood plain and as a response to historic floods, flood alleviation schemes have been constructed. This network of flood defences now provides some protection to most, but not all, major development areas on the fluvial flood plains. Examples of schemes constructed in South Wales since 1979 include:</p> <table style="margin-left: 40px;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="text-align: left;">River</th> <th style="text-align: left;">Locations</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Rhondda</td> <td>Gelli; Trehafod; Hopkinstown</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Cynon</td> <td>Mountain Ash</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Taff</td> <td>Pontypridd; Melingriffith; Radyr Court Road; Cardiff and Pontcanna Fields</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Most of the schemes listed above are designed to provide protection against an estimated 1 in 100 year flood level. Much investment has been made in the flood defence infrastructure across Wales and this investment resulted in significantly fewer properties being flooded during October compared with the last widespread flooding event in December 1979.</p> <p>At a number of locations the difference between observed river levels and the top of the defence appeared to be less than desirable. Examples where further investigation of performance will be undertaken includes Brecon, Ynysddu (Pontyclun), Treforest/Taffs Well and Hopkinstown.</p> <p>In conclusion, although flood flows were high at certain sites, with two exceptions they did not reach design conditions and overtopping of defences did not occur. Without these defences, many hundreds of properties would have been flooded. Their performance during October has therefore justified the investment made in them.</p>	River	Locations	Rhondda	Gelli; Trehafod; Hopkinstown	Cynon	Mountain Ash	Taff	Pontypridd; Melingriffith; Radyr Court Road; Cardiff and Pontcanna Fields	
River	Locations										
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Taff	Pontypridd; Melingriffith; Radyr Court Road; Cardiff and Pontcanna Fields										
Climate Change	47	Climate change is of great significance to water resources. Changes to rainfall patterns and amounts could affect how much water is available for people and for the environment. Climate change could also influence people’s demand for water.	The LDP should include policies which allow for the								

		<p>For example, if it becomes hotter, we may wish to water our gardens more. Present analysis suggests that over the next 25 years, summers could become drier and winters wetter, with more rain in total. Temperatures are likely to increase. Since many questions remain about the effects of climate change, it makes sense to use our existing water resources carefully, and to look for flexible solutions to future demands that can cope with different climatic conditions.</p> <p>Climate change will also lead to an increase in precipitation, and therefore, flood levels may increase as a result.</p>	<p>future effects of climate change, as well as any preventative measures. This may include sustainable water management. Transport and the location of development is an issue that underpins all policies. The SA should include an objective to reflect this.</p>
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Indicator	Source	Current Data	Comparators and Targets	Trend	Issues for sustainability / Issues for the LDP
Topic: Waste					
	Regional waste assessment / 23	<p style="text-align: center;">Percentage Changes in Total Municipal Waste Arisings</p> <p>Has shown the largest percentage decrease in municipal waste arisings in relation to comparators RCT has shown almost a 3% decrease in municipal waste. In comparison to other counties, this is a largest percentage.</p>			<p>The LDP should include policies that encourage the movement of waste up the hierarchy, and promotion of the proximity principle where appropriate. The SA Framework should include objectives of the same nature, as well as the encouragement of more sustainable modes of transport for the transportation of waste</p>
Municipal	28			Total waste sent to	The SA Framework

waste sent to landfill by source and local authority		Local Authority	Quantity of municipal waste collected and sent to landfill (tonnes)					
		2000-2001	Refuse	Other	Civic	Non-	Total	
		RCT	75,241 ton	7,762 ch old	16,271 y site	8,826 ch old	108,057	
		TOTAL WALES	955,923	90,611	268,156	222,556	1,537,247	
		2001-02						
		Rhond da Cynon Taff	73,361	9,362	10,173	16,141	109,037	
		TOTAL WALES	950,170	100,417	279,026	243,859	1,573,473	
<p>Figures include municipal waste collected and disposed of by incineration (279 tonnes in total in Wales) and hardcore recycling and tyres (1,229 tonnes) disposed of to landfill.</p>								
Major Landfill Sites- landfill gas	50	<p>In 1998, of the four major landfill sites in the area, Trecatti and Nant-y-Gwyddon have control systems but no recovery systems and Lamby Way is carrying out works to install a control and recovery system. The Bryn Pica landfill site has no current proposal to install landfill gas extraction but will need to do so as waste management licence conditions will in future require all major municipal landfills to collect and flare landfill gases.</p> <p>Landfill gas produced by the biodegradation of waste is made up principally of carbon dioxide and methane, both of which are significant 'greenhouse gases'. These gases are</p>					<p>landfill increased between 2000/2001 to 2001/2002. This increase was especially prominent in non-household waste which almost doubled. There was a decrease in waste from civic amenity sites.</p>	<p>should include an objective to encourage the movement of waste up the hierarchy. It should also include an objective that will encourage more sustainable waste management methods than landfill. The Plan and the SA should seek to become self-sufficient and restrict the movement of landfill waste to outside the County Borough.</p>

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		responsible for climate change.		
% of Population served by kerbside recycling collection (weekly)	24	67% of households have the services. Aim to expand the service to the remaining households by the end of 2005		The SA Framework and LDP should include an objective to increase access to public waste management facilities, including recycling. The LDP should include policies that improve the provision of sustainable waste management facilities.
Recycling Banks	25	<p>Bring Bank sites There are 42 bring bank sites in Rhondda Cynon Taf collecting a range of materials including paper, glass, cans and textiles.</p> <p>Civic Amenity sites There are 5 civic amenity sites in Rhondda Cynon Taf:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cymmer Road, Porth • North Road, Ferndale • Nantygwyddon Road, Gelli • Cemetery Road, Treorchy • Llwycoed, Aberdare 	Recycling sites are increasing and improving	.
Rhondda Cynon Taf Improvement Plan 2005 Performance 2004/2005	29	10.31% of municipal waste was recycled by the Council 4.35% of municipal waste was composted by the Council 85.02% of municipal waste was land filled by the Council Most municipal waste is sent to landfill		The Plan and the SA should seek to improve methods of waste management, and subsequently

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						reduce reliance on the use of landfill for waste disposal.	
Municipal recycling/composting rates by unitary authority, 1998-99 to 2003-04	27		1998-99	2001-02	2003-04	<p>RCT recycles/ composts a small percentage of its waste compared to other authorities in Wales. However, this figure has improved by 9 times between 1998 and 2004. The improvement for Wales was 3.7%.</p>	<p>The SA Framework should include an objective to improve recycling rates in the county. The LDP may wish to look at development issues to increase waste management facilities. For example, increasing space for composting facilities.</p>
		Swansea	2.1	12.7	19.7		
		Cardiff	4.2	5.1	12.5		
		Rhondda, Cynon, Taff	1.2	5.4	10.8		
		Wales	4.8	8.4	17.6		
Wales has seen a steady increase in waste across most of its areas.							
Forecast Municipal Waste Arisings 2001-2021 by Local Authority							

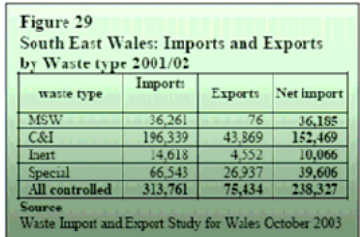
<p>High Growth Scenario (tonnes) of 2.68% a year, assuming that the increase in waste arisings continues, unabated by waste minimisation strategies and that the economy of South East Wales continues to grow at the same rate as recent years. Growth factor: 1.0268 a year</p>	<p>Regional Waste Assessment</p>	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th>2005/2006</th> <th>2011/12</th> <th>2016/17</th> <th>2021/2022</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Rhondda Cynon Taf</td> <td>143,194</td> <td>167,864</td> <td>191,639</td> <td>218,781</td> </tr> <tr> <td>SE Wales</td> <td>864,715</td> <td>1,013,687</td> <td>1,157,258</td> <td>1,321,162</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		2005/2006	2011/12	2016/17	2021/2022	Rhondda Cynon Taf	143,194	167,864	191,639	218,781	SE Wales	864,715	1,013,687	1,157,258	1,321,162	<p>The LDP and the SA should aim to move waste up the hierarchy and strive for improved management of waste generated.</p>
	2005/2006	2011/12	2016/17	2021/2022														
Rhondda Cynon Taf	143,194	167,864	191,639	218,781														
SE Wales	864,715	1,013,687	1,157,258	1,321,162														

<p>Medium Growth Scenario (tonnes) of variable growth assuming that recent growth rates continue for a short period and then reduction strategies have an increasing effect:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Until 2006 2.68% a year Growth factor: 1.0268 a year • 2007 to 2015 growth declining to zero, averaging 1.3% a year 4 Growth factor: 1.0000 a year 		<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th>2005/2006</th> <th>2011/12</th> <th>2016/17</th> <th>2021/2022</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Rhondda Cynon Taf</td> <td>143,194</td> <td>161,378</td> <td>165,751</td> <td>165,751</td> </tr> <tr> <td>SE Wales</td> <td>864,715</td> <td>974,520</td> <td>1,000,928</td> <td>1,000,928</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		2005/2006	2011/12	2016/17	2021/2022	Rhondda Cynon Taf	143,194	161,378	165,751	165,751	SE Wales	864,715	974,520	1,000,928	1,000,928	
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<p>Wales Waste Strategy Scenario (tonnes) of household waste declining to meet the secondary targets:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • by 2009/10 waste arisings per household to be no greater than those for Wales in 1997/98 Growth factor: 0.9966 • by 2020 waste arisings per person should be less than 300kg a year⁵ Growth factor: 0.9707 		<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th>2005/2006</th> <th>2011/12</th> <th>2016/17</th> <th>2019/20</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>SE Wales</td> <td>765,112</td> <td>705,040</td> <td>598,760</td> <td>542,845</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>				2005/2006	2011/12	2016/17	2019/20	SE Wales	765,112	705,040	598,760	542,845			
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SE Wales	765,112	705,040	598,760	542,845													
<p>Licensed Operational Waste Management Facilities in South East Wales</p>	23	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Type of Waste Management Facility</th> <th>Details</th> <th>Total</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Landfill:</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>a) Co-disposal Landfill</td> <td>Includes major landfill sites at Lamby Way, Cardiff and Trecatti, Merthyr Tydfil</td> <td>3</td> </tr> <tr> <td>b) Household,</td> <td>Including landfill sites at Nant y Gwyddon, and Bryn Pica,</td> <td>6</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Type of Waste Management Facility	Details	Total	Landfill:			a) Co-disposal Landfill	Includes major landfill sites at Lamby Way, Cardiff and Trecatti, Merthyr Tydfil	3	b) Household,	Including landfill sites at Nant y Gwyddon, and Bryn Pica ,	6			<p>LOCALLY GENERATED WASTE? WHERE BROUGHT FROM IF NOT?</p>
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		Industrial and Commercial (HIC) Landfill	(Rhondda Cynon Taff), Docks Way, Newport and Trehir Quarry, Caerphilly, Tythegston, Bridgend and Silent Valley, Blaenau Gwent				
		c) Non-Biodegradable Landfill	Mostly small and of local significance only	24			
		d) Factory Curtilage Landfill	Including the major industrial concerns at Aberthaw Power Station, Dow Corning, Monsanto and British Steel	7			
		Recycling:					
		e) Treatment Plants	Including Welsh Water Sewerage Works at Cilfynydd, (Rhondda Cynon Taff) and Nash, Newport	13			
		f) Vehicle Dismantlers		22			
		g) Metal Recycling		16			
		Transfer Stations:					
		h) HIC Transfer Stations	Includes six Clinical Waste Facilities	41			
		i) Household Amenity Facilities		23			
		j) Non-Biodegradable Transfer Stations		6			
		TOTAL		161			
		RCT has its own landfill and recycling treatment plants					
Waste Imports	59	The Report shows movements of waste to existing facilities with the largest net imports into the landfill sites in Merthyr,	In November 2003 a Waste Import and Export study for Wales was completed and made				

		<p>Rhondda Cynon Taf and Blaenau Gwent (271,000, 132,000 and 121,000 tonnes respectively) and Metal Recycling Sites in Cardiff (335,000 tonnes).</p>	<p>available. This analyses data for 2001/02 and shows that there was a net import into South East Wales in all waste streams</p>		
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Indicator	Source	Current Data	Comparators and Targets	Trend	Issues for sustainability / Issues for the LDP
Topic: Landscape and Townscape					
Landscape description	33	Rhondda Cynon Taff (RCT)* extends from the uplands of the Brecon Beacons to the edge of the Vale of Glamorgan (see Map 1, p8). The central feature is the coalfield plateau, which is cut by the Rhondda, Cynon and parts of the Taff and Ely river valleys. To the north of the coalfield plateau is the Brecon Beacons National Park, a small part of which is in the County Borough. The coalfield plateau is higher (600m), more remote and exposed in the north, with dramatic crags and extensive areas of forestry. Further south, hill farming predominates. The Cynon and Rhondda valleys are generally steep-sided with narrow and mostly built up valley floors, and bracken covered, farmed or wooded slopes. South of Pontypridd, the Taff Valley is wider but heavily developed. The southern part of the County Borough has a softer, more lowland landscape of farms, woods, commons, towns and villages.			The topography of the area will guide the location of development which is sustainable. The SA Framework should include an objective to promote community inclusiveness and access to services for all members of RCT's population. A Landscape Character Assessment should be considered as a basis of strategic decisions on development capacity.
Industrial Revolution	61	"The valley stretched for a distance of eight or ten miles between two nearly parallel lines of hills, broken by a succession of cliffs of singular beauty..... The emerald greenness of the meadows in the valley below was most refreshing..... The air is aromatic with the wild flowers and mountain plants. A Sabbath stillness reigns it is			

		<p>the gem of Glamorganshire. " Charles Cliffe, <i>The Book of South Wales</i>, 1847</p> <p>"The river Rhondda is a dark turgid, and contaminated gutter, into which is poured the refuse of the host of collieries which skirt the thirteen miles of its course. The hills have been stripped of all their woodland beauty, and there they stand, rugged and bare, with immense rubbish heaps covering their surface The whole length of the valley has become transformed ... the din of steam engines, the whirr of machinery, the grating sound of coal screens, and the hammering of the smithies proceed increasingly night and day, year in and year out. An unheard of wealth of industry and a great population have simultaneously sprung up together during the past sixty years ... The industrial townships of this valley appear to be inseparably connected in one continuous series of streets of workmens' cottages to Pontypridd. " A Morris, <i>Glamorgan</i>, 1908.</p> <p>The above contrasting descriptions of the Rhondda appear in David Egan's <i>Coal Society (A History of the South Wales Mining Valleys, 1840-1980)</i>. Published in 1987 by Gomer Press.</p>		
National Park	31.	<p>Brecon Beacons National Park</p> <p>4.2% of the Brecon Beacons National Park (5,626ha) lies within the borough.</p> <p>The Brecon Beacons National Park was designated in 1957. It is administered by the National Park Authority.</p>		
AONB				See Review of other Plans and Programmes for a summary of the AONB Management Plans
Special Landscape		<i>Data gap</i>		

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Areas					
LANDMAP		<i>Data Gap</i>			
Countryside Strategy		<i>Data Gap</i>			
Cynon and Taff River Park		<i>Data Gap</i>			Existing Local Plan designations will be reviewed through the LDP process.
Clean Rivers Project	49	The Clean Rivers Project is a Keep Wales Tidy initiative that aims to improve the aesthetic appearance of the riverine environment of Wales. The project works with Contractors, Probation Services, New Deal Units and most importantly local volunteers to achieve this aim. The project currently covers the 7 river catchments of Ogmere, Rhymney, Ebbw, Taff, Afon Lwyd, Neath and Afan, and receives funding from Neath Port Talbot, Rhondda Cynon Taff, Caerphilly, Torfaen and Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Councils, as well as from Environment Agency Wales, Environment Wales, Community Foundation in Wales, Ecovert, WDA and Welsh Water.			


Indicator	Source	Current Data	Comparators and Targets	Trend	Issues for sustainability / Issues for the LDP																							
Topic: Soils																												
Soil types	34	Podzolic Soils and Peaty Glays																										
Land Quality	36	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th>Grade 1 (b)</th> <th>Grade 2 (c)</th> <th>Grade 3 (d)</th> <th>Grade 4 (e)</th> <th>Grade 5 (f)</th> <th>Total Area (thousand hectares) (g)</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Rhondda, Cynon, Taff</td> <td></td> <td>2.4</td> <td>3.5</td> <td>35.8</td> <td>58.3</td> <td>29.0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Wales</td> <td>0.2</td> <td>2.3</td> <td>17.5</td> <td>44.7</td> <td>35.3</td> <td>1730.0</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>					Grade 1 (b)	Grade 2 (c)	Grade 3 (d)	Grade 4 (e)	Grade 5 (f)	Total Area (thousand hectares) (g)	Rhondda, Cynon, Taff		2.4	3.5	35.8	58.3	29.0	Wales	0.2	2.3	17.5	44.7	35.3	1730.0		<p>The LDP should consider issues regarding the support of the rural economy. This may include enabling policies in the LDP for farm diversification projects. Defining areas of high grade agricultural land (in RCT mainly along M4 corridor) will be important in the context of assessing the suitability of sites for development.</p>
			Grade 1 (b)	Grade 2 (c)	Grade 3 (d)	Grade 4 (e)	Grade 5 (f)	Total Area (thousand hectares) (g)																				
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Agricultural Land Classification, proportion by grade (a)																												
The majority of the agricultural land in the county is of low grade. Only 5.9% of the agricultural land is of a quality that is protected using this parameter.																												
Potential influence of climate change on agriculture	35	<p>Higher temperatures increase evaporation rates, reduce frost hazards and winter chilling, lengthen the growing season and accelerate plant growth. Heat stress may affect some crops...</p> <p>More rainfall is expected to fall in intense events, however, increasing runoff and the risk of erosion. Precipitation patterns might also become more variable, resulting in greater probabilities of floods and droughts – but this is still very uncertain. The</p>				<p>See energy. In an area already struggling in terms of soil quality, the effects of climate change are likely to worsen matters. See</p>																						

		<p>combination of higher temperatures and changed precipitation regimes has implications for water balances and organic content of soils, with consequences for irrigation demand and use...</p> <p>The potential for soils to support agriculture, and the future distribution of land use, will be strongly influenced by changes in the soil water balance. Where soil water deficits increase, crop productivity will suffer, and for some crops this is likely to result in the increased use of irrigation.</p> <p>Predicted climate changes are likely to increase the UK range of many native pests and diseases but decrease the range of others...</p> <p>Farm management will be affected by climate change. Soils, climate, markets, technology, capital and policy all influence the location and type of farming. In determining future cropping in a warmer climate, it is extremely important to take into account increased climatic variability and the pattern of rainfall (amount, distribution and intensity).</p> <p>Nevertheless, farmers should consider three strategies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • maintain or enhance their ability to adapt to change; • anticipate climate change in some decisions; • take steps to reduce emissions of greenhouse gases. 	<p>above.</p>
<p>Use of brownfield sites- previously developed land</p>		<p>A site which has experienced high levels of ground contamination – the former Phurnacite plant in the Cynon Valley- is subject to ongoing reclamation works where major contaminants have already been removed.</p>	<p>Opportunities will exist through the new LDP process for comprehensive mixed use schemes on large scale brownfield sites. Nevertheless some issues remain which will influence the forms of development acceptable. Community involvement will be essential. The SA and LDP should</p>

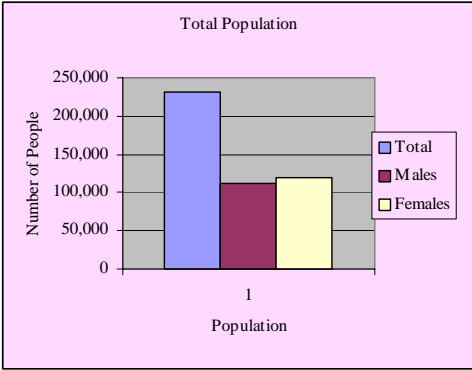
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				include an objective to maximise the use of previously developed land for development.
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Indicator	Source	Current Data	Comparators and Targets	Trend	Issues for sustainability / Issues for the LDP
Topic: Minerals					
Aggregates-Limestone	23	Forest Wood (RCT/Vale of Glam) (currently inactive: Hendy (RCT))		This region has large mineral deposits and so a higher than average proportion of the workforce is engaged in extractive industries (mining and quarrying) . RCT contains the only remaining deep coal mine in the area, Tower , which has over 400 employees. (Put below under coal)	Could have issues environmentally, socially and economically. The LDP and the SA should recognise the importance of the mineral extraction within the economy. This should be balanced against the impact on the environment and the community. The need to reduce demand for aggregates by recycling should also be recognised.
Aggregates-Sandstone	23	Craig yr Hesg (RCT)			
South Wales Regional Aggregates Working Party (SWRAWP)	23	A Minerals Technical Advice Note (MTAN) : Aggregates was issued by the Welsh Assembly Government in 2004 to advise local authorities of the need to properly plan for, and maintain a supply of, aggregates. Regional Aggregates Working Parties (RAWPs) monitor and assess supplies and produce an Annual Report based on information received from quarry and dredging operators.	Under the provisions of the MTAN the Assembly have commissioned a study which will consider the environmental capacity of each local authority in Wales to contribute to aggregate supplies. The Study results will inform a 5 year Regional Technical Statement to be prepared by each RAWP. Local authorities will be required to include appropriate policies in their development plans (UDPs or LDPs).		
MINERALS COAL SITES –	23	<u>Active:</u> Deep Mine			The LDP may have to identify and

<p>ACTIVE AND PROPOSED</p>		<p>Tower Colliery (RCT)*</p>		<p>safeguard primary resource areas for coal extraction depending on advice from a Coal MTAN yet to be published..</p>	
<p>Onshore sand and gravel resource areas in SE Wales</p>	<p>Source: minerals MTAN1</p>				
<p>Aggregates recycling</p>		<p>At the national level, the new guidelines are 19% below previous MPG6 requirements due to the national requirement of 23% recycling of the total demand from aggregates. This varies on a local scale, however.</p>			<p>The need for the recycling of aggregates should be recognised in the LDP and SA</p>
<p>Sand and Gravel Subregional Apportionmen</p>		<p>8 potential resource areas were identified in Rhondda Cynon Taff following a study undertaken by Symonds in 2000. Under Minerals</p>			<p>Areas to be safeguarded in LDP</p>

t		Planning Policy Wales and MTAN1: Aggregates there is a requirement to safeguard these areas in development plans.			
Building Stone		<i>Data Gap</i>			
Oil and Gas (Hydrocarbons)		<i>Data Gap</i>			
Forecasts		<i>Data Gap</i>			

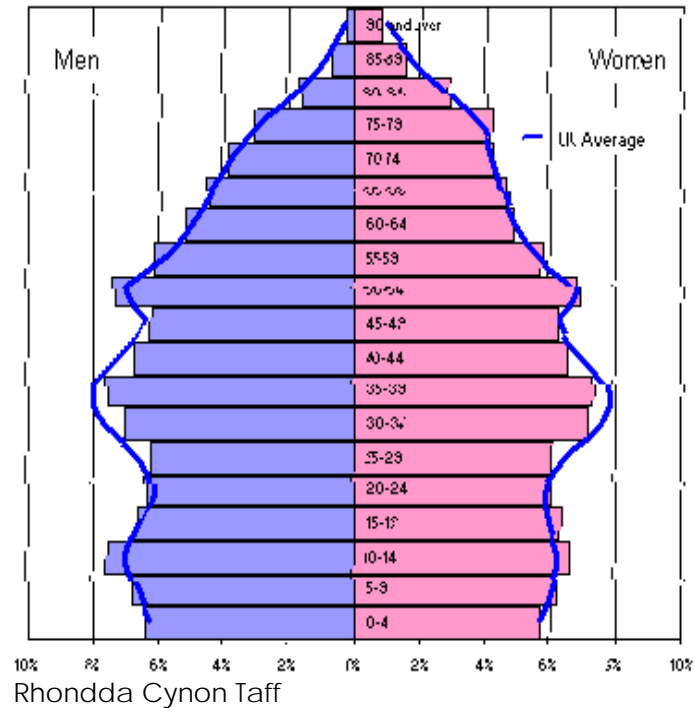
Indicator	Source	Current Data	Comparators and Targets	Trend	Issues for sustainability / Issues for the LDP								
Topic: Population													
Total Population RCT 2001	56	 <table border="1"> <caption>Total Population</caption> <thead> <tr> <th>Category</th> <th>Number of People</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Total</td> <td>~230,000</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Males</td> <td>~110,000</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Females</td> <td>~120,000</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Category	Number of People	Total	~230,000	Males	~110,000	Females	~120,000			
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Census 2001

For each indicator shown in the Census profile, the area's ranking among the 376 local and unitary authorities within England and Wales; and its ranking within Wales or the relevant English Government Office Region is shown.

In each case, rankings are calculated in descending order: the authority with the highest proportion for a given indicator is ranked '1'. It is important to note that all rankings are calculated based on percentage

38



Total	Males	Females
231946	112457	119489

Changes since 1991


Rhondda Cynon Taf

Value	-3000
Eng & Wal Rank/376 (proportion)	316
Welsh Rank/22 (proportion)	17

In comparison to other authority areas within England and Wales, RCT has had a low percentage change in population.

The SA Framework should include an objective to maintain a balanced population structure. The LDP may want to encourage the provision of a mix of house types and tenures, employment opportunities and community facilities.

size and not numerical values.				
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<p>Sustainable Communities</p>	<p>57</p>	 <p>In comparison to the rest of Wales, the plan area has a high proportion of the most deprived wards in the country.</p>	<p>The LDP may try to encourage development in the north of the plan area, through providing incentives for appropriate economic growth. Improvements in connections/access between the north and the south of the county borough may be encouraged in order to reduce the disparities between the north and the south. The SA Framework should include an objective to reduce deprivation and encourage mixed communities in order to attempt to eradicate pockets of deprivation. The SA Framework may also include an objective to improve access throughout the plan area, in order to improve quality</p>
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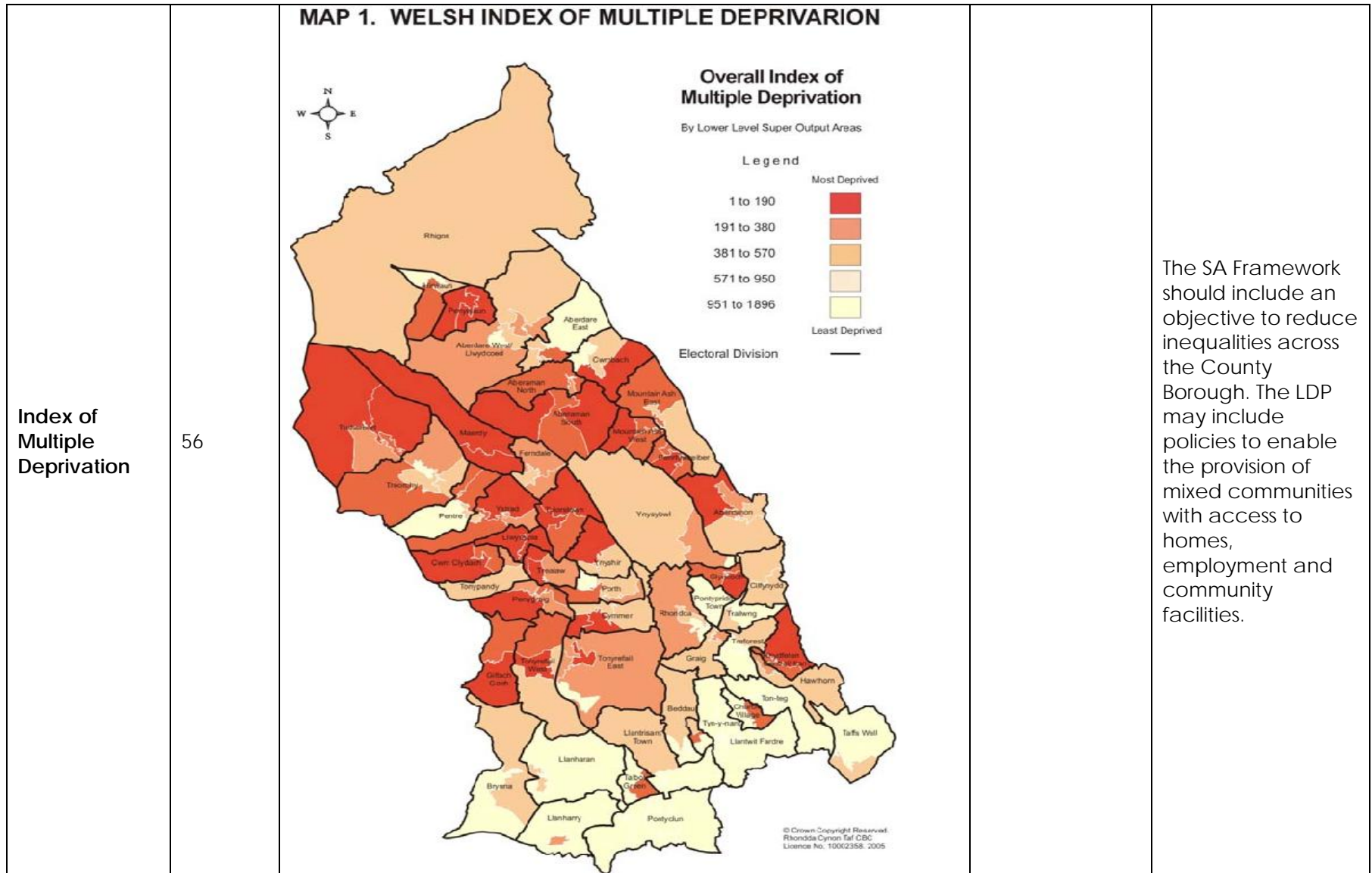
				of life.
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	55	<p>Rhondda Cynon Taff has a population of about 232,100, making it the second most populated authority area in Wales after Cardiff. The population has declined overall since the 1991 Census by about 3,000. This overall reduction is accounted for largely outward migration, and by a reduction in children, both in absolute numbers and as a proportion of the population, and conceals a substantial rise in the older population. In effect, the population is ageing, and is expected to continue to do so. In 2001 in Rhondda Cynon Taf 7.8% of the population were aged 75 and over.</p>					
Ethnicity	38	Ethnic Group (all people)	Value	Eng & Wales Rank/376 (proportion)	Welsh Rank/22 (proportion)		<p>The SA Framework should include an objective to encourage the integration of new communities into existing communities, especially for minority groups.</p>
		White	229273	76	14		
		Largest Minority Ethnic Group	Chinese (542)				
		<p>98.1% white compared to welsh average of 97.9% Chinese: 0.2%</p>					

Place of Birth	38	Place of Birth (all people)	Value	Eng & Wal Rank/376 (proportion)	Welsh Rank/22 (proportion)		
		Born in UK	227559	21	5		
		Born elsewhere in EU (inc Rep Ireland)	1944	342	19		
		Born outside EU	2443	360	17		
<p>The data shows that the majority of the population of the county were born in the UK, and others were mainly born within the EU. In comparison to England and Wales, the percentages rank highly.</p>							
Religion	38	Religion (all people)	Value	Eng & Wal Rank/376 (proportion)	Welsh Rank/22 (proportion)		
		Christian	150600	333	21		
		Buddhist	262	314	18		
		Hindu	269	254	12		
		Jewish	72	338	17		
		Muslim	571	260	11		
		Sikh	144	222	4		
		Other	523	228	12		
		No religion	58665	4	1		
Religion not stated	20840	22	3				
<p>The majority of the population of the county are Christian, with the second highest majority stating no religion. The proportions of the population stating no religion or not declaring a religion are amongst the highest in England and Wales. RCT has a high Sikh population in relation to other counties in Wales</p>							
						<p>The LDP may wish to encourage the provision of places of worship for all represented religions. The SA Framework may include an objective to encourage the integration of mixed communities.</p>	


Indicator	Source	Current Data	Comparators and Targets			Trend	Issues for sustainability / Issues for the LDP
Topic: Human Health							
Health	38	(all people)	Value	Eng & Wal Rank/376 (proportion)	Welsh Rank/22 (proportion)		
		Limiting long-term illness	63125	5	4		
		General health 'not good'	36373	5	4		
		People providing unpaid care	28998	10	7		
		Providing unpaid care 50 or more hrs/wk	8747	4	3		
Health-changes across wards.	55	<p>17 of our 53 electoral wards are amongst the 100 most deprived in Wales, with one ward ranking as the second most deprived in Wales. However, we also have some very affluent wards, with one ward ranking 836 out of the 865 wards in Wales. These widely varying circumstances are reflected in a difference in life expectancy of about five years, depending on where someone lives in the County Borough. Even more worrying is that there is growing evidence nationally that although health is improving for all sections of the community, the health of deprived populations is improving at a slower rate than for others, widening the health gap between the 'haves' and the 'have nots'.</p> <p>There are a considerable number of wards with high levels of multiple deprivation, particularly in some of the valley communities. In addition, some of our lifestyles often do not support good health</p>				<p>The SA should encourage the narrowing of the gap in health quality between the 'haves' and the 'have nots'. The LDP may choose to include a policy that encourages healthy lifestyles through the protection of</p>	

		<p>and there is little evidence of improvement, especially in the more deprived areas. There are worryingly high levels of smoking, obesity, unhealthy food choices, alcohol and substance misuse and an increase in sexually transmitted diseases. Obesity and unhealthy diet are compounded by poor access to healthy food choices, especially in the more deprived areas.</p>		<p>existing open spaces. Policies that reduce the distance travelled to places of work, and improve cycle and walking paths, may aid the encouragement of people walking or cycling to places of employment, as opposed to the use of the private car. The SA Framework should include a policy to encourage more healthy lifestyles.</p>
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		The map demonstrates the wide disparities between the south of the County Borough, and the rest.		
Drugs and Crime	58	About 70% of crime in the area is the direct consequence of drugs use. One third of the Rhondda Cynon Taff's wards have been marked as deprived and the Welsh Assembly are trying to address the issue through special funding. One of these wards is Pen Rhys, an ugly concrete estate which looks down into the scenic Rhondda valley. Some houses are empty, others wrecked. Their doors open and windows smashed.		

Indicator	Source	Current Data	Comparators and Targets	Trend	Issues for sustainability / Issues for the LDP
Topic: Material Assets (also see Transport)					
Roads	42/45	Strategic road links with the M4 motorway and an impressive range of commercial and industrial options make the area one of the leading locations in the UK for companies considering expansion or relocation			There may be an issue with accessibility once a main route has been left. The LDP and the SA may include objectives to improve accessibility away from the main route.

		 <p>The transport network demonstrates that RCT is relatively well served.</p>		
<p>Flood Defences</p>	<p>44</p>	<p>See Water Resources</p>		

Railways	45			
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Indicator	Source	Current Data	Comparators and Targets	Trend	Issues for sustainability / Issues for the LDP
Topic: Cultural Heritage (including architectural and archaeological heritage)					
Rhondda Heritage Park	43	The Rhondda Heritage Park based at the former Lewis Merthyr Colliery, Trehafod, is one of the top heritage and cultural visitor attractions in South Wales and provides a fun and interesting day out for individuals, groups, school children and students			
History	50	The Taff Valley and its environs has a large number of prehistoric sites and was the main route of conquest by both the Romans and the Normans. However, the main significance of the Taff, Rhondda and tributary valleys lies in the wholesale development resulting from the Industrial Revolution. Much of this development was linked to canals and water, the remains of which are very important reminders of man's past industrial activities. Unfortunately, few of these sites are statutorily protected and are highly vulnerable to			The SA Framework should include an objective to protect the historical and heritage sites in the area from development. The LDP may choose to provide a policy to encourage the protection of areas of historic or cultural value, whether or not they have statutory protection.

		development so need careful and proactive conservation and management.			
Historic Landscape	32	<p>Rhondda Uplands The historic landscape area of <i>the Rhondda</i> comprises the modern communities of Cwm Clydach, Cymmer, Maerdy, Ferndale, Llwynypia, Pentre, Pen-y-graig, Porth, Tonypandy, Trealaw, Trehafod, Treherbert, Treorchy, Tylorstown Ynys-hir, and Ystrad, all within the current Rhondda district of the Rhondda, Cynon, Taff County Borough.</p> <p>This important South-Wales historic landscape represents one of the largest and best-known mining conurbations and coalfield communities in Britain. The wider landscape is rich in a diverse and thematic archaeological resource of many periods and types, showing a high degree of cultural interest and continuity. Currently, the area is actively under threat from a wide variety of agencies, both public and private, in particular from landscape improvement, reclamation and urban renewal schemes. These are occurring at a time when there is not yet a full</p>			<p>To be considered. The SA may include an objective to preserve cultural heritage. LDP policies to conserve, record and protect the historic landscape which particularly reflects the industrial heritage of the area.</p>

		<p>appreciation of the value and condition of the archaeological resource, both industrial and earlier, and particularly in landscape terms. Potentially a big issue, particularly as much of Rhondda Upland Area is included in a Strategic Search Area for wind energy identified in TAN8</p>																																														
Welsh language	54	<p>Decline due to immigrant workers in 19th century etc Welsh speaking population as %age of total population aged 3+ 1931 – 1991</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Region</th> <th>1931</th> <th>1971</th> <th>2001</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>West Glamorgan</td> <td>40.5</td> <td>20.3</td> <td>16.9</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Mid Glamorgan</td> <td>37.1</td> <td>10.4</td> <td>9.8</td> </tr> <tr> <td>South Glamorgan</td> <td>6.1</td> <td>5.0</td> <td>7.7</td> </tr> <tr> <td>WALES</td> <td>36.8</td> <td>20.8</td> <td>19.9</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th>1991</th> <th>2001</th> <th>Born in Wales</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>MID GLAMORGAN</td> <td>8.5</td> <td>9.8</td> <td>89.7</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Bridgend</td> <td>10.3</td> <td>10.9</td> <td>85.2</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Caerphilly</td> <td>6.9</td> <td>7.2</td> <td>90.4</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Merthyr Tydfil</td> <td>9.3</td> <td>9.6</td> <td>92.0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Rhondda Cynon Taff</td> <td>10.5</td> <td>11.2</td> <td>91.1</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Relationship between being born in Wales and % speaking welsh language RCT has highest % welsh speakers in Mid Glamorgan. But Mid Glamorgan doesn't have a particularly high % compared nationally</p>	Region	1931	1971	2001	West Glamorgan	40.5	20.3	16.9	Mid Glamorgan	37.1	10.4	9.8	South Glamorgan	6.1	5.0	7.7	WALES	36.8	20.8	19.9		1991	2001	Born in Wales	MID GLAMORGAN	8.5	9.8	89.7	Bridgend	10.3	10.9	85.2	Caerphilly	6.9	7.2	90.4	Merthyr Tydfil	9.3	9.6	92.0	Rhondda Cynon Taff	10.5	11.2	91.1		<p>The SA Framework should encourage the preservation of the welsh language, as part of their cultural heritage. The LDP providing a good mix of housing and employment opportunities may enable local people to stay in the area.</p>
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Tourist Attractions	50	<p>The tourist value of the Rhondda Cynon Taf area is increasing through the development of</p>	<p>It has been estimated that the number of tourist days spent per annum in RCT stands at 3,073,000.</p>	<p>There is a target in the Council's</p>	<p>Provision for developing additional tourism</p>																																											

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		<p>sites of cultural value. These include: Part of the Brecon Beacons National Park, Rhondda Heritage Park, Nantgarw Pottery , Pontypridd Market, Llantrisant Old Town and the Taff Trail.</p>		<p>Economic Development Strategy to increase this by 1% per year – 30,000 tourist days. This is being progressed by more effective marketing and working with the Wales Tourist Board and Welsh Development Agency to promote the area’s external image.</p>	<p>attractions and accommodation will need to be considered in LDP policies. This should also be considered in terms of locational issues and economic regeneration. The SA should include an objective to sustain the rural economy.</p>
	22/50	<p>Recreational demand is increasing as the population enjoys more leisure time, and features such as the Taff Trail, which links urban areas with the countryside, and the lakes and reservoirs, attract many visitors. Anglers, canoeists and rowers all wish to use these features for their sport.</p>			<p>The improvement of the green infrastructure of the County Borough may be an issue to consider in the LDP, to cope with the demand for an increase in recreational facilities. The SA Framework should include an</p>

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Sustainability Appraisal

					objective to encourage healthy lifestyles.
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Indicator	Source	Current Data	Comparators and Targets			Trend	Issues for sustainability / Issues for the LDP
Topic: Settlements, Housing and Services							
Housing Overcrowding Indicator: provides a measure of under-occupancy and overcrowding. For example, a value of -1 implies there is one room too few and that there is overcrowding in the household. The occupancy rating assumes that every household, including one	38	(all households)	Value	Welsh Avg	Eng & Wal Rank/376 (proportion)	Welsh Rank/22 (proportion)	RCT has a fairly high population density in comparison to other areas. In assessing other indicators, RCT appears to be at about the Welsh average.
		Number of households with residents	94553	-	45	2	
		Number of people per hectare	5.5	1.4	176	7	
		Average household size	2.43	2.37	81	2	
		Vacant household spaces	4.6%	4.0%	33	7	
		Owner-occupied	75.2%	71.3%	131	5	
		Without central heating	5.6%	7.5%	217	12	
		Without own bath/shower and toilet	0.4%	0.4%	137	11	
		Overcrowding Indicator	4.8%	4.4%	163	5	

person households, requires a minimum of two common rooms (excluding bathrooms).					
Household Spaces and Accommodation Type 2001	56				The characteristic terraced housing should be preserved as part of the urban character. New development should provide a greater mix of housing types and tenures.
		Detached houses	12.2%		
		Semi-detached houses	26.3%		
		Terraced houses	52.8%		
		Flats	8.6%		
Settlement Pattern	RCT	Rhondda Cynon Taff is a diverse area, comprising a mix of urban, semi urban and rural communities. There are a number of principal and secondary towns dispersed throughout the County Borough that are centres for population and commerce, which include Pontypridd and Aberdare (the two principal urban areas) along with Llantrisant, Porth, Tonypany and Mountain Ash.			The LDP Strategy will need to identify a preferred growth option which takes into account the role of key towns
		An analysis of the housing			The challenge for

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		<p>market in Rhondda Cynon Taff indicates that there is a wide variation between property prices throughout the County Borough.</p> <p>Despite the variation in house prices the 2001 census indicates that levels of owner occupation in Rhondda Cynon Taff are markedly higher than the Welsh average of 68%. Owner occupation accounts for 75% of the housing market.</p> <p>As a consequence of the areas industrial heritage housing stock is dominated by 19th century terraced dwellings. In total terraced housing accounts for 53%, with semi detached housing accounting for 26% detached 12% and flatted developments 9%.</p>			<p>the LDP is to foster a dynamic and responsive housing market that meets both the needs and aspirations of the current and future population of Rhondda Cynon Taff. Fundamental to this is the need to ensure that future housing is distributed in an appropriate equitable and balanced way throughout the County Borough, which promotes opportunity but is respectful of environmental concerns</p>
Housing Land Availability	RCT	<p>A supply of housing land currently exists (May 2005) which can accommodate a total of 5386 units. In addition, small sites, ie less than</p>			<p>The Local Development Plan will provide for the County Borough as a whole. The Council</p>

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		<p>10 units could accommodate a further 467 dwellings.</p> <p>Housing land supply is currently calculated for each of the three local plan areas for the purposes of the Joint Housing Land Availability Studies. The latest published Study is for June 2003 where, using the residual method of calculation, for the whole of RCT there was a 3.7 year supply (Rhondda 2.4 years, Cynon Valley 4.6 years and Taff Ely 3.8 years).</p>			<p>will continue to work with the Welsh Development Agency : Land Division in determining five year housing land supply requirements in accordance with TAN 1.</p>
Affordable and Special Needs Housing		<p>In 2002 the Council and its partner Housing Associations Pontypridd and District, Cynon Taf, Rhondda, Newydd, Hafod and Wales and West commissioned a housing needs survey to determine the extent of housing needs and affordability in the County Borough. The</p>			<p>The Plan should seek to ameliorate the situation of a lack of affordable housing in the former Taff Ely area by requiring the provision of affordable housing on all new housing developments</p>

	<p>survey was updated in 2003. The results of the 2003 survey indicated that the total level of estimated housing need at 1400 households per annum. Taking into account data on the supply of accommodation over the period 1999 -2002 and an estimate of the rate of new build by Housing Associations the Local Housing Strategy estimates that the annual supply of affordable housing is 1798. There is therefore a net annual surplus of 398 affordable homes in Rhondda Cynon Taff. These figures however, mask considerable variation in housing needs throughout the County Borough which needs addressing. An under supply of affordable housing in the former Taff Ely area often requires</p>		<p>within this area .</p> <p>The SA Framework should include an objective to preserve established community networks wherever possible, providing a mix of housing types and tenures, and access.</p> <p>The SA Framework should include an objective to encourage the provision of facilities for disabled and special needs persons in new developments.</p>
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	<p>families with established social networks to move away in order to find suitable accommodation. If allowed to continue this trend will exacerbate the problem social exclusion and increase the potential for polarisation in the County Borough.</p> <p>The Local housing Strategy estimates that 19,877 or 20% of all households in Rhondda Cynon Taff have one or more special needs members. Within the number of households with special needs 67 % are owner occupiers whilst 9,576 households are below pensionable age, indicating that a very large number of households with special needs are younger than would normally be expected. "Physically disabled" is the main category of special needs.</p>			
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		<p>There are 11,236 households with physically disabled households with a physically disabled member and 4,891 with a "frail elderly" household member. These categories represent 56% and 24% of all special needs households respectively. Over 4,663 households in the County Borough have multiple special needs.</p>			
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Indicator	Source	Current Data	Comparators and Targets			Trend	Issues for sustainability / Issues for the LDP																						
Topic: Transport																													
Travel to work	38	Travel to work (all people aged 16-74 in employment)	Value	Eng & Wal Rank/376 (proportion)	Welsh Rank/22 (proportion)		The SA Framework should include an objective to encourage more sustainable modes of transport for people travelling to work. An additional objective may be to reduce the need to travel. The LDP should consider improving access routes and the introduction of more sustainable modes of transport as part of new development. Reducing the need to travel should also be considered as part of the land use plan.																						
		Travel to work by car	65356	19	7																								
		Travel to work by public transport	7227	182	5																								
		The data shows that the population of RCT rank highly in comparison to England and Wales, in terms of percentage population travelling to work by car. Compared to only Welsh authorities, both methods rank quite highly.																											
Travel to Work 2001	56	<table border="1"> <caption>Travel To Work 2001 Data</caption> <thead> <tr> <th>Mode of Transport</th> <th>Percentage</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Car:driving</td> <td>62%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Car:Passenger</td> <td>12%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Other</td> <td>10%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Train</td> <td>6%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Bus/coach</td> <td>6%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Work at home</td> <td>3%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Motorcycle</td> <td>1%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Taxi</td> <td>0%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Bicycle</td> <td>0%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>On foot</td> <td>0%</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>			Mode of Transport	Percentage	Car:driving	62%	Car:Passenger	12%	Other	10%	Train	6%	Bus/coach	6%	Work at home	3%	Motorcycle	1%	Taxi	0%	Bicycle	0%	On foot	0%			
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Car Ownership 2001	56				The SA Framework should include an objective to ensure equality of access across the County Borough. The LDP should seek to encourage reducing the need to travel, and the promotion of more sustainable modes of transport.
		Households with no car	31.6 %		
		Households with 1 car	44.9 %		
		Households with 2+ cars	23.5 %		

<p>Transportation Network</p>	<p>RCT</p>	<p>The distinctive geography of Rhondda Cynon Taff means that the County Borough has a linear communications network. Transportation links tend to follow the valleys, with access across the plateau being more difficult. The major roads, particularly the M4, A470 and A4119 provide excellent access to Cardiff and South East Wales. Access to Swansea and West Wales is provided by the A465 Heads of the Valleys Road. Whilst external communications are excellent, internal linkages can be more problematic. In some parts of the County Borough the main through routes follow narrow congested residential streets and town centres, which are unsuitable for heavy traffic.</p>		<p>Future Action on a regional basis will be linked to SEWTA's emerging Strategy which will supercede the current SWIFT Strategy. Opportunities will emerge which will need to be informed by a firm evidence base and the need to integrate land use and transportation policies in the Local Development Plan. Transport is a major issue that supports the economy and access. It is fundamental to sustainability objectives. Transport policies will be supported.</p>
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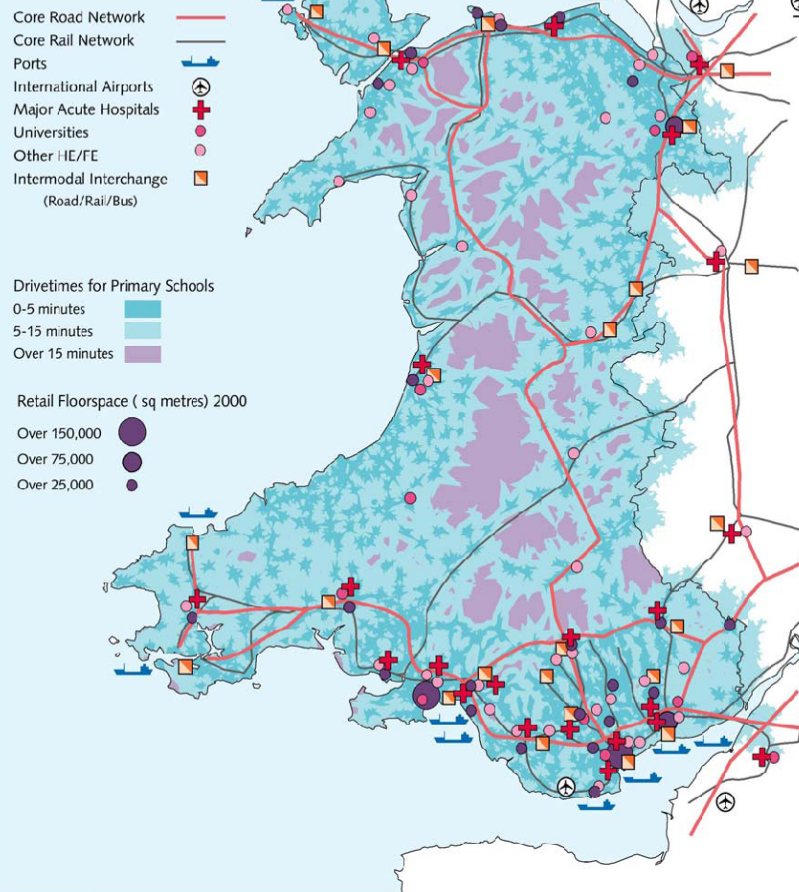
<p>Public Transport</p>	<p>RCT</p>	<p>Public transport provision in Rhondda Cynon Taff is provided by a combination of bus and rail services. The bus is the dominant mode of public transport in the County Borough. The area is served by more than 80 operational routes, these include regular cross boundary services to adjacent towns and cities. There is also an extensive rail network in Rhondda Cynon Taff with the County Borough being served by 22 stations. Train services operate to Cardiff from Pontypridd, Treherbert and Aberdare and to Cardiff from Bridgend with trains calling at Pontyclun.</p>			<p>supported throughout the policies in the LDP.</p>
<p>Integrated Transport</p>		<p>An efficient and sustainable transport system is a requirement for a modern, prosperous and inclusive society. Planning Policy Wales (2002) outlines clearly the Assembly Government's wish to extend choice in transportation and to secure accessibility in a way that supports sustainable development by encouraging the</p>			

		<p>establishment of an integrated transport system that is safe, efficient, clean and fair. The Assembly consider this can be achieved through integration:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • within and between different types of transport; • between transport measures and land use planning; • between transport measures and policies to protect and improve the environment; and • between transport measures and policies for education, health, social inclusion and wealth creation. <p>The integrated transport strategy for Rhondda Cynon Taff will be provided by a combination of the policy framework contained in the LDP and the Local Transport Plan.</p>			
Road Schemes	RCT	<u>The following schemes are identified in the current</u>			Schemes will need to be assessed in the

	<p><u>Development Plan documents</u> (these exclude committed schemes such as the A465 Abergavenny / Hirwaun Dualling; New junction on the M4 and link road to serve the proposed Dragon Film Studio development at Llanili;.A4058 / A4233 Porth / Lower Rhondda Fach Relief Road and A473 Church Village By Pass):-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>A473 Llanharan By Pass</u> • <u>A4119 Ynysmaerdy / Talbot Green Relief Road</u> • <u>A473 Talbot Green By Pass Dualling</u> • <u>A 4059 Mountain Ash Cross Valley Links</u> • <u>B4275 Penrhiwceiber Cross Valley Link</u> • <u>A4059 Aberdare By Pass Northern Extension</u> • <u>A4058 Gelli / Treorchy Relief Road</u> • <u>A4233 Upper Rhondda Fach Relief Road</u> • <u>A4119 Dualling – Coed Ely to</u> 		<p>context of whether they remain relevant in terms of integration into strategies which aim to achieve community and regeneration benefits. Local authorities are also advised that their approach should be compatible with the New Approach to Transportation Appraisal (NATA) which seeks to ensure that all possible solutions, including those which may not involve road enhancement, are examined. New guidance on the methodology involved is anticipated shortly from the Assembly.</p>
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Ynysmaerdy

Achieving Sustainable Accessibility



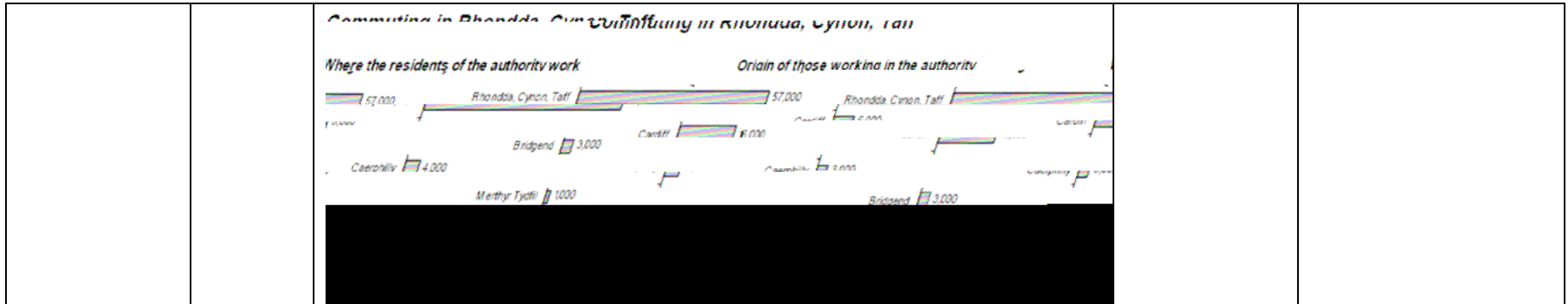
Access


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It is important that the spatial strategy builds upon strengths of the existing road and rail network.

Indicator	Source	Current Data	Comparators and Targets	Trend	Issues for sustainability / Issues for the LDP
Topic: Employment and Economic Development					
Economic Activity RCT 2001	56	Economic Activity			
		Percentage persons aged 16-74 economically active	57.2%		
		Percentage males aged 16-74 economically active	63.8%		
		Percentage females aged 16-74 economically active	50.9%		
		<p>Economic activity rates in Rhondda Cynon Taff are lower than the rest of Wales and Great Britain. The Economic activity rate for all those of working age is 68.9% for the authority compared to 73.8% for Wales. This is replicated by gender. A total of 73.6% of males of working age are economically active in Rhondda Cynon Taff compared to 78.7% for Wales. Similarly, for females the</p>			

		rate is 64.1% for Rhondda Cynon Taff, and 68.3% for Wales (Source: Labour Force Survey Nov 2001). The percentage of working age population in employment is 66.7% compared to 68.7% for Wales and 74.5% for Great Britain. (Source: Labour Force Survey Feb 2002).			
	RCT	Rhondda Cynon Taff is located within the West Wales and the Valleys Objective 1 designated area. The Gross Domestic Product for Rhondda Cynon Taff was estimated, at the time of Objective 1 designation, as being 64.5% of the EU average. The all Wales GDP estimate at this time was 81% of the EU average (Source: WERU).			There should be an objective to enable and support the local economy. LDP policies may wish to support the aims of Objective 1 funding.
Commuting	60	In terms of net commuting, Cardiff had the largest net inflow at 42,700, (23.5% of all people working in Cardiff). The largest net outflows were for Rhondda, Cynon, Taff (17,200, or 18.8% of all working residents) , the Vale of Glamorgan (17,100, or 31.8% of all working residents), and Flintshire (16,900, or 22.8%).			



<p>Funding</p>	<p>57</p>			
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Employment 2001	56	Percentage total population (persons) in:				
		Full time employment	36.6%			
		Part time employment	9.9%			
		Self employed	4.9%			
		Unemployed	3.6%			
		Full time student	2.2%			
Economic Inactivity 2001	56	Economic Inactivity				
		Percentage persons aged 16-74 economically inactive	42.8%			
		Percentage males aged 16-74 economically inactive	36.2%			
		Percentage females aged 16-74 economically inactive	49.1%			
Percentage Total Persons 16-74 economically inactive 2001	56	Percentage total				
		Retired	13.7%			
		Students	5.1%			

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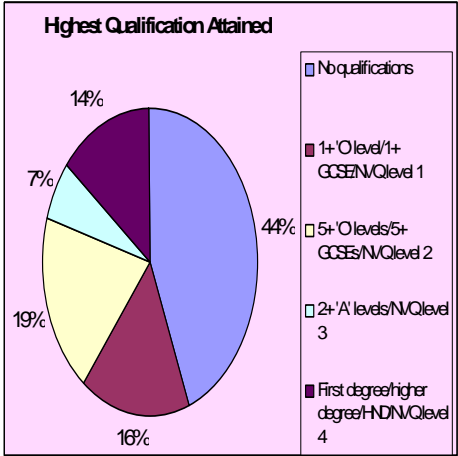
		Students	5.1%				
		Looking after home/family	6.6%				
		Permanently sick/disabled	13.0%				
		Other	4.4%				
Unemployment 2001	56	Unemployment					
		Percentage of unemployed who are aged 16-24	34.7%				
		Percentage of unemployed people who aged 50+	12.9%				
		Percentage of unemployed who have never worked	11.1%				
		Percentage of unemployed who are long-term unemployed	28.2%				

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Work	38	Status (all people aged 16-74)	Value	Eng & Wal Rank/376 (proportion)	Welsh Rank/22 (proportion)		
		Employed	85380	362	18		
		Unemployed	5927	105	11		
		Long-term unemployed	1674	123	14		
		Student (economically active)	3569	208	8		
		Retired	22770	221	19		
		Student (economically inactive)	8452	74	5		
		Looking after home/family	10934	114	9		
		Permanently sick or disabled	21493	5	4		
		Other inactive	7297	26	3		
		<p>RCT has a relatively high proportion of people that are permanently sick or disabled, in comparison to England and Wales, as well as Wales alone. Generally, the proportion of economically inactive people is relatively high, and the proportion employed, compared to other areas, is low.</p>					
Industry of Employment 2001	56	Industry of Employment					<p>The majority of people in RCT are employed in manufacturing (22.9%). The second highest proportions are employed in the wholesale & retail</p>
		Agriculture, hunting & forestry	0.5%				
		Fishing	..				

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		<table border="1"> <tr><td>Mining & quarrying</td><td>0.5%</td></tr> <tr><td>Manufacturing</td><td>22.9%</td></tr> <tr><td>Electricity, gas & water supply</td><td>1.1%</td></tr> <tr><td>Construction</td><td>8.6%</td></tr> <tr><td>Wholesale & retail trade</td><td>15.1%</td></tr> <tr><td>Hotels & catering</td><td>3.9%</td></tr> <tr><td>Transport, storage & communication</td><td>4.9%</td></tr> <tr><td>Financial intermediation</td><td>3.1%</td></tr> <tr><td>Real estate</td><td>7.1%</td></tr> <tr><td>Public administration & defence</td><td>6.5%</td></tr> <tr><td>Education</td><td>7.9%</td></tr> <tr><td>Health & social work</td><td>13.4%</td></tr> <tr><td>Other</td><td>4.6%</td></tr> </table>	Mining & quarrying	0.5%	Manufacturing	22.9%	Electricity, gas & water supply	1.1%	Construction	8.6%	Wholesale & retail trade	15.1%	Hotels & catering	3.9%	Transport, storage & communication	4.9%	Financial intermediation	3.1%	Real estate	7.1%	Public administration & defence	6.5%	Education	7.9%	Health & social work	13.4%	Other	4.6%			trade. The SA and LDP should consider enabling a wider range of employment opportunities through policy and employment land allocations in order to maintain a balanced employment structure.
Mining & quarrying	0.5%																														
Manufacturing	22.9%																														
Electricity, gas & water supply	1.1%																														
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Health & social work	13.4%																														
Other	4.6%																														
Business Framework	RCT	Rhondda Cynon Taff's total businesses in 2001 stood at 3710, representing just under 5% of Welsh businesses, while the Council's share of the population is 8% of the Welsh total. These figures suggest that the Rhondda Cynon Taff continues to punch below its weight in terms of its stock of businesses and emphasises the need to foster entrepreneurship within the authority as part of a regeneration package.			The LDP should include enabling policies to encourage economic development.																										
Employment Land Availability	RCT	221.61 hectares of previously identified employment land remains undeveloped in Rhondda Cynon Taff. This is evenly dispersed over the County Borough Council Area and is capable of accommodating a wide range and diversity of employment related users. Maintaining sufficient land to provide for employment needs to take into account the locational demands of businesses is a major objective of the land use planning system. In partnership with other			The land allocated for employment should be reviewed and reassessed as to why they haven't been taken up.																										

		strategies promoting community development and social enterprise, the LDP should seek to encourage the implementation of economic development strategies in maintaining positive policies and a range and choice of sites.		
Education 2001	56	 <p>Highest Qualification Attained</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No qualifications: 44% 1+ O level/1+ GCSE/N/Q level 1: 14% 5+ O levels/5+ GCSE/N/Q level 2: 7% 2+ A levels/N/Q level 3: 19% First degree/higher degree/HND/N/Q level 4: 16% Unlabeled segment: 19% 		The low level of educational attainment will impact on the economy. New companies require a skilled workforce.

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Appendix V i: Compatibility Analysis of LDP Objectives

COMPATIBILITY ANALYSIS OF KEY LDP OBJECTIVES WITH THE SA FRAMEWORK OBJECTIVES															
SA Objectives	Social Objectives						Economic Objectives			Environmental Objectives					
	Provide for the overall housing requirements through a mix of dwelling types	Promote & protect the culture & heritage incl. landscape, archaeology & language	Promote integrated communities, with opportunities for living, working & socialising for all	Provide an environment that encourages a healthy & safe lifestyle & promotes well-being	Reduce the need to travel & promote more sustainable modes of transport	Minimise waste, especially waste to landfill	Provide for a sustainable economy	Provide for a diverse range of job opportunities	Promote efficient and appropriate use of minerals	Improve, protect and enhance the landscape	Protect & enhance the diversity & abundance of wildlife habitats & native species	Improve, protect and enhance the water environment	Manage the effects of climate change	Increase the supply of renewable energy & reduce energy consumption	Promote efficient use of land and soils
1 Housing	++	+	+	+	++	?	+	+	O	-?	-?	O	?	-	O?
2 Culture & Heritage	+	++	+	O	+	O	+	+	O	O?	O	O	O	?	+
3 Communities	+	+	++	+	+	?	++	++	O	O	-?	?	+	?	+
4 Health	+	O	+	++	+	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	-?
5 Economy	+	+	++	O	++	O	++	++	+	O	-?	-?	O	-?	-?
6 Employment	+	+	++	O	++	O	++	++	+	O	?	?	?	?	?
7 Transport	++	+	+	+	++	+	++	++	+	O	+	O?	++	++	+
8 Built Environment	++	+	+	O	++	+	O?	+	+	+	+	++	++	++	+
9 Landscape	-?	O?	O	+	+	+	O	O	+	++	++	+	O?	O	+
10 Biodiversity	-?	O	-?	O	+	++	O	-?	+	+	++	++	++	O+	+
11 Water	-?	O	?	?	O?	++	O	-?	O	+	++	++	++	++	+
12 Climate Change	?	O	-?	O	++	++	O	?	+	O?	++	++	++	++	+
13 Energy	-	?	?	O	++	++	O	?	+	-?	O	++	++	++	++
14 Land and Soils	?	+	?	O	+	++	O	?	O	+	++	++	++	++	++
15 Waste	?	O	O	O	+	++	O	O	+	+	++	++	++	++	++
16 Minerals	O	O	O	O	+	+	O	O	++	-?	-?	O	+	+	+

Summary

- Most LDP objectives are identical to the SA objectives, and none of them are therefore incompatible when tested against the SA Framework.
- The LDP objectives address a variety of inter-thematic issues and would be more effective in guiding sustainable development if the headings (i.e. social, economic and environmental) under which they are grouped were to be removed.
- The only potential conflicts appear between LDP objectives that refer to the construction of buildings (e.g. housing provision) and infrastructure, and environmental SA objectives, due to the lack of information regarding construction material and location. They could be improved by inserting a preference for the refurbishment of buildings to new build, the use of brownfield land, and concentrating development within existing settlements. Also beneficial would be to include a requirement for sustainable construction and management techniques. It is recommended to add SA objective 8, which deals with such issues, to the LDP objectives.
- SA objective 9 seeks to protect the countryside. The equivalent LDP objectives should be expanded to that respect as it currently only refers to "landscape".
- To avoid the uncertainties about the compatibility of the economic and social LDP objectives with environmental SA objectives it is recommended to insert a references to sustainable construction/production techniques, and for supporting jobs and business in environmental protection/ innovation industries, such as recycling, pollution control, insulation etc.

Key

++ Positive compatible

+ Compatible

O Neutral, or not relevant to the SA objective

- Potential conflict

-- Incompatible

? Uncertain - dependent on other factors or further details

Appendix V ii: Sustainability Appraisal of Spatial Strategy Options

Key:

DG	Development actively encouraged as it would resolve an existing sustainability problem
LG	No sustainability constraints and development acceptable
B	Neutral or unknown effect
Y	Potential sustainability issues; mitigation and /or negotiation possible
O	Problematical and improbable because of known sustainability issues; mitigation or negotiation difficult and /or expensive
R	Absolute sustainability constraints to development

SA OBJECTIVE	TRENDS BASED STRATEGY	LOCAL NEEDS STRATEGY	CONSOLIDATION STRATEGY	SUSTAINABLE GROWTH STRATEGY	GROWTH / LOCAL NEEDS STRATEGY
1 HOUSING	Would reduce dwelling choices and would not allow people to remain in their communities. Unlikely to protect existing housing stock due to increased use of greenfield site for new units.	C Would contribute to integrated communities by allowing local people to remain in their communities and by promoting development based on need, including housing need.	LG May protect and enhance communities in the north but could lead to decline in southern settlements and their facilities, preventing local residents from finding suitable dwellings within their community.	B Concentrating population in growth areas will provide a wide range of dwelling types, with various facilities close by. This would encourage more self sustained communities with fewer local people needing to leave or commute.	DG Would build on the choice benefits of growth areas, by allowing locally guided development in some settlements. This would increase local identity as well as meeting housing needs.

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SA OBJECTIVE	TRENDS BASED STRATEGY		LOCAL NEEDS STRATEGY		CONSOLIDATION STRATEGY		SUSTAINABLE GROWTH STRATEGY		GROWTH / LOCAL NEEDS STRATEGY
2 CULTURE AND HERITAGE	Would lead to a loss of local identity and industrial heritage, especially in the north, where a decline in population may also threaten the retention of the Welsh language.	C	Would assist in preserving and enhancing cultural heritage in existing settlements.	I	Would help preserve local identity and industrial heritage, especially in the north.	I	Would help protect local heritage and cultural identity by channelling new developments in key growth areas.	I	Would help protect local heritage and cultural identity by channelling new developments in key growth areas as well as protecting locally defined country side areas and historic settlements.
3 COMMUNITIES	Would severely increase disparities between northern and southern wards. It does not promote mixed development and would therefore limit provision of local community facilities in accessible places.	R	Could promote integrated communities by encouraging provision of local facilities in accessible locations and support the viability of town centres.	L	Would help reduce disparities between the northern and southern wards and therefore encourage the provision of more accessible community and education facilities as well as employment opportunities. Could revive community engagement and active citizenship	L	Would promote compact communities, providing the critical mass for accessible opportunities for living, working and socialising. Help reduce disparities between the northern and southern wards.	L	Would promote compact settlements, which provide the critical mass for accessible opportunities for living, working and socialising. Would help reduce disparities between the northern and southern wards, whilst considering individual local need

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SA OBJECTIVE	TRENDS BASED STRATEGY	LOCAL NEEDS STRATEGY	CONSOLIDATION STRATEGY	SUSTAINABLE GROWTH STRATEGY	GROWTH / LOCAL NEEDS STRATEGY
4. HEALTH	Due to the expected low-density development structure beyond confined towns and villages, access to healthcare facilities would be reduced, and limited to car use. This, in addition to reduced recreational opportunities and open space (even though more units would be provided with gardens) would not lead to an environment that promotes a healthy and safe lifestyle or one that promotes well-being.	Would enhance access to healthcare facilities, and provide recreational facilities and open spaces tailored to local circumstances. May lead to reduced car use, with associated lower levels of noise, light, odour and air pollution.	Would, especially in northern communities, improve access to healthcare and recreational facilities thereby contributing to an environment that encourages a healthy, safe lifestyle and promotes well being.	Compact settlements would provide the critical mass for accessible healthcare and leisure facilities as well as reducing the need to travel by car with associated lower levels of noise, light, odour and air pollution. Would provide an environment that encourages a healthy and safe lifestyle and promotes well-being.	Compact settlements would provide the critical mass for accessible healthcare and leisure facilities and reduce need the need to travel by car with associated lower levels of noise, light, odour and air pollution. Would encourage a healthy and safe lifestyle. Would provide an environment that encourages a healthy and safe lifestyle and promotes well-being based on individual local circumstances.

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SA OBJECTIVE	TRENDS BASED STRATEGY	LOCAL NEEDS STRATEGY	CONSOLIDATION STRATEGY	SUSTAINABLE GROWTH STRATEGY	GROWTH / LOCAL NEEDS STRATEGY
5 ECONOMY	Would not provide for a sustainable economy: neither encourages local growth, nor take into account identified strategic economic aspirations. Would accelerate decline and deprivation in the northern areas of high unemployment and economic inactivity. The rural economy and sustainable tourism would not be supported. Disperse population in low density development would jeopardise the vitality of town centres.	R Could provide for a sustainable economy based on local circumstances. Would encourage indigenous investment, promote healthy town centres and may support the rural economy and sustainable tourism. Would, however, not cater for borough wide and strategic economic aspirations to diversify into new sectors in sub-regionally significant growth locations.	I Could provide for a sustainable economy especially in northern areas of high unemployment and economic inactivity. Would lead to a district wide balanced land bank and encourage appropriate inward and indigenous investment. Would support the rural economy and sustainable tourism. Could help in promoting healthy town centres, especially in northern wards.	I Would provide for a sustainable economy, by concentrating growth in compact settlements. Would encourage appropriate inward and indigenous investment and promotes healthy town centres.	I Would provide for a sustainable economy by concentrating development in compact growth settlements and tailoring economic activities to individual local circumstances. Would encourage appropriate inward and indigenous investment as well as promoting healthy town centres.
6 EMPLOYMENT	Left to market forces it is unlikely that this strategy would deliver a diverse range of job and training opportunities for a range of skills in accessible locations.	C Would provide local jobs in accessible locations and therefore reduce the need for commuting, but it would not diversify or maximise employment opportunities as it does not aim to supply the spatial framework to address strategic economic aspiration e.g. requires new sector clusters in key growth locations.	I Would increase the diversity of range of job opportunities within the northern wards and reduces the need for commuting. Could balance out employment opportunities for a range of skills levels across the borough.	I Would provide for a diverse range of job opportunities by maximising employment opportunities for a range of skills levels in accessible growth areas, thereby reducing the need for out-commuting from the Borough for work.	I Would provide for a diverse range of job opportunities by maximising employment opportunities for a range of skills levels in accessible growth areas as well as in identified settlements based on individual local requirements. Would reduce the need for out-commuting from the Borough & support the vitality of town centres.

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SA OBJECTIVE	TRENDS BASED STRATEGY	LOCAL NEEDS STRATEGY	CONSOLIDATION STRATEGY	SUSTAINABLE GROWTH STRATEGY	GROWTH / LOCAL NEEDS STRATEGY
7 TRANSPORT	The low density development pattern with community facilities and shops dispersed outside town centres would increase the need to travel, mainly by car. Without key transport originators and destinations an integrated transport system cannot function well enough to provide a realistic alternative to the private car.	R Would reduce the need to travel due to transport destinations being concentrated within individual settlements. Such a land-use pattern with accessible interchanges would create demand for public transport, and naturally encourages walking and cycling due to shorter distances.	L Reduce the need for commuting in northern area but would not encourage an integrated urban transport system due to the lack of defined settlements in which facilities, shops, housing and jobs are concentrated.	I Concentrating development in compact key areas would reduce the need to travel and promote more sustainable modes of transport. A public transport system within and between urban settlements becomes viable and shorter journey lengths would naturally encourage walking and cycling.	I Concentrating development in compact key areas would reduce the need to travel and promote more sustainable modes of transport, especially if it is tailored to local circumstances. A public transport system within and between urban settlements becomes viable and shorter journey lengths would encourage walking & cycling.
8 BUILT ENVIRONMENT	Would lead to low density, sub-urban type settlements, and would erode local character and distinctiveness. Such a land use pattern has a high land take and will increase pressure on the release of green fields sites. It is unlikely to promote methods of sustainable construction or provide green infrastructure corridors for people and wildlife.	R Likely to result in a high quality built environment that promotes community pride, by protecting and enhancing local character and distinctiveness. Such settlement forms present a good opportunity to promote green infrastructure corridors for people and wildlife.	I Would protect and enhance local character and distinctiveness, especially in northern settlements and would ease development pressure in southern areas, preserving the character of smaller settlements.	I Would promote high-density development within the key growth areas. The expected increase in new buildings would lead to (given latest planning requirements) to higher design standards, incorporating methods of sustainable construction and green infrastructure. Would ease development pressure in other settlements, preserving their local character and distinctiveness	I Would promote high-density development within the key growth areas. The expected increase in new building would lead to (given latest planning requirements) higher design standards, incorporating methods of sustainable construction and green infrastructure. Would not only preserve the local character and distinctiveness but also takes into account based on local potential.

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SA OBJECTIVE	TRENDS BASED STRATEGY	LOCAL NEEDS STRATEGY	CONSOLIDATION STRATEGY	SUSTAINABLE GROWTH STRATEGY	GROWTH / LOCAL NEEDS STRATEGY
9 LANDSCAPE	Would harm the countryside by increasing pressure for the release of greenfield sites.	R Although it would focus development in existing settlements, these may be expanded based on identified individual need, especially within northern wards. This and the necessary transport links between these dispersed settlements could lead to further take up of previously undeveloped land.	E Would lead to development within the country side especially within the north areas. This may increase the pressure to develop land in designated areas.	N Would protect the countryside by channelling investment in identified growth areas. It would decrease development pressure on peripheral settlements.	I Would greatly improve, protect and enhance the countryside as well as designated and other sensitive areas by taking into account individual local natural features when identifying key growth areas.
10 BIODIVERSITY	Would lead to an increased uptake of greenfield sites, especially in the south and may therefore reduce the diversity and abundance of wildlife habitats and native species. This would mostly affect undesignated areas of local value. The low density layout could not integrate the protection or creation of habitat into the design of new development and would not promote ecologically based land management.	R Would protect and enhance wildlife habitats and species, of local value, but a disperse land use pattern could lead to fragmentation of larger habitats.	E Would in northern wards result in erosion and fragmentation of valuable wildlife habitats.	N Concentrating development and growth in several key areas would protect biodiversity within the remaining countryside.	I Concentrating development and growth in several key areas, and taking into account local circumstances would protect and enhance the diversity and abundance of wildlife habitats and native species borough-wide as well as protecting locally important areas, especially when this is coupled with green corridors, wild live routes and small scale habitats within built up areas.

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SA OBJECTIVE	TRENDS BASED STRATEGY	LOCAL NEEDS STRATEGY	CONSOLIDATION STRATEGY	SUSTAINABLE GROWTH STRATEGY	GROWTH / LOCAL NEEDS STRATEGY	
11WATER	Dispersed, uncontrolled development is more likely to impact upon water resources, including through diffuse pollution. There would be less opportunities to implement sustainable water management.	R	Would create a dispersed spatial settlement pattern that renders the protection of the water environment (apart from some locally important wetlands and river frontages) and promotion of sustainable water management difficult and, due to lack of economies of scale, prohibitively expensive.	Increased development and population in northern wards would increase pressure on water resources, supply and drainage.	Concentrating development and growth in several key areas would inevitably preserve the water environment within the surrounding countryside. A geographically confined population would enable sustainable water management including efficient water usage and use of sustainable drainage systems, to protect groundwater sources.	Concentrating development and growth in several key areas would inevitably preserve the water environment within the surrounding countryside. A geographically confined population would enable sustainable water management including efficient water usages and use of sustainable drainage systems, to protect groundwater sources. Tailoring solutions to individual local circumstances will increase this effect.

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SA OBJECTIVE	TRENDS BASED STRATEGY	LOCAL NEEDS STRATEGY	CONSOLIDATION STRATEGY	SUSTAINABLE GROWTH STRATEGY	GROWTH / LOCAL NEEDS STRATEGY
12 CLIMATE CHANGE	The inefficient use of land, resources and infrastructure together with the increased need to travel by car, resulting from this spatial development pattern, would in fact accelerate climate change by contributing to the greenhouse effect.	<p>R Uncertain. Impact on climate change is dependent on other factors and further details.</p> <p>Although a dispersed settlement is unlikely to contribute to a carbon-neutral community, the reduce need to travel may lead to less greenhouse gas emissions.</p>	<p>I Uncertain. Impact on climate change is dependent on other factors and further details.</p> <p>Although higher building rates and the increased pressure on resources within northern wards would not contribute to carbon-neutral communities, the reduce need to commute would lead to reducing greenhouse gas emissions.</p>	Concentrating population in compact settlements would help manage the effects of climate change due to efficient use of infrastructures, buildings and reduced need to travel.	<p>I Concentrating population in compact settlements would help manage the effects of climate change, due to efficient use of infrastructures, buildings and reduced need to travel.</p> <p>Applying locally derived measures to individual circumstances will greatly increase the positive effects, for instance though the use of locally available energy sources.</p>

SA OBJECTIVE	TRENDS BASED STRATEGY	LOCAL NEEDS STRATEGY	CONSOLIDATION STRATEGY	SUSTAINABLE GROWTH STRATEGY	GROWTH / LOCAL NEEDS STRATEGY
13 ENERGY	<p>Would lead to more newly-built detached dwellings instead of reusing the existing built fabric, resulting in inefficient use of resources and increased need to travel by car. Higher energy consumption and use of non renewable fossil fuel is inevitable.</p>	<p>R Uncertain. Impact on energy consumption is dependent on other factors and further details.</p> <p>Although dispersed settlements are unlikely to contribute to energy efficient construction and management practices, the reduced need to travel may decrease consumption of non-renewable energy sources.</p>	<p>I Uncertain. Impact on energy consumption is dependent on other factors and further details.</p> <p>Although higher building rates and use of material would increase energy consumption in northern wards, the reduced need to commute may decrease consumption of non-renewable energy sources.</p>	<p>I Compact settlements would enable the application of energy saving construction methods for buildings and infrastructure as well as reducing energy consumption during their management and maintenance. Shorter journey lengths would allow measures to reduce traffic to be more successful and therefore reduce fuel consumption. High density, especially high-rise office building and apartments have greater potential to incorporate energy efficiency measures, especially regarding insulation and temperature regulation.</p>	<p>I Compact settlements would enable the application of energy saving construction methods as well as reducing energy consumption during management/ maintenance. Reduced need to travel would lower fuel consumption. High-rise building, have greater potential to apply energy efficiency measures. Applying locally derived measures to individual circumstances will greatly increase the positive effects, such as using passive solar energy at south facing hill sides, wind energy on higher ground, or hydroelectric energy from rivers and increased insulation within sheltered valleys.</p>

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SA OBJECTIVE	TRENDS BASED STRATEGY	LOCAL NEEDS STRATEGY	CONSOLIDATION STRATEGY	SUSTAINABLE GROWTH STRATEGY	GROWTH / LOCAL NEEDS STRATEGY					
14 LAND AND SOILS	The expected low density, suburban-type built form in marketable locations would increase general land take up, especially on green field sites, and does not encourage the reuse of previously developed land.	R	Would promote efficient use of land and soils by encouraging the reuse of previously developed land in existing settlements.	L C	Promoting growth in northern wards would lead to the development of greenfield land. Lack of investment in southern area could deter the reclamation of contaminated land, thereby exacerbating dereliction and pollution to land and soils.	H	High density development in compact settlements would result in more efficient use of land and soils, as it requires the re-use of previously developed land and buildings and (due to demand) would trigger their restoration and reclamation.	I C	High-density development in compact settlement will promote efficient use of land and soils, as it requires the re-use of previously developed land and buildings and (due to demand) would trigger their restoration and reclamation. The positive effect is enhanced when local circumstances are taken into account, such as topography and the regeneration potential offered by the industrial heritage.	I C

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SA OBJECTIVE	TRENDS BASED STRATEGY	LOCAL NEEDS STRATEGY	CONSOLIDATION STRATEGY	SUSTAINABLE GROWTH STRATEGY	GROWTH / LOCAL NEEDS STRATEGY
15 WASTE	Uncertain. Waste production and treatment is dependent on other factors and further details. Low density settlement patterns are unlikely to achieve efficient waste treatment, or successful recycling schemes.	Uncertain. Waste production and treatment is dependent on other factors and further details	Uncertain. Waste production and treatment is dependent on other factors and further details	Although waste production and treatment is dependent on other factors and further details, compact settlements, due to shared use of building and infrastructure tend generate less waste and have greater potential for successful recycling and sustainable waster treatment schemes.	Although waste production and treatment is dependent on other factors and further details, compact settlements, due to shared use of building and infrastructure, tend generate less waste and have greater potential for successful recycling and sustainable waster treatment schemes.
16 MINERALS	Increase construction activity for detached dwellings and infrastructure would increase the use of minerals.	Uncertain. Mineral consumption is dependent on other factors and further details.	Increase construction activity in northern areas for dwellings and infrastructure would increase the use of minerals.	Compact settlements have potential to use minerals efficiently.	Compact settlements have potential to use minerals efficiently. Especially when locally sourced.
SA SYNOPSIS	Absolute sustainability constraints to development.	No sustainability constraints and strategy acceptable.	Potential sustainability issues; mitigation and /or negotiation possible.	No sustainability constraints and strategy acceptable.	Strategy actively encouraged, as it would resolve existing sustainability problems.

SUMMARY:

The hybrid Local Need/Sustainable Growth Strategy is the most sustainable option, scoring best against all sustainability objectives. Concentrating development in key settlements will especially meet environmental objectives in terms of energy and resource efficiency, use of previously developed land, and a reduced need to travel. It would also assist in addressing social and economic objectives by creating a critical mass for accessible community, health and education facilities, supporting the viability of town centres, as well as encouraging economic diversification by developing geographic clusters and new sectors in strategic location. The positive effects are enhanced when tailoring this strategy to local circumstance based on the social needs of the population, economic requirements in terms of access to resources or markets, environmental features, such as topography or habitats, or culture and heritage characteristics regarding historic legacy and local tradition.

Appendix V iii: Sustainability Appraisal of Strategic Policies

Summary

All of the strategic policies have received an average total of a blue or green score. Recommendations have been provided to further improve the sustainability rating. There is a marked division on how well the strategic policies progress individual SA objectives: potential sustainability issues (yellow rating), as well as isolated problematic concerns where mitigation is difficult or expensive (orange), were identified for SA objectives that relate to environmental aspects, such as use of resources, climate change and energy efficiency. This is particularly the case with the strategic transportation policy. A more indirect or neutral impact has been observed for SA objectives relating to waste and minerals. Overall, strategic policies such as the development strategy, housing, culture, employment and community perform well against social and economic SA objectives.

Key:

DG	Development actively encouraged as it would resolve an existing sustainability problem
LG	No sustainability constraints and development acceptable
B	Neutral or unknown effect
Y	Potential sustainability issues; mitigation and /or negotiation possible
O	Problematical and improbable because of known sustainability issues; mitigation or negotiation difficult and /or expensive
R	Absolute sustainability constraints to development

SP 1 – Locational Strategy - Development in the North					
Development proposals in the Northern Strategy Area will encourage appropriate forms of growth to address problems of deprivation, and high levels of social and economic need, and will help build sustainable communities.					
SA Objective	Nature of the sustainability effect of policy (including magnitude, timing, duration and reversibility of effects where known).	Assessment	Evidence and reference	Suggested mitigation and enhancement measures (<i>those in italics are already proposed in the Plan</i>)	
1	Housing Provide for the overall housing requirement through a mix of dwelling types catering for all needs to promote integrated and thriving communities	Would increase housing choice and meet local need, thereby allowing local people to remain in their communities. Raised demand for accommodation should promote greater choice in term of size and type. Higher number of units would render the provision of affordable housing economically viable.	LG	PPS 3	
2	Culture and Heritage Promote, protect and enhance the Culture and Heritage including landscape, archaeology and language	Would assist in preserving local cultural identity and industrial heritage, but in order to accommodate the anticipated growth, may lead to increased development pressure on the surrounding country side, locally important or protected areas as well as historic settlements.	B		Could receive higher rating if a reference is added to take into consideration natural and built features of heritage and cultural values.
3	Communities Promote integrated	Would assist in reducing disparities between the northern and southern wards and would	DG	Depopulation affecting the valleys	

	communities, with opportunities for living, working and socialising for all	promote more compact settlements. The resulting critical mass would encourage the provision of more accessible community, education and leisure facilities as well as shopping and employment opportunities.			
4	Health Provide an environment that encourages a healthy and safe lifestyle and promotes well-being	Would improve access to healthcare facilities, and may lead to reduced car use, with associated lower levels of noise, light, odour and air pollution.	LG	RCT ranks 5th in England and Wales (out of 376 areas), for the proportion of population with a limiting long-term illness, and general health 'not good'.	
5	Economy Provide for a sustainable economy	Would encourage indigenous investment, promote healthy town centres in northern areas of high unemployment and economic inactivity. Could in the long-term benefit the rural economy and sustainable tourism.	LG	Litchfield, N, Rhondda Cynon Taf: Retail Capacity Assessment (2003)	
6	Employment Provide for a diverse range of job opportunities	Would in northern wards create conditions that may lead to new and more diverse jobs in more accessible locations. By creating demand for goods and facilities would promote employment within retail and servicing in town centres.	LG	Huggins, R, Review of Rhondda Cynon Taf Economic Regeneration Strategy (2006)	
7	Transport Reduce the need to travel and promote more sustainable modes of transport	Would in the short term increase traffic, but once initial investment took place, would result in shorter distances shopping, health and leisure facilities, as well as eventually reducing the need for commuting. Public transport within and between settlements would then become viable, and shorter journey lengths would help to encourage walking and cycling.	LG	18.8% of all residents work outside the County Borough, the third largest percentage net outflow in Wales.	
8	Built Environment Provide a high quality built environment that promotes community pride	Could preserve and enhance local character and distinctiveness in northern settlements. The expected increase in new buildings would lead (given latest planning requirements and expected rise in disposable income) to higher design standards, incorporating methods of	LG		

		sustainable construction and green infrastructure.			
9	Landscape Improve, protect and enhance the countryside	Expanded settlements, together with the necessary transport links would lead to further take up of previously undeveloped land, and could increase the pressure to release designated, locally important and other sensitive areas.	Y	94.1% of the land in RCT is of Grade 4 or 5 (low grade).	
10	Biodiversity Protect and enhance the diversity and abundance of wildlife habitats and native species	Could result in erosion and fragmentation of wildlife habitats.	Y	RCT has a large amount of land designated for biodiversity protection.	Could receive higher rating if a reference is added to take into consideration natural and built features of heritage and cultural values.
11	Water Promote sustainable water management including promoting use of sustainable drainage systems	Increased development and population would increase pressure on water resources, supply and drainage.	Y	The previous industrial use of the area has led to degradation of the water environment.	Could receive higher rating if a reference is added to take into consideration natural and built features of heritage and cultural values.
12	Climate Change Manage the effects of climate change	Uncertain. Impact on climate change is dependent on other factors, including balancing employment and housing where possible to reduce commuting.	B		
13	Energy Increase the supply of renewable energy and reduce energy consumption	Uncertain. Impact on energy consumption is dependent on other factors and further details. Although higher building rates and use of material would increase energy consumption in northern wards, if the economy is boosted and jobs created in the northern wards, there may be a reduced need to commute. Shorter journey lengths would allow measures to reduce traffic to be more successful and therefore reduce fuel consumption.	B		
14	Land and Soils	Promoting growth in northern wards is likely to	Y		Policies should state a specific

	Promote efficient use of land and soils	lead to the development of greenfield land.			preference for developed or brownfield over greenfield land.
15	Waste Minimise waste, especially waste to landfill	Although waste production and treatment is dependent on other factors and further details, an increased population will produce more waste.	Y		
16	Minerals Promote efficient and appropriate use of minerals	Increase construction activity in northern areas for dwellings and infrastructure would increase the use of minerals.	B		The use of locally sourced materials should be considered in the preparation of specific policies and proposals.

Median Sustainability Rating: LG

Summary:

The policy scores well on social and economic objectives, but there are some environmental concerns relating to increased development pressure in rural areas and how this will impact upon the rural environment and environmental and cultural heritage. The policy could receive a higher rating if a requirement is added to take into account local environmental and built characteristics as well as heritage. Further policies should ensure the re-use of land, buildings and materials, employ energy efficient construction and management techniques and consider the impact on climate change.

SP 2 – Locational Strategy - Development in the South

Development proposals in the Southern Strategy area will promote sustainable development by encouraging a managed form of growth which will consolidate existing settlement patterns, having regard to the function and identity of settlements and the surrounding countryside, and existing or potential capacity to provide necessary infrastructure.

SA Objective	Nature of the sustainability effect of policy (including magnitude, timing, duration and reversibility of effects where known).	Assessment	Evidence and reference	Suggested mitigation and enhancement measures (<i>those in italics are already proposed in the Plan</i>)
1 Housing Provide for the	Would build on the choice benefits of growth areas by allowing locally guided development in	LG		

	overall housing requirement through a mix of dwelling types catering for all needs to promote integrated and thriving communities	defined settlements. This would encourage the re-use of the existing building stock, increases local identity as well as meeting housing need.			
2	Culture and Heritage Promote, protect and enhance the Culture and Heritage including landscape, archaeology and language	Would assist in protecting local heritage, and cultural identity by directing developments into settlements based on their function and identity. A defined built up area would protect the surrounding countryside areas, as well as encourage the restoration and refurbishment of historic building and industrial sites.	LG	RCT has a rich cultural heritage but few sites are statutorily protected.	
3	Communities Promote integrated communities, with opportunities for living, working and socialising for all	Could result in more integrated communities by promoting compact settlements, which provide the critical mass for accessible opportunities for living, working and socialising. This would strengthen the viability of town centres.	LG		
4	Health Provide an environment that encourages a healthy and safe lifestyle and promotes well-being	Would improve access to healthcare and leisure facilities, as well as reducing the need to travel by car with associated lower levels of noise, light, odour and air pollution. Could, however, increase the pressure to develop inner urban playing fields and public open space.	B		
5	Economy Provide for a sustainable economy	Would create spatial land use pattern that accommodates borough wide and strategic economic diversification aspirations as well as encouraging appropriate inward and indigenous investment and promotes healthy	LG		Could consider rural economy/sustainable tourism.

		town centres based on local circumstances.			
6	Employment Provide for a diverse range of job opportunities	Would provide local jobs in accessible locations and therefore reduce the need for commuting. The spatial land use pattern may attract investment that meet borough wide and strategic economic diversification aspirations, thereby diversifying and maximising employment opportunities for a range of skills levels.	LG	18.8% of all residents work outside the County Borough, the third largest percentage net outflow in Wales.	
7	Transport Reduce the need to travel and promote more sustainable modes of transport	Concentrating development in defined settlements would reduce the need to travel and promote more sustainable modes of transport. A public transport system within and between urban settlements becomes viable and shorter journey lengths would naturally encourage walking and cycling, especially if it is tailored to local circumstances.	LG		
8	Built Environment Provide a high quality built environment that promotes community pride	Would promote high-density development within the key growth areas. The expected increase in new building would lead to (given latest planning requirements) higher design standards, incorporating methods of sustainable construction and green infrastructure. Restricting development to within defined area would encourage the re-use of the existing building stock, preserving local character and distinctiveness.	LG		
9	Landscape Improve, protect and enhance the countryside	Although it would protect the countryside by channelling investment in defined settlements, it would result in land take around identified growth areas, and necessary transport links between these areas could further impact on the functioning of the country side.	B		
10	Biodiversity Protect and enhance the diversity and	Concentrating development and growth in several key areas would protect biodiversity within the remaining countryside but could result in erosion and fragmentation of valuable	B		

	abundance of wildlife habitats and native species	habitats within settlements identified for expansion.			
11	Water Promote sustainable water management including promoting use of sustainable drainage systems	Although additional development would inevitably increase pressure on water resources, supply and drainage, a geographically confined population would result in preserving the water environment within the surrounding countryside, and would render the promotion of sustainable water management economically viable.	LG		
12	Climate Change Manage the effects of climate change	Although expanded settlement with an increased population and higher building rates is unlikely to contribute to a carbon-neutral community, compact settlements would help manage the effects of climate change due to efficient use of infrastructure. Impact on climate change is dependent on other factors and further details.	B		
13	Energy Increase the supply of renewable energy and reduce energy consumption	Although higher building rates and use of material would increase energy consumption in the short term, compact settlements would enable the application of energy saving construction methods for buildings and infrastructure as well as reducing energy consumption during their management and maintenance. Shorter journey lengths would allow measures to reduce traffic to be more successful and therefore reduce fuel consumption. High density, especially high-rise office building and apartments have greater potential to incorporate energy efficiency measures, especially regarding insulation and temperature regulation.	LG		
14	Land and Soils Promote efficient use of land and soils	High density development in compact settlements would result in more efficient use of land and soils, as it requires the re-use of previously developed land and buildings and	LG	Welsh Assembly Government, Heads We Win – Heads of the Valley Strategy (2005)	

		(due to demand) would trigger their restoration and reclamation, reducing dereliction, contaminated land, and pollution to land and soils..			
15	Waste Minimise waste, especially waste to landfill	Although waste production and treatment is dependent on other factors and further details, compact settlements, due to shared use of building and infrastructure, tend to generate less waste and have greater potential for successful recycling and sustainable waster treatment schemes.	B		
16	Minerals Promote efficient and appropriate use of minerals	Uncertain. Mineral consumption is dependent on other factors and further details. Although increased construction activity for dwellings and infrastructure would increase the use of minerals. Compact settlements have the potential to use resources more efficiently.	B		
Median Sustainability Rating: LG					
Summary: The policy progresses most sustainability objectives positively through consolidating and having regard to function and identity. It could be more explicit about what is meant by 'function', and include specific reference to the need to address high levels of out-commuting.					

SP 3 - Sustainable Development

The development and use of land throughout the County Borough will be determined on the basis of the area's housing, economic and social needs, protection and enhancement of the natural and built environment, prudent use of resources, and minimising of energy consumption.

SA Objective		Nature of the sustainability effect of policy (including magnitude, timing, duration and reversibility of effects where known).	Assessment	Evidence and reference	Suggested mitigation and enhancement measures (<i>those in italics are already proposed in the Plan</i>)
1	Housing Provide for the overall housing requirement through a mix of dwelling types catering for all needs to promote integrated and thriving communities	Although the policy could result in an increase in material, resources land take, it would in the medium and long run provide a mix of dwellings, secure the re-use of existing buildings and help meet housing need to allow people to remain within their communities. With advancing knowledge in sustainable construction techniques, the housing stock would be updated gradually.	DG		
2	Culture and Heritage Promote, protect and enhance the Culture and Heritage including landscape, archaeology and language	Could have positive effect on preservation of cultural identify and historic environment	LG		
3	Communities Promote integrated communities, with opportunities for living, working and socialising for all	Would enable communities to flourish and be more self-sufficient.	DG		
4	Health Provide an environment that encourages a healthy and safe	Uncertain, dependent on interpretation of other policies. The preservation of a playing field (positive) may lead to the development of building for health purposes on the less accessible periphery of a settlement (negative).	B		

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	lifestyle and promotes well-being				
5	Economy Provide for a sustainable economy	A diverse economy would bring prosperity allowing potential investment in ecological sound manufacturing methods and sustainable sectors such as recycling and energy production from renewable resources.	LG		
6	Employment Provide for a diverse range of job opportunities	Could lead to more diverse and higher quality employment opportunities, and, by attracting investment in various sectors could secure long-term employment prospects.	LG		
7	Transport Reduce the need to travel and promote more sustainable modes of transport	The policy does not directly mention transport or to reduce the need to travel.	Y	62% of people travel to work by car, ranking 19th out of 376 for England and Wales, however, 31.6% of households do not have a car.	The policy could refer to transportation needs in addition to housing, economic and social.
8	Built Environment Provide a high quality built environment that promotes community pride	Would assist in protecting and enhancing local character and distinctiveness and, considers sustainable construction.	DG		
9	Landscape Improve, protect and enhance the countryside	Likely to lead to a reduced rate of land take and more efficient forms of development within the countryside.	LG		
10	Biodiversity Protect and enhance the diversity and abundance of wildlife habitats and native species	The inclusion of ecological consideration would have positive indirect effect on habitats, especially in the long term, when previously damaged habitats would have been restored.	LG	RCT has a large amount of land designated for biodiversity protection.	
11	Water Promote	Would indirectly lead to an improved water environment and would encourage sustainable	LG		Specific policies should refer to sustainable construction,

	sustainable water management including promoting use of sustainable drainage systems	water management techniques			management and maintenance techniques.
12	Climate Change Manage the effects of climate change	By considering all aspects of spatial development in RCT, the policy will have a positive effect /on the emission of green house gases, which in the long term may slow down global warming.	DG		
13	Energy Increase the supply of renewable energy and reduce energy consumption	Likely to indirectly reduce energy consumption	LG		
14	Land and Soils Promote efficient use of land and soils	Although implied, the policy does not specifically address contamination, dereliction or re-use of previously development land and building	B		
15	Waste Minimise waste, especially waste to landfill	The reduction, recycling or treatment of waste is implied through the 'prudent use of resource'.	B		
16	Minerals Promote efficient and appropriate use of minerals	Would indirectly result in reduced consumption of minerals	LG		

Median Sustainability Rating: LG

Summary:

The policy positively progresses most of the SA objectives, but could better reflect the UK Sustainable Development Strategy through consideration of environmental limits.

SP 4 – Housing Requirements

Provision will be made for the development of 14,850 new dwellings in Rhondda Cynon Taf during the period 2006 – 2021.

Residential development proposals will be expected to contribute to local housing needs. Where a community housing need has been established, the local planning authority will seek the provision of an appropriate proportion of affordable housing on large sites.

SA Objective	Nature of the sustainability effect of policy (including magnitude, timing, duration and reversibility of effects where known).	Assessment	Evidence and reference	Suggested mitigation and enhancement measures (<i>those in italics are already proposed in the Plan</i>)
1 Housing Provide for the overall housing requirement through a mix of dwelling types catering for all needs to promote integrated and thriving communities	The policy provides for a substantial amount of housing growth to 2021, which will assist in meeting local housing needs and in the provision of additional affordable housing in the Borough.	LG	Welsh Assembly Government, Household Projections for South East Wales (2006) Rhondda Cynon Taf CBC, Local Housing Strategy (2004) 53% of the housing stock is terraced.	
2 Culture and Heritage Promote, protect and enhance the Culture and Heritage including landscape, archaeology and language	This significant level of housing growth may have impacts on culture and heritage and will need to be carefully managed.	B		Policy should include a reference to the need to maintain and support the areas cultural and environmental heritage

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3	Communities Promote integrated communities, with opportunities for living, working and socialising for all	Would increase housing choice by requiring a housing mix, based on locally derived need assessment. And therefore allowing residents to remain within their community.	LG	Rhondda Cynon Taf CBC, Community Profile (2005)	
4	Health Provide an environment that encourages a healthy and safe lifestyle and promotes well-being	Uncertain. The level of growth proposed would create additional demand for health care services, which will need to be met.	B		Specific policies and proposals should refer to the need to "contribute to provision of facilities to health, sport and recreation facilities and public open space.
5	Economy Provide for a sustainable economy	Covered indirectly: Although it would contribute to a rise in construction, the effect is relatively short term.	B	The majority of people are employed in manufacturing (22.9%)	
6	Employment Provide for a diverse range of job opportunities	Increased housing growth will provide jobs in construction and will contribute to economic growth, fuelling employment. It must, however, be accompanied by provision of employment land and be located so as to reduce commuting.	B		
7	Transport Reduce the need to travel and promote more sustainable modes of transport	The level of growth may assist in providing a critical mass to assist in the provision of transport services. However, it will also likely lead to increased congestion and air pollution.	B		Specific policies will need to address the transportation needs of a growing population, in particular the provision of public transport. Development location and layout should maximise opportunities for public transport, cycling and walking.
8	Built Environment Provide a high quality built environment that promotes	The policy refers to quantity and mix but not design, density or quality of the units.	Y	Rhondda Cynon Taf CBC, Our Living Space (2006)	Specific policies should refer to design quality, density and preference for refurbishment or conversion of existing building in favour of new built. Include

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	community pride				reference to sustainable construction techniques and green wildlife corridors.
9	Landscape Improve, protect and enhance the countryside	The policy refers to new dwellings but does not contain any locational requirement, which could potentially increase pressure to release inner urban green field site as well as within the surrounding country side.	Y		Add preference for brownfield sites.
10	Biodiversity Protect and enhance the diversity and abundance of wildlife habitats and native species	Could lead to habitat fragmentation and endanger species and wildlife.	Y		Specific policies should refer to ecological sound construction techniques, building and land management as well as inclusion of habitat routes
11	Water Promote sustainable water management including promoting use of sustainable drainage systems	Additional development and residents will increase water usage,	Y	RCT's foul drainage system is old and overloaded	Specific policies should include a requirement for efficient water usage and sustainable supply and treatment systems.
12	Climate Change Manage the effects of climate change	Potential negative effect as the policy does not consider the likely impacts of climate change.	B		Specific policies should refer to the need to reduce green house gas emissions and to contribute to a carbon neutral community.
13	Energy Increase the supply of renewable energy and reduce energy consumption	No reference to promote energy efficiency or use of renewable energy sources.	B		Specific policies should include requirement for energy especially high standards of insulation. Promote the application of environmentally sound construction and managements technique with extra reference to sustainable heating/cooling systems

14	Land and Soils Promote efficient use of land and soils	The policy does not require the use of brownfield sites or encourage the re-use of previously developed land and buildings.	Y		Specific policies should include preference for brownfield sites and re-use of the existing built fabric.
15	Waste Minimise waste, especially waste to landfill	Uncertain. Although waste production and treatment is dependent on other factors and further details. Compact and higher density sites tend to generate less waste (in construction,) and have greater potential for successful recycling and sustainable waster treatment schemes.	B	RCT has shown a relative decrease in municipal waste generated compared to neighbouring County Boroughs	Specific policies should include a requirement to consider the effect of waste treatment during the design stage, especially waste to heat systems.
16	Minerals Promote efficient and appropriate use of minerals	Unless recycled or material from renewable sources are used, effect of increase construction activity for dwellings would increase the use of minerals.	Y		Specific policies should require that all building should contain a certain percentage of recycled materials or those form renewable sources.

Median Sustainability Rating: B

Summary:

Policy scores high in meeting social and economic SA objectives, but could be expanded to consider environmental concerns equally well. Add reference to address energy efficiency, sustainable construction and management techniques as well as a preference to re-use land, building and material.

SP 5 – Employment Requirements

The economic development needs of Rhondda Cynon Taf will be met through maintaining a landbank for general employment and business park use during the period 2006 – 2021, and the retention of existing suitably located employment sites. Employment generating development proposals which diversify the local economy and extend the range of high value, well paid employment opportunities available locally will be encouraged.

SA Objective	Nature of the sustainability effect of policy (including magnitude, timing, duration and reversibility of effects where known).	Assessment	Evidence and reference	Suggested mitigation and enhancement measures (<i>those in italics are already proposed in the Plan</i>)
1 Housing Provide for the overall housing requirement through a mix of dwelling types catering for all needs to promote integrated and thriving communities	The policy may have an indirect effect through increased prosperity and could result in a higher demand for a greater variety of homes.	B		
2 Culture and Heritage Promote, protect and enhance the Culture and Heritage including landscape, archaeology and language	The policy does not promote rural enterprises or sustainable tourism.	B	Rhondda Cynon Taf CBC, Boosting Our Local Economy (2005)	Policy (or more detailed specific policies) should consider the support of rural enterprises and sustainable tourism.
3 Communities Promote integrated communities, with	Policy promotes provision of accessible and diverse employment opportunities, which via increased spending power, supports town	LG		Include training and education, mixed use location

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	opportunities for living, working and socialising for all	centres and other services. The diversification of the local economy will contribute to community integration.			
4	Health Provide an environment that encourages a healthy and safe lifestyle and promotes well-being	A striving economy is likely to have a knock-on effect, through reducing employment and associated mental health conditions.	LG		
5	Economy Provide for a sustainable economy	Policy promotes a diverse local economy, but does not refer to the preferred location.	LG	17 of RCT's 53 electoral wards are amongst the 100 most deprived in Wales. The Gross Domestic Product for Rhondda Cynon Taff was estimated as being 64.5% of the EU average. 221.61 ha of land allocated for employment in the previous plan have not been taken up.	Could be dark green by adding reference to promoting town centre businesses, rural economy and sustainable tourism
6	Employment Provide for a diverse range of job opportunities	Policy promotes high value and well-paid employment, but does not refer to locational criteria or the need to reduce commuting.	Y	18.8% of all residents work outside the County Borough, the third largest percentage net outflow in Wales 44% of the population have no qualifications.	Employment policies should promote town centre businesses, the rural economy and sustainable tourism, as well as advocate investment in accessible locations to reduce commuting.
7	Transport Reduce the need to travel and promote more sustainable modes of transport	Transportation requirements should be a key consideration in the development of employment policies, in particular, issues relating to transport accessibility.	Y	Away from the two north/south main routes, accessibility in the County Borough is poor. 62% of people travel to work by car, ranking 19th out of 376 for England and Wales, however, 31.6% of households do not have	Further consideration could be given to transportation in this policy given its key importance.

				a car.	
8	Built Environment Provide a high quality built environment that promotes community pride	The policy does not provide any guidance on the quality of design, important to protect and enhance local character and distinctiveness, particularly so within the advocated mix used areas. The policy also does not address sustainable construction or building management techniques.	Y		Add reference to quality of design and sustainable construction or building management techniques factory building, especially with regards to cooling of office and other work places.
9	Landscape Improve, protect and enhance the countryside	There is no consideration within this policy of landscape and countryside protection.	Y		It is recommended that the policy state a preference for previously developed, rather than Greenfield sites.
10	Biodiversity Protect and enhance the diversity and abundance of wildlife habitats and native species	Could lead to fragmentation and erosion of habitat, particularly if it involves the redevelopment of vacant industrial sites (which, if undisturbed, can have high biodiversity values).	B	RCT has a large amount of land designated for biodiversity protection.	Specific policies should be developed to preserve habitat and maintain biodiversity.
11	Water Promote sustainable water management including promoting use of sustainable drainage systems	Additional development and residents will increase water usage.	B		Further specific policies should include requirement for efficient water usage and sustainable supply and treatment systems.
12	Climate Change Manage the effects of climate change	Potential negative effect as the policy does not consider the likely impacts of climate change.	Y	UK Sustainable Development Strategy	Add reference to reduce green house gas emissions and the need to contribute to a carbon neutral community.
13	Energy Increase the supply of renewable energy and reduce energy consumption	No reference to promote energy efficiency or use of renewable energy sources. The policy also does not address sustainable construction or building management techniques, The cooling of office and factory building are especially energy intensive.	Y		Include requirement for energy especially high standards of insulation. Promote the application of environmentally sound construction and managements technique with extra reference to sustainable

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					heating/cooling systems
14	Land and Soils Promote efficient use of land and soils	The policy does not require the use of brownfield sites or encourage the re-use of previously developed land and buildings. This would slow down the rate of reclaiming contaminated land and would not encourage developers to refurbish existing derelict building	Y	The County Borough is covered by Objective 1 European funding.	Further, more specific policies should include preference for brownfield sites and re-use of the existing built fabric.
15	Waste Minimise waste, especially waste to landfill	Waste issues are not addressed. Although waste production and treatment is dependent on other factors and further details, industrial process tend to generate waste, but compact and higher density office building due to shared use of facilities and infrastructure, tend generate less waste and have greater potential for successful recycling and sustainable waste treatment schemes.	B		Specific policies could include a requirement to consider the effect of waste treatment during the design stage, especially waste to heat systems.
16	Minerals Promote efficient and appropriate use of minerals	Unless recycled or material from renewable sources are used, effect of increase construction activity for dwellings would increase the use of minerals	B	Mineral extraction is an important industry within the economy of RCT.	Specific policies could include requirement that all building should contain a certain percentage of recycled materials or those from renewable sources.
Median Sustainability Rating: Y					
Summary:					
The concept of a flexible land bank for employment land and the promotion of high value and well-paid employment are supported, however the policy could be strengthened with stronger consideration of the environment. Further consideration should be given to opportunities to promote mixed-use development, rather than separating housing and employment development.					

SP 6 Town Centres				
Proposals which contribute to sustaining and enhancing town centre vitality, cultural identity, attractiveness and viability will be encouraged.				
SA Objective	Nature of the sustainability effect of policy (including magnitude, timing, duration and reversibility of effects where known).	Assessment	Evidence and reference	Suggested mitigation and enhancement measures (<i>those in italics are already proposed in the Plan</i>)
1	Housing Provide for the overall housing requirement through a mix of dwelling types catering for all needs to promote integrated and thriving communities	Although the effect is indirect, vibrant town centres are an important factor in the increased demand to live in adjacent residential areas. Often this results in refurbishment and upgrading of traditional terraces, but also to the re use of previous industrial sites for housing.	LG	
2	Culture and Heritage Promote, protect and enhance the Culture and Heritage including landscape, archaeology and language	Historic building and those of cultural heritage value are concentrated in the older parts of town centres. Such areas often benefit from town centre improvement schemes or private investment.	DG	Could receive higher rating if a reference is added to consider historic buildings.
3	Communities Promote integrated	Town Centres are the focal point for a range of activities including shopping, employment,	DG	

	communities, with opportunities for living, working and socialising for all	leisure and community facilities, all in an accessible location. The policy encourages investment in town centres and this would result in opportunities for community engagement and active citizenship.			
4	Health Provide an environment that encourages a healthy and safe lifestyle and promotes well-being	By promoting healthy town centres, the policy would create the precondition that enables provision of health care facilities in accessible location.	LG		
5	Economy Provide for a sustainable economy	Town centres are the prime location for accessible retail and office based business, providing a boost to the economy.	DG	Litchfield, N, Rhondda Cynon Taf: Retail Capacity Assessment (2003) Rhondda Cynon Taf CBC, Boosting Our Local Economy (2005)	The Policy should highlight the economic importance of town centres.
6	Employment Provide for a diverse range of job opportunities	Healthy town centres provide opportunities for retail, office and leisure employment without the need for commuting.	DG	Welsh Assembly Government, Heads We Win – Heads of the Valley Strategy (2005)	Policy could highlight the importance of town centres for employment creation and retention
7	Transport Reduce the need to travel and promote more sustainable modes of transport	Integrated transport systems with efficient interchange require a critical mass in terms of origin, destination and passengers in order to be economically viable. This can only be provided in town centres. The policy does not contain a reference to accessibility.	LG	31.6% of households do not have a car. Generally poor access to facilities	Add reference to accessibility.
8	Built Environment Provide a high quality built environment that promotes community pride	Would encourage higher quality design and enhance local character and distinctiveness.	LG	Rhondda Cynon Taf CBC, Our Living Space (2006)	Could add reference to sustainable construction and management techniques.
9	Landscape Improve, protect and enhance the	A strong policy to protect the vitality and viability of town centres will assist in preventing further out of town retail or leisure scheme on green	LG		Add reference to the “town centre first” principle or sequential test.

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	countryside	field site.		
10	Biodiversity Protect and enhance the diversity and abundance of wildlife habitats and native species	Town Centres are normally already established, and any measures to include ecological sound refurbishment or upgrading could enhance urban biodiversity.	B	Would receive green rating if a reference were added to "take into consideration protection and provision of small urban wildlife habitats and corridors.
11	Water Promote sustainable water management including promoting use of sustainable drainage systems	Town Centres are normally already established, and any new investment or regeneration scheme can improve efficiency in water usage and treatment by including sustainable management practices.	B	Would receive green rating if reference to efficient use of resources /sustainable building management methods were added.
12	Climate Change Manage the effects of climate change	Town Centres are normally already established, and any new investment or regeneration scheme can assist in minimising greenhouse gas emissions and becoming carbon neutral.	B	Add requirement to reduce green house gas emissions.
13	Energy Increase the supply of renewable energy and reduce energy consumption	Town Centres are normally already established, and any new investment or regeneration scheme can assist in energy efficiency. Without such measures this could become potentially unsustainable.	Y	Policies should include a requirement to promote energy efficiency, environmentally sound construction and management techniques.
14	Land and Soils Promote efficient use of land and soils	Due to the scarcity and cost of land within town centres, they necessitate the re-use of land for building; they therefore make the refurbishment of derelict sites and reclamation of contaminated land economically viable.	LG	Could receive a dark green rating if the re-use of land and building is included as a preference to new build.
15	Waste Minimise waste, especially waste to landfill	Waste issues are not addressed. Although waste production and treatment is dependent on other factors and further details, the concentration of people and activities within town centres generates vast amounts of waste. Conversely, compact and higher density office buildings due to shared use of facilities and	Y	Specific policies should include a requirement to consider the effect of waste production, recycling and treatment.

		infrastructure, tend to have greater potential for successful recycling and sustainable waste treatment schemes.			
16	Minerals Promote efficient and appropriate use of minerals	Unless recycled or material from renewable sources are used, the effects of increased construction activity for dwellings would increase the use of minerals.	Y		Could receive green rating if a requirement that all new or refurbished building should contain a certain percentage of recycled materials or materials from renewable sources is included.
Median Sustainability Rating: LG					
<p>Summary: The policy performs well against the economic, social and cultural SA objectives. Potential sustainability issues arise regarding environmental objectives, especially energy efficiency and use of resources. It is recommended to include a reference to energy efficiency, biodiversity and reduction of greenhouse gases. Town centres could become showcases for good practice in sustainable urban design and architecture.</p>					

SP 7 Transportation

The Council will seek to implement transportation schemes and initiatives which will achieve sustainable regeneration, improve the economy, reduce congestion, and improve road safety by:-

1. Maintaining and improving accessibility for all sections of the community;
2. Supporting transportation schemes which benefit the economy of the County Borough;
3. Supporting and enhancing public transport; walking and cycling provision; and achieving integration of all modes of transportation;
4. Minimising adverse effects of traffic and parking on local amenities and the environment as a whole.

SA Objective		Nature of the sustainability effect of policy (including magnitude, timing, duration and reversibility of effects where known).	Assessment	Evidence and reference	Suggested mitigation and enhancement measures (<i>those in italics are already proposed in the Plan</i>)
1	Housing Provide for the overall housing requirement through a mix of dwelling types catering for all needs to promote integrated and thriving communities	Would indirectly contribute to a greater mix of housing types and sizes in the long term. The expected improved accessibility to employment, retail and community facilities by a choice of transport modes would increase demand for urban living and therefore trigger the re-use of existing housing stock.	LG		Could receive a dark green rating if a specific reference is included to reduce the need to travel by car.
2	Culture and Heritage Promote, protect and enhance the Culture and Heritage including landscape, archaeology and language	Would indirectly lead to the enhancement of areas and buildings of historical, archaeological or cultural importance and industrial heritage. Improving access would increase the number of visitors, providing income for maintenance and further build on their tourism potential.	LG	Rhondda Cynon Taf CBC, Community Plan: A Better Life, (2004)	Could receive a dark green rating if a specific reference is included to reduce the need to travel by car.

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3	Communities Promote integrated communities, with opportunities for living, working and socialising for all	Reducing the need to travel and providing a choice of transport modes would contribute towards achieving equality of access for all members of society to sources of employment, vital civic and health facilities, and also to places of cultural and leisure interest.	LG	Away from the two north/south main routes, accessibility in the County Borough is poor.	Could receive a dark green rating if a specific reference is included to reduce the need to travel by car.
4	Health Provide an environment that encourages a healthy and safe lifestyle and promotes well-being	Would increase access to health facilities, sport, recreation, and public open spaces, as well as reducing levels of noise and air pollution.	LG		Could receive a dark green rating if a specific reference is included to reduce the need to travel by car.
5	Economy Provide for a sustainable economy	Access to staff, customers, resources and markets is vital for economic prosperity, especially for town centre vitality, the rural economy and tourism.	LG	Rhondda Cynon Taf CBC, Boosting Our Local Economy (2005)	Could receive a dark green rating if a specific reference is included to reduce the need to travel by car, and to transport resource as and goods by trains.
6	Employment Provide for a diverse range of job opportunities	Would increase employment opportunities, by creating the conditions to provide jobs in accessible locations and reduce the need for out-commuting from the Borough for work. An efficient integrated transport system would attract well-skilled employees and would promote healthy, town centres.	LG	62% of people travel to work by car, ranking 19th out of 376 for England and Wales, however, 31.6% of households do not have a car. 18.8% of all residents work outside the County Borough, the third largest percentage net outflow in Wales.	Could receive a dark green rating if a specific reference is included to reduce the need to travel by car
7	Transport Reduce the need to travel and promote more sustainable modes of transport	Although the policy is acceptable in meeting the SA objective relating to transport, it is not specific enough in reducing the need to travel by car. Most of the means listed by which the policy aims to improve access could be interpreted as still tolerating new infrastructure for car-borne traffic.	LG	Away from the two north/south main routes, accessibility in the County Borough is poor.	Could receive a dark green rating if a specific reference is included to reduce the need to travel by car.
8	Built Environment Provide a high	Promotion of public transport, walking and cycling would reduce the need for new road	B		Could receive a green rating if a specific reference is included to

	quality built environment that promotes community pride	schemes, which in urban areas would save older buildings from demolition. Planned road schemes have in the past often served to discourage investment. On the other hand, an integrated transport system would make urban living more convenient and attractive and the increased demand would trigger the re-use of existing building stock.			reduce the need to travel by car.
9	Landscape Improve, protect and enhance the countryside	Although increased transport choice would enhance access to the countryside, the policy is not specific enough about reducing the need to travel by car. This could lead to new roads being constructed in order to increase access, especially in rural areas. This could lead to additional take up of green field land.	B		Could receive a green rating if a specific reference is included to reduce the need to travel by car
10	Biodiversity Protect and enhance the diversity and abundance of wildlife habitats and native species	Habitats and green corridors could potentially be fragmented by road building.	O	RCT has a large amount of land designated for biodiversity protection.	Could receive a higher rating if a specific reference is included to reduce the need to travel by car
11	Water Promote sustainable water management including promoting use of sustainable drainage systems	Natural water environments potentially affected by road building, putting further pressure on the drainage system.	O	RCT's drainage system is old and overloaded	Could receive a higher rating if a specific reference is included to reduce the need to travel by car
12	Climate Change Manage the effects of climate change	Could potentially increase greenhouse gas emissions.	O		Could receive a higher rating if a specific reference is included to reduce the need to travel by car
13	Energy Increase the supply of renewable energy and reduce energy	Could lead to increased energy use due to road buildings and car usage.	O		Could receive a higher rating if a specific reference is included to reduce the need to travel by car

	consumption			
14	Land and Soils Promote efficient use of land and soils	Would increase land-take through road building in both town (where land is scarce) and country. Increased pollution through car usage.	O	Could receive a higher rating if a specific reference is included to reduce the need to travel by car
15	Waste Minimise waste, especially waste to landfill	Continuous creation of car related waste, some components of which are non-recyclable and toxic.	Y	Could receive a higher rating if a specific reference is included to reduce the need to travel by car
16	Minerals Promote efficient and appropriate use of minerals	Continuous use of tarmac.	O	Could receive a higher rating if a specific reference is included to reduce the need to travel by car

Median Sustainability Rating: LG

Summary:

Although the policy adequately addresses those SA objectives relating to the economy, housing and communities, there are some problematic areas where mitigation would be difficult or expensive. The policy could perform better with environmental objectives if a requirement was added to reduce the need to travel by car and to strongly promote use of public transport, walking and cycling. This will have a positive effect on climate change, energy efficiency, biodiversity, use of land and protection against pollution of water, air and soil.

SP 8 - Environmental Protection and Enhancement

The quality of life in Rhondda Cynon Taf will be preserved or enhanced by the protection of the natural and historic environment and landscape from inappropriate development. Development proposals will not cause unacceptable harm to the following:-

- a) the quality of natural resources including water, air, soil and biodiversity;
- b) natural drainage of surface water;
- c) the character and quality of local landscapes and the wider countryside;
- d) local distinctiveness, character, townscape and setting of settlements; and,
- e) historic and cultural features of acknowledged importance.

SA Objective		Nature of the sustainability effect of policy (including magnitude, timing, duration and reversibility of effects where known).	Assessment	Evidence and reference	Suggested mitigation and enhancement measures (<i>those in italics are already proposed in the Plan</i>)
1	Housing Provide for the overall housing requirement through a mix of dwelling types catering for all needs to promote integrated and thriving communities	Indirect effect. In the short-term it would slow down the rate of new housing development and favour the re-use of existing stock. Increasing knowledge of sustainable construction/management techniques could lead to new housing in sustainable locations.	LG		Wording should be more specific.
2	Culture and Heritage Promote, protect and enhance the Culture and	Would indirectly lead to the enhancement of areas and buildings of historical, archaeological or cultural importance and industrial heritage.	LG		A separate strategic policy concerning culture and heritage of the built environment.

	Heritage including landscape, archaeology and language				
3	Communities Promote integrated communities, with opportunities for living, working and socialising for all	Only indirectly by protecting environmental amenity.	B	Rhondda Cynon Taf CBC, Community Plan: A Better Life, (2004)	
4	Health Provide an environment that encourages a healthy and safe lifestyle and promotes well-being	No direct impact.	B		
5	Economy Provide for a sustainable economy	Would support the economy by protecting tourism assets and create an improved urban environment that could act as a pull factor for inward investment, even though it could prevent new business development initially.	LG	Welsh Assembly Government, Heads We Win – Heads of the Valley Strategy (2005)	
6	Employment Provide for a diverse range of job opportunities	Enhanced amenity might attract new employees to CBT and prevent the outward migration from others. May lead to the creation of new jobs in businesses attracted by the improved environment	LG		
7	Transport Reduce the need to travel and promote more sustainable modes of transport	No direct link, although an improved urban environment may encourage walking and cycling and contribute to a sense of safety and security.	B		
8	Built Environment Provide a high quality built	Although the policy would protect and enhance local character and townscape, the wording is too un-specific to prevent undesirable	B		

	environment that promotes community pride	development.			
9	Landscape Improve, protect and enhance the countryside	Even though the policy could prevent development that may cause irreversible damage to the countryside, the policy is too broadly phrased to guard the countryside from activities that could have indirect negative effects in the long-term.	B		
10	Biodiversity Protect and enhance the diversity and abundance of wildlife habitats and native species	Although the policy could prevent development that may cause irreversible damage to biodiversity, the policy is too broadly phrased to guard wildlife and habitats from activities that could have indirect negative effects in the long-term.	B	RCT has a large amount of land designated for biodiversity protection.	
11	Water Promote sustainable water management including promoting use of sustainable drainage systems	Although the policy could prevent development that may cause irreversible damage to the water environment, the policy is too broadly phrased to guard water resources wildlife and habitats from activities that could have indirect negative effects in the long-term.	B	The previous industrial use of the area has led to degradation of the water environment.	
12	Climate Change Manage the effects of climate change	The policy does not consider the likely impacts on climate change, and does not address greenhouse gas emissions. It fails to contribute to a carbon-neutral community.	O	UK Sustainable Development Strategy	A separate policy to deal with environmental protection in the ecological sense should be prepared.
13	Energy Increase the supply of renewable energy and reduce energy consumption	Issue is dealt with by a separate policy.	B		
14	Land and Soils Promote efficient use of land and soils	Although the policy could prevent development that may cause irreversible damage to land and soil, the policy is too broad to encourage the reclamation of contaminated land or protect it	Y		A separate policy to deal with environmental protection in the ecological sense should be prepared.

		from activities that could have indirect negative effects in the long term		
15	Waste Minimise waste, especially waste to landfill	Issue is dealt with by a separate policy.	B	
16	Minerals Promote efficient and appropriate use of minerals	Issue is dealt with by a separate policy.	B	
Median Sustainability Rating: B				
<p>Summary: The policy attempts to address a wide range of environmental issues and the current policy wording could be interpreted in a manner that may not be as effective as possible in preventing proposals with a potentially harmful effect. It is recommended to devise two separate policies, one addressing environmental concerns relating to physical appearance and cultural values, and another that deals with ecological aspects in terms of climate change and use of resources.</p>				

SP 9 - Community Infrastructure

The impact of developments on local community infrastructure will need to be addressed by appropriate on site provision or contributions to off site improvements. Planning obligations will be sought to secure the necessary physical, social, economic and environmental infrastructure related to the development. Such requirements will include:

- a) affordable housing;
- b) open space and play facilities;
- c) investment in local education provision;
- d) highways and public transport improvements;
- e) environmental works including benefits to the natural and historic environment;
- f) waste management and recycling;
- g) investment in community and indoor leisure provision;
- h) public artworks.

SA Objective		Nature of the sustainability effect of policy (including magnitude, timing, duration and reversibility of effects where known).	Assessment	Evidence and reference	Suggested mitigation and enhancement measures (<i>those in italics are already proposed in the Plan</i>)
1	Housing Provide for the overall housing requirement through a mix of dwelling types catering for all needs to promote integrated and thriving communities	Positive effect as it would enable the provision of affordable housing that may not be possible to a significant extent without this policy.	DG	PPS 3 (housing) Welsh Assembly Government, Household Projections for South East Wales (2006) Rhondda Cynon Taf CBC, Local Housing Strategy (2004)	
2	Culture and Heritage Promote, protect and enhance the Culture and Heritage including landscape, archaeology and language	Positive effect as it would enable the provision of environmental works to the historic environment that may not have been possible to a significant extent without it.	LG		Could receive a dark green rating if culture and heritage are included more specifically.
3	Communities Promote integrated communities, with opportunities for living, working and socialising for all	Positive effect as it would enable the provision of recreation, education, culture and other community facilities that may not have been possible to a significant extent without it.	DG	Rhondda Cynon Taf CBC, Community Profile (2005)	
4	Health Provide an environment that encourages a healthy and safe	Indirect positive effect as it would enable the provision of facilities for sport and informal recreation, such as open space and play areas that may not have been possible to a significant extent without it.	LG		Could receive a dark green rating if the following are included more specifically b) add "playing field" g) add "sport"

	lifestyle and promotes well-being				
5	Economy Provide for a sustainable economy	Neutral	B		
6	Employment Provide for a diverse range of job opportunities	No significant effect, although the provision of a high quality and well functioning community infrastructure could attract higher skilled labours to accept jobs within RCT, and may prevent others from leaving.	B		
7	Transport Reduce the need to travel and promote more sustainable modes of transport	Positive effect as it would enable the provision of transport infrastructure that may not have been possible to a significant extent without it.	DG		
8	Built Environment Provide a high quality built environment that promotes community pride	Positive effect as it would enable the provision of hard and soft landscaping, public art, work recreation and other physical improvement schemes, that may not have been possible to a significant extent without it.	DG		
9	Landscape Improve, protect and enhance the countryside	Positive effect as it could secure new access arrangements to the countryside as well as able the provision improves maintenance/management arrangements that may not have been possible to a significant extent without it.	LG		Could receive a dark green rating if a new bullet point is added. "i) access and management arrangement for country side areas."
10	Biodiversity Protect and enhance the diversity and abundance of wildlife habitats and native species	Policy does not specifically address biodiversity other than indirectly under "natural environment." This could result in the degradation of habitats.	Y		Could receive a green rating if a new bullet point is added. "i) biodiversity."

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11	Water Promote sustainable water management including promoting use of sustainable drainage systems	Policy does not specifically address the water management other than indirectly under "natural environment". This could result in the degradation of habitats.	Y		Could receive a green rating if a new bullet point is added. "Sustainable water management techniques."
12	Climate Change Manage the effects of climate change	Policy does not specifically consider the likely impacts on climate change, and does not address greenhouse gas emission. It fails to contribute to a carbon-neutral community.	Y		Could receive a green rating if a new bullet point is added. "investment in technology that does not lead to the production of greenhouse gases".
13	Energy Increase the supply of renewable energy and reduce energy consumption	Policy does not specifically require contributions to energy efficient infrastructure.	Y		Could receive a green rating if a new bullet point is added. "Investment in energy efficient technology or those that enable use of renewable energy sources."
14	Land and Soils Promote efficient use of land and soils	Policy does not specifically require contribution to remedy pollution to land and soil. It is acknowledged that pollution control is covered by other legislation.	B		Could receive a dark green rating if the a new bullet point is added: "remedial or reclamation works to contamination or derelict land, building or infrastructure."
15	Waste Minimise waste, especially waste to landfill	Positive effect as it could secure waste management facilities and systems that could not have been possible to a significant extent without it.	LG		Could receive a dark green rating if the "sustainable" is added under bullet point f): "sustainable"
16	Minerals Promote efficient and appropriate use of minerals	Neutral	B		Could be rated higher if a requirement to added that enabled condition to be imposed relating to ecological restoration, remediation or replacement projects.

**Median Sustainability
Rating: DG/LG/B/Y**

Summary:

Policy could be expanded to enable the use of planning obligations to provide environmental benefits as positively as social ones. This would mainly relate to buildings and physical infrastructure where contributions could be required to employ sustainable, energy efficiency construction and building management technology or enable the use of renewable energy sources. Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 provides guidance on the scope and potential to impose planning obligations.

SP 10 - Waste

The sustainable management of waste arisings in Rhondda Cynon Taf will be facilitated by:

- a) Supporting initiatives for waste reduction and encouraging more use of existing facilities for re-use and materials recovery;
- b) the provision of new facilities for re-use, recycling and composting;
- c) supporting the development of new technological initiatives;
- d) significantly reducing the amount of waste disposed of by landfill
- e) encouraging new waste related initiatives which link with economic regeneration and community based strategies.

SA Objective	Nature of the sustainability effect of policy (including magnitude, timing, duration and reversibility of effects where known).	Assessment	Evidence and reference	Suggested mitigation and enhancement measures (<i>those in italics are already proposed in the Plan</i>)
1 Housing Provide for the overall housing requirement through a mix of dwelling types catering for all	Although an increase in population will produce additional waste, this may be offset with an increase in awareness of waste avoidance and additional recycling facilities. Therefore the overall effect on housing provision is anticipated to be neutral.	B	RCT has already shown a relative decrease in municipal waste generated compared to neighbouring County Boroughs.	

	needs to promote integrated and thriving communities			
2	Culture and Heritage Promote, protect and enhance the Culture and Heritage including landscape, archaeology and language	Neutral	B	
3	Communities Promote integrated communities, with opportunities for living, working and socialising for all	Neutral /indirectly.	B	
4	Health Provide an environment that encourages a healthy and safe lifestyle and promotes well-being	Waste reduction, recycling, composting and re-use of waste would have a positive effect on health, as it would lower the existing levels of air, water and soil pollution.	LG	
5	Economy Provide for a sustainable economy	Stricter requirements for waste treatment may have a minor deterrent effect on economic processes initially, but this would be offset by long-term benefits, especially once new, more sustainable building management, transport and production methods have been installed.	B	
6	Employment Provide for a diverse range of job opportunities	Stricter requirements for waste treatment may have a minor deterrent effect initially, but would eventually create jobs in new recycling/waste related sectors.	B	

7	Transport Reduce the need to travel and promote more sustainable modes of transport	Reducing the amount of waste disposed of in landfill sites would reduce the number of HGV trips. In future, stricter regulation/fines on the production of waste would also reduce the number of private vehicle trips to landfill sites.	B		
8	Built Environment Provide a high quality built environment that promotes community pride	Waste reduction would have an indirect effect on the local character and distinctiveness on the long-term, due to the reduced need to collect and treat remaining waste. Recycling facilities and new infrastructure needed to treat the remaining waste, especially when coupled with heat production, could have an intrusive impact. This impact could be mitigated by design solutions and become more publicly acceptable through education campaigns and public participation.	B		
9	Landscape Improve, protect and enhance the countryside	Any amount of waste disposed of in landfill will have a detrimental effect on the landscape and countryside, especially adjacent to built-up areas, where they tend to be located.	O	RCT show a net import of waste to its' landfill sites of 132,000 tonnes in 2003.	Policy should include a reference to state that further landfill site will not be permitted and also set a target date for phasing out existing ones
10	Biodiversity Protect and enhance the diversity and abundance of wildlife habitats and native species	Any amount of waste disposed of in landfill could potentially have a detrimental effect on biodiversity, with mitigation measures too expensive to achieve a proven safe level.	Y		Policy should include a reference to state that further landfill site will not be permitted and also set a target date for phasing out existing ones.
11	Water Promote sustainable water management including promoting use of sustainable drainage systems	Any amount of waste disposed of in landfill could potentially have a detrimental effect on the water environment with mitigation measure too expensive to achieve a safe water standard.	Y		Policy should include a reference to state that further landfill site will not be permitted and also set a target date for phasing out existing ones.
12	Climate Change Manage the effects	Any amount of waste created, recycled or treated will produce greenhouse gases such as	O		Policy should include a stricter requirement to encourage waste

	of climate change	carbon dioxide and methane.			avoidance.
13	Energy Increase the supply of renewable energy and reduce energy consumption	Any amount of waste created, recycled or treated will use energy, which will, especially in the short and medium term, be from non-renewable sources	Y		Policy should include a stricter requirement to encourage waste avoidance.
14	Land and Soils Promote efficient use of land and soils	Any amount of waste deposited on landfills could potentially have a detrimental effect on land and soils, with mitigation measure too expensive to achieve a level proven to be safe.	O		Policy should include a stricter requirement to encourage waste avoidance.
15	Waste Minimise waste, especially waste to landfill	The policy would lead to waste reduction.	LG		Policy should include a reference that states that further landfill sites will not be permitted and also set a target date for phasing out existing ones. Policy should also incorporate stricter requirements to encourage waste avoidance.
16	Minerals Promote efficient and appropriate use of minerals	Due to the expected stricter regulation expected to result from this policy, especially in the long-term, a more efficient use of minerals and an increase in recycling would be achieved.	LG		
Median Sustainability Rating: B					
Summary: Policy should be more specific in promoting the avoidance of waste, recycling facilities and sustainable treatment of rest waste. A statement could be included that any further landfill site will not be permitted, and that incineration should be connected to heat production if geographically possible.					

SP 11 – Renewable Energy					
Development proposals which contribute to meeting national renewable and energy efficiency targets will be encouraged where it can be demonstrated that there is no unacceptable impact upon the interests of agriculture, conservation, areas of ecological, wildlife and landscape importance and residential amenity					
SA Objective		Nature of the sustainability effect of policy (including magnitude, timing, duration and reversibility of effects where known).	Assessment	Evidence and reference	Suggested mitigation and enhancement measures (<i>those in italics are already proposed in the Plan</i>)
1	Housing Provide for the overall housing requirement through a mix of dwelling types catering for all needs to promote integrated and thriving communities	Would lead to improved residential amenity, and higher quality dwellings.	LG		
2	Culture and Heritage Promote, protect and enhance the Culture and Heritage including landscape, archaeology and language	Indirect positive effect, especially in the long term, as it encourages the re-use of existing man-made and natural features.	LG		
3	Communities Promote integrated communities, with	Neutral	B		

	opportunities for living, working and socialising for all				
4	Health Provide an environment that encourages a healthy and safe lifestyle and promotes well-being	Long-term benefit due to reduced air pollution and radiation.	LG	There are 20 wind turbines in the Plan area. Part of the County Borough is encompassed by one of the proposed TAN8 Strategic Search Areas Wales	
5	Economy Provide for a sustainable economy	Stricter requirements for energy efficiency may have a minor deterrent effect to the local economy initially, but this would be offset by long-term benefits, especially once new building management, transport and production methods have been installed.	LG	Dulas, Rhondda Cynon Taf LDP – Renewable Energy Study (2005)	
6	Employment Provide for a diverse range of job opportunities	Stricter requirements for energy efficiency may have a minor deterrent effect initially, but would eventually create replacement jobs within new recycling/waste related sectors.	LG		
7	Transport Reduce the need to travel and promote more sustainable modes of transport	Would result in the promotion of non-motorised transport modes.	DG		
8	Built Environment Provide a high quality built environment that promotes community pride	Stricter requirements for energy efficiency would greatly encourage the use of environmentally sound construction methods, and other innovative designs.	LG		Policy could contain more detailed guidance on energy saving measures.
9	Landscape Improve, protect and enhance the countryside	Efficient use of energy would indirectly and in the long-run preserve rural resources.	LG		

10	Biodiversity Protect and enhance the diversity and abundance of wildlife habitats and native species	Indirect positive long-term effect on wildlife via habitat preservation and reduced pollution.	LG		Policy could contain more detailed guidance on energy saving measures
11	Water Promote sustainable water management including promoting use of sustainable drainage systems	Direct medium-term effect on the preservation of the water environment and, due to stricter regulations, encouragement of sustainable drainage and treatment methods in favour of the existing energy intensive mechanism.	DG		
12	Climate Change Manage the effects of climate change	Immediate and positive effect on the use of greenhouse gases as well as long term impact on global warming.	DG	There are 20 wind turbines in the Plan area. Part of the County Borough is encompassed by one of the proposed TAN8 Strategic Search Areas Wales	Policy could contain more detailed guidance on energy saving measures
13	Energy Increase the supply of renewable energy and reduce energy consumption	Would promote energy efficiency.	DG	Dulas, Rhondda Cynon Taf LDP – Renewable Energy Study (2005)	Policy could contain more detailed guidance on energy saving measures
14	Land and Soils Promote efficient use of land and soils	Indirect, medium term effect due to reduced pollution caused by burning fossil fuel or treatment of waste.	LG		
15	Waste Minimise waste, especially waste to landfill	Stricter requirements for energy efficiency would have a positive indirect medium-term impact on the avoidance of waste, as the production, recycling and treatment of waste are all energy intensive.	LG		
16	Minerals Promote efficient and appropriate use of minerals	Stricter requirements for energy efficiency would result in more prudent use of minerals	LG		Policy could contain more detailed guidance on energy saving measures

Median Sustainability Rating: LG

Summary:

Remove second part of the policy starting with: " *where it can be demonstrated that there is no unacceptable impact upon the interests of*" Any short term impact on agriculture, conservation, areas of ecological, wildlife and landscape importance and residential amenity would be reversed into a positive effect due to the long-term benefits of not burning fossil fuels, and reducing the legacy of domestic waste.

SP 12 - Minerals

Rhondda Cynon Taf will seek to contribute to regional demand in providing a continuous supply of minerals to meet the needs of industry and society as a whole, by:

1. maintaining a 20 year landbank of permitted reserves and protecting future resources, taking into account the range and extent of resources and environmental
2. and other planning considerations;
2. ensuring that impacts caused by mineral operations and the transportation of minerals are limited to an acceptable minimum;
3. encouraging efficient usage, minimising production of waste, and promoting alternatives to primary won aggregates.

SA Objective	Nature of the sustainability effect of policy (including magnitude, timing, duration and reversibility of effects where known).	Assessment	Evidence and reference	Suggested mitigation and enhancement measures (<i>those in italics are already proposed in the Plan</i>)
1 Housing Provide for the overall housing requirement through a mix of dwelling types catering for all needs to promote	Potential shortage of building material caused by restrictions to achieve more efficient use will be off-set by long lasting resources.	B		

	integrated and thriving communities				
2	Culture and Heritage Promote, protect and enhance the Culture and Heritage including landscape, archaeology and language	Neutral	B		
3	Communities Promote integrated communities, with opportunities for living, working and socialising for all	No direct impact	B		
4	Health Provide an environment that encourages a healthy and safe lifestyle and promotes well-being	No direct impact but could indirectly lead to reduced levels of noise and air pollution.	B		
5	Economy Provide for a sustainable economy	Potential shortage caused by restrictions to achieve more efficient use will be off-set by long lasting resources.	B	Mineral extraction is an important industry within the economy of RCT.	
6	Employment Provide for a diverse range of job opportunities	Jobs lost initially would in the long run be replaced by jobs in alternative industries.	B	Rhondda Cynon Taf CBC, Boosting Our Local Economy (2005)	
7	Transport Reduce the need to travel and	The positive effects due to the reduced need for transportation will be negated if the remaining traffic continues to take place on roads rather	B		Policy should encourage rail transport and promote locally sourced aggregates.

	promote more sustainable modes of transport	than rail.			
8	Built Environment Provide a high quality built environment that promotes community pride	Potential shortage caused by restrictions to achieve more efficient use will be off-set by long lasting resources.	B		
9	Landscape Improve, protect and enhance the countryside	Positive effect due to fewer mineral sites necessary.	LG		
10	Biodiversity Protect and enhance the diversity and abundance of wildlife habitats and native species	Would preserve or restore habitats.	LG		
11	Water Promote sustainable water management including promoting use of sustainable drainage systems	Would reduce water pollution and the need for drainage and wastewater treatment during extraction processes.	LG		
12	Climate Change Manage the effects of climate change	Would reduce emission of greenhouse gases.	LG		
13	Energy Increase the supply of renewable energy and reduce energy consumption	Would reduce energy consumption.	LG		
14	Land and Soils	Potentially harmful if no remediation measures	Y		The policy should include a

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	Promote efficient use of land and soils	are required.			requirement for stricter reclamation and remedial measures
15	Waste Minimise waste, especially waste to landfill	Although the policy proposes waste minimisation, any mineral extraction processes result in the production of large amounts of waste.	B		
16	Minerals Promote efficient and appropriate use of minerals	Would help achieve SA objectives	DG	Welsh Assembly Government, The Wales Spatial Plan: People, Place, Futures (2005)	
Median Sustainability Rating: B					
<p>Summary: The policy has a neutral effect on social, cultural and economic SA objectives, but would positively progress the more environmental objectives. The sustainability performance of the policy could be increased by requiring stricter reclamation and remedial measures. The term "acceptable" (2nd bullet point) ought to be defined within the policy or be qualified by adding "as defined by RCT" or "to a limit proven safe."</p>					

Appendix V iv: Compatibility Analysis of Candidate Site Assessment Methodology

COMPATIBILITY ANALYSIS OF CANDIDATE SITE ASSESSMENT METHODOLOGY (CSAM) WITH THE SA FRAMEWORK OBJECTIVES						
SA Objectives	Economic viability – considers the location of the site with regard to market and workforce characteristics.	Accessibility and ease of movement – considers the suitability of vehicular access to the site, location of the site with regard to public transport routes, and accessibility by foot or cycle to a range of community facilities;	Environmental capital – considers whether or not the site is at risk from flooding, whether there will be a loss of agricultural land, whether the site is considered to be greenfield or brownfield land, whether or not the site is protected by environmental designations, whether the site would present an	Site context and character – whether topographical characteristics of the site may present an obstacle to development, whether development would have an impact on important views/vistas, whether the site is in close proximity to existing infrastructure and whether or not there would be potential adverse impacts from	Continuity and enclosure – whether development of the site would provide continuity and enclosure in respect to adjacent land uses and whether it would contribute to an active high street frontage.	Potential use - an assessment will be made as to the potential use of the site.
1 Housing	+	++	+	+	+	○
2 Culture & Heritage	+	+	+	++	++	○
3 Communities	++	++	++	++	++	○
4 Health	○	+	++	+	○	○
5 Economy	++	++	+	+	+	○
6 Employment	++	++	+	○	○	○
7 Transport	++	++	+	++	○	○
8 Built Environment	○	+	++	++	++	○
9 Landscape	○	○	++	++	?	○
10 Biodiversity	?	?	+	?	?	○
11 Water	?	○	++	?	○	○
12 Climate Change	?	++	+	?	○	○
13 Energy	?	++	+	?	?	○
14 Land and Soils	?	○	++	?	○	○
15 Waste	?	○	○	?	○	○
16 Minerals	○	○	○	○	○	○

Candidate Site Assessment Methodology (CSAM)

The Candidate Site Assessment Methodology evaluates identified land over 0.3 hectares by means of a two-stage assessment process to ensure the proposed Site Specific Allocations meet LDF objectives and are suitable of being developed. The first stage consists of a preliminary descriptive appraisal, comprising of physical characteristics, history, location and potential for development. The initial selection process is followed by a more detailed performance analysis against 18 objectives divided into 6 areas. These selection criteria have been subjected to the above Sustainability Appraisal. During the second part, the sustainability impact of each individual site and its proposed development will be identified. At this stage the Draft LDP Spatial Strategy and Preferred Options Paper only lists 8 large Strategic Sites of between 30 and 225 ha, and it is advised that due to their size, a sustainability appraisal should be conducted for these (rather than just their selection processes) as part of this assessment, to evaluate any potential impact and inform on possible mitigation measures.

Summary

- Generally, the CSAM would lead to a selection of sites that should positively progress most of the SA objectives. None of the 6 assessment criteria are therefore incompatible when tested against the SA Framework.
- As the CSAM evaluates sites rather than buildings or future processes, compatibility with SA objectives can not be accurately assessed in some cases, which explains, for instance, the high number of the uncertainties (?) about the compatibility of the economic site assessment criteria with environmental SA objectives. This rating could be improved by adding a 7th criteria that intends to estimate the *potential* of the site for environmentally sound building construction, management or production techniques, such as proximity to renewable energy source (water/wind), orientation (passive solar energy), existing resources or features on site (topography and foliage to achieve shading/cooling), and the possibility to reuse existing buildings, demolition materials or infrastructure.
- SA objective 14 seeks to protect land and soil. The site selection criteria would be more compatible (currently neutral/uncertain) by including the degree of contamination, scope for reclamation and potential for restoration of existing structures. This is especially important for RCT given its industrial legacy.
- The criteria "site context and character" could be expanded to gauge future acceptance of potential uses by the local community, which could be estimated by examining past perception ("reputation"), e.g. through the number of complaints about previous uses of the site or similar usage sites nearby. This could be beneficial, for instance, for the redevelopment of unpopular housing estates. The existence of locally well-known present or past landmark features would also be worth taking into account when determining suitable uses with respect to cultural heritage.
- The "environmental capital" criteria could include the accessibility of the site via green infrastructure for people as well as green corridors between habitats for wildlife, again both existing or potential.

- Also assessed should be the ability to replace existing features or facilities (expected to be lost by the proposed use/development) to the same or better quality in reasonable proximity, as well as the potential to offset an identified shortfall within the local areas. This concerns assets that are both ecologically and recreationally important.

Key

++ Positive compatible

+ Compatible

○ Neutral, or not relevant to the SA objective

- Potential conflict

-- Incompatible

? Uncertain - dependent on other factors or further details

Appendix VI i: Sustainability Appraisal of Deposit LDP Core Policies

Sustainability Appraisal Key	
DG	Policy/Development actively encouraged as it would resolve an existing sustainability problem
LG	No Sustainability constraints and development acceptable
B	Neutral effect
Y	Potential sustainability issues; mitigation and /or negotiation possible
O	Problematical and improbable because of known sustainability issues ; mitigation or negotiation difficult and /or expensive
R	Absolute sustainability constraints to development
?	Unknown effect

Policy CS 1 - Development In The North

In the northern strategy areas the emphasis will be on building strong, sustainable communities. This will be achieved through the development of a land use framework that:-

1. Focuses residential and commercial development in locations which will support and reinforce the roles of Principal Towns and Key Settlements
2. Provides high quality, affordable accommodation that promotes diversity in the residential market
3. Ensures the removal of dereliction by promoting the reuse of under used and derelict land and buildings;
4. Promotes large scale regeneration schemes in the Principal Town of Aberdare and in the Key Settlements of Mountain Ash, Ferndale and Treorchy;
5. Promotes accessibility by securing investment in new roads, public transport improvements, walking and cycling
6. Encouraging a strong, diverse economy which supports traditional employment and promotes new form of employment in the leisure and tourism sectors and
7. Protects the cultural identity of the Strategy Area by protecting built heritage and the natural environment

Policy CS 1 - Development In The North					
SA Objective		Nature of the sustainability effect of policy (including magnitude, timing, duration and reversibility of effects where known).	Assessment	Evidence and reference	Suggested mitigation and enhancement measures (<i>those in italics are already proposed in the Plan</i>)
1	Housing Provide for the overall housing requirement through a mix of dwelling types catering for all needs to promote integrated and thriving communities	Criterion 2 directly addresses the aims of this objective. Positive long term impact.	DG	The highest levels of housing deprivation are concentrated in this area. (Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation 2008)	
2	Culture and Heritage Promote, protect and enhance the Culture and Heritage including landscape, archaeology and language	Criterion 7 directly addresses the aims of this objective. Positive long term impact.	DG	This important South-Wales historic landscape represents one of the largest and best-known mining conurbations and coalfield communities in Britain. The wider landscape is rich in a diverse and thematic archaeological resource of many periods and types, showing a high degree of cultural interest and continuity. http://www.ggat.org.uk/Cadw/historic%20landscapes/Rhondda/English/Rhondda_Features .	

Policy CS 1 - Development In The North				
SA Objective	Nature of the sustainability effect of policy (including magnitude, timing, duration and reversibility of effects where known).	Assessment	Evidence and reference	Suggested mitigation and enhancement measures (<i>those in italics are already proposed in the Plan</i>)
			htm#admlan RCT has 16 Conservation Areas and 360 Listed Buildings.	
3	Communities Promote integrated communities, with opportunities for living, working and socialising for all	DG	The population of the northern and central valleys declined by 5% between 1991 and 2001.	
4	Health Provide an environment that encourages a healthy and safe lifestyle and promotes well-being	DG	17 of the 53 electoral wards are amongst the 100 most deprived in Wales, with one ward ranking as the second most deprived in Wales. http://www.wales.nhs.uk/sites3/documents/264/ACF3AB1.pdf	
5	Economy Provide for a sustainable economy	DG	118 ha of employment land are required to address the socio-economic problems experienced by the County	

Policy CS 1 - Development In The North				
SA Objective	Nature of the sustainability effect of policy (including magnitude, timing, duration and reversibility of effects where known).	Assessment	Evidence and reference	Suggested mitigation and enhancement measures (<i>those in italics are already proposed in the Plan</i>)
	opportunities such as tourism. Synergistic impacts for this objective should come about through the policy addressing tourism issues and protection of the historic environment on which this would be based. Positive impacts.		Borough.	
6	Employment Provide for a diverse range of job opportunities	DG	28.2 % of unemployed are long-term unemployed 11% of unemployed have never worked. Draft Delivery Agreement December 2005.	
7	Transport Reduce the need to travel and promote more sustainable modes of transport	DG		

Policy CS 1 - Development In The North				
SA Objective	Nature of the sustainability effect of policy (including magnitude, timing, duration and reversibility of effects where known).	Assessment	Evidence and reference	Suggested mitigation and enhancement measures (<i>those in italics are already proposed in the Plan</i>)
	routes should help progress the aims of this objective.			
8	Built Environment Provide a high quality built environment that promotes community pride	DG		
9	Landscape Improve, protect and enhance the countryside	LG		
10	Biodiversity Protect and enhance the diversity and abundance of wildlife habitats and native species	LG	Habitats Regulations Assessment Screening and Appropriate Assessment. The Northern Strategy Area borders the Brecon Beacons National Park	
11	Water Promote sustainable water management including promoting	Y	LDPs should meet the requirements of the Water Framework Directive (WFD)	To mitigate against potential environmental harm and to avoid the plan being unsound the plan should include a policy

Policy CS 1 - Development In The North				
SA Objective	Nature of the sustainability effect of policy (including magnitude, timing, duration and reversibility of effects where known).	Assessment	Evidence and reference	Suggested mitigation and enhancement measures (<i>those in italics are already proposed in the Plan</i>)
	use of sustainable drainage systems			which addresses the issues raised in the WFD.
12	Climate Change Manage the effects of climate change	L C		An overarching climate change and water policy embedded in the plan core policies would significantly improve the environmental performance of this plan.
13	Energy Increase the supply of renewable energy and reduce energy consumption	B		
14	Land and Soils Promote efficient use of land and soils	DG		
15	Waste Minimise waste, especially waste to landfill	B		
16	Minerals Promote efficient	B		

Policy CS 1 - Development In The North				
SA Objective	Nature of the sustainability effect of policy (including magnitude, timing, duration and reversibility of effects where known).	Assessment	Evidence and reference	Suggested mitigation and enhancement measures (<i>those in italics are already proposed in the Plan</i>)
and appropriate use of minerals				
<p>Summary:</p> <p>The policy addresses the socio economic problems associated with this part of the County Borough and provides a strong framework to help reverse existing trends in the pockets of unemployment, deprivation and poor housing. Cultural and environmental issues are also given consideration to ensure that economic pressures do not result in adverse impacts on the existing built environment, landscape and biodiversity. However the policy could be improved by specific reference to the water environment, [this is a policy area that is lacking in the plan generally and is required to meet the Water Directive Framework. An overarching climate change and water policy embedded in the plan core policies would also significantly improve the environmental performance of this policy and the plan as a whole.</p>				

Policy CS 2 - Development In The South

In the Southern Strategy Area the emphasis will be on sustainable growth that benefits Rhondda Cynon Taf as a whole. This will be achieved by the development of a land use framework that:

1. Promotes residential development with a sense of place which respects the character and context of the Principal Towns and Key Settlements of the Southern Strategy Area
2. Protects the culture and identity of communities by focusing development within defined residential settlements boundaries
3. Promotes large scale regeneration schemes in the Principal Town of Pontypridd and Key Settlement of Tonyrefail
4. Realise the importance of the Principal Town of Llantrisant / Talbot Green as an area of social and economic growth
5. Provides opportunities for significant inward investment, in sustainable locations, that will benefit the economy of Rhondda Cynon Taf and the Capital Network Region (policy ???), and
6. Reduces daily out commuting by private car and promotes sustainable forms of transport
7. Protects the cultural identity of the Strategy Area by protecting built heritage and the natural environment

Policy CS 2 - Development In The South

SA Objective	Nature of the sustainability effect of policy (including magnitude, timing, duration and reversibility of effects where known).	Assessment	Evidence and reference	Suggested mitigation and enhancement measures (<i>those in italics are already proposed in the Plan</i>)
1	Housing Provide for the overall housing requirement through a mix of dwelling	DG		

Policy CS 2 - Development In The South				
SA Objective	Nature of the sustainability effect of policy (including magnitude, timing, duration and reversibility of effects where known).	Assessment	Evidence and reference	Suggested mitigation and enhancement measures (<i>those in italics are already proposed in the Plan</i>)
	types catering for all needs to promote integrated and thriving communities			
2	Culture and Heritage Promote, protect and enhance the Culture and Heritage including landscape, archaeology and language	DG	This important South-Wales historic landscape represents one of the largest and best-known mining conurbations and coalfield communities in Britain. The wider landscape is rich in a diverse and thematic archaeological resource of many periods and types, showing a high degree of cultural interest and continuity. http://www.ggat.org.uk/Cadw/historic%20landscapes/Rhondda/English/Rhondda_Features.htm#admlan RCT has 16 Conservation Areas and 360 Listed Buildings.	
3	Communities Promote integrated	LG		

Policy CS 2 - Development In The South				
SA Objective	Nature of the sustainability effect of policy (including magnitude, timing, duration and reversibility of effects where known).	Assessment	Evidence and reference	Suggested mitigation and enhancement measures (<i>those in italics are already proposed in the Plan</i>)
	communities, with opportunities for living, working and socialising for all			
4	Health Provide an environment that encourages a healthy and safe lifestyle and promotes well-being	DG	17 of the 53 electoral wards are amongst the 100 most deprived in Wales, with one ward ranking as the second most deprived in Wales. http://www.wales.nhs.uk/sites3/documents/264/ACF3AB1.pdf	
5	Economy Provide for a sustainable economy	LG		

Policy CS 2 - Development In The South				
SA Objective	Nature of the sustainability effect of policy (including magnitude, timing, duration and reversibility of effects where known).	Assessment	Evidence and reference	Suggested mitigation and enhancement measures (<i>those in italics are already proposed in the Plan</i>)
	economy for the whole of the County Borough and not just the more affluent southern area. It is key to the economic future of the County Borough and a strong policy framework encourages further inward investment.			
6	Employment Provide for a diverse range of job opportunities	DG		
7	Transport Reduce the need to travel and promote more sustainable modes of transport	LG	Baseline evidence 62% of County Borough population currently travel to work by car.	
8	Built Environment Provide a high quality built environment that	B		

Policy CS 2 - Development In The South				
SA Objective	Nature of the sustainability effect of policy (including magnitude, timing, duration and reversibility of effects where known).	Assessment	Evidence and reference	Suggested mitigation and enhancement measures (<i>those in italics are already proposed in the Plan</i>)
	promotes community pride			
9	Landscape Improve, protect and enhance the countryside	LG		
10	Biodiversity Protect and enhance the diversity and abundance of wildlife habitats and native species	LG	Habitats Regulations Assessment Screening (Dec, 2006).	
11	Water Promote sustainable water management including promoting use of sustainable	Y	LDPs should meet the requirements of the Water Framework Directive (WFD)	To mitigate against potential environmental harm and to avoid the plan being unsound the plan should include a policy which addresses the issues raised

Policy CS 2 - Development In The South				
SA Objective	Nature of the sustainability effect of policy (including magnitude, timing, duration and reversibility of effects where known).	Assessment	Evidence and reference	Suggested mitigation and enhancement measures (<i>those in italics are already proposed in the Plan</i>)
	drainage systems			in the WFD.
13	Energy Increase the supply of renewable energy and reduce energy consumption	No significant or direct impact on this objective which is covered by other policies.	B	
14	Land and Soils Promote efficient use of land and soils	Focussing development within defined boundaries will provide encouragement to redevelop underused land and buildings will progress this objective.	DG	
15	Waste Minimise waste, especially waste to landfill	Developing within settlement boundaries means that new development can make use of, and improve, existing recycling facilities and services. Positive impact.	LG	
16	Minerals Promote efficient and appropriate use of minerals	No significant or direct impact on this objective.	B	
Summary:				
The policy clearly reflects the differences between the northern and southern strategy areas and provides a strong policy base to implement the overall strategy. It seeks to control levels of development to that which do not exceed environmental capacity and will have strong social				

Policy CS 2 - Development In The South				
SA Objective	Nature of the sustainability effect of policy (including magnitude, timing, duration and reversibility of effects where known).	Assessment	Evidence and reference	Suggested mitigation and enhancement measures (<i>those in italics are already proposed in the Plan</i>)
and economic				

Policy CS 3 – Strategic Sites

In order to promote sustainable growth within Rhondda Cynon Taf the following sites are allocated for the development of a mixture of large-scale residential, employment, retail and recreational purposes:

1. Former Maerdy Colliery Site, Rhondda Fach (Policy NSA4)
2. Former Fernhill Colliery Site, Blaenrhondda (Policy NSA5)
3. Former Phurnacite Plant, Abercwmboi (Policy NSA6)
4. Land at Robertstown / Abernant, Aberdare (Policy NSA7)
5. Land South of Hirwaun/Penywaun (Policy NSA8)
6. Cwm Colliery and Coking Works, Beddau (Policy SSA7);
7. Mwyndy/Talbot Green Area (Policy SSA8) and
8. Former OCC Site Llanilid, Llanharan (Policy SSA9);

Policy CS 3 – Strategic Sites

SA Objective	Nature of the sustainability effect of policy (including magnitude, timing, duration and reversibility of effects where known).	Assessment	Evidence and reference	Suggested mitigation and enhancement measures (<i>those in italics are already proposed in the Plan</i>)
1	Housing Provide for the overall housing requirement through a mix of dwelling types catering for all	DG		

Policy CS 3 – Strategic Sites				
SA Objective	Nature of the sustainability effect of policy (including magnitude, timing, duration and reversibility of effects where known).	Assessment	Evidence and reference	Suggested mitigation and enhancement measures (<i>those in italics are already proposed in the Plan</i>)
	needs to promote integrated and thriving communities			
2	Culture and Heritage Promote, protect and enhance the Culture and Heritage including landscape, archaeology and language	LG		
3	Communities Promote integrated communities, with opportunities for living, working and socialising for all	DG		
4	Health Provide an	DG		

Policy CS 3 – Strategic Sites				
SA Objective	Nature of the sustainability effect of policy (including magnitude, timing, duration and reversibility of effects where known).	Assessment	Evidence and reference	Suggested mitigation and enhancement measures (<i>those in italics are already proposed in the Plan</i>)
	environment that encourages a healthy and safe lifestyle and promotes well-being			
5	Economy Provide for a sustainable economy	Allocation of land for employment lends certainty to developers and investors who wish to either move to the area of expand existing enterprises. Positive impact in the medium and longer term.	LG	
6	Employment Provide for a diverse range of job opportunities	Facilitation of inward investment and development proposals has the potential to provide better and more diverse employment opportunities in the long term.	LG	
7	Transport Reduce the need to travel and promote more sustainable	The strategic sites are predominantly in locations with good public transport links, The balanced allocation of residential, employment and community	DG	Sites which cannot achieve good public transport links/services should be reconsidered.

Policy CS 3 – Strategic Sites				
SA Objective	Nature of the sustainability effect of policy (including magnitude, timing, duration and reversibility of effects where known).	Assessment	Evidence and reference	Suggested mitigation and enhancement measures (<i>those in italics are already proposed in the Plan</i>)
	modes of transport	development maximises potential to reduce journeys by means other than the private vehicle. Increased employment opportunities may also address the issue of the high level of out commuting for work. Positive impact, in the medium an long term.		
8	Built Environment Provide a high quality built environment that promotes community pride	The sites will be subject to design policy AW6 and developers will be required to submit comprehensive masterplans with applications on the strategic sites.	LG	
9	Landscape Improve, protect and enhance the countryside	The sites have been subject to Candidate Site Assessments and sites which would have adverse impacts on this objective have mostly been screened out. Large sites also bring more potential for improvement to adjacent landscapes and existing built environment.	LG	
10	Biodiversity Protect and	Several of the strategic sites will have an adverse impact on SINC's , however,	L (

Policy CS 3 – Strategic Sites					
SA Objective		Nature of the sustainability effect of policy (including magnitude, timing, duration and reversibility of effects where known).	Assessment	Evidence and reference	Suggested mitigation and enhancement measures (<i>those in italics are already proposed in the Plan</i>)
	enhance the diversity and abundance of wildlife habitats and native species	large sites also have more potential to incorporate green infrastructure such as wildlife corridors and to enhance biodiversity through the creation of new habitats/ open spaces. Potentially adverse effects in the short term, may be mitigated through specific measure to ensure long term positive impacts.			
11	Water Promote sustainable water management including promoting use of sustainable drainage systems	No housing land is allocated in flood plains but some employment allocations are in C2 flood risk zones. There is potential for an adverse cumulative impact on the capacity of the County Boroughs flood zones.	Y		Although site specific assessments have been carried out, the cumulative impact of the strategic sites should also be assessed. SA indicators also include development contrary to Tan15 advice in C2 zones as an indicator of how identified SA issues are being addressed.
12	Climate Change Manage the effects of climate change	Increased development inevitably brings about increased car use and increases the level of CO2 and other emissions. However the sites are located to take	?		

Policy CS 3 – Strategic Sites				
SA Objective	Nature of the sustainability effect of policy (including magnitude, timing, duration and reversibility of effects where known).	Assessment	Evidence and reference	Suggested mitigation and enhancement measures (<i>those in italics are already proposed in the Plan</i>)
	advantage of existing transports links and connections and also incorporate improvements where possible. Therefore the impact has been minimised as much as possible within the socio economic demands on the County Borough.			
13	Energy Increase the supply of renewable energy and reduce energy consumption	Comprehensive development such as the strategic sites should afford opportunities to incorporate renewable technology over and above the standard requirement for 10% from renewable sources. Potential to meet the aims of this objective.	LG	
14	Land and Soils Promote efficient use of land and soils	Where possible the sites include previously developed land and seek to achieve land restorations and reclamation. Positive impact.	LG	
15	Waste Minimise waste, especially waste to landfill	Large sites will be subject to waste management plan requirements and will also have the scope to incorporate on site composting and recycling facilities.	LG	
16	Minerals Promote efficient	Virtually all development requires the use of minerals. No specific impact because	B	

Policy CS 3 – Strategic Sites				
SA Objective	Nature of the sustainability effect of policy (including magnitude, timing, duration and reversibility of effects where known).	Assessment	Evidence and reference	Suggested mitigation and enhancement measures (<i>those in italics are already proposed in the Plan</i>)
and appropriate use of minerals	of the site locations.			
<p>Summary: The strategy generally performs well and will progress sustainable development in the County Borough. However there are issues that require further consideration such as the site specific and cumulative impacts of this level of development on biodiversity and the capacity of identified flood risk zones. There does appear to be a high level of degradation/ development of land identified as SINC's and the cumulative impact must be assessed. The individual site assessments are contained in the Northern and Southern Strategy Area sections of this appraisal.</p>				

Policy CS 4 – Housing Requirements

Land will be made available for the construction of 14,850 new dwellings in sustainable locations during the plan period. Provision will be met in accordance with policy AW1

SEE LDP FOR ALL SITE SPECIFIC DETAILS

Policy CS 4 – Housing Requirements

SA Objective	Nature of the sustainability effect of policy (including magnitude, timing, duration and reversibility of effects where known).	Assessment	Evidence and reference	Suggested mitigation and enhancement measures (<i>those in italics are already proposed in the Plan</i>)
<p>1 Housing Provide for the overall housing requirement through a mix of dwelling types catering for all needs to promote integrated and thriving communities</p>	<p>The allocations are divided into strategic sites and development allocations which in conjunction with windfall sites and extant planning permissions will meet the housing requirement indicated. This will provide affordable housing and a mix of types and sizes of dwellings. The certainty brought about by allocations should facilitate implementation of the strategy.</p>	<p>LG</p>		
<p>2 Culture and Heritage Promote, protect and enhance the Culture and Heritage including landscape,</p>	<p>The allocations have all been subject to a site selection process which has screened out sites with adverse impacts on this objective.</p>	<p>LG</p>		

Policy CS 4 – Housing Requirements					
SA Objective		Nature of the sustainability effect of policy (including magnitude, timing, duration and reversibility of effects where known).	Assessment	Evidence and reference	Suggested mitigation and enhancement measures (<i>those in italics are already proposed in the Plan</i>)
	archaeology and language				
3	Communities Promote integrated communities, with opportunities for living, working and socialising for all	The housing allocations build on existing settlements with existing facilities. Some allocations appear very large as non-strategic allocations but a new school at Trane Farm, Tonyrefail is also proposed in conjunction with the housing allocation. The large site of 500 builds on the sizeable settlement of Church Village. Tonyrefail is identified as a key settlement and Church Village has a defined settlement boundary which indicates that both these settlements are considered suitable for further development. Potential adverse effects in the short term during development but with longer term positive cumulative impacts for community development.	LG		
4	Health Provide an environment that encourages a	The provision of good quality housing is an important factor in human health. Positive, long term impact.	LG		

Policy CS 4 – Housing Requirements				
SA Objective	Nature of the sustainability effect of policy (including magnitude, timing, duration and reversibility of effects where known).	Assessment	Evidence and reference	Suggested mitigation and enhancement measures (<i>those in italics are already proposed in the Plan</i>)
	healthy and safe lifestyle and promotes well-being			
5	Economy Provide for a sustainable economy	LG		
6	Employment Provide for a diverse	LG		

Policy CS 4 – Housing Requirements				
SA Objective	Nature of the sustainability effect of policy (including magnitude, timing, duration and reversibility of effects where known).	Assessment	Evidence and reference	Suggested mitigation and enhancement measures (<i>those in italics are already proposed in the Plan</i>)
	range of job opportunities			
7	Transport Reduce the need to travel and promote more sustainable modes of transport	LG		
8	Built Environment Provide a high quality built environment that promotes community pride	B		
9	Landscape Improve, protect and enhance the countryside	B		
10	Biodiversity	B		

Policy CS 4 – Housing Requirements					
SA Objective		Nature of the sustainability effect of policy (including magnitude, timing, duration and reversibility of effects where known).	Assessment	Evidence and reference	Suggested mitigation and enhancement measures (<i>those in italics are already proposed in the Plan</i>)
	Protect and enhance the diversity and abundance of wildlife habitats and native species	a site selection process which has screened out sites with adverse impacts on this objective.			
11	Water Promote sustainable water management including promoting use of sustainable drainage systems	The allocations have all been subject to a site selection process which has screened out sites with adverse impacts on this objective.	B		
12	Climate Change Manage the effects of climate change	All allocations have been screened and will be in locations with good public transport links and water issues will have been taken into account. All development can be built to high environmental standards. Although this level of development will inevitably increase carbon emissions and energy use, the Council has tried to minimise this impact through the implementation of other plan policies.	?		Recommendation that LDP includes specific climate change policy that links to policies on individual elements e.g. AW6 New Development, Sustainable Design.

Policy CS 4 – Housing Requirements					
SA Objective		Nature of the sustainability effect of policy (including magnitude, timing, duration and reversibility of effects where known).	Assessment	Evidence and reference	Suggested mitigation and enhancement measures (<i>those in italics are already proposed in the Plan</i>)
13	Energy Increase the supply of renewable energy and reduce energy consumption	All development can be built to high design standards. No specific impact on this objective.	B		
14	Land and Soils Promote efficient use of land and soils	A percentage of the sites involve land reclamation and the use of previously developed land. Positive impact.	LG		
15	Waste Minimise waste, especially waste to landfill	As the sites are all adjacent to, or in, existing settlements, development can make use of, or improve, existing waste facilities and services.	LG		
16	Minerals Promote efficient and appropriate use of minerals	Virtually all development requires the use of minerals. No specific impact because of the site locations.	B		
Summary:					
No adverse impacts have been identified at this strategic level and all sites have been the subject of a site selection methodology which has been assessed by consultants Enfusion. More detailed appraisal of the strategic sites can be found under the strategy area policies.					

Policy CS 5 – Affordable Housing

The housing requirements identified in policy CS3, will be expected to contribute to established community housing need by providing 3000 affordable units over the plan period.

Policy CS 5 – Affordable Housing

SA Objective	Nature of the sustainability effect of policy (including magnitude, timing, duration and reversibility of effects where known).	Assessment	Evidence and reference	Suggested mitigation and enhancement measures (<i>those in italics are already proposed in the Plan</i>)
1 Housing Provide for the overall housing requirement through a mix of dwelling types catering for all needs to promote integrated and thriving communities	The policy addresses the substantial need for affordable housing across the Borough in both urban and rural areas. There should be a positive, long term impact.	DG	RCT CBC Local Housing Strategy 2007 indicates a need for 870 units per annum over the next five years. 4,000 empty properties in RCT. Housing Matter – a Local Housing Strategy fro RCT 2007-12	
2 Culture and Heritage Promote, protect and enhance the Culture and Heritage including landscape, archaeology and language	The majority of the affordable housing will be on the large allocated sites which will have been subject to specific environmental criteria. Rural sites should be carefully chosen to avoid adverse impact.	B	RCT contains significant area of important historic landscape. Ref: CADW Historic Landscapes.	
3 Communities	Will promote the retention of mixed and	DG	RCT CBC Local Housing	

Policy CS 5 – Affordable Housing					
SA Objective		Nature of the sustainability effect of policy (including magnitude, timing, duration and reversibility of effects where known).	Assessment	Evidence and reference	Suggested mitigation and enhancement measures (<i>those in italics are already proposed in the Plan</i>)
	Promote integrated communities, with opportunities for living, working and socialising for all	strong communities through the provision of housing designed to meet recognised needs. May go some way to addressing the depopulation of the northern strategy area by creating housing opportunities for young people.		Strategy 2007 indicates a need for 870 units per annum over the next five years.	
4	Health Provide an environment that encourages a healthy and safe lifestyle and promotes well-being	Should have a positive and long term impact on health through the improvement of housing conditions and the provision of high standard affordable housing.	LG	There is a disparity in health and levels of deprivation across the district. SA/SEA Baseline.	
5	Economy Provide for a sustainable economy	May have an indirect and positive impact on the economy through retention of a young employment base.	LG		
6	Employment Provide for a diverse range of job opportunities	As Above	LG		
7	Transport Reduce the need to travel and promote	Access to public transport is important to those on lower incomes so location will be important both in terms of available	B		Rural sites should be kept to the minimum required to reduce use of the car.

Policy CS 5 – Affordable Housing				
SA Objective	Nature of the sustainability effect of policy (including magnitude, timing, duration and reversibility of effects where known).	Assessment	Evidence and reference	Suggested mitigation and enhancement measures (<i>those in italics are already proposed in the Plan</i>)
	more sustainable modes of transport			
8	Built Environment Provide a high quality built environment that promotes community pride	LG		Supplementary policies should make it clear that affordable housing is not exempt from design policies.
9	Landscape Improve, protect and enhance the countryside	B	RCT contains significant areas of important historic landscape and 20 identified SLAs. Ref: CADW Historic Landscapes.	
10	Biodiversity Protect and enhance the diversity and abundance of wildlife habitats and native species	B	RCT contains 2 SACs, 14 SSSIs and 32 key Countryside Sites. CCW.	
11	Water Promote sustainable	B		

Policy CS 5 – Affordable Housing					
SA Objective		Nature of the sustainability effect of policy (including magnitude, timing, duration and reversibility of effects where known).	Assessment	Evidence and reference	Suggested mitigation and enhancement measures (<i>those in italics are already proposed in the Plan</i>)
	water management including promoting use of sustainable drainage systems	be deployed to manage increased water use and there should be no other specific impacts.			
12	Climate Change Manage the effects of climate change	As part of the general level of development it will inevitably involve increased carbon emissions both through embodied energy and future running of the dwellings. However the plan does have policies which require sustainable construction and design standards which will help mitigate against the potential impact.	?		Need for specific climate change policy noted through assessment – will reinforce policies supporting sustainable construction and design.
13	Energy Increase the supply of renewable energy and reduce energy consumption	As part of the general level of development it will inevitably involve increased energy use in the future running of the dwellings. RCT already has some renewables and it should build on this.	LG		
14	Land and Soils Promote efficient use of land and soils	Some sites will be greenfield so there is potential for adverse impact unless carefully managed.	?		All sites have been subjected to the STA methodology which will have considered all SA framework objectives.
15	Waste	As part of larger development sites	B	RCT has shown a relative	The use of sustainable materials

Policy CS 5 – Affordable Housing					
SA Objective		Nature of the sustainability effect of policy (including magnitude, timing, duration and reversibility of effects where known).	Assessment	Evidence and reference	Suggested mitigation and enhancement measures (<i>those in italics are already proposed in the Plan</i>)
	Minimise waste, especially waste to landfill	which are more likely to have Site Waste Management Plans and scope for the provision of recycling facilities there should be no specific further adverse impact. If carefully managed the policy should not bring about a significant adverse impact.		decrease in municipal waste generated compared to adjacent Boroughs. Strategic Planning Guidance for South East Wales.	and construction methods and the adoption of the EcoHomes very good standard which covers both site waste and recycling issues.
16	Minerals Promote efficient and appropriate use of minerals	No direct significant impact.	B		
<p>Summary: The policy will ensure that affordable housing is provided which will have direct impacts on social objectives such as housing and health and may well have indirect positive impacts on the economy through the retention of young people, particularly in the northern strategy area. Landscape cultural and biodiversity impacts should have been screened out on the major sites where most of the affordable housing will take place.</p>					

Policy CS 6 – Employment Requirements

In order to maximise the opportunities presented by the Capital Network Region and to ensure that Rhondda Cynon Taf achieves its economic potential land will be allocated to meet strategic and local employment needs.

1. *Land for the provision of 68 hectares of new B1, B2 and B8 strategic employment development is allocated at the following locations:-
SEE LDP FOR SITE SPECIFIC DETAILS*
2. *Land for the provision of 50 hectare of new B1, B2 and B8 local employment development is allocated in accordance with policies SEE
LDP FOR SITE SPECIFIC DETAILS*

Policy CS 6 – Employment Requirements

SA Objective		Nature of the sustainability effect of policy (including magnitude, timing, duration and reversibility of effects where known).	Assessment	Evidence and reference	Suggested mitigation and enhancement measures (<i>those in italics are already proposed in the Plan</i>)
1	Housing Provide for the overall housing requirement through a mix of dwelling types catering for all needs to promote integrated and thriving communities	The policy includes the employment allocations which are part of the strategic sites. Mixed use developments in appropriate locations are sought through the strategy which should have a positive impact on meeting the housing as well as employment land requirements.	LG		
2	Culture and Heritage Promote, protect and enhance the	A buoyant economy is more able to support and finance local heritage initiatives. Potential for minor impacts but	LG		

Policy CS 6 – Employment Requirements				
SA Objective	Nature of the sustainability effect of policy (including magnitude, timing, duration and reversibility of effects where known).	Assessment	Evidence and reference	Suggested mitigation and enhancement measures (<i>those in italics are already proposed in the Plan</i>)
	Culture and Heritage including landscape, archaeology and language			
3	Communities Promote integrated communities, with opportunities for living, working and socialising for all	DG		
4	Health Provide an environment that encourages a healthy and safe lifestyle and promotes well-being	LG		
5	Economy Provide for a sustainable economy	LG		

Policy CS 6 – Employment Requirements				
SA Objective	Nature of the sustainability effect of policy (including magnitude, timing, duration and reversibility of effects where known).	Assessment	Evidence and reference	Suggested mitigation and enhancement measures (<i>those in italics are already proposed in the Plan</i>)
6	<p>Employment Provide for a diverse range of job opportunities</p>	<p>term positive impact.</p> <p>The Borough currently experiences high levels of employment and outcommuting, Allocating land for different types of employment use, especially well paid jobs, will encourage a diverse range of job opportunities which is needed, Local employment will improve employment opportunities for those without a car Long term positive impact.</p>	<p>LG</p> <p>31.6% have no car (Baseline data sources).</p>	
7	<p>Transport Reduce the need to travel and promote more sustainable modes of transport</p>	<p>There is a high level of out commuting and travel to work by car. Local employment opportunities in appropriate locations with good public transport links and walking and cycling access will reduce this dependence on the car or at least shorten journey lengths. Positive impact.</p>	<p>LG</p> <p>67% of residents travel to work by car. ONCS</p>	
8	<p>Built Environment Provide a high quality built environment that</p>	<p>No specific impact except through allocations in settlements but this will be addressed through design policies.</p>	<p>B</p>	

Policy CS 6 – Employment Requirements				
SA Objective	Nature of the sustainability effect of policy (including magnitude, timing, duration and reversibility of effects where known).	Assessment	Evidence and reference	Suggested mitigation and enhancement measures (<i>those in italics are already proposed in the Plan</i>)
	promotes community pride			
9	Landscape Improve, protect and enhance the countryside	Employment and business parks may be on greenfield sites but all allocations have been subject to the STA site selection methodology.	B	
10	Biodiversity Protect and enhance the diversity and abundance of wildlife habitats and native species	Employment and business parks may be on greenfield sites but all allocations have been subject to the STA site selection methodology.	B	
11	Water Promote sustainable water management including promoting use of sustainable drainage systems	Some employment uses are heavy water consumers or can have a polluting impact on water courses.	?	Older industrial uses polluted the water environment but they are now recovering. Industrial impact on the water environment must be carefully controlled by other policies so that current improvements are not compromised.
12	Climate Change Manage the effects of climate change	See comments under transport re CO2 emissions, water re water quality and energy re energy use.	LG /?	
13	Energy	The industrial/work environment of	LG	Other policies should encourage

Policy CS 6 – Employment Requirements				
SA Objective	Nature of the sustainability effect of policy (including magnitude, timing, duration and reversibility of effects where known).	Assessment	Evidence and reference	Suggested mitigation and enhancement measures (<i>those in italics are already proposed in the Plan</i>)
	Increase the supply of renewable energy and reduce energy consumption	business parks/employment areas can often accommodate the visual impact of wind turbines and solar panels. There is potential for positive impact.		the use of renewables in industrial/employment settings.
14	Land and Soils Promote efficient use of land and soils	Employment and business parks may be on greenfield sites but all allocations have been subject to the STA site selection methodology but emphasis could be laid on the reuse of previously developed employment land. Positive impact.	LG	The general presumption in favour of previously developed land could be reiterated in this strategic policy.
15	Waste Minimise waste, especially waste to landfill	Employment development will bring increased waste which should be carefully managed to avoid landfill. Potential for adverse impact.	Y	Waste management plans should be required on all employment sites.
16	Minerals Promote efficient and appropriate use of minerals	Development will bring increased demand for resources. Potential for adverse impact.	Y	Emphasis could be laid on the reuse of previously developed employment land and materials.
<p>Summary: As part of the strategic site strategy this policy performs well and may have positive impacts on the northern strategy area economy in particular and reduce outcommuting for employment.</p>				

Policy CS 7 – Retail Development

Land will be allocated for the development of 33,500 m² of new retail floorspace. Provision will be a combination of convenience goods (7,175 m²) and comparison goods (26,223 m²) on sites intended to meet strategic and local retail need.

1. Land for the retail development is allocated on the following strategic sites:-

	Site	Floorspace
1	Strategic Site 7: Land at Mwyndy / Talbot Green	23,200 m ²

2. Land for the provision of local retail development will be allocated by policies NSA17 and SSA 15:

Policy CS 7 – Retail Development					
SA Objective		Nature of the sustainability effect of policy (including magnitude, timing, duration and reversibility of effects where known).	Assessment	Evidence and reference	Suggested mitigation and enhancement measures (<i>those in italics are already proposed in the Plan</i>)
1	Housing Provide for the overall housing requirement through a mix of dwelling types catering for all needs to promote integrated and thriving communities	No significant impact	B		
2	Culture and Heritage Promote, protect and enhance the Culture and Heritage including landscape, archaeology and language	No significant impact	B		
3	Communities Promote integrated communities, with opportunities for living, working and socialising for all	Will increase access to shopping facilities within the County Borough and provide an improved retail offer – which provides for long term positive impacts.	LG		

Policy CS 7 – Retail Development					
SA Objective		Nature of the sustainability effect of policy (including magnitude, timing, duration and reversibility of effects where known).	Assessment	Evidence and reference	Suggested mitigation and enhancement measures (<i>those in italics are already proposed in the Plan</i>)
4	Health Provide an environment that encourages a healthy and safe lifestyle and promotes well-being	No significant impact. Potential positive impacts where retail offer includes improved access to health services/ chemists etc.	B		
5	Economy Provide for a sustainable economy	Allocation of adequate land for retail floorspace for both convenience and comparison goods supports the local economy and town centres. Positive long term impact.	LG	Retail Assessment RCT 2007 Nathaniel Lichfield & Partners	
6	Employment Provide for a diverse range of job opportunities	Allocation of adequate land for retail floorspace supports the local economy and will provide employment opportunities. Positive long term impact.	LG		
7	Transport Reduce the need to travel and promote more sustainable modes of transport	The provision of locally based retail facilities will reduce the need to travel. Short and long term cumulative positive impact.	DG		
8	Built Environment Provide a high	Application of other policies should avoid adverse impact.	LG		

Policy CS 7 – Retail Development				
SA Objective	Nature of the sustainability effect of policy (including magnitude, timing, duration and reversibility of effects where known).	Assessment	Evidence and reference	Suggested mitigation and enhancement measures (<i>those in italics are already proposed in the Plan</i>)
	quality built environment that promotes community pride			
9	Landscape Improve, protect and enhance the countryside	Allocation of land in appropriate locations should avoid ad hoc proposals which are inappropriate to the landscape settings of the County Borough.	LG	All retail allocations have been subject to the site selection methodology incorporating Sustainability Threshold Assessment.
10	Biodiversity Protect and enhance the diversity and abundance of wildlife habitats and native species	As above as biodiversity and landscape are inter-related.	LG	As above
11	Water Promote sustainable water management including promoting use of sustainable drainage systems	No significant impact	B	

Policy CS 7 – Retail Development					
SA Objective		Nature of the sustainability effect of policy (including magnitude, timing, duration and reversibility of effects where known).	Assessment	Evidence and reference	Suggested mitigation and enhancement measures (<i>those in italics are already proposed in the Plan</i>)
12	Climate Change Manage the effects of climate change	The most significant impact will be through reduced car use to other retail centres. Positive impact.	DG		
13	Energy Increase the supply of renewable energy and reduce energy consumption	No significant impact	B		
14	Land and Soils Promote efficient use of land and soils	No significant impact	B		
15	Waste Minimise waste, especially waste to landfill	No significant impact	B		
16	Minerals Promote efficient and appropriate use of minerals	No significant impact	B		
Summary:					
Retail allocations should benefit the local economy by reducing spending leakage outside the County Borough. It is also positive for transport as it may reduce trips to other centres.					

Policy CS 8- Transportation

Improvements to the strategic transportation network in Rhondda Cynon Taf will be secured through a combination of the of the following:-

- 1 The safeguarding and provision of land for the improvement of the strategic highway network, including development of :-
 1. The Church Village Bypass;
 2. The Gelli / Treorchy Relief Road;
 3. The Ynysmaerdy to Talbot Green Relief Road
 4. The A4059 Aberdare Bypass Extension,
 5. Dualling of the A465 Abergavenny/ Hirwuan

- 2 The Implementation of a strategic transport corridor management system in the following strategic corridor areas;
 1. A4119 / A473 Corridor;
 2. A470 / A4059 Corridor, or
 3. A4059 / A465 Corridor

Provision of additional improvements in the highway network, public transport improvements and walking and cycling provision will be sought in accordance with policies NSA20 to NSA 23 and SSA18 to SSA21.

Policy CS 8- Transportation					
SA Objective		Nature of the sustainability effect of policy (including magnitude, timing, duration and reversibility of effects where known).	Assessment	Evidence and reference	Suggested mitigation and enhancement measures (<i>those in italics are already proposed in the Plan</i>)
1	Housing Provide for the overall housing requirement through a mix of dwelling types catering for all needs to promote integrated and thriving communities	The supporting text refers to contributions to the strategic transport corridor management system from all sites of 1 ha or above. As the minimum density is 30 dph this will apply to all housing sites of 30 and above. Depending on the level of contribution sought, there could be a disincentive to house builders. Potential for adverse impact due to decreased viability.	B		A clear SPD should be produced to give developers certainty about contributions.
2	Culture and Heritage Promote, protect and enhance the Culture and Heritage including landscape, archaeology and language	Public transport improvements and park and share/park and ride facilities will all reduce pollution which has an adverse impact on the appearance and integrity of historic buildings. Positive impact.	LG		
3	Communities Promote integrated communities, with opportunities for living, working and	Improved communication and access to facilities should help reduce the existing social disparities between the northern and southern strategy areas. Positive, long term impact.	DG		

Policy CS 8- Transportation				
SA Objective	Nature of the sustainability effect of policy (including magnitude, timing, duration and reversibility of effects where known).	Assessment	Evidence and reference	Suggested mitigation and enhancement measures (<i>those in italics are already proposed in the Plan</i>)
	socialising for all			
4	Health Provide an environment that encourages a healthy and safe lifestyle and promotes well-being	Will indirectly increase access to health and education facilities and improve the quality of the environment. Positive impact.	LG	
5	Economy Provide for a sustainable economy	The road improvements are part of the strategy to facilitate economic development in the valleys and will improve access to strategic development sites at Cwm Cynon Business Park, the Hirwaun/Penywaun site and the Fernhill Colliery site for example. Significant long term positive impacts through addressing the economic decline of the northern strategy area.	DG	
6	Employment Provide for a diverse range of job opportunities	Facilitating economic development will hopefully result in increased employment opportunities. Potential for significant long term impact.	DG	
7	Transport	New road building should be kept to a	LG	22,000 (40%) residents

Policy CS 8- Transportation				
SA Objective	Nature of the sustainability effect of policy (including magnitude, timing, duration and reversibility of effects where known).	Assessment	Evidence and reference	Suggested mitigation and enhancement measures (<i>those in italics are already proposed in the Plan</i>)
	Reduce the need to travel and promote more sustainable modes of transport		commute out of the Borough for work. Review of Economic Analysis of RCT 2006 62% travel to work by car.	
8	Built Environment Provide a high quality built environment that promotes community pride	LG		
9	Landscape Improve, protect and enhance the countryside	Y		Mitigation strategies must be in place including landscaping and minimisation of light pollution.
10	Biodiversity Protect and	Y	HRA/ Appropriate Assessment.	

Policy CS 8- Transportation					
SA Objective		Nature of the sustainability effect of policy (including magnitude, timing, duration and reversibility of effects where known).	Assessment	Evidence and reference	Suggested mitigation and enhancement measures (<i>those in italics are already proposed in the Plan</i>)
	enhance the diversity and abundance of wildlife habitats and native species	Cynon SAC and the plan makers (WAG) must ensure that avoidance or mitigation is possible before addressing compensation measures if necessary. The effects of this road are considered in-combination with the strategic site allocation at Hirwuan through the HRA of the LDP.			
11	Water Promote sustainable water management including promoting use of sustainable drainage systems	Where possible surface water run off should be managed by the use of sustainable urban drainage techniques SUDs e.g. swales to avoid adverse impacts on water quality and flooding.	?		A requirement for SUDs should be implemented.
12	Climate Change Manage the effects of climate change	As for transport	LG		
13	Energy Increase the supply of renewable energy and reduce energy consumption	No specific impact.	B		
14	Land and Soils	There will be a significant land take	B		

Policy CS 8- Transportation				
SA Objective	Nature of the sustainability effect of policy (including magnitude, timing, duration and reversibility of effects where known).	Assessment	Evidence and reference	Suggested mitigation and enhancement measures (<i>those in italics are already proposed in the Plan</i>)
	Promote efficient use of land and soils	associated with the road proposals. However little of the land is of high agricultural value.		
15	Waste Minimise waste, especially waste to landfill	Construction waste should be minimised through waste management plans so there should be a controlled impact.	LG	Waste management plans must be required.
16	Minerals Promote efficient and appropriate use of minerals	Implementation of the road schemes will require significant use of resources which should be sourced as locally as possible to reduce overall environmental impact.	LG	Local sourcing wherever possible.
<p>Summary:</p> <p>There will inevitably be some adverse environmental impact, particularly in relation to landscape and biodiversity SA objectives from the implementation of a road building programme. Short term impacts from construction and development can be minimised and managed. The potential long term and cumulative impacts must be carefully assessed (for biodiversity through the HRA process and for landscape through site specific environmental impact assessment methods) to ensure that the landscape character of RCT is not adversely affected. The implementation of the road building schemes will, however, provide significant positive benefits for social and economic SA objectives and address identified sustainability issues for RCT noted during the scoping process and in the development of the evidence base for the LDP (issues include out-commuting, access to services and facilities, including health care).</p>				

Policy CS 9 – Waste Management

In order to meet the capacity requirements of between 12.5 and 21.7 hectares identified in the South East Wales Regional Waste Plan, the following Strategic Waste sites are identified to provide for a range of waste management options, including recycling and composting, on a regional basis in the following locations:-

1. Bryn Pica (including landfilling of residual wastes);
2. Hirwaun Industrial Estate; and

Existing and allocated B2 employment sites are also considered appropriate locations for waste management facilities.

Provision for community recycling facilities will be made in accordance with policies NSA 28 to SSA25.

Policy CS 9 – Waste Management

SA Objective	Nature of the sustainability effect of policy (including magnitude, timing, duration and reversibility of effects where known).	Assessment	Evidence and reference	Suggested mitigation and enhancement measures (<i>those in italics are already proposed in the Plan</i>)
1 Housing Provide for the overall housing requirement through a mix of dwelling types catering for all needs to promote integrated and thriving communities	No direct impact	B		

Policy CS 9 – Waste Management					
SA Objective		Nature of the sustainability effect of policy (including magnitude, timing, duration and reversibility of effects where known).	Assessment	Evidence and reference	Suggested mitigation and enhancement measures (<i>those in italics are already proposed in the Plan</i>)
2	Culture and Heritage Promote, protect and enhance the Culture and Heritage including landscape, archaeology and language	No direct impact	B		
3	Communities Promote integrated communities, with opportunities for living, working and socialising for all	No direct impact	B		
4	Health Provide an environment that encourages a healthy and safe lifestyle and promotes well-being	All recycling facilities help reduce the amount of waste to landfill sites which are the least favoured methods of waste disposal and can have adverse impacts on health due to pollution. Minor but positive impact.	LG		
5	Economy Provide for a sustainable economy	No direct impact. Ensuring waste and recycling facilities are accessible within the County Borough supports the needs of local businesses. Minor positive	LG		

Policy CS 9 – Waste Management				
SA Objective	Nature of the sustainability effect of policy (including magnitude, timing, duration and reversibility of effects where known).	Assessment	Evidence and reference	Suggested mitigation and enhancement measures (<i>those in italics are already proposed in the Plan</i>)
	impacts			
6	Employment Provide for a diverse range of job opportunities	No direct impact	B	
7	Transport Reduce the need to travel and promote more sustainable modes of transport	The policy makes best use of the existing Bryn Pica site and already manages the traffic route. An increased range of operations will increase vehicle trips to the site but there are also opportunities to reduce waste from neighbouring authorities. Treforest is near one of the major residential centres in the southern area and as such is a good location to reduce length of vehicle trips. This could result in a short term neutral impact and long term potential for a positive impact.	B	The Council are committed to reduction of their own waste to landfill, particularly domestic, and are seeking to reduce landfill material from other areas. Waste Topic paper.
8	Built Environment Provide a high quality built environment that	No significant impact as proposals are all on an existing industrial site/estates.	B	

Policy CS 9 – Waste Management					
SA Objective		Nature of the sustainability effect of policy (including magnitude, timing, duration and reversibility of effects where known).	Assessment	Evidence and reference	Suggested mitigation and enhancement measures (<i>those in italics are already proposed in the Plan</i>)
	promotes community pride				
9	Landscape Improve, protect and enhance the countryside	No significant impact as proposals are all on an existing industrial site/estates.	B		
10	Biodiversity Protect and enhance the diversity and abundance of wildlife habitats and native species	No significant impact as proposals are all on an existing industrial site/estates and sufficiently contained and located at appropriate distance from designated sites.	B		
11	Water Promote sustainable water management including promoting use of sustainable drainage systems	No significant impact as proposals are all on an existing industrial site/estates.	B	Licence conditions mean that operators must: a) control rainwater entering the landfill body; b) prevent surface water or groundwater from entering into landfilled waste; c) collect contaminated water and leachate and treat it to the appropriate standard so that it can be discharged.	

Policy CS 9 – Waste Management				
SA Objective	Nature of the sustainability effect of policy (including magnitude, timing, duration and reversibility of effects where known).	Assessment	Evidence and reference	Suggested mitigation and enhancement measures (<i>those in italics are already proposed in the Plan</i>)
			Statutory Instrument 2002 No. 1559 The Landfill (England and Wales) Regulations 2002	
12	Climate Change Manage the effects of climate change	There may be a short term adverse or neutral impact on transport issues but with potential for a long term improvement. Bryn Pica will be required to collect and flare landfill gases.	LG	At the time of collating the baseline information, Bryn Pica had no proposal to install landfill gas extraction but this is now mandatory. Landfill gas which cannot be used to produce energy must be flared. Statutory Instrument 2002 No. 1559 The Landfill (England and Wales) Regulations 2002
13	Energy Increase the supply of renewable energy and reduce energy consumption	There are opportunities to use gases from landfill to produce energy which could be used on site. Potential for future positive impact.	?	
14	Land and Soils Promote efficient use of land and soils	No significant impact as proposals are all on an existing industrial site/estates.	B	Licence conditions mean that operators must control land and soil pollution.

Policy CS 9 – Waste Management				
SA Objective	Nature of the sustainability effect of policy (including magnitude, timing, duration and reversibility of effects where known).	Assessment	Evidence and reference	Suggested mitigation and enhancement measures (<i>those in italics are already proposed in the Plan</i>)
			Statutory Instrument 2002 No. 1559 The Landfill (England and Wales) Regulations 2002	
15	Waste Minimise waste, especially waste to landfill	The policy directly addresses the aims of this objective. Long term positive impact.	LG	Statutory Instrument 2002 No. 1559 The Landfill (England and Wales) Regulations 2002
16	Minerals Promote efficient and appropriate use of minerals	No significant impact.	B	
<p>Summary: Allocating waste facilities on existing industrial estates minimises environmental impacts, in particular this approach directs waste developments away from sites which may be sensitive for biodiversity or landscape issues. By locating waste facilities near to source and in accessible locations, there are also minor positive impacts for transport SA objectives by reducing the distance that waste is required to be transported. No adverse social or economic impacts are identified. Overall this is a positive policy for wider sustainability aims and objectives and that will help improve the Council's aims of minimising landfill and increasing recycling and composting.</p>				

Appendix VI ii: Sustainability Appraisal of Deposit LDP Area Wide Policies

<p>Policy AW 1 – New Housing</p> <p>Provision will be made for the development of 14,850 new dwellings in Rhondda Cynon Taf during the period 2006 –2021.This will be met by:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) The allocations of this plan; ii) The development of sites in Rhondda Cynon Taf which have planning permission for housing; iii) The development of unallocated land within the defined residential settlement boundaries of the principal towns, key settlements and smaller settlements; iv) The provision of affordable housing; v) The replacement of unfit and substandard housing; vi) The maintenance, rehabilitation and improvement of existing stock and the conversion of suitable structures to provide households; and vii) The development of land at density levels which accord with the requirements of the Policy NSA 10 and SSA 11. <p>Residential development proposals will be expected to contribute to the local housing needs. Where a community housing need has been established, the local planning authority will seek the provision of affordable housing in accordance with policies NSA11 and SSA12.</p>				
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Policy AW 1 – New Housing				
SA Objective	Nature of the sustainability effect of policy (including magnitude, timing, duration and reversibility of effects where known).	Assessment	Evidence and reference	Suggested mitigation and enhancement measures (<i>those in italics are already proposed in the Plan</i>)
1	Housing Provide for the	The policy takes a wide ranging and innovative view of how to meet the	DG 16.2 % projected increase in households. Welsh Assembly	

Policy AW 1 – New Housing				
SA Objective	Nature of the sustainability effect of policy (including magnitude, timing, duration and reversibility of effects where known).	Assessment	Evidence and reference	Suggested mitigation and enhancement measures (<i>those in italics are already proposed in the Plan</i>)
overall housing requirement through a mix of dwelling types catering for all needs to promote integrated and thriving communities	housing requirement and will have a positive effect across the whole Borough. The requirement for affordable housing will ensure that all housing needs are met. Should have long term positive impact.		Government Household Projections for South East Wales 2006 Technical Advice Note 1 RCT Local Development Plan: Housing Land Requirement Topic Paper (Jan 2007) Central and northern valleys population decline of 5% and southern increase of 10% between 1991 and 2001 (Office for National Statistics).	
2 Culture and Heritage Promote, protect and enhance the Culture and Heritage including landscape, archaeology and language	Significant levels of development must not undermine this objective. There is potential for long term and irreversible harm. Redevelopment of existing sites should be chosen carefully so that the cultural heritage of the domestic built environment which characterises Wales is not lost.	Y	4.2% of the Brecon Beacons National Park lies within the Borough. The Borough has significant landscape and archaeological heritage importance. 50% of the housing is traditional terracing.	The production of a Landscape Character Assessment should be considered to guide development.
3 Communities Promote integrated communities, with	The proposed level of development will enable a wide mix of development which should enable the regeneration	DG	RCT CBC, Community Profile 2005	Ensure that clear guidance on developer contributions is in place and is implemented.

Policy AW 1 – New Housing				
SA Objective	Nature of the sustainability effect of policy (including magnitude, timing, duration and reversibility of effects where known).	Assessment	Evidence and reference	Suggested mitigation and enhancement measures (<i>those in italics are already proposed in the Plan</i>)
	opportunities for living, working and socialising for all			
	and improvement of existing settlements including improved access to facilities. Higher development levels are more able to bring forward community facilities through planning obligation. The development is spread across the north and south of the Borough and as such gives a basis for widespread benefit. Potential for long term positive impact.			
4	Health Provide an environment that encourages a healthy and safe lifestyle and promotes well-being	B	There is a disparity in health and levels of deprivation across the district. SA/SEA Baseline.	Ensure that clear guidance on developer contributions is in place and is implemented.
5	Economy Provide for a sustainable	LG	18.8% of residents work outside the Borough. 38,400 outcommute with 19,00 of	

Policy AW 1 – New Housing					
SA Objective	Nature of the sustainability effect of policy (including magnitude, timing, duration and reversibility of effects where known).	Assessment	Evidence and reference	Suggested mitigation and enhancement measures (<i>those in italics are already proposed in the Plan</i>)	
economy	complimentary employment sites in close proximity to housing allocations which should give ease of access. There should be an indirect positive impact.		these going to Cardiff. Economic Development Prospects and Employment Land Implications 2008.		
6	Employment Provide for a diverse range of job opportunities	Initial short term to medium term beneficial impact through employment created in the building sector. Potential benefits as above.	LG	18.8% of residents work outside the Borough.	
7	Transport Reduce the need to travel and promote more sustainable modes of transport	Increased car use is implicit in this level of development and there is long term potential for congestion and air pollution. The location of major development near transport hubs will be vital to achieve this objective and this policy appears to be advocating a somewhat dispersed pattern of development. Development in the smaller settlements may not have adequate public transport services. However there are bus and rail services which can be improved and may offset the impact.	?	62% of residents travel to work by car.	Infrastructure, including green infrastructure, must be provided or improved to serve the new development. Where possible pedestrian and cycling routes should be provided along with access to public transport to reduce the increase in carbon emissions.
8	Built Environment Provide a high	All development will be subject to design policies and the policy gives scope to	LG		

Policy AW 1 – New Housing				
SA Objective	Nature of the sustainability effect of policy (including magnitude, timing, duration and reversibility of effects where known).	Assessment	Evidence and reference	Suggested mitigation and enhancement measures (<i>those in italics are already proposed in the Plan</i>)
	quality built environment that promotes community pride			
9	Landscape Improve, protect and enhance the countryside	Y	RCT contains significant area of important historic landscape. CADW Historic Landscapes.	The Council could require that all available previously developed land (PDL) is utilised before green field sites through a phasing strategy on identified available PDL.
10	Biodiversity Protect and enhance the diversity and abundance of wildlife habitats and native species	B	RCT contains 2 SACs, 14 SSSIs and 32 key Countryside Sites. CCW.	Avoidance of these areas and also of habitat fragmentation in undesignated areas.
11	Water Promote sustainable	Y		Use of sustainable water management techniques.

Policy AW 1 – New Housing				
SA Objective	Nature of the sustainability effect of policy (including magnitude, timing, duration and reversibility of effects where known).	Assessment	Evidence and reference	Suggested mitigation and enhancement measures (<i>those in italics are already proposed in the Plan</i>)
	water management including promoting use of sustainable drainage systems	summer water shortages. Extra pressure on surface water and foul drainage systems must be managed to avoid potential adverse impact including flooding.		
12	Climate Change Manage the effects of climate change	This level of development will inevitably involve increased carbon emissions both through embodied energy and future running of the dwellings. Potential for long term significant adverse impact. Transport issues also relevant here.	Y	The use of sustainable materials and construction methods and the adoption of the Code for Sustainable Homes. Location of development in existing settlements with good public transport links will mitigate.
13	Energy Increase the supply of renewable energy and reduce energy consumption	This level of development, whatever the location, will inevitably involve increased energy use in the future running of the dwellings. RCT already has some renewables and it should build on this.	Y	The use of sustainable materials and construction methods including high levels of insulation and the adoption of the Code for Sustainable Homes.
14	Land and Soils Promote efficient use of land and soils	The preference for development on previously developed sites and the proposal to reuse existing stock will minimise adverse impact. Rural sites may inevitably be greenfield so there is	LG	4,000 empty properties in RCT. Housing Matter – a Local Housing Strategy for RCT 2007-12

Policy AW 1 – New Housing				
SA Objective	Nature of the sustainability effect of policy (including magnitude, timing, duration and reversibility of effects where known).	Assessment	Evidence and reference	Suggested mitigation and enhancement measures (<i>those in italics are already proposed in the Plan</i>)
	potential for adverse impact but of a limited scale, where necessary site level mitigation should be included (e.g. careful storage and reuse of topsoil).			
15	Waste Minimise waste, especially waste to landfill	LG	RCT has shown a relative decrease in municipal waste generated compared to adjacent Boroughs. Strategic Planning Guidance for South East Wales.	The use of sustainable materials and construction methods and the adoption of the Code for Sustainable Homes which covers both site waste and recycling issues.
16	Minerals Promote efficient and appropriate use of minerals	B	4,000 empty properties in RCT. Housing Matter – a Local Housing Strategy fro RCT 2007-12	The use of sustainable and recycled materials and construction methods and the adoption of the Code for Sustainable Homes which covers both materials and recycling issues.
<p>Summary: The policy takes a wide ranging and innovative approach to meeting the projected housing requirement and performs well against the sustainability framework objectives for housing, communities the economy and employment. The policy makes use of all existing resources and does not rely on new build any more than necessary, which addresses identified sustainability issues that there is good potential to reuse and refurbish existing buildings. Most of the potential impacts identified relate to environmental objectives (landscape, climate change) and the issues identified can be effectively resolved through the requirement for, and enforcement of specific standards of design, construction and</p>				

Policy AW 1 – New Housing				
SA Objective	Nature of the sustainability effect of policy (including magnitude, timing, duration and reversibility of effects where known).	Assessment	Evidence and reference	Suggested mitigation and enhancement measures (<i>those in italics are already proposed in the Plan</i>)
operation. The policy addressed identified social and economic sustainability issues and SA objectives well.				

Policy AW 2 Sustainable Locations				
<p>In order to ensure that development proposals on non-allocated sites support the objectives of the plan, development proposals will only be supported in sustainable locations. Sustainable locations are defined as sites that -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. are within the defined settlement boundary; ii. would not unacceptably conflict with surrounding uses; iii. have good accessibility by a range transport options; iv. have good access to key services and facilities; v. are not within the Zone C floodplain unless it can be justified on the grounds that:- <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) it is necessary to assist the regeneration of a principal town or key settlement, or where development involves a large brownfield site b) the potential consequences of a flooding event have been considered and found to be acceptable in accordance with national guidance vi. support the roles & functions of the principal towns, key settlements, small settlements vii. support the development of the 8 strategic sites viii. are not in areas of identified environmental importance such as SINC, SLAs, SSSIs or green wedges; ix. are well related to existing water, sewerage, electrical, gas and telecommunications infrastructure. 				

Policy AW 2 Sustainable Locations					
SA Objective		Nature of the sustainability effect of policy (including magnitude, timing, duration and reversibility of effects where known).	Assessment	Evidence and reference	Suggested mitigation and enhancement measures (<i>those in italics are already proposed in the Plan</i>)
1	Housing Provide for the overall housing requirement through a mix of dwelling types catering for all needs to promote integrated and thriving communities	The policy facilitates housing development to meet the identified need. Small sites within defined settlement boundaries areas can often be brought forward more quickly than larger allocations and there could be a short term positive impact.	DG		
2	Culture and Heritage Promote, protect and enhance the Culture and Heritage including landscape, archaeology and language	Urban infill can have an adverse impact on existing architecture but this should be controlled through design policies.	B		
3	Communities Promote integrated communities, with opportunities for living, working and socialising for all	This policy seeks to build on existing sustainable communities. The capacity of existing facilities should be assessed as smaller sites may not be able to contribute adequately to the expansion or improvement of facilities. However the policy does specify good access to facilities so this issue should be	?		

Policy AW 2 Sustainable Locations				
SA Objective	Nature of the sustainability effect of policy (including magnitude, timing, duration and reversibility of effects where known).	Assessment	Evidence and reference	Suggested mitigation and enhancement measures (<i>those in italics are already proposed in the Plan</i>)
	overcome. Potential for some adverse cumulative impact if not carefully monitored.			
4	Health Provide an environment that encourages a healthy and safe lifestyle and promotes well-being	LG		
5	Economy Provide for a sustainable economy	LG		
6	Employment Provide for a diverse range of job opportunities	B		
7	Transport Reduce the need to travel and promote more sustainable	LG		

Policy AW 2 Sustainable Locations				
SA Objective	Nature of the sustainability effect of policy (including magnitude, timing, duration and reversibility of effects where known).	Assessment	Evidence and reference	Suggested mitigation and enhancement measures (<i>those in italics are already proposed in the Plan</i>)
	modes of transport	apart from the car.		
8	Built Environment Provide a high quality built environment that promotes community pride	Impacts subject to other design policy.	B	
9	Landscape Improve, protect and enhance the countryside	As the policy deals with development within defined settlement boundaries there is unlikely to be any impact on the wider landscape and the policy does refer to requirement for development to avoid SLAs and green wedges. .	LG	
10	Biodiversity Protect and enhance the diversity and abundance of wildlife habitats and native species	As the policy deals with development within defined settlement boundaries there is unlikely to be any impact on biodiversity unless derelict sites have become habitats for species such as bats or breeding birds. However all such sites should be subject to ecological surveys as part of the planning process? The policy does not allow sites to be located in SINC's or SSSIs (which are protected by national policy) but does not refer to locally designated sites.	B	Ensure that ecological surveys are carried out on land or buildings which have been derelict/unused for more than two years. Make reference to local nature conservation designations.

Policy AW 2 Sustainable Locations					
SA Objective	Nature of the sustainability effect of policy (including magnitude, timing, duration and reversibility of effects where known).	Assessment	Evidence and reference	Suggested mitigation and enhancement measures (<i>those in italics are already proposed in the Plan</i>)	
	Impact should be neutral but the policy could be improved. .				
11	Water Promote sustainable water management including promoting use of sustainable drainage systems	The policy addresses issues of flooding but not water demand or quality and management. Much of the existing sewage infrastructure is inadequate which could lead to water quality problems. Potential for adverse impact.	Y	Wales is likely to experience water shortages in the summer months.	The policy could be improved by amending criterion ix to "are well related to existing water, sewerage, electrical, gas and telecommunications infrastructure and <i>improvements to such services will be provided where necessary</i> " All applications in Flood Zone C will require a Flood Risk Assessment to accompany any planning application so could criterion v omit item b) and replace it with a requirement for sustainable urban drainage systems?
12	Climate Change Manage the effects of climate change	See comments on transport and water which are the main factors.	L C		
13	Energy Increase the supply of renewable energy and reduce energy	No specific impact.	B		

Policy AW 2 Sustainable Locations				
SA Objective	Nature of the sustainability effect of policy (including magnitude, timing, duration and reversibility of effects where known).	Assessment	Evidence and reference	Suggested mitigation and enhancement measures (<i>those in italics are already proposed in the Plan</i>)
	consumption			
14	Land and Soils Promote efficient use of land and soils	No specific impact as the policy refers to sites with defined boundaries.	B	
15	Waste Minimise waste, especially waste to landfill	New development in existing settlements should be able to benefit from recycling facilities and kerb side collections already in place. Positive impact.	LG	
16	Minerals Promote efficient and appropriate use of minerals	No specific impact.	B	
<p>Summary:</p> <p>The policy generally performs well against SA Objectives, given its focus on ensuring sustainable settlements and the inclusion of key constraints around environmental/ infrastructure issues. Two recommendations are made which would further improve the performance of the policy:</p> <p>Make reference to local nature conservation designations in criterion viii</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Amend criterion ix to "are well related to existing water, sewerage, electrical, gas and telecommunications infrastructure and <i>improvements to such services will be provided where necessary</i>" All applications in Flood Zone C will require a Flood Risk Assessment to accompany any planning application it is recommended that criterion v. omit item b) and replace it with a requirement for sustainable urban drainage systems. 				

Policy AW 3 – Exception Sites For Affordable Housing In The Countryside

Development proposals for the provision of affordable housing outside and adjoining the identified residential settlement boundaries will be permitted where it can be demonstrated that:

- i) The proposed development cannot be accommodated within the defined residential settlement boundaries;
- ii) The site does not exceed 30 dwellings or 1 hectare;
- iii) The proposed development is solely for the provision of affordable housing to meet an identified local need;
- iv) The proposed development is not within a green wedge or an internationally, nationally or locally designated nature conservation site.

Policy AW 3 – Exception Sites For Affordable Housing In The Countryside

SA Objective	Nature of the sustainability effect of policy (including magnitude, timing, duration and reversibility of effects where known).	Assessment	Evidence and reference	Suggested mitigation and enhancement measures (<i>those in italics are already proposed in the Plan</i>)
1 Housing Provide for the overall housing requirement through a mix of dwelling types catering for all needs to promote integrated and thriving communities	Criterion i) of the policy does not make it clear that exception site affordable housing should be provided on land within residential settlement boundaries which would <u>not be released</u> for market housing. As it stands the policy could have a detrimental effect on the provision of affordable housing as land may be available for housing but at market prices, and not at the usual	Y	RCT CBC Local Housing Strategy 2007 indicates a need for 870 units per annum over the next five years. “Rural exception sites should be small (as locally defined in the development plan), solely for affordable housing and on land within or	The policy should be amended to clearly reflect the intention and wording of TAN 2.

Policy AW 3 – Exception Sites For Affordable Housing In The Countryside				
SA Objective	Nature of the sustainability effect of policy (including magnitude, timing, duration and reversibility of effects where known).	Assessment	Evidence and reference	Suggested mitigation and enhancement measures (<i>those in italics are already proposed in the Plan</i>)
	discounted site price which is behind the philosophy of “exception sites”. Potential for significant negative effect unless the policy is clarified.		adjoining existing rural settlements which would not otherwise be released for market housing.” TAN 2 WAG	
2	Culture and Heritage Promote, protect and enhance the Culture and Heritage including landscape, archaeology and language	?	RCT contains significant area of important historic landscape. Ref: CADW Historic Landscapes.	
3	Communities Promote integrated communities, with opportunities for living, working and socialising for all	DG	RCT CBC Llocal Housing Strategy 2007 indicates a need for 870 units per annum over the next five years.	The policy could refer to a preferred level of community facilities such as shop, primary school, church, public house so that accessibility issues are not exacerbated.
4	Health	DG	There is a disparity in health	

Policy AW 3 – Exception Sites For Affordable Housing In The Countryside				
SA Objective	Nature of the sustainability effect of policy (including magnitude, timing, duration and reversibility of effects where known).	Assessment	Evidence and reference	Suggested mitigation and enhancement measures (<i>those in italics are already proposed in the Plan</i>)
	Provide an environment that encourages a healthy and safe lifestyle and promotes well-being	impact on health through the improvement of housing conditions and the provision of high standard affordable housing.	and levels of deprivation across the district. SA/SEA Baseline.	
5	Economy Provide for a sustainable economy	May have an indirect and positive impact on the economy through retention of a young employment base.	LG	
6	Employment Provide for a diverse range of job opportunities	As Above	LG	
7	Transport Reduce the need to travel and promote more sustainable modes of transport	Access to public transport is important to those on lower incomes so location will be important both in terms of available access to facilities and in reducing the use of the private vehicle. Otherwise there is potential for adverse impact.	Y	Rural sites should be kept to the minimum required to reduce use of the car.
8	Built Environment Provide a high quality built environment that	Affordable housing can be of a high design standard and there should be no specific adverse impact.	B	

Policy AW 3 – Exception Sites For Affordable Housing In The Countryside				
SA Objective	Nature of the sustainability effect of policy (including magnitude, timing, duration and reversibility of effects where known).	Assessment	Evidence and reference	Suggested mitigation and enhancement measures (<i>those in italics are already proposed in the Plan</i>)
	promotes community pride			
9	Landscape Improve, protect and enhance the countryside	Y	RCT contains significant area of important historic landscape. Ref: CADW Historic Landscapes.	The policy refers to nature conservation designations but not to landscape designations. vi) could be amended.
10	Biodiversity Protect and enhance the diversity and abundance of wildlife habitats and native species	B	RCT contains 2 SACs, 14 SSSIs and 32 key Countryside Sites. CCW.	
11	Water Promote sustainable water management including promoting use of sustainable drainage systems	B		Requirement for Ecohomes very good standard.
12	Climate Change Manage the effects of climate change	B		The use of sustainable materials and construction methods and the adoption of the Code for Sustainable Homes or EcoHomes

Policy AW 3 – Exception Sites For Affordable Housing In The Countryside				
SA Objective	Nature of the sustainability effect of policy (including magnitude, timing, duration and reversibility of effects where known).	Assessment	Evidence and reference	Suggested mitigation and enhancement measures (<i>those in italics are already proposed in the Plan</i>)
				very good.
13	Energy Increase the supply of renewable energy and reduce energy consumption	As part of the general level of development it will inevitably involve increased energy use in the future running of the dwellings. RCT already has some renewables and it should build on this.	Y	The use of sustainable materials and construction methods including high levels of insulation and the adoption of the Code for Sustainable Homes or EcoHomes very good.
14	Land and Soils Promote efficient use of land and soils	Rural sites may inevitably be greenfield so there is potential for adverse impact but of a limited scale.	B	4,000 empty properties in RCT. Housing Matter – a Local Housing Strategy fro RCT 2007-12
15	Waste Minimise waste, especially waste to landfill	Sites within or adjacent to settlements should be able to benefit from existing recycling facilities or road side collection schemes.	B	RCT has shown a relative decrease in municipal waste generated compared to adjacent Boroughs. Strategic Planning Guidance for South East Wales.
16	Minerals Promote efficient and appropriate use of minerals	No significant impact.	B	
<p>Summary: No unacceptable adverse impacts are identified apart from the need to clarify the wording of the policy which in its present form could deter the provision of affordable housing. It is recommended that the policy should be amended to clearly reflect the intention and wording of TAN 2 as follows:</p>				

Policy AW 3 – Exception Sites For Affordable Housing In The Countryside				
SA Objective	Nature of the sustainability effect of policy (including magnitude, timing, duration and reversibility of effects where known).	Assessment	Evidence and reference	Suggested mitigation and enhancement measures (<i>those in italics are already proposed in the Plan</i>)
<p>as follows:</p> <p>Criterion i) "The proposed development cannot be accommodated within the defined residential settlement boundaries <i>on land which private market housing would not permitted</i>".</p> <p>Additional recommendations to strengthen the policy include ensuring the use of sustainable materials and construction methods including high levels of insulation and the adoption of the Code for Sustainable Homes or EcoHomes very good and reference in the policy to a preferred level of community facilities such as shop, primary school, church, public house so that accessibility issues are not exacerbated.</p>				

Policy AW 4 Community Infrastructure & Planning Obligations

Planning obligations will be sought where development proposals require the provision of new, improved or rely on existing services, facilities, infrastructure and related works, to make the proposal acceptable in land use planning terms.

Contributions will be sought in respect of:

- i) Affordable housing
- ii) Physical infrastructure works;
- iii) Open space, sport/play space and access to natural green space.
- iv) Educational facilities;
- v) Recreational and leisure facilities;
- vi) Management of Strategic Transport Corridors
- vii) Public transport facilities and services;
- viii) Travel plan initiatives;
- ix) Highway infrastructure works;
- x) Walking and cycling schemes;
- xi) Waste management and recycling;
- xii) Renewable energy and energy efficiency initiatives;
- xiii) Environmental and landscape improvements;
- xiv) Habitat conservation and biodiversity;
- xv) Cultural and community facilities; and
- xvi) Any other contribution the Council considers appropriate to the development.

Policy AW 4 Community Infrastructure & Planning Obligations					
SA Objective		Nature of the sustainability effect of policy (including magnitude, timing, duration and reversibility of effects where known).	Assessment	Evidence and reference	Suggested mitigation and enhancement measures (<i>those in italics are already proposed in the Plan</i>)
1	Housing Provide for the overall housing requirement through a mix of dwelling types catering for all needs to promote integrated and thriving communities	Whilst it is important that RCT achieves high quality development it is also important that planning contributions do not render development unviable. Contributions should be restricted to those that are necessary rather than desirable to ensure that developers are not deterred; particularly in the northern strategy area which does not experience the higher residential values in the southern strategy area. There is some potential in this policy to have an adverse impact on meeting the housing requirement.	?		It is recommended that the policy or supporting text make it clear that this is not a list of contributions which will be applied to all residential or employment sites, regardless of scale and will be applied as appropriate.
2	Culture and Heritage Promote, protect and enhance the Culture and Heritage including landscape, archaeology and language	The policy seeks contributions to cultural and community facilities which will assist in meeting the aims of this objective. Positive impact.	LG		
3	Communities Promote integrated	The policy seeks to ensure that new development does not put undue	LG		

Policy AW 4 Community Infrastructure & Planning Obligations					
SA Objective		Nature of the sustainability effect of policy (including magnitude, timing, duration and reversibility of effects where known).	Assessment	Evidence and reference	Suggested mitigation and enhancement measures (<i>those in italics are already proposed in the Plan</i>)
	communities, with opportunities for living, working and socialising for all	pressure on existing facilities and that extended communities have adequate facilities with convenient access to them. Positive impact.			
4	Health Provide an environment that encourages a healthy and safe lifestyle and promotes well-being	The policy seeks to ensure that new development does not put undue pressure on existing facilities, including health and education, s and that extended communities have adequate facilities with convenient access to them. Open space, sport/play space and access to natural green space are all sought to encourage healthy lifestyles. Positive impact.	LG		
5	Economy Provide for a sustainable economy	Economic development is also subject to sustainability criteria and the policy seeks contributions towards waste, transport and renewable energy schemes. These requirements should help to produce a modern economy in the County Borough. Positive impact.	LG		
6	Employment Provide for a diverse range of job	Benefits from the above will hopefully be reflected in increased employment opportunities. Positive impact.	LG		

Policy AW 4 Community Infrastructure & Planning Obligations				
SA Objective	Nature of the sustainability effect of policy (including magnitude, timing, duration and reversibility of effects where known).	Assessment	Evidence and reference	Suggested mitigation and enhancement measures (<i>those in italics are already proposed in the Plan</i>)
	opportunities			
7	Transport Reduce the need to travel and promote more sustainable modes of transport	LG		
8	Built Environment Provide a high quality built environment that promotes community pride	LG		
9	Landscape Improve, protect and enhance the countryside	?		Is this explained in the SPG ?
10	Biodiversity Protect and enhance the diversity and	?		Clarification may be necessary within the SPG.

Policy AW 4 Community Infrastructure & Planning Obligations					
SA Objective		Nature of the sustainability effect of policy (including magnitude, timing, duration and reversibility of effects where known).	Assessment	Evidence and reference	Suggested mitigation and enhancement measures (<i>those in italics are already proposed in the Plan</i>)
	abundance of wildlife habitats and native species	mostly only be sought on land within the site boundary. Unsure impact.			
11	Water Promote sustainable water management including promoting use of sustainable drainage systems	There is no reference to water initiatives or supply or sewerage infrastructure. Although such services are a prerequisite for development, larger sites may be able to contribute to more than immediate needs. Unsure impact.	?		Potential to include sustainable water initiatives as an area where contributions may be sought.
12	Climate Change Manage the effects of climate change	The comments under transport, energy and water apply.	l (?		
13	Energy Increase the supply of renewable energy and reduce energy consumption	The policy seeks contributions to renewable energy and energy efficiency initiatives. The precise meaning of this is not detailed in the supporting text. Potential for positive impact.	?		Clarification may be necessary within the SPG.
14	Land and Soils Promote efficient use of land and soils	No direct impact.	B		
15	Waste Minimise waste, especially waste to	Contributions to waste management and recycling schemes are sought although such facilities are best	LG		

Policy AW 4 Community Infrastructure & Planning Obligations					
SA Objective		Nature of the sustainability effect of policy (including magnitude, timing, duration and reversibility of effects where known).	Assessment	Evidence and reference	Suggested mitigation and enhancement measures (<i>those in italics are already proposed in the Plan</i>)
	landfill	provided on site to minimise transport movements by individuals. However positive impact on the provision of waste transfer sites.			
16	Minerals Promote efficient and appropriate use of minerals	No direct impact.	B		

Summary:

Whilst the policy performs very well against the majority of sustainability framework objectives, there is an underlying issue that the list of contributions sought may deter, or render unviable, development which is needed to be bring about the regeneration of the County Borough, particularly in the northern strategy area. It is recommended that the potential to include sustainable water initiatives as an area where contributions may be sought is also considered within the policy. The policy wording should clarify that contributions will vary and be sought according to the nature and scale of the proposal and their likely impacts. Both developers and development management planners require clear guidance on this topic and it is recommended that the SPG gives clear and understandable guidance on the level of contribution which will be expected.

Policy AW 5 New Development

Development proposals will be supported where:-

A. Amenity

- i. The scale, form and design of the development make a positive contribution to the character and appearance of the site and the surrounding area;
- ii. Existing site features of built and natural environmental value are retained;
- iii. There would be no unacceptable impact upon the amenities of neighbouring occupiers;
- iv. The development would be compatible with other uses in the locality;
- v. Multi-functional use of existing and new buildings is encouraged;
- vi. The development designs out the opportunity for crime and anti social behaviour;

B. Sustainable Design

- i. The design minimises energy loss and use;
- ii. Commercial schemes of 1000m² and over, achieve as a minimum the Very Good Breeam (or equivalent) standard
- iii. Residential schemes of 10 or more units, achieve as a minimum the Very Good Eco-Homes (or equivalent) target: and
- iv. Commercial Schemes with a floor-space of 1000m² and residential schemes of ten or more units provide at least 10% of predicted energy requirements from on site renewable sources;

C. Accessibility

- i. The development is accessible to the local and wider community by public transport, walking, cycling and car;
- ii. The site layout and mix of uses maximises opportunities to reduce dependence on cars;
- iii. The development has safe access to the highway network and would not cause traffic congestion or exacerbate existing traffic congestion;
- iv. Car parking is provided in accordance with the Council's approved standards;

Policy AW 5 New Development					
SA Objective		Nature of the sustainability effect of policy (including magnitude, timing, duration and reversibility of effects where known).	Assessment	Evidence and reference	Suggested mitigation and enhancement measures (<i>those in italics are already proposed in the Plan</i>)
1	Housing Provide for the overall housing requirement through a mix of dwelling types catering for all needs to promote integrated and thriving communities	A. The policy will meet one of the sub-objectives to protect and enhance the existing housing, particularly the characteristic terraces, by ensuring that development respects and enhances its surroundings. It also promotes good quality housing. Positive impact. B. Higher energy efficient construction methods produce housing which is cheaper to run and will specifically have long term and positive benefits for those on lower incomes.	DG		
2	Culture and Heritage Promote, protect and enhance the Culture and Heritage including landscape, archaeology and language	A. Design should make positive contributions to the area and will be expected to respect areas of cultural/historic interest. B. There may be conflict with this objective, and what may be perceived as a negative impact, as different building forms to achieve high levels of	LG		

Policy AW 5 New Development				
SA Objective	Nature of the sustainability effect of policy (including magnitude, timing, duration and reversibility of effects where known).	Assessment	Evidence and reference	Suggested mitigation and enhancement measures (<i>those in italics are already proposed in the Plan</i>)
	energy efficiency are introduced. C. The policy seeks to reduce congestion which can detract from the core of historic settlements. Positive impact.			
3	<p>Communities Promote integrated communities, with opportunities for living, working and socialising for all</p> <p>A. The requirement for crime conscious design will lead to secure developments which is particularly important for vulnerable members of society,</p> <p>C. The requirement for new developments to be accessible by means other than the private car directly meets this objective.</p>	B		
4	<p>Health Provide an environment that encourages a healthy and safe lifestyle and promotes well-being</p> <p>B. More energy efficient buildings result in lower running costs which can be significant for those on lower incomes such as the unemployed or elderly, Although new build will only be a minor part of the overall dwelling stock there will still be a positive impact.</p> <p>C. Good access to new health and education facilities will progress this objective.</p>	DG		

Policy AW 5 New Development					
SA Objective		Nature of the sustainability effect of policy (including magnitude, timing, duration and reversibility of effects where known).	Assessment	Evidence and reference	Suggested mitigation and enhancement measures (<i>those in italics are already proposed in the Plan</i>)
5	Economy Provide for a sustainable economy	<p>A. No significant direct impact.</p> <p>B. Developer/investors may be deterred by the higher build costs of highly insulated buildings but the policy does illustrate that RCT intends to move towards a modern sustainable economy. Long rather than short term positive effect.</p> <p>C. The requirement for travel plans will also be part of moving towards a modern economy.</p> <p>The supporting text also supports B1 uses and takes a flexible approach to other appropriate uses in residential areas. This will enable buildings to brought back into use as part of the economy.</p>	LG		
6	Employment Provide for a diverse range of job opportunities	Benefits described above should improve employment opportunities.	LG		
7	Transport Reduce the need to	Of particular significance in relation to this objective are the criteria under	LG		

Policy AW 5 New Development					
SA Objective		Nature of the sustainability effect of policy (including magnitude, timing, duration and reversibility of effects where known).	Assessment	Evidence and reference	Suggested mitigation and enhancement measures (<i>those in italics are already proposed in the Plan</i>)
	travel and promote more sustainable modes of transport	accessibility which directly address and progress this objective.			
8	Built Environment Provide a high quality built environment that promotes community pride	B. This part of the policy should not be undermined by other policies seeking more traditional development. Construction and design may need to change to meet high environmental standards. Design must be allowed to change over time and can have a positive effect and be well integrated into exiting development.	LG		
9	Landscape Improve, protect and enhance the countryside	A. Criterion ii) under Amenity ensures that existing on site features of natural environmental value are retained and the policy refers to making a positive contribution to the surrounding area in criterion i). It is assumed that both these criterion refer to the landscape and landscape features.	LG		The policy could be improved by making specific reference to the landscape.
10	Biodiversity Protect and enhance the diversity and abundance of	A. Criterion ii) under Amenity ensures that existing on site features of natural environmental value are retained and the policy refers to making a positive contribution to the surrounding area in	B		The policy could be improved by making specific reference to the biodiversity,

Policy AW 5 New Development					
SA Objective		Nature of the sustainability effect of policy (including magnitude, timing, duration and reversibility of effects where known).	Assessment	Evidence and reference	Suggested mitigation and enhancement measures (<i>those in italics are already proposed in the Plan</i>)
	wildlife habitats and native species	criterion i). It is assumed that both these criterion refer to the biodiversity and biodiversity/geological features. No significant impact.			
11	Water Promote sustainable water management including promoting use of sustainable drainage systems	B. EcoHomes Very Good standard includes some water management requirements. Positive impact.	LG		Wales is considering adopting the Code for Sustainable Homes which is now in use in England. EcoHomes Very Good is equivalent to the Code level 3.

Policy AW 5 New Development					
SA Objective	Nature of the sustainability effect of policy (including magnitude, timing, duration and reversibility of effects where known).	Assessment	Evidence and reference	Suggested mitigation and enhancement measures (<i>those in italics are already proposed in the Plan</i>)	
12	<p>Climate Change Manage the effects of climate change</p>	<p>B. EcoHomes Very Good standard incorporates many issues which will help adapt to, and not exacerbate, climate change. Requirement for 10% energy from renewables will have a positive impact.</p> <p>C. Reduction of carbon emissions from vehicles is key to tackling climate change. Positive impacts.</p>	D G	As above.	The policy is commended for adopting EcoHomes and BREEAM standards but the policy could be improved further if the site threshold of 10 or more units was lowered and every dwelling to meet that standard could be considered. Proposed changes to the Building Regulations will bring insulation standards and energy performance requirements to that standard in the very near future. CSH also incorporates at least 10% energy from renewables.
13	<p>Energy Increase the supply of renewable energy and reduce energy consumption</p>	B. The requirement for 10% energy from renewables will have a short term impact leading to a significant long term positive effect. The requirement to meet BREEAM standards will also reduce embodied energy and energy consumption in new development.	DG		
14	<p>Land and Soils Promote efficient use of land and soils</p>	B. BREEAM promotes the use of previously developed land.	DG		

Policy AW 5 New Development					
15	Waste Minimise waste, especially waste to landfill	B. BREEAM encourages the production of waste management plans to deal with on and off site waste and encourages recycling. Positive cumulative effects.	DG		
16	Minerals Promote efficient and appropriate use of minerals	B. The emphasis on renewable materials reduces the need for mineral extraction, processing and use. Positive cumulative effects.	DG		
<p>Summary:</p> <p>The policy covers three aspects of development amenity and accessibility issues and sustainable design and construction, and all aspects perform well against the Sustainability Framework objectives. No adverse impacts have been identified and there should be a cumulative, ongoing progression of all the objectives. Recommendations for further improving the positive effects of implementing the policy include making specific reference to the landscape and biodiversity; and considering lowering the site threshold of 10 or more units and requiring every dwelling to meet that standard. Proposed changes to the Building Regulations will bring insulation standards and energy performance requirements to this standard in the very near future. The Code for Sustainable Homes also incorporates the requirement for at least 10% energy from renewables and this standard is likely to be adopted in Wales superceding EcoHomes.</p>					

Policy AW 6 Design and Placemaking

Development Proposals will be supported where:-

- i. They are of a high standard of design, which reinforces attractive qualities and local distinctiveness and improves areas of poor design and layout;
- ii. They are appropriate to the local context in terms of siting, appearance, scale, height, massing, elevational treatment, materials and detailing;
- iii. In the case of extensions to buildings, they reflect, complement or enhance the form, siting, materials, details and character of the original building, its curtilage and the wider area
- iv. In the case of proposals for new and replacement shopfronts and signage, they make a positive contribution to the street scene.
- v. In the public realm and key locations such as town centres, major routes, junctions and public spaces, the character and quality of the built form is to a high standard of design;
- vi. Public art, landscaping and planting is integral to the scheme and enhances the site and the wider context;
- vii. They propose an integrated mixture of uses appropriate to the scale of the development;
- viii. They propose an efficient use of land, especially high-density residential development on sites in proximity to local amenities and public transport;
- ix. Open space is provided in accordance with the National Playing Field Association Standards;
- x. A high level of connectivity and accessibility to existing centers, by a wide range of travel modes is supported;
- xi. Schemes incorporate a flexibility in design to allow changes in use of buildings and spaces as requirements and circumstances change;
- xii. The development reflects the cultural heritage of Rhondda Cynon Taf.

Proposals for 5 dwellings and over; commercial schemes of 1000m² and over; and any other scheme, regardless of size, where the Council consider there are design implications, must be accompanied by a Design Statement.

Developers will be required to submit comprehensive masterplans for the development (or part development) of the 8 Strategic Sites; for residential proposals of 50 dwellings and over; for commercial developments of 10,000m² and over; and for schemes where the Council considers the issue of place making can only be fully considered through the submission of a masterplan. Masterplans must have regard to the need to create high quality, sustainable and locally distinct places.

Policy AW 6 Design and Placemaking					
SA Objective		Nature of the sustainability effect of policy (including magnitude, timing, duration and reversibility of effects where known).	Assessment	Evidence and reference	Suggested mitigation and enhancement measures (<i>those in italics are already proposed in the Plan</i>)
1	Housing Provide for the overall housing requirement through a mix of dwelling types catering for all needs to promote integrated and thriving communities	The policy will not have a strategic impact on the provision of housing as it relates to design not supply.	B		
2	Culture and Heritage Promote, protect and enhance the Culture and Heritage including landscape, archaeology and language	The policy seeks to ensure that there is no detrimental effect on local distinctiveness. Issues such as shopfronts, materials and impacts on town centres and public spaces are all given consideration. Criterion xii specifically requires that development reflects the cultural heritage of RCT.	LG		
3	Communities Promote integrated communities, with opportunities for living, working and	Should progress this objective through the development of mixed and integrated uses and engendering civic/community pride. Access for all is required and necessary community	DG		

Policy AW 6 Design and Placemaking				
SA Objective	Nature of the sustainability effect of policy (including magnitude, timing, duration and reversibility of effects where known).	Assessment	Evidence and reference	Suggested mitigation and enhancement measures (<i>those in italics are already proposed in the Plan</i>)
	socialising for all	facilities should be provided. Long term positive benefit.		
4	Health Provide an environment that encourages a healthy and safe lifestyle and promotes well-being	A high quality built environment with open space and usable public realm will encourage walking and activity and have positive benefits for health objectives.	DG	
5	Economy Provide for a sustainable economy	High standards of design may encourage inward investment. Potential for positive effect.	DG	
6	Employment Provide for a diverse range of job opportunities	No significant impact apart from potential for increased inward investment creating employment opportunities.	LG	
7	Transport Reduce the need to travel and promote more sustainable modes of transport	Criterion x requires good connections with, and access to, existing centres by a range of transport options i.e. walking, cycling and public transport. The requirement for an integrated mix of uses on appropriate sites could also reduce travel by providing day to day shopping,	LG	

Policy AW 6 Design and Placemaking				
SA Objective	Nature of the sustainability effect of policy (including magnitude, timing, duration and reversibility of effects where known).	Assessment	Evidence and reference	Suggested mitigation and enhancement measures (<i>those in italics are already proposed in the Plan</i>)
	employment opportunities and residential accommodation in close proximity. Maximisation of use of public transport is also sought by the requirement for high density development on sites in close proximity to facilities or public transport. This combination should produce a positive impact for this objective. .			
8	Built Environment Provide a high quality built environment that promotes community pride	LG	Design and Access Statements required in England from August 2006,.	Design and Access Statements are now required as part of a planning application for most forms of development. Seeking Design

Policy AW 6 Design and Placemaking				
SA Objective	Nature of the sustainability effect of policy (including magnitude, timing, duration and reversibility of effects where known).	Assessment	Evidence and reference	Suggested mitigation and enhancement measures (<i>those in italics are already proposed in the Plan</i>)
9	Landscape Improve, protect and enhance the countryside	Although landscape plays a significant part in the cultural heritage of RCT and the importance of cultural heritage is recognised in the policy there is no specific reference to the ability of the landscape to accommodate schemes. Site level landscaping is referred to as is the wider context of sites and it may be considered that other policies such as AW9 adequately cover this issue.	LG	
10	Biodiversity Protect and enhance the diversity and abundance of wildlife habitats and native species	Nature conservation sites are also protected by Policy AW9. As the plan is read as a whole there should be no adverse impact arising from this policy.	LG	
11	Water Promote sustainable water management including promoting use of sustainable drainage systems	Design policies do not necessarily cover the water environment although there may be important on site features or off site features that may be affected by development. It is felt that this issue is not adequately covered in any part of the	Y	Water Framework Directive. Water will be a significant national issue and Wales is expected to suffer from water shortages in summer periods. The plan should incorporate a policy on water quality, supply and

Policy AW 6 Design and Placemaking				
SA Objective	Nature of the sustainability effect of policy (including magnitude, timing, duration and reversibility of effects where known).	Assessment	Evidence and reference	Suggested mitigation and enhancement measures (<i>those in italics are already proposed in the Plan</i>)
	plan.			management to comply with the requirements of the WFD.
12	Climate Change Manage the effects of climate change	See comments under transport, water and energy. Flood issues are covered under another plan policy.	L C	
13	Energy Increase the supply of renewable energy and reduce energy consumption	No significant impact	B	
14	Land and Soils Promote efficient use of land and soils	Encourages efficient use of land and higher densities and flexible use of buildings, Long term positive effect.	LG	
15	Waste Minimise waste, especially waste to landfill	No significant impact	B	
16	Minerals Promote efficient and appropriate use of minerals	No significant impact	B	

Policy AW 6 Design and Placemaking				
SA Objective	Nature of the sustainability effect of policy (including magnitude, timing, duration and reversibility of effects where known).	Assessment	Evidence and reference	Suggested mitigation and enhancement measures (<i>those in italics are already proposed in the Plan</i>)
<p>Summary:</p> <p>This is a specific policy addressing design issues from the small i.e. extensions and shop front replacements to large i.e. the design of public places and spaces and the need for masterplanning on significant sites. The policy performs well against built environment, social, economic and cultural objectives and also on transport issues. No adverse environmental impacts have been identified as it is considered that landscape and biodiversity issues are covered by Policy AW9. However, the appraisal has noted the potential to take greater account of the water environment and it is recommended that an appropriate water policy is incorporated in the plan to meet the requirements of the Water Framework Directive and consultations are carried out with the EA as necessary.</p>				

Policy AW 7 Protection And Enhancement Of The Built Environment
<p>Development proposals which impact upon sites of architectural and/or historical merit and sites of archaeological importance will be permitted where it can be demonstrated that the proposal would preserve or enhance the character and appearance of the site.</p> <p>Development proposals which affect areas of public open space, allotments, public rights of way, bridleways and cycle tracks will be permitted where it can be demonstrated that:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) There is a surplus of such facilities in the locality, or; ii) The loss can be replaced with an equivalent or greater provision in the immediate locality; or iii) The development proposes enhancement of the existing facility.

Policy AW 7 Protection And Enhancement Of The Built Environment					
SA Objective		Nature of the sustainability effect of policy (including magnitude, timing, duration and reversibility of effects where known).	Assessment	Evidence and reference	Suggested mitigation and enhancement measures (<i>those in italics are already proposed in the Plan</i>)
1	Housing Provide for the overall housing requirement through a mix of dwelling types catering for all needs to promote integrated and thriving communities	No direct or significant impact.	B		
2	Culture and Heritage Promote, protect and enhance the Culture and Heritage including landscape, archaeology and language	The policy seeks to preserve and enhance significant features and will progress this objective. However see mitigation column for suggestions to improve performance.	LG		The policy would be more robust if the wording were amended to "will <u>only</u> be permitted" to emphasise that development in or on such sites will not be an everyday occurrence and that such opportunities may be quite limited.
3	Communities Promote integrated communities, with opportunities for living, working and socialising for all	No specific or direct impact on this objective.	B		
4	Health Provide an	Access to open space is important to encourage healthy lifestyles and the	LG		The policy would be more robust if the wording were amended to

Policy AW 7 Protection And Enhancement Of The Built Environment					
SA Objective		Nature of the sustainability effect of policy (including magnitude, timing, duration and reversibility of effects where known).	Assessment	Evidence and reference	Suggested mitigation and enhancement measures (<i>those in italics are already proposed in the Plan</i>)
	environment that encourages a healthy and safe lifestyle and promotes well-being	provision of allotments facilitate a combination of good food and exercise. Given the health profile of RCT both of these issues are significant. Again it is suggested that the policy could be improved.			"will <u>only</u> be permitted" to emphasise that development which affects public open space, allotments and rights of way only in a positive way will not be an everyday occurrence and that such opportunities may be quite limited.
5	Economy Provide for a sustainable economy	Protection of these historic and natural assets is fundamental to the tourist trade which RCT hopes to promote.	LG		
6	Employment Provide for a diverse range of job opportunities	An expanded tourist trade will assist in the supply of more and diverse employment opportunities.	LG		
7	Transport Reduce the need to travel and promote more sustainable modes of transport	It is important that the existing rights of way and cycle tracks are not fragmented so that opportunities for cycling and walking both for recreation and other purposes are maximised.	?		
8	Built Environment Provide a high quality built environment that	The policy and supporting text refers mainly to historic building, parks and archaeology which are relevant to culture and built environment objectives.	LG		

Policy AW 7 Protection And Enhancement Of The Built Environment					
SA Objective		Nature of the sustainability effect of policy (including magnitude, timing, duration and reversibility of effects where known).	Assessment	Evidence and reference	Suggested mitigation and enhancement measures (<i>those in italics are already proposed in the Plan</i>)
	promotes community pride	It appears that the actual thrust of this policy is to protect the historic built environment. Open space is an important part of the built environment, providing the setting of historic features and being part of the character of many settlements. Positive impact.			
9	Landscape Improve, protect and enhance the countryside	The policy seeks to protect historic parks and gardens and the historic landscape but this is only made clear on reading the supporting text. However if read in full this objective should be progressed.	LG		
10	Biodiversity Protect and enhance the diversity and abundance of wildlife habitats and native species	No impact on this objective which is covered in Policy AW9.	B		
11	Water Promote sustainable water management including promoting	No direct relationship to this objective.	B		

Policy AW 7 Protection And Enhancement Of The Built Environment				
SA Objective	Nature of the sustainability effect of policy (including magnitude, timing, duration and reversibility of effects where known).	Assessment	Evidence and reference	Suggested mitigation and enhancement measures (<i>those in italics are already proposed in the Plan</i>)
	use of sustainable drainage systems			
12	Climate Change Manage the effects of climate change	No direct relationship to this objective.	F	
13	Energy Increase the supply of renewable energy and reduce energy consumption	No direct relationship to this objective.	B	
14	Land and Soils Promote efficient use of land and soils	No direct relationship to this objective.	B	
15	Waste Minimise waste, especially waste to landfill	No direct relationship to this objective.	B	
16	Minerals Promote efficient and appropriate use of minerals	No direct relationship to this objective.	B	
Summary:				
The policy has two distinct parts, the protection of the historic built environment and the protection of open space, allotments, bridleways and cycle tracks. This is a broad interpretation of the term "built environment" and the real intention of the policy is only clear on reading the				

Policy AW 7 Protection And Enhancement Of The Built Environment				
SA Objective	Nature of the sustainability effect of policy (including magnitude, timing, duration and reversibility of effects where known).	Assessment	Evidence and reference	Suggested mitigation and enhancement measures (<i>those in italics are already proposed in the Plan</i>)
<p>supporting text. Although no adverse impacts are identified, the implementation of this policy may be improved by changes to wording and possibly the title, or even splitting the policy into two distinct parts. It is also recommended that the policy would be more robust if the wording were amended to “will <u>only</u> be permitted” to emphasise that development in near or on such historic sites, and development which improves or enhances public open space, allotments and rights of way, will not be an everyday occurrence and that such opportunities may be quite limited. Although it is preferable for policies to be written in the affirmative, protection policies, and the supporting text does refer to national designations such as SAMs, are acceptable in the negative (e.g. Policy AW9).</p>				

Policy AW 8 Protection And Enhancement Of The Natural Environment

Rhondda Cynon Taf's distinctive rural character will be preserved and enhanced by the protection of the natural environment, countryside and landscape from inappropriate development; and through appropriate management programmes.

Development proposals will not be permitted where:-

- i) They would cause unacceptable harm to the features of a Site of Importance for Nature conservation (SINC) or other locally designated site unless it can be demonstrated that:-
 - a. The proposal is directly necessary for the positive management of the site, or;
 - b. The benefits of the proposed development clearly outweigh the nature conservation value of the site or;
 - c. The proposal would not have an unacceptably adverse effect on the attributes of the site for which it has been designated, or;
 - d. The development could not reasonably be located elsewhere.
- ii) In Special Landscape Areas, they do not conform to the highest standards of design, siting, layout and materials appropriate to the character of the area
- iii) They would be prejudicial to the open nature of an identified green wedge.
- iiii) There would be an unacceptable impact upon features of importance to landscape or nature conservation.

The development of Ecological Networks will be supported.

Development proposals must be accompanied by appropriate ecological surveys and appraisals, as requested by the Council.

Policy AW 8 Protection And Enhancement Of The Natural Environment					
SA Objective		Nature of the sustainability effect of policy (including magnitude, timing, duration and reversibility of effects where known).	Assessment	Evidence and reference	Suggested mitigation and enhancement measures (<i>those in italics are already proposed in the Plan</i>)
1	Housing Provide for the overall housing requirement through a mix of dwelling types catering for all needs to promote integrated and thriving communities	The housing and employment land requirements have been met without encroaching on such areas. There will be no adverse impact on the supply of housing.	B		
2	Culture and Heritage Promote, protect and enhance the Culture and Heritage including landscape, archaeology and language	The landscape, local species and their habitat are part of the character and culture of an area. Long term positive impact.	LG		
3	Communities Promote integrated communities, with opportunities for living, working and socialising for all	The identification of green wedges will ensure that there is no coalescence of settlements and that individual character and identity will be preserved.	LG		
4	Health Provide an	No significant direct impact.	B		

Policy AW 8 Protection And Enhancement Of The Natural Environment				
SA Objective	Nature of the sustainability effect of policy (including magnitude, timing, duration and reversibility of effects where known).	Assessment	Evidence and reference	Suggested mitigation and enhancement measures (<i>those in italics are already proposed in the Plan</i>)
	environment that encourages a healthy and safe lifestyle and promotes well-being			
5	Economy Provide for a sustainable economy	Protection of the Borough's natural resources will support and underpin the potential tourism economy. Significant positive impact.	DG	
6	Employment Provide for a diverse range of job opportunities	As above with the potential for creating employment in the tourism and environmental management sectors.	DG	
7	Transport Reduce the need to travel and promote more sustainable modes of transport	No significant direct impact.	B	
8	Built Environment Provide a high quality built environment that promotes community pride	The policy ensures high standards of development in SLAs. The identification of green wedges will protect the setting and character of settlements in their landscape context.	LG	
9	Landscape	Protection of sites for their habitat value	LG	

Policy AW 8 Protection And Enhancement Of The Natural Environment				
SA Objective	Nature of the sustainability effect of policy (including magnitude, timing, duration and reversibility of effects where known).	Assessment	Evidence and reference	Suggested mitigation and enhancement measures (<i>those in italics are already proposed in the Plan</i>)
	Improve, protect and enhance the countryside	also leads to protection of the landscape so the two parts of this policy will have a positive synergistic impact.		
10	Biodiversity Protect and enhance the diversity and abundance of wildlife habitats and native species	Protection of sites for their landscape value also leads to protection of the habitats and biodiversity within them so the two parts of this policy will have a positive synergistic impact. Significant long term impact.	LG	Parts of 2 SACs in RCT
11	Water Promote sustainable water management including promoting use of sustainable drainage systems	Many sites are water based, such as wetlands, river corridors and protection from development will have a long term positive effect on the water environment.	LG	
12	Climate Change Manage the effects of climate change	As climate change progresses it will be important to protect and manage existing habitats to monitor and manage impacts. Positive significant impact.	I (
13	Energy Increase the supply of renewable energy and reduce energy	No significant impact.	B	

Policy AW 8 Protection And Enhancement Of The Natural Environment				
SA Objective	Nature of the sustainability effect of policy (including magnitude, timing, duration and reversibility of effects where known).	Assessment	Evidence and reference	Suggested mitigation and enhancement measures (<i>those in italics are already proposed in the Plan</i>)
	consumption			
14	Land and Soils Promote efficient use of land and soils	No significant impact	B	
15	Waste Minimise waste, especially waste to landfill	No significant impact		
16	Minerals Promote efficient and appropriate use of minerals	No significant impact.	B	
<p>Summary:</p> <p>The policy performs extremely well against the environmental and economic objectives and will ensure continuing protection of the natural environment from inappropriate development. No adverse impacts have been identified.</p>				

Policy AW 9 Buildings in the Countryside

In the case of the alteration, renovation or conversion of existing buildings outside the defined settlement boundary for residential, employment or tourism uses, development proposals will be supported where:

- i). the existing building is structurally sound or is capable of being made so without substantial major external alteration or reconstruction;
- ii). in the case of residential use, it can be demonstrated that there are no viable alternative uses to secure the retention of the building and that the building is of architectural and/or historical merit

Policy AW 10 Buildings in the Countryside

SA Objective	Nature of the sustainability effect of policy (including magnitude, timing, duration and reversibility of effects where known).	Assessment	Evidence and reference	Suggested mitigation and enhancement measures (<i>those in italics are already proposed in the Plan</i>)
<p>1 Housing Provide for the overall housing requirement through a mix of dwelling types catering for all needs to promote integrated and thriving communities</p>	<p>The policy incorporates conversion to residential use which will increase the types of dwelling available across the Borough. Minor beneficial impact.</p>	<p>LG</p>		
<p>2 Culture and Heritage Promote, protect and enhance the Culture and Heritage including landscape,</p>	<p>Sometimes the only way to preserve traditional countryside buildings is to find alternative uses which provide income for their renovation and/or maintenance. Positive outcome.</p>	<p>LG</p>	<p>In Rhondda Cynon Taf there are almost 350 Listed Buildings – RCT website.</p>	

Policy AW 10 Buildings in the Countryside				
SA Objective	Nature of the sustainability effect of policy (including magnitude, timing, duration and reversibility of effects where known).	Assessment	Evidence and reference	Suggested mitigation and enhancement measures (<i>those in italics are already proposed in the Plan</i>)
	archaeology and language			
3	Communities Promote integrated communities, with opportunities for living, working and socialising for all	B		
4	Health Provide an environment that encourages a healthy and safe lifestyle and promotes well-being	B		
5	Economy Provide for a sustainable economy	LG		
6	Employment Provide for a diverse range of job	LG		

Policy AW 10 Buildings in the Countryside				
SA Objective	Nature of the sustainability effect of policy (including magnitude, timing, duration and reversibility of effects where known).	Assessment	Evidence and reference	Suggested mitigation and enhancement measures (<i>those in italics are already proposed in the Plan</i>)
	opportunities			
7	Transport Reduce the need to travel and promote more sustainable modes of transport	Traffic generation considerations should ensure that uses with high generation are not permitted. Should be no significant adverse effect.	B	
8	Built Environment Provide a high quality built environment that promotes community pride	The supporting text to the policy notes that not all countryside buildings are of architectural merit and will only allow residential conversion of quality buildings. other buildings may find appropriate economic uses. Positive impact.	LG	
9	Landscape Improve, protect and enhance the countryside	Residential conversion of barns can lead to the provision of domestic curtilage boundaries and domestic paraphernalia which have an adverse landscape impact. This should be controlled by other policies.	LG	
10	Biodiversity Protect and enhance the diversity and abundance of wildlife habitats and	Unused or old buildings can become sites for bats and breeding birds. Ecological surveys should be submitted with all applications to ensure there is no adverse impact. As the policy and text stand there is potential for adverse	Y	To ensure there is no effect on protected species the Council should consider rewording the supporting text to require appropriate ecological surveys to accompany planning

Policy AW 10 Buildings in the Countryside				
SA Objective	Nature of the sustainability effect of policy (including magnitude, timing, duration and reversibility of effects where known).	Assessment	Evidence and reference	Suggested mitigation and enhancement measures (<i>those in italics are already proposed in the Plan</i>)
	native species	impact on protected species.		applications for works to such buildings.
11	Water Promote sustainable water management including promoting use of sustainable drainage systems	No significant direct impact.	B	
12	Climate Change Manage the effects of climate change	See transport comments.	E	
13	Energy Increase the supply of renewable energy and reduce energy consumption	No significant impact.	B	
14	Land and Soils Promote efficient use of land and soils	Reuse of existing buildings reduces land take therefore a minor but positive effect.	LG	
15	Waste Minimise waste, especially waste to landfill	No significant impact.	B	
16	Minerals Promote efficient	Reuse of existing buildings reduces the need for new materials therefore a minor	LG	

Policy AW 10 Buildings in the Countryside				
SA Objective	Nature of the sustainability effect of policy (including magnitude, timing, duration and reversibility of effects where known).	Assessment	Evidence and reference	Suggested mitigation and enhancement measures (<i>those in italics are already proposed in the Plan</i>)
and appropriate use of minerals	but positive effect.			
<p>Summary:</p> <p>The policy makes best use of substantial buildings in the countryside which leads to the identified positive impacts in particular for social objectives. A recommendation is made that ecological surveys with reference to protected species are required as a matter of course on rural buildings proposed for conversion/renovation. This amendment to the supporting text would improve the biodiversity assessment to 'no sustainability constraints and development acceptable'.</p>				

Policy AW 10 Public Health and Protection

Development proposals will not be permitted where they would cause or result in unacceptable harm to health and/or local amenity because of:-

- i. air pollution;
- ii. noise pollution;
- iii. light pollution;
- iv. contamination;
- v. landfill gas;
- vi. land instability;
- vii. flooding;
- viii. or any other identified risk to public health or safety;

unless it can be demonstrated to the satisfaction of the Council that measures can be taken to overcome any danger to public health and/or impact upon local amenity.

Development proposals must be accompanied by appropriate technical assessments, as requested by the Council.

Policy AW 10 Public Health and Protection

SA Objective	Nature of the sustainability effect of policy (including magnitude, timing, duration and reversibility of effects where known).	Assessment	Evidence and reference	Suggested mitigation and enhancement measures (<i>those in italics are already proposed in the Plan</i>)
1	Housing Provide for the overall housing requirement through a mix of dwelling	B		

Policy AW 10 Public Health and Protection					
SA Objective		Nature of the sustainability effect of policy (including magnitude, timing, duration and reversibility of effects where known).	Assessment	Evidence and reference	Suggested mitigation and enhancement measures (<i>those in italics are already proposed in the Plan</i>)
	types catering for all needs to promote integrated and thriving communities				
2	Culture and Heritage Promote, protect and enhance the Culture and Heritage including landscape, archaeology and language	No direct or significant impact,	B		
3	Communities Promote integrated communities, with opportunities for living, working and socialising for all	No direct or significant impact,	B		
4	Health Provide an environment that encourages a healthy and safe lifestyle and promotes well-being	The policy directly addresses one of the key aims of this objective which is to prevent unacceptable levels noise, light, odour or air pollution. Positive impact long term impact.	LG		
5	Economy	No direct or significant impact,	B		

Policy AW 10 Public Health and Protection				
SA Objective	Nature of the sustainability effect of policy (including magnitude, timing, duration and reversibility of effects where known).	Assessment	Evidence and reference	Suggested mitigation and enhancement measures (<i>those in italics are already proposed in the Plan</i>)
	Provide for a sustainable economy			
6	Employment Provide for a diverse range of job opportunities	No direct or significant impact,	B	
7	Transport Reduce the need to travel and promote more sustainable modes of transport	No direct or significant impact,	B	
8	Built Environment Provide a high quality built environment that promotes community pride	No direct or significant impact,	B	
9	Landscape Improve, protect and enhance the countryside	No direct or significant impact,	B	
10	Biodiversity Protect and enhance the	No direct or significant impact,	B	

Policy AW 10 Public Health and Protection					
SA Objective	Nature of the sustainability effect of policy (including magnitude, timing, duration and reversibility of effects where known).	Assessment	Evidence and reference	Suggested mitigation and enhancement measures (<i>those in italics are already proposed in the Plan</i>)	
	diversity and abundance of wildlife habitats and native species				
11	Water Promote sustainable water management including promoting use of sustainable drainage systems	The policy addresses the issue of flooding, and pollution of the water environment could be considered to be covered by criterion viii). However this is not explicit and could be overlooked.	?	The water environment has been improving but there are pollution problems with the old and inadequate sewerage system in RCT. This should not be exacerbated,	The policy would be improved by the addition "water pollution" to criterion vii. to ensure clarity of protection for the water environment. This could be further explained in the supporting text to cover rivers, groundwater sources, wetlands.
12	Climate Change Manage the effects of climate change	Flash flooding is expected to occur more frequently as a result of climate change and this issue is covered by the policy.	LG		
13	Energy Increase the supply of renewable energy and reduce energy consumption	No direct or significant impact,	B		
14	Land and Soils Promote efficient use of land and soils	No direct or significant impact. Although PDL which was in industrial use may be contaminated, the policy does not preclude the use of such land where mitigation proposals are sufficient.	LG		

Policy AW 10 Public Health and Protection					
SA Objective		Nature of the sustainability effect of policy (including magnitude, timing, duration and reversibility of effects where known).	Assessment	Evidence and reference	Suggested mitigation and enhancement measures (<i>those in italics are already proposed in the Plan</i>)
15	Waste Minimise waste, especially waste to landfill	Waste disposal can sometimes have polluting side effects and this policy will ensure that waste is dealt with without incurring these effects. Positive impact.	LG		
16	Minerals Promote efficient and appropriate use of minerals	No direct or significant impact,	B		
<p>Summary:</p> <p>The policy will have a positive impact on the quality of the environment of RCT and no adverse impacts have been identified in the appraisal against the SA Framework. It is recommended that the policy would be improved by the addition "water pollution" to criterion vii. to ensure clarity of protection for the water environment. This could be further explained in the supporting text to cover rivers, groundwater sources and wetlands. The overarching impact of the policy approach should be long term and positive for the health of RCT's population and local environmental conditions.</p>					

Policy AW 11 Existing Employment and Retail Uses

Development proposals promoting alternative uses for existing employment sites and retail units identified with the defined retail centres, will be permitted where:-

- i. The site is not identified by policies NSA14, NSA17, SSA14, SSA15 of this plan; (Allocating policies)
- ii. The retention of the site for employment/retail purposes has been fully explored without success by way of marketing for employment/retail purposes at reasonable market rates for minimum of 12 months;
- iii. The redevelopment of drerelict, unsightly, underused and vacant land for alternative uses will have significant regeneration benefits;
- iv. Within the identified primary retail frontages the proposal accords with policies NSA19 and SSA17 of this plan;
- v. In the case of employment sites:-
 - a. a landbank of employment sites suitable to accommodate a range of employment uses across the plan area is maintained;
 - b. the alternative use would not prejudice adjoining employment land;
 - c. the proposed use is for a sui generis use, which exhibits the characteristics of B1, B2, and B8 uses and which could appropriately be accommodated on an employment site;
 - d. the proposed use is a small, ancillary use which falls outside the B-Class uses but which supports the wider function of an employment site without affecting the integrity of the site.

Policy AW 11 Existing Employment and Retail Uses

SA Objective	Nature of the sustainability effect of policy (including magnitude, timing, duration and reversibility of effects where known).	Assessment	Evidence and reference	Suggested mitigation and enhancement measures (<i>those in italics are already proposed in the Plan</i>)
1 Housing Provide for the overall housing requirement through a mix of dwelling types catering for all	No significant effect but some historic smaller sites in settlements which have become non conforming uses in terms of the wider context may come forward for housing.	?		

Policy AW 11 Existing Employment and Retail Uses				
SA Objective	Nature of the sustainability effect of policy (including magnitude, timing, duration and reversibility of effects where known).	Assessment	Evidence and reference	Suggested mitigation and enhancement measures (<i>those in italics are already proposed in the Plan</i>)
	needs to promote integrated and thriving communities			
2	Culture and Heritage Promote, protect and enhance the Culture and Heritage including landscape, archaeology and language	No significant effect	B	
3	Communities Promote integrated communities, with opportunities for living, working and socialising for all	No significant effect but some historic smaller sites in settlements which have become non conforming uses in terms of the wider context may come forward for housing or community use and improve the environment for the community.	LG	
4	Health Provide an environment that encourages a healthy and safe lifestyle and promotes well-being	No significant effect	B	
5	Economy Provide for a	The policy seeks to protect existing employment sites which are important	LG	

Policy AW 11 Existing Employment and Retail Uses				
SA Objective	Nature of the sustainability effect of policy (including magnitude, timing, duration and reversibility of effects where known).	Assessment	Evidence and reference	Suggested mitigation and enhancement measures (<i>those in italics are already proposed in the Plan</i>)
sustainable economy	for the economy as retail and residential land values are higher and a more attractive prospect for developers than maintaining employment use. The lack of such a policy can lead to an unacceptable loss of employment land to housing. Positive impact.			
6	Employment Provide for a diverse range of job opportunities	The policy protects employment opportunities and as such is positive.	LG	
7	Transport Reduce the need to travel and promote more sustainable modes of transport	No direct impact.	B	
8	Built Environment Provide a high quality built environment that promotes community pride	Addressed through design and built environment polices.	LG	
9	Landscape Improve, protect and enhance the	No direct impact.	B	

Policy AW 11 Existing Employment and Retail Uses				
SA Objective	Nature of the sustainability effect of policy (including magnitude, timing, duration and reversibility of effects where known).	Assessment	Evidence and reference	Suggested mitigation and enhancement measures (<i>those in italics are already proposed in the Plan</i>)
	countryside			
10	Biodiversity Protect and enhance the diversity and abundance of wildlife habitats and native species	No direct impact.	B	
11	Water Promote sustainable water management including promoting use of sustainable drainage systems	No direct impact.	B	
12	Climate Change Manage the effects of climate change	No significant effect	B	
13	Energy Increase the supply of renewable energy and reduce energy consumption	No significant effect	B	
14	Land and Soils Promote efficient use of land and soils	No significant effect but indirectly encourages the use of previously developed sites.	LG	

Policy AW 11 Existing Employment and Retail Uses					
SA Objective		Nature of the sustainability effect of policy (including magnitude, timing, duration and reversibility of effects where known).	Assessment	Evidence and reference	Suggested mitigation and enhancement measures (<i>those in italics are already proposed in the Plan</i>)
15	Waste Minimise waste, especially waste to landfill	No significant effect	B		
16	Minerals Promote efficient and appropriate use of minerals	No significant effect.	B		
<p>Summary:</p> <p>The appraisal identified no significant adverse impacts against the SA Framework of objectives. The policy balances the social and economic objectives well, ensuring that employment is not lost unnecessarily and that use is made of previously developed land for housing where there will be no adverse economic impact. This flexibility of approach supports SA objectives and overarching policy commitments to respond to local needs in securing development.</p>					

Policy AW 12 – Renewable Energy

Development proposals which promote the provision of renewable energy such as schemes for energy from biomass, hydro-electricity, anaerobic digestion and small/medium sized wind turbines, will be permitted where it can be demonstrated that there is no unacceptable effect upon the interests of agriculture, conservation, areas of ecological, wildlife natural heritage and landscape importance and residential amenity

Development proposals should be designed to minimise resource use during construction, operation and maintenance.

Policy AW Policy 12 – Renewable Energy

SA Objective		Nature of the sustainability effect of policy (including magnitude, timing, duration and reversibility of effects where known).	Assessment	Evidence and reference	Suggested mitigation and enhancement measures (<i>those in italics are already proposed in the Plan</i>)
1	Housing Provide for the overall housing requirement through a mix of dwelling types catering for all needs to promote integrated and thriving communities	No direct impact.	B		
2	Culture and Heritage Promote, protect and enhance the Culture and Heritage including landscape,	Cultural heritage is protected by this policy.	LG		

Policy AW Policy 12 – Renewable Energy				
SA Objective	Nature of the sustainability effect of policy (including magnitude, timing, duration and reversibility of effects where known).	Assessment	Evidence and reference	Suggested mitigation and enhancement measures (<i>those in italics are already proposed in the Plan</i>)
	archaeology and language			
3	Communities Promote integrated communities, with opportunities for living, working and socialising for all	No direct impact.	LG	
4	Health Provide an environment that encourages a healthy and safe lifestyle and promotes well-being	Non polluting forms of energy production will have a positive impact on health. With rising fuel costs, any opportunity to produce cheaper clean energy will assist people on low incomes who suffer health problems through being unable to adequately heat their homes.	LG	
5	Economy Provide for a sustainable economy	RCT needs to illustrate that it is moving away from its historical mining and manufacturing employment base and embracing opportunities for a modern economy based on new technologies. Policies facilitating renewable energy production also provide cheaper and	LG	

Policy AW Policy 12 – Renewable Energy				
SA Objective	Nature of the sustainability effect of policy (including magnitude, timing, duration and reversibility of effects where known).	Assessment	Evidence and reference	Suggested mitigation and enhancement measures (<i>those in italics are already proposed in the Plan</i>)
	cleaner energy for business. Positive impact.			
6	Employment Provide for a diverse range of job opportunities	Indirect potential positive effects.	LG	
7	Transport Reduce the need to travel and promote more sustainable modes of transport	Impact will depend on the renewable technology used, the location and the need for maintenance and servicing.	?	
8	Built Environment Provide a high quality built environment that promotes community pride	No significant impact	B	
9	Landscape Improve, protect and enhance the countryside	Impact will depend on the renewable technology used. However landscape impact is specifically addressed in the policy.	LG	
10	Biodiversity Protect and enhance the	Impact will depend on the renewable technology used. However biodiversity impact is specifically addressed in the	LG	

Policy AW Policy 12 – Renewable Energy				
SA Objective	Nature of the sustainability effect of policy (including magnitude, timing, duration and reversibility of effects where known).	Assessment	Evidence and reference	Suggested mitigation and enhancement measures (<i>those in italics are already proposed in the Plan</i>)
	diversity and abundance of wildlife habitats and native species	policy.		
11	Water Promote sustainable water management including promoting use of sustainable drainage systems	Impact will depend on the renewable technology used.	?	
12	Climate Change Manage the effects of climate change	All renewable energy schemes have potential long term beneficial effects on climate change.	DG	
13	Energy Increase the supply of renewable energy and reduce energy consumption	The policy enables the aims of this objective to be met. Long term positive impact.	DG	
14	Land and Soils Promote efficient use of land and soils	Impact will depend on the renewable technology used but impact on agriculture is specifically addressed in the policy. No adverse impact.	LG	
15	Waste Minimise waste,	Impact will depend on the renewable technology used.	?	

Policy AW Policy 12 – Renewable Energy				
SA Objective	Nature of the sustainability effect of policy (including magnitude, timing, duration and reversibility of effects where known).	Assessment	Evidence and reference	Suggested mitigation and enhancement measures (<i>those in italics are already proposed in the Plan</i>)
	especially waste to landfill			
16	Minerals Promote efficient and appropriate use of minerals	No direct or significant impact.	B	
<p>Summary:</p> <p>The policy directly addresses the energy and climate change objectives and will have indirect positive impacts on health and the economy. The policy also balances the need for renewable energy supplies and the need to protect the landscape, biodiversity and cultural assets of the County Borough. Overall this policy had significant positive effects for RCT and more widely, which will be long term.</p>				

Policy AW 13 - Large Wind Farm Development

Proposals for wind farm developments of 25mw and over will be permitted where it can be demonstrated that the proposal:

- i) Is within the boundary of the refined strategic search area and required to meet the indicative generating capacity;
- ii) Is sited on a predominantly flat, extensive area of upland land
- iii) Will benefit from a good wind resource;
- iv) Is located a minimum of 500 metres away from the nearest residential property;
- v) Will not because of its siting, scale or design have an unacceptable effect on the visual quality of the wider landscape;
- vi) Will not result in a loss of public accessibility to the countryside,

Where development proposals are acceptable applicants will be required to enter into and implement appropriate land management agreements.

Policy AW 13 - Large Wind Farm Development

SA Objective	Nature of the sustainability effect of policy (including magnitude, timing, duration and reversibility of effects where known).	Assessment	Evidence and reference	Suggested mitigation and enhancement measures (<i>those in italics are already proposed in the Plan</i>)
1 Housing Provide for the overall housing requirement through a mix of dwelling types catering for all needs to promote integrated and thriving communities	No impact on the provision of housing.	B		
2 Culture and Heritage	Areas of cultural importance, whether	B		

Policy AW 13 - Large Wind Farm Development				
SA Objective	Nature of the sustainability effect of policy (including magnitude, timing, duration and reversibility of effects where known).	Assessment	Evidence and reference	Suggested mitigation and enhancement measures (<i>those in italics are already proposed in the Plan</i>)
	Promote, protect and enhance the Culture and Heritage including landscape, archaeology and language	built or natural, are protected by this policy.		
3	Communities Promote integrated communities, with opportunities for living, working and socialising for all	No significant impact although there will be opportunities for community scale wind farms which would benefit communities.	LG	
4	Health Provide an environment that encourages a healthy and safe lifestyle and promotes well-being	Non polluting forms of energy production will have a positive impact on health. With rising fuel costs, any opportunity to produce cheaper clean energy will assist people on low incomes who suffer health problems through being unable to adequately heat their homes.	LG	
5	Economy Provide for a sustainable economy	RCT needs to illustrate that it is moving away from its historical mining and manufacturing employment base and embracing opportunities for a modern	LG	

Policy AW 13 - Large Wind Farm Development				
SA Objective	Nature of the sustainability effect of policy (including magnitude, timing, duration and reversibility of effects where known).	Assessment	Evidence and reference	Suggested mitigation and enhancement measures (<i>those in italics are already proposed in the Plan</i>)
	economy based on new technologies. Policies facilitating renewable energy production also provide cheaper and cleaner energy for business. Positive impact.			
6	Employment Provide for a diverse range of job opportunities	Indirect potential positive effects.	LG	
7	Transport Reduce the need to travel and promote more sustainable modes of transport	No significant impact	B	
8	Built Environment Provide a high quality built environment that promotes community pride	The policy seeks to protect the visual amenities of the area and this will include the setting of existing settlements.	B	
9	Landscape Improve, protect and enhance the countryside	There are always tensions between landscape quality and the development of wind farms, particularly on this scale. A strategic study to refine the Strategic Search Area (SSA) defined by TAN 8 and	Y	The issue of overhead transmission cable and pylons should be clearly recognised and dealt with in the policy as these have frequently not be

Policy AW 13 - Large Wind Farm Development				
SA Objective	Nature of the sustainability effect of policy (including magnitude, timing, duration and reversibility of effects where known).	Assessment	Evidence and reference	Suggested mitigation and enhancement measures (<i>those in italics are already proposed in the Plan</i>)
	within RCT has been undertaken and advice incorporated in an SPG. Therefore adverse impact from wind turbines should be minimised but the issue of any necessary overhead transmission cables and pylons is not dealt with specifically.			adequately considered in planning approvals. The policy refers to appropriate land management agreements but it is recommended that this be improved by stipulating after use site restoration proposals. These changes would lead to an assessment of 'no sustainability constraints, development acceptable' as it will ensure that the impacts are reversible.
10	Biodiversity Protect and enhance the diversity and abundance of wildlife habitats and native species	Protection of habitats and species is sometimes an issue and has been cited as reason for refusal of schemes.	B	
11	Water Promote sustainable water management including promoting use of sustainable drainage systems	No significant impact	B	

Policy AW 13 - Large Wind Farm Development					
SA Objective		Nature of the sustainability effect of policy (including magnitude, timing, duration and reversibility of effects where known).	Assessment	Evidence and reference	Suggested mitigation and enhancement measures (<i>those in italics are already proposed in the Plan</i>)
12	Climate Change Manage the effects of climate change	All policies which encourage the production of energy from renewable sources.	DG		
13	Energy Increase the supply of renewable energy and reduce energy consumption	The policy directly addresses the aims of this objective. Positive impact.	LG	Onshore wind power offers the greatest potential for an increase in the generation of electricity from renewable energy in the short to medium term. Ministerial Interim Planning Policy Statement on Renewable Energy 2005,	
14	Land and Soils Promote efficient use of land and soils	No significant impact	B		
15	Waste Minimise waste, especially waste to landfill	No significant impact	B		
16	Minerals Promote efficient and appropriate use of minerals	No significant impact	B		

Policy AW 13 - Large Wind Farm Development				
SA Objective	Nature of the sustainability effect of policy (including magnitude, timing, duration and reversibility of effects where known).	Assessment	Evidence and reference	Suggested mitigation and enhancement measures (<i>those in italics are already proposed in the Plan</i>)
<p>Summary:</p> <p>The major impact is on landscape value and this policy requires that sites are located within the site search area. The appraisal noted that onshore wind turbines have the greatest capacity to meet renewable targets in the short to mid term. Issues of necessary transmission cables and pylons to serve developments of this scale are even more significant in terms of impacts on landscape and biodiversity and site restoration needs to be appropriately considered to improve the performance of the policy. Therefore, whilst the policy refers to appropriate land management agreements it is recommended that this be improved by stipulating after use site restoration proposals. These changes would lead to an assessment of 'no sustainability constraints, development acceptable' as it will ensure that the impacts are reversible.</p>				

Policy AW 16 – Minerals (NOW AW 14 Safeguarding of Minerals)

Rhondda Cynon Taf will seek to contribute to the regional and national demand for a continuous supply of minerals, without compromising environmental and social issues, by;

- i) Maintaining a 20 year landbank of permitted aggregate reserves and protecting future resources;
- ii) Safeguarding other mineral resources, including coal, high quality hard rock and sand and gravel, taking into account the range and extent of resources and environmental, planning and transportation considerations. Where proven reserves are under threat from sterilisation by necessary development, the pre-working of the mineral resource will be encouraged;
- iii) Ensuring that adequate restoration and aftercare measures are incorporated;
- iv) Promoting efficient usage, minimising production of waste, and promoting alternatives to primary won aggregates;
- v) Ensuring that impacts upon residential areas from mineral operations and the transportation of minerals are limited to an acceptable proven safe limit through an Amenity Protection Buffer Zones.

Policy AW 15 – Community Amenity Protection Buffer Zones

a. No mineral extraction or activity directly related to the extraction of minerals will be permitted within the defined residential settlement boundaries.

b. No sand and gravel extraction or activity directly related to the extraction of sand and gravel will be permitted within 100 metres of defined settlement boundaries or other established settlements.

c. No sandstone or limestone extraction or activity directly related to the extraction of sandstone or limestone will be permitted within 200 metres of defined settlement boundaries, or other established settlements.

d. No coal extraction or activity directly related to the extraction of coal will be permitted within 500 metres of defined settlement boundaries, or other established settlements.

Policy AW 16 – Minerals					
SA Objective		Nature of the sustainability effect of policy (including magnitude, timing, duration and reversibility of effects where known).	Assessment	Evidence and reference	Suggested mitigation and enhancement measures (<i>those in italics are already proposed in the Plan</i>)
1	Housing Provide for the overall housing requirement through a mix of dwelling types catering for all needs to promote integrated and thriving communities	No direct impact on the provision of housing. But the amenity of existing and proposed housing is protected by Policy AW17 and Policy AW16 ensures a local supply of materials.	LG		
2	Culture and Heritage Promote, protect and enhance the Culture and Heritage including landscape, archaeology and language	No direct or specific impact.	B		
3	Communities Promote integrated communities, with opportunities for living, working and socialising for all	No direct or specific impact.	B		
4	Health Provide an	Mining has potential impacts on health through air and noise pollution but the	B		

Policy AW 16 – Minerals				
SA Objective	Nature of the sustainability effect of policy (including magnitude, timing, duration and reversibility of effects where known).	Assessment	Evidence and reference	Suggested mitigation and enhancement measures (<i>those in italics are already proposed in the Plan</i>)
	environment that encourages a healthy and safe lifestyle and promotes well-being	policy offsets this by Policy AW17 which protects established settlements and wider policies which protect against effects of pollution from development.		
5	Economy Provide for a sustainable economy	Minerals are an essential requirement for the economy providing the raw material for infrastructure. This does not apply only to the local economy but also to the national economy. Positive impact.	LG	
6	Employment Provide for a diverse range of job opportunities	As above.	LG	
7	Transport Reduce the need to travel and promote more sustainable modes of transport	Transportation levels in and around settlements will be controlled in relation to amenity and transport considerations are raised in criterion ii). There may be some short term adverse impact but no long term effect due to the finite resources.	?	
8	Built Environment Provide a high quality built environment that	The policy will ensure the ongoing provision of the traditional building materials of the area and will contribute to local distinctiveness in new	LG	

Policy AW 16 – Minerals					
SA Objective		Nature of the sustainability effect of policy (including magnitude, timing, duration and reversibility of effects where known).	Assessment	Evidence and reference	Suggested mitigation and enhancement measures (<i>those in italics are already proposed in the Plan</i>)
	promotes community pride	development.			
9	Landscape Improve, protect and enhance the countryside	Criterion ii) requires consideration of landscape issues and criterion iii) ensures that adequate afteruse and restoration plans are in place. Therefore there may be some short term landscape impact but there should be no long term or irreversible damage. There should be potential for landscape enhancement in some cases.	L (
10	Biodiversity Protect and enhance the diversity and abundance of wildlife habitats and native species	Afteruse and restoration plans for quarried sites can often provide good habitat for a variety of species. As long as protected species are considered throughout the process there could be opportunity to provide more and varied habitat to support and enhance biodiversity.	LG		
11	Water Promote sustainable water management including promoting use of sustainable drainage systems	Mineral extraction can have a significant impact on the water environment.	?		

Policy AW 16 – Minerals					
SA Objective		Nature of the sustainability effect of policy (including magnitude, timing, duration and reversibility of effects where known).	Assessment	Evidence and reference	Suggested mitigation and enhancement measures (<i>those in italics are already proposed in the Plan</i>)
12	Climate Change Manage the effects of climate change	The extraction of primary aggregates and fossil fuel materials does not meet the demands of this objective to reduce carbon emissions.	Y		At the present time, the use of these materials is required at regional and national levels so no mitigation is possible.
13	Energy Increase the supply of renewable energy and reduce energy consumption	The extraction of primary aggregates and fossil fuel materials does not meet the demands of this objective to reduce energy use.	Y		At the present time, the use of these materials is required at regional and national levels so no mitigation is possible
14	Land and Soils Promote efficient use of land and soils	Sterilisation of resources is avoided by the requirement for pre-working of known reserves where development is necessary. Alternatives to primary won aggregates are encouraged e.g. reuse of material on PDL sites. The policy promotes wastes minimisation and encourages on site recycling of materials. The policy will progress this objective.	LG		
15	Waste Minimise waste, especially waste to landfill	The policy promotes wastes minimisation and encourages on site recycling of materials. Positive impact.	LG		
16	Minerals Promote efficient	The policy ensures that the County Borough contributes to the national and	LG		

Policy AW 16 – Minerals				
SA Objective	Nature of the sustainability effect of policy (including magnitude, timing, duration and reversibility of effects where known).	Assessment	Evidence and reference	Suggested mitigation and enhancement measures (<i>those in italics are already proposed in the Plan</i>)
and appropriate use of minerals	regional requirement for minerals. Sterilisation of resources is avoided by the requirement for pre-working of known reserves where development is necessary. Alternatives to primary won aggregates are encouraged e.g. reuse of material on PDL sites. The policy will progress this objective.			
<p>Summary: These two policies have been appraised together as jointly they provide a more holistic view of the mineral extraction process in terms of the national requirements and the protection of amenity in the vicinity of abstraction. The policies perform well against most objectives; whilst ensuring that mineral resources are exploited fully and that regional and national requirements are met, the amenity of residential settlements is protected and environmental and transport considerations are taken into account. Whilst the use of local stone and slate will add to local distinctiveness in new development and minimise transport impacts; they will not necessarily fulfil the requirements/ specifications necessary to meet high sustainable construction standards. Equally the extraction and burning of coal contradicts the objective to reduce carbon emissions and minimise the impacts of development on climate change. However, in the context of current national legislation this policy must be included in the LDP and the adverse impacts are minimised (as in Policy AW17). The policies promote wastes minimisation and encourages on site recycling of materials, which is appraised as effective mitigation within the context of this policy.</p>				

Appendix VI iii: Sustainability Appraisal of Deposit LDP Northern Strategy Area Policies

Policy NSA 1 – Development in the Principal Town of Aberdare

Proposals for residential and commercial development within the defined town centre of Aberdare will be permitted where the development:

1. Reinforces the role of Aberdare as a Principal Town
2. Respects the culture and heritage of Aberdare;
3. Is of a high standard of design and makes a positive contribution to the townscape in the defined town centre;
4. Integrates positively with existing development;
5. Promotes opportunities for new retail, tourism and leisure development; and
6. Promotes accessibility to services by a range of modes of transport.

Policy NSA 1 – Development in the Principal Town of Aberdare

SA Objective	Nature of the sustainability effect of policy (including magnitude, timing, duration and reversibility of effects where known).	Assessment	Evidence and reference	Suggested mitigation and enhancement measures (<i>those in italics are already proposed in the Plan</i>)
1 Housing Provide for the overall housing requirement through a mix of dwelling types catering for all needs to promote integrated and thriving communities	The policy facilitates housing development to meet the identified need. Small sites within urban areas can often be brought forward more quickly than larger allocations and there could be a short term positive impact.	DG		
2 Culture and Heritage	Urban infill can have an adverse impact	LG		

Policy NSA 1 – Development in the Principal Town of Aberdare				
SA Objective	Nature of the sustainability effect of policy (including magnitude, timing, duration and reversibility of effects where known).	Assessment	Evidence and reference	Suggested mitigation and enhancement measures (<i>those in italics are already proposed in the Plan</i>)
	Promote, protect and enhance the Culture and Heritage including landscape, archaeology and language			
3	Communities Promote integrated communities, with opportunities for living, working and socialising for all	LG		
4	Health Provide an environment that encourages a healthy and safe lifestyle and promotes well-being	?		
5	Economy Provide for a sustainable economy	LG		
6	Employment	LG		

Policy NSA 1 – Development in the Principal Town of Aberdare				
SA Objective	Nature of the sustainability effect of policy (including magnitude, timing, duration and reversibility of effects where known).	Assessment	Evidence and reference	Suggested mitigation and enhancement measures (<i>those in italics are already proposed in the Plan</i>)
	Provide for a diverse range of job opportunities	to the comments above.		
7	Transport Reduce the need to travel and promote more sustainable modes of transport	The policy should have long term positive effect as it encourages development in a sustainable location with access to facilities and other modes of transport than the car. Positive impact,	LG	Aberdare has a main bus stop and a railway station.
8	Built Environment Provide a high quality built environment that promotes community pride	The policy refers to the need for a high standard of design and respect for historic buildings. Positive impact.	LG	
9	Landscape Improve, protect and enhance the countryside	As the development will be urban based there should be little significant impact on wider landscape issues.	B	
10	Biodiversity Protect and enhance the diversity and abundance of wildlife habitats and	As the development will be urban based there should be little significant impact on wider biodiversity issues.	B	

Policy NSA 1 – Development in the Principal Town of Aberdare				
SA Objective	Nature of the sustainability effect of policy (including magnitude, timing, duration and reversibility of effects where known).	Assessment	Evidence and reference	Suggested mitigation and enhancement measures (<i>those in italics are already proposed in the Plan</i>)
	native species			
11	Water Promote sustainable water management including promoting use of sustainable drainage systems	No specific impact.	LG	
12	Climate Change Manage the effects of climate change	See comments on transport which will be the main factor.	LG	
13	Energy Increase the supply of renewable energy and reduce energy consumption	No specific impact.	B	
14	Land and Soils Promote efficient use of land and soils	Maximising the use of land within settlement boundaries reduces the need for greenfield land take.	LG	
15	Waste Minimise waste, especially waste to landfill	New development should be able to contribute to existing recycling and composting schemes.	LG	
16	Minerals Promote efficient and appropriate use	No specific impact.	B	

Policy NSA 1 – Development in the Principal Town of Aberdare				
SA Objective	Nature of the sustainability effect of policy (including magnitude, timing, duration and reversibility of effects where known).	Assessment	Evidence and reference	Suggested mitigation and enhancement measures (<i>those in italics are already proposed in the Plan</i>)
of minerals				
<p>Summary:</p> <p>The appraisal demonstrated that the policy effectively progresses key sustainability objectives for the community and the environment. In particular positive, long term impacts are noted against transport objectives by improving access and providing for development in a sustainable location. No significant, adverse impacts were identified and overall the policy supports objective for achieving sustainable development aims in the long term.</p>				

Policy NSA 2 – Development in the Town Centres of Key Settlements

Proposals for residential and commercial development within the defined town centres of the Key Settlements of Tonypanydy, Mountain Ash, Porth, Ferndale and Treorchy will be permitted where the development:

1. Supports and reinforces the role of the centres as Key Settlements;
2. Is of a high standard of design and integrates positively with existing development;
3. Promotes the beneficial reuse of vacant and underused floorspace;
4. Supports the provision of local services; and
5. Promotes accessibility to services by a range of modes of transport.

Non A-Class uses will not be permitted at ground floor level within the defined Primary Retail Frontage Areas.

Policy NSA 2 – Development in the Town Centres of Key Settlements

SA Objective	Nature of the sustainability effect of policy (including magnitude, timing, duration and reversibility of effects where known).	Assessment	Evidence and reference	Suggested mitigation and enhancement measures (<i>those in italics are already proposed in the Plan</i>)
1	<p>Housing Provide for the overall housing requirement through a mix of dwelling types catering for all needs to promote integrated and</p>	DG		

Policy NSA 2 – Development in the Town Centres of Key Settlements				
SA Objective	Nature of the sustainability effect of policy (including magnitude, timing, duration and reversibility of effects where known).	Assessment	Evidence and reference	Suggested mitigation and enhancement measures (<i>those in italics are already proposed in the Plan</i>)
	thriving communities			
2	Culture and Heritage Promote, protect and enhance the Culture and Heritage including landscape, archaeology and language	Urban infill can have an adverse impact on existing architecture but this should be controlled through design policies and criterion 2.	B	
3	Communities Promote integrated communities, with opportunities for living, working and socialising for all	This policy seeks to build on existing sustainable communities. Long term positive significant impact.	DG	
4	Health Provide an environment that encourages a healthy and safe lifestyle and promotes well-being	Good housing has a beneficial effect on health matters. Building on existing settlements ensures that a certain level of facilities are present but care must be taken that the e facilities are not over stretched by the demands of new development.	?	
5	Economy Provide for a sustainable economy	The policy encourages a mix of development which will support the role of the key settlements and preserves the ground floors of premises for A1 use in	LG	

Policy NSA 2 – Development in the Town Centres of Key Settlements				
SA Objective	Nature of the sustainability effect of policy (including magnitude, timing, duration and reversibility of effects where known).	Assessment	Evidence and reference	Suggested mitigation and enhancement measures (<i>those in italics are already proposed in the Plan</i>)
	the protected retail frontages. . This approach will progress the aims of this objective.			
6	Employment Provide for a diverse range of job opportunities	Employment opportunities will be linked to the comments above.	LG	
7	Transport Reduce the need to travel and promote more sustainable modes of transport	The policy should have long term positive effect as it encourages development in a sustainable location with access to facilities and other modes of transport than the car. Positive impact.	LG	All the key settlements are well connected by rail or bus or both.
8	Built Environment Provide a high quality built environment that promotes community pride	The policy refers to the need for a high standard of design and respect for historic buildings. Positive impact.	LG	
9	Landscape Improve, protect and enhance the countryside	As the development will be urban based there should be little significant impact on wider landscape issues.	B	
10	Biodiversity Protect and	As the development will be urban based there should be little significant impact	B	

Policy NSA 2 – Development in the Town Centres of Key Settlements				
SA Objective	Nature of the sustainability effect of policy (including magnitude, timing, duration and reversibility of effects where known).	Assessment	Evidence and reference	Suggested mitigation and enhancement measures (<i>those in italics are already proposed in the Plan</i>)
	enhance the diversity and abundance of wildlife habitats and native species	on wider biodiversity issues.		
11	Water Promote sustainable water management including promoting use of sustainable drainage systems	No specific impact.	LG	
12	Climate Change Manage the effects of climate change	See comments on transport which will be the main factor.	LG	
13	Energy Increase the supply of renewable energy and reduce energy consumption	No specific impact.	B	
14	Land and Soils Promote efficient use of land and soils	Maximising the use of land within settlement boundaries reduces the need for greenfield land take.	LG	
15	Waste Minimise waste, especially waste to	New development should be able to contribute to existing recycling and composting schemes.	LG	

Policy NSA 2 – Development in the Town Centres of Key Settlements				
SA Objective	Nature of the sustainability effect of policy (including magnitude, timing, duration and reversibility of effects where known).	Assessment	Evidence and reference	Suggested mitigation and enhancement measures (<i>those in italics are already proposed in the Plan</i>)
	landfill			
16	Minerals Promote efficient and appropriate use of minerals	No specific impact.	B	
<p>Summary:</p> <p>This policy approach effectively progresses SA objectives, in particular for communities, employment and the built environment. No significant adverse impacts were identified by the appraisal and it assessed that in implementation the policy will assist in addressing sustainability issues identified in the County Borough.</p>				

Policy NSA 3 – Development in the Key Settlement of Hirwaun

Proposals for residential, commercial and community development within Hirwaun will be permitted where the development:

1. Is of a high standard of design and integrates positively with existing development;
2. Makes a positive contribution to the provision and improvement of community and educational facilities;
3. Promotes opportunities for new retail and tourism development;
4. Promotes accessibility to services by a range of modes of transport.
5. Does not result in the loss of local retail or community facilities; and
6. Does not result in the loss of important open space within the settlement

Policy NSA 3 – Development in the Key Settlement of Hirwaun

SA Objective	Nature of the sustainability effect of policy (including magnitude, timing, duration and reversibility of effects where known).	Assessment	Evidence and reference	Suggested mitigation and enhancement measures (<i>those in italics are already proposed in the Plan</i>)
1	Housing Provide for the overall housing requirement through a mix of dwelling types catering for all needs to promote integrated and thriving communities	LG		
2	Culture and Heritage Promote, protect and enhance the Culture and Heritage	LG		

Policy NSA 3 – Development in the Key Settlement of Hirwaun					
SA Objective		Nature of the sustainability effect of policy (including magnitude, timing, duration and reversibility of effects where known).	Assessment	Evidence and reference	Suggested mitigation and enhancement measures (<i>those in italics are already proposed in the Plan</i>)
	including landscape, archaeology and language				
3	Communities Promote integrated communities, with opportunities for living, working and socialising for all	This policy seeks to build on an existing community but services and community facilities in Hirwaun have not kept up with the level of housing growth. Although new facilities are proposed as part of the strategic site, this is a long term prospect and will not be provided in the life of the plan, therefore it will be important that other development does not further overload the existing facilities. This policy will require careful implementation in conjunction with Policy AW5 to achieve a positive impact in the short term, and Policy NSA 8 should achieve the long term solution to the provision of facilities.	?		
4	Health Provide an environment that encourages a healthy and safe lifestyle and promotes well-being	Good housing has a beneficial effect on health matters. Building on existing settlements should ensure that a certain level of facilities are present but care must be taken that the se facilities are not over stretched by the demands of new development as could be the case	?		

Policy NSA 3 – Development in the Key Settlement of Hirwaun				
SA Objective	Nature of the sustainability effect of policy (including magnitude, timing, duration and reversibility of effects where known).	Assessment	Evidence and reference	Suggested mitigation and enhancement measures (<i>those in italics are already proposed in the Plan</i>)
	in Hirwaun. This policy will require careful implementation in conjunction with Policy AW5 to achieve a positive impact in the short term and Policy NSA 8 should achieve the long term solution to the provision of facilities.			
5	Economy Provide for a sustainable economy	LG		
6	Employment Provide for a diverse range of job opportunities	LG		
7	Transport Reduce the need to travel and promote more sustainable modes of transport	LG	Hirwaun is on the established bus route which serves the northern strategy area and links with the principal town of Aberdare.	

Policy NSA 3 – Development in the Key Settlement of Hirwaun					
SA Objective		Nature of the sustainability effect of policy (including magnitude, timing, duration and reversibility of effects where known).	Assessment	Evidence and reference	Suggested mitigation and enhancement measures (<i>those in italics are already proposed in the Plan</i>)
8	Built Environment Provide a high quality built environment that promotes community pride	The policy refers to the need for a high standard of design and respect for historic buildings. Positive impact.	LG		
9	Landscape Improve, protect and enhance the countryside	As the development will be within the settlement boundary there should be little significant impact on wider landscape issues. This is particularly important as the Brecon Beacons lay to the north of the settlement. No adverse impact.	LG		
10	Biodiversity Protect and enhance the diversity and abundance of wildlife habitats and native species	As the development will be within the settlement boundary there should be little significant impact on wider biodiversity issues. This is particularly important as the Brecon Beacons lay to the north of the settlement and a SSSI to the west. No adverse impact.	LG		
11	Water Promote sustainable water management including promoting use of sustainable	No direct specific impact.	LG		

Policy NSA 3 – Development in the Key Settlement of Hirwaun				
SA Objective	Nature of the sustainability effect of policy (including magnitude, timing, duration and reversibility of effects where known).	Assessment	Evidence and reference	Suggested mitigation and enhancement measures (<i>those in italics are already proposed in the Plan</i>)
	drainage systems			
12	Climate Change Manage the effects of climate change	See comments on transport which will be the main factor.	LG	
13	Energy Increase the supply of renewable energy and reduce energy consumption	No specific impact.	B	
14	Land and Soils Promote efficient use of land and soils	Maximising the use of land within settlement boundaries reduces the need for greenfield land take.	LG	
15	Waste Minimise waste, especially waste to landfill	New development should be able to contribute to existing recycling and composting schemes.	LG	
16	Minerals Promote efficient and appropriate use of minerals	No specific impact.	B	
<p>Summary:</p> <p>Although the policy is appraised as progressing key sustainability objectives, Hirwaun does have identified problems with relation to the provision of community facilities. The LDP policy NSA 8 seeks to resolve this through the development of a strategic site with new retail, leisure, health and education facilities. However, only 400 dwellings of this development are expected to be built during the plan period with the</p>				

Policy NSA 3 – Development in the Key Settlement of Hirwaun				
SA Objective	Nature of the sustainability effect of policy (including magnitude, timing, duration and reversibility of effects where known).	Assessment	Evidence and reference	Suggested mitigation and enhancement measures (<i>those in italics are already proposed in the Plan</i>)
<p>community facilities being in place after 750 of the proposed total 1,000 dwellings are built. There fore, there could be a significant amount of development with no improved facilities unless his policy is stringently implemented; potential for short to medium term adverse impacts for communities. Hirwaun is well connected to other settlements by public transport (bus) and this may potentially provide some mitigation for short term access to facilities for the existing and new community.</p>				

Policy NSA 4 - Former Maerdy Colliery Site, Rhondda Fach

In accordance with policy CS 6 land is allocated at the Former Meardy Colliery Site for the construction of 1 hectare of employment land (B1, B2 , Visitor Centre and the provision of ????? hectares of openspace. Development on the strategic site will be subject to a large-scale reclamation scheme in accordance with policy AW ???.

Policy NSA 4 - Former Maerdy Colliery Site, Rhondda Fach

SA Objective	Nature of the sustainability effect of policy (including magnitude, timing, duration and reversibility of effects where known).	Assessment	Evidence and reference	Suggested mitigation and enhancement measures (<i>those in italics are already proposed in the Plan</i>)
1 Housing Provide for the overall housing requirement through a mix of dwelling types catering for all needs to promote integrated and thriving communities	No impact	B		
2 Culture and Heritage Promote, protect and enhance the Culture and Heritage including landscape, archaeology and language	The proposed visitor centre will interpret and record the historic and cultural significance of the No 3 Pit and Castell Nos motte and the Lower Reservoir. The proposal will have a long term significant positive impact on this objective and will have positive synergistic impacts for	LG		

Policy NSA 4 - Former Maerdy Colliery Site, Rhondda Fach				
SA Objective	Nature of the sustainability effect of policy (including magnitude, timing, duration and reversibility of effects where known).	Assessment	Evidence and reference	Suggested mitigation and enhancement measures (<i>those in italics are already proposed in the Plan</i>)
	other objectives such as the economy.			
3	Communities Promote integrated communities, with opportunities for living, working and socialising for all	LG		
4	Health Provide an environment that encourages a healthy and safe lifestyle and promotes well-being	LG		
5	Economy Provide for a sustainable economy	LG		
6	Employment Provide for a diverse range of job opportunities	LG		
7	Transport An improved spine road is proposed and	LG	Public transport details not	A Green travel Plan should be

Policy NSA 4 - Former Maerdy Colliery Site, Rhondda Fach					
SA Objective		Nature of the sustainability effect of policy (including magnitude, timing, duration and reversibility of effects where known).	Assessment	Evidence and reference	Suggested mitigation and enhancement measures (<i>those in italics are already proposed in the Plan</i>)
	Reduce the need to travel and promote more sustainable modes of transport	a riverside path/cycleway will provide alternative means of access to the site.		available.	required when the visitor centre is in operation.
8	Built Environment Provide a high quality built environment that promotes community pride	No impact.	B		
9	Landscape Improve, protect and enhance the countryside	The current industrial and degraded landscape will be returned to a more natural state through reclamation. The level of development proposed is of an appropriate scale and will not require extensive engineering but will sit within the valley landform. Very significant potential for long term positive impact.	DG		
10	Biodiversity Protect and enhance the diversity and abundance of wildlife habitats and native species	Part of the site is covered by a SINC but this land is excluded from development. However recreation pressure could have an adverse impact.	?		A management plan will be required for the SINC and the Community Woodland.

Policy NSA 4 - Former Maerdy Colliery Site, Rhondda Fach				
SA Objective	Nature of the sustainability effect of policy (including magnitude, timing, duration and reversibility of effects where known).	Assessment	Evidence and reference	Suggested mitigation and enhancement measures (<i>those in italics are already proposed in the Plan</i>)
11	Water Promote sustainable water management including promoting use of sustainable drainage systems	The site runs alongside the Rhondda Fach river and a "water feature" is proposed on the eastern extremity of the site. The level of development (1 hectare) should not be of a scale to have an adverse impact on the river but the employment development should be kept at an appropriate distance from the water course. Opportunities may arise to improve the water quality.	LG	
12	Climate Change Manage the effects of climate change	See comment under water and transport		
13	Energy Increase the supply of renewable energy and reduce energy consumption	Renewable energy could be used to run the employment premises and visitors centre. Maybe there is potential for wind generation or a micro hydro scheme.	?	
14	Land and Soils Promote efficient use of land and soils	The proposal makes use of and reclaims previously developed land.	DG	
15	Waste Minimise waste, especially waste to landfill	All new development will be subject to the requirement to meet BREEAM excellent standard or equivalent. A requirement of this standard is the	LG	

Policy NSA 4 - Former Maerdy Colliery Site, Rhondda Fach				
SA Objective	Nature of the sustainability effect of policy (including magnitude, timing, duration and reversibility of effects where known).	Assessment	Evidence and reference	Suggested mitigation and enhancement measures (<i>those in italics are already proposed in the Plan</i>)
	provision of internal and external recycling facilities. Waste management plans will be expected for the larger sites. There will be an inevitable cumulative increase in the production of waste but this must be considered within the national framework with requires this level of development but it will be managed in accordance with the waste hierarchy.			
16	Minerals Promote efficient and appropriate use of minerals	The site no longer has economically viable coal reserves.	B	
<p>Summary:</p> <p>The site makes use of an unused Colliery Site and proposes a mixture of employment, tourist and recreation uses which meet the sustainability framework objectives. The proposal provide good opportunity to progress SA objectives across the social and economic dimensions without significant detrimental environmental impacts, and should bring about long term social, economic and environmental improvements.</p>				

Policy NSA 5 - Former Fernhill Colliery Site, Blaenrhondda

In accordance with policy **CS ??** land is allocated at the Former Fernhill Colliery Site, Blaenrhondda for the construction of 400 dwellings, a local retail centre and associated public open space. Development on the strategic site will be subject to a large-scale reclamation scheme in accordance with policy **AW ???**.

Policy NSA 5 - Former Fernhill Colliery Site, Blaenrhondda

SA Objective	Nature of the sustainability effect of policy (including magnitude, timing, duration and reversibility of effects where known).	Assessment	Evidence and reference	Suggested mitigation and enhancement measures (<i>those in italics are already proposed in the Plan</i>)
1 Housing Provide for the overall housing requirement through a mix of dwelling types catering for all needs to promote integrated and thriving communities	Development will make a positive contribution to housing land requirement in Rhondda Cynon Taff particularly in an area with few large housing development opportunities available. The development should increase the number and mix of housing available and bring forward affordable housing,	DG		
2 Culture and Heritage Promote, protect and enhance the Culture and Heritage including landscape, archaeology and language	The site has been subject to a reclamation scheme which has remained incomplete for some years. No adverse impact should be experienced.	B		
3 Communities	A local centre is proposed so that	LG		

Policy NSA 5 - Former Fernhill Colliery Site, Blaenrhondda				
SA Objective	Nature of the sustainability effect of policy (including magnitude, timing, duration and reversibility of effects where known).	Assessment	Evidence and reference	Suggested mitigation and enhancement measures (<i>those in italics are already proposed in the Plan</i>)
	Promote integrated communities, with opportunities for living, working and socialising for all	existing community faculties are not overstretched and to improve facilities for the existing residents of Blaenrhondda. The new development is to be linked with the existing village by walking and cycling routes and this should assist integration. Positive impact.		
4	Health Provide an environment that encourages a healthy and safe lifestyle and promotes well-being	The proposal will improve the environment of the existing village and encourage cycling and walking.	LG	
5	Economy Provide for a sustainable economy	No direct economic impact apart from providing an improved environment to attract inward investment.	L ? (
6	Employment Provide for a diverse range of job opportunities	As above.	L ? (
7	Transport Reduce the need to travel and promote	As noted above a local centre is proposed along with walking and cycling routes to link the new	O	

Policy NSA 5 - Former Fernhill Colliery Site, Blaenrhondda				
SA Objective	Nature of the sustainability effect of policy (including magnitude, timing, duration and reversibility of effects where known).	Assessment	Evidence and reference	Suggested mitigation and enhancement measures (<i>those in italics are already proposed in the Plan</i>)
more sustainable modes of transport	development to the existing. Information from the Council indicates that the site does not have suitable access to public transport and considers that mitigation would be expensive and difficult to achieve. Negative and long term impact unless public transport links can be provided.			
8 Built Environment Provide a high quality built environment that promotes community pride	The new development must be carefully planned to complement the existing village. There is probably potential for improvement.	?		
9 Landscape Improve, protect and enhance the countryside	The site is in an area of high quality landscape and the proposal offers an opportunity to reclaim the industrial site and enhance and build on the landscape value. Positive impact.	LG		
10 Biodiversity Protect and enhance the diversity and abundance of wildlife habitats and	The proposed access from Rhigos Road cuts through the SINC on the eastern side of the valley and the Council acknowledges there is a need for carefully considered mitigation. However the council consider that this impact will	?		Further evidence and information is required to accurately assess the impact of the road.

Policy NSA 5 - Former Fernhill Colliery Site, Blaenrhondda				
SA Objective	Nature of the sustainability effect of policy (including magnitude, timing, duration and reversibility of effects where known).	Assessment	Evidence and reference	Suggested mitigation and enhancement measures (<i>those in italics are already proposed in the Plan</i>)
	native species	be outweighed by the wider environmental benefits of restoring and managing the site which is of local ecological value.		
11	Water Promote sustainable water management including promoting use of sustainable drainage systems	Parts of the Rhondda Fawr and its tributaries are culverted under the unrestored surface of the former colliery workings. This strategic level of information does not allow a definitive assessment to be made an a precautionary approach should be taken.	?	Impact on the river will depend on how development is carried out and will need to be subject to negotiations and discussions with the EA.
12	Climate Change Manage the effects of climate change	Impacts on climate change will be dependant on travel patterns, the use of energy from renewable sources and impact on the water quality. At this level of information the impact appears to be negative.	Y	
13	Energy Increase the supply of renewable energy and reduce energy consumption	The high landscape quality could prohibit wind turbines but other forms of renewable energy are possible including micro generation.	LG	
14	Land and Soils Promote efficient use	The site is previously developed industrial land. Positive, long term impact.	DG	

Policy NSA 5 - Former Fernhill Colliery Site, Blaenrhondda				
SA Objective	Nature of the sustainability effect of policy (including magnitude, timing, duration and reversibility of effects where known).	Assessment	Evidence and reference	Suggested mitigation and enhancement measures (<i>those in italics are already proposed in the Plan</i>)
	of land and soils			
15	Waste Minimise waste, especially waste to landfill	All new development will be subject to the requirement to meet BREEAM excellent standard or equivalent. A requirement of this standard is the provision of internal and external recycling facilities. Waste management plans will be expected for the larger sites. There will be an inevitable cumulative increase in the production of waste but this must be considered within the national framework with requires this level of development but it will be managed in accordance with the waste hierarchy.	LG	
16	Minerals Promote efficient and appropriate use of minerals	The site no longer has economically viable coal reserves.	B	
<p>Summary: The policy proposal for this site is assessed as having positive impacts on landscape issues. However, the appraisal noted the potential for adverse effects due to the lack of availability of public transport, and in particular the largely unknown, but potentially negative impacts on the nature conservation interests in the area and on the water environment. At this strategic level of assessment the site could have negative impacts which will require further more detailed assessment to determine the scale and extent of impacts and appropriate mitigation measures.</p>				

Policy NSA 5 - Former Fernhill Colliery Site, Blaenrhondda				
SA Objective	Nature of the sustainability effect of policy (including magnitude, timing, duration and reversibility of effects where known).	Assessment	Evidence and reference	Suggested mitigation and enhancement measures (<i>those in italics are already proposed in the Plan</i>)

Policy NSA 6 - Former Phurnacite Plant, Abercwmboi

In accordance with policy **CS ??** land is allocated at the Former Phurnacite Plant, Abercwmboi, 5.9 hectares of employment and informal recreation space. Development on the strategic site will be subject to a large-scale reclamation scheme in accordance with policy **AW ???**.

Policy NSA 6 - Former Phurnacite Plant, Abercwmboi

SA Objective	Nature of the sustainability effect of policy (including magnitude, timing, duration and reversibility of effects where known).	Assessment	Evidence and reference	Suggested mitigation and enhancement measures (<i>those in italics are already proposed in the Plan</i>)
1 Housing Provide for the overall housing requirement through a mix of dwelling types catering for all needs to promote integrated and thriving communities	No impact	B		
2 Culture and Heritage Promote, protect and enhance the Culture and Heritage including landscape, archaeology and language	Development will promote and protect the culture and heritage of the settlement. The redevelopment of this strategic site for recreational uses will help create the essential elements of the Cynon Valley River Park.	LG		
3 Communities	No significant impact but will provide	LG		

Policy NSA 6 - Former Phurnacite Plant, Abercwmboi				
SA Objective	Nature of the sustainability effect of policy (including magnitude, timing, duration and reversibility of effects where known).	Assessment	Evidence and reference	Suggested mitigation and enhancement measures (<i>those in italics are already proposed in the Plan</i>)
	Promote integrated communities, with opportunities for living, working and socialising for all	work opportunities for the existing community.		
4	Health Provide an environment that encourages a healthy and safe lifestyle and promotes well-being	The development of the site will create a large area of accessible recreational space and would remediate the contaminated site through removal of contaminated land. Positive impact.	LG	
5	Economy Provide for a sustainable economy	The site allocates employment and this lends certainty to those seeking new premises within the district or for inward investors. The allocation builds on the existing Aberaman industrial Park and will increase the variety of land available. Potential positive impact.	LG	
6	Employment Provide for a diverse range of job opportunities	Employment opportunities as above.	LG	
7	Transport Reduce the need to	The site is located close to public transport services and has good walking	LG	

Policy NSA 6 - Former Phurnacite Plant, Abercwmboi				
SA Objective	Nature of the sustainability effect of policy (including magnitude, timing, duration and reversibility of effects where known).	Assessment	Evidence and reference	Suggested mitigation and enhancement measures (<i>those in italics are already proposed in the Plan</i>)
	travel and promote more sustainable modes of transport	links with local services. Appropriate masterplanning will ensure the provision of good walking and cycling routes through the site and access to current public transport facilities.		
8	Built Environment Provide a high quality built environment that promotes community pride	All sites can be developed well and be of high quality design.	LG	
9	Landscape Improve, protect and enhance the countryside	Development would enhance, improve, and protect the existing landscape.	LG	
10	Biodiversity Protect and enhance the diversity and abundance of wildlife habitats and native species	Development of the site would protect and enhance the biodiversity of the area. The site includes lakes important for biodiversity and will be retained.	LG	
11	Water Promote sustainable	The site is in a C2 flood risk area	Y	The issue of the cumulative impact of development in the

Policy NSA 6 - Former Phurnacite Plant, Abercwmboi					
SA Objective		Nature of the sustainability effect of policy (including magnitude, timing, duration and reversibility of effects where known).	Assessment	Evidence and reference	Suggested mitigation and enhancement measures (<i>those in italics are already proposed in the Plan</i>)
	water management including promoting use of sustainable drainage systems				flood risk zone is raised in the core strategy assessment
12	Climate Change Manage the effects of climate change	See transport and water.	L C		
13	Energy Increase the supply of renewable energy and reduce energy consumption	As an employment site with an industrial setting there could be potential for the site to be served by renewable energy such as wind turbines or combined heat and power. Potential for positive impact if opportunities taken.	LG		
14	Land and Soils Promote efficient use of land and soils	The site is flat and already cleared.	LG		
15	Waste Minimise waste, especially waste to landfill	The site can be managed through waste management plans.	LG		
16	Minerals Promote efficient and appropriate use of minerals	No direct impact.	B		

Policy NSA 6 - Former Phurnacite Plant, Abercwmboi				
SA Objective	Nature of the sustainability effect of policy (including magnitude, timing, duration and reversibility of effects where known).	Assessment	Evidence and reference	Suggested mitigation and enhancement measures (<i>those in italics are already proposed in the Plan</i>)
<p>Summary:</p> <p>The site will have a positive economic impact in relation to key SA objectives for health, communities, the economy and employment. However, the appraisal has identified the potential adverse effects from development in the floodplain, which has been identified as a potentially cumulative issue – and it is recommended that this be addressed. RCT have established the avoidance of development in flood risk areas and a key sustainability indicator, and any development contrary to TAN15 will perform negatively against this performance measure.</p>				

Policy NSA 7 - Land at Robertstown / Abernant, Aberdare

In accordance with policy **CS ??** land is allocated at Robertstown / Abernant, Aberdare for the construction of 600 dwellings, 3.7 hectares of employment / leisure, a new primary school, medical centre and associated public open space.

Policy NSA 7 - Land at Robertstown / Abernant, Aberdare

SA Objective	Nature of the sustainability effect of policy (including magnitude, timing, duration and reversibility of effects where known).	Assessment	Evidence and reference	Suggested mitigation and enhancement measures (<i>those in italics are already proposed in the Plan</i>)
1 Housing Provide for the overall housing requirement through a mix of dwelling types catering for all needs to promote integrated and thriving communities	Development will make a positive contribution to housing land requirement in Rhondda Cynon Taff particularly in an area with few large housing development opportunities available. The development should increase the number and mix of housing available and bring forward affordable housing,	DG		
2 Culture and Heritage Promote, protect and enhance the Culture and Heritage including landscape, archaeology and language	Sensitive development of the Hospital site will ensure the protection of the attractive parkland setting.	LG		
3 Communities	Development will support the role of	LG		

Policy NSA 7 - Land at Robertstown / Abernant, Aberdare					
SA Objective		Nature of the sustainability effect of policy (including magnitude, timing, duration and reversibility of effects where known).	Assessment	Evidence and reference	Suggested mitigation and enhancement measures (<i>those in italics are already proposed in the Plan</i>)
	Promote integrated communities, with opportunities for living, working and socialising for all	Aberdare and will reinforce the role of the settlement as a multifunctional centre. The development of the site presents a significant opportunity for the creation of mixed use development, which includes housing, employment, leisure, education, health centre and public transport provision. Positive and long term impact.			
4	Health Provide an environment that encourages a healthy and safe lifestyle and promotes well-being	The proposed development is located close to recreation space and has good pedestrian links and which will encourage walking. A new medical facility is proposed.	LG		
5	Economy Provide for a sustainable economy	The employment and leisure development elements of the site will make a positive contribution to the economy of the Aberdare. The development will promote new employment in a key location in Aberdare.	LG		
6	Employment	The development of the site in Aberdare	LG		

Policy NSA 7 - Land at Robertstown / Abernant, Aberdare					
SA Objective		Nature of the sustainability effect of policy (including magnitude, timing, duration and reversibility of effects where known).	Assessment	Evidence and reference	Suggested mitigation and enhancement measures (<i>those in italics are already proposed in the Plan</i>)
	Provide for a diverse range of job opportunities	will promote the creation of a diverse range of employment opportunities in Rhondda Cynon Taf.			
7	Transport Reduce the need to travel and promote more sustainable modes of transport	Close to rail and bus. The element of the strategic site at Robertstown provides an opportunity for an improved public transport facility. The mixed use nature of the site may play a part in reducing trips to other centres for employment and leisure. For journeys to other centres it is proposed to enlarge the Aberdare park and ride scheme. Overall positive impact for exiting and new development.	LG		
8	Built Environment Provide a high quality built environment that promotes community pride	The development will result in the creation of high quality energy efficient, sustainable housing in a parkland setting on the hospital element of the site. On the Robertstown part of the site, the development of high quality leisure and employment will replace existing and derelict buildings.	LG		

Policy NSA 7 - Land at Robertstown / Abernant, Aberdare					
SA Objective	Nature of the sustainability effect of policy (including magnitude, timing, duration and reversibility of effects where known).	Assessment	Evidence and reference	Suggested mitigation and enhancement measures (<i>those in italics are already proposed in the Plan</i>)	
9	Landscape Improve, protect and enhance the countryside	The land to the north west of the hospital site and the wooded slope to down to the River Cynon and the Cynon Valley Trail is largely a SINC. The mature trees are subject to TPOs. These areas are excluded from built development but there is still scope for adverse landscape impact depending on the sensitivity of the development.	?		Impact will be dependent on implementation. Mitigation will be possible through sensitive master planning.
10	Biodiversity Protect and enhance the diversity and abundance of wildlife habitats and native species	The land to the north west of the hospital site and the wooded slope to down to the River Cynon and the Cynon Valley Trail is largely a SINC. The mature trees are subject to TPOs. These areas are excluded from built development but there is still scope for adverse landscape impact due to increased visitor/leisure pressure on the protected areas.	?		Further in depth studies should be undertaken to ascertain that acceptable mitigation is possible or that the overall benefit outweighs the biodiversity damage
11	Water Promote sustainable water management including promoting use of sustainable drainage systems	Part of the site is located in a C2 flood risk area. The employment and leisure element of the site is located within the flood risk zone but no residential. Impact will be dependant on implementation.	Y		The issue of the cumulative impact of development in the flood risk zone is raised in the core strategy assessment
12	Climate Change	Potential positive effect for climate	?		

Policy NSA 7 - Land at Robertstown / Abernant, Aberdare				
SA Objective	Nature of the sustainability effect of policy (including magnitude, timing, duration and reversibility of effects where known).	Assessment	Evidence and reference	Suggested mitigation and enhancement measures (<i>those in italics are already proposed in the Plan</i>)
	Manage the effects of climate change	change through the reduction of vehicle trips. Uncertain outcome with regard to water issues.		
13	Energy Increase the supply of renewable energy and reduce energy consumption	The site is large to enough to consider community energy production through wind turbines of combined heat and power systems. Potential for positive outcome.	LG	
14	Land and Soils Promote efficient use of land and soils	The concept plan proposes high density development where appropriate on parts of the hospital site. The site is part previously developed and part Greenfield. Overall positive outcome.	LG	
15	Waste Minimise waste, especially waste to landfill	All new development will be subject to the requirement to meet BREEAM excellent standard or equivalent. A requirement of this standard is the provision of internal and external recycling facilities. Waste management plans will be expected for the larger sites. There will be an inevitable cumulative increase in the production of waste but this must be considered within the national framework with requires this level of development but it will be	LG	

Policy NSA 7 - Land at Robertstown / Abernant, Aberdare				
SA Objective	Nature of the sustainability effect of policy (including magnitude, timing, duration and reversibility of effects where known).	Assessment	Evidence and reference	Suggested mitigation and enhancement measures (<i>those in italics are already proposed in the Plan</i>)
	managed in accordance with the waste hierarchy.			
16	Minerals Promote efficient and appropriate use of minerals	No significant impact B		
<p>Summary:</p> <p>The proposal has the potential to bring significant economic and social gains to the area as noted in the positive appraisal against housing, community, employment and economy objectives. There are potential adverse impacts identified on biodiversity and landscape issues in particular, the presence of local level designations and the value of the landscape character must be thoroughly considered and addressed prior to development. Additionally, the appraisal notes that development (excluding residential) is proposed in areas of flood risk which must adequately mitigated, with a particular view to the potential for cumulative flooding issues to result from increased development in flood prone areas.</p>				

Policy NSA 8 - Land South of Hirwaun/Penywaun

In accordance with policy **CS ??** land is allocated South of Hirwaun / Penywaun for the construction of 400 dwellings, 36 hectares of employment, a new primary school, 2000m2 retail floorspace store, medical / community centre and associated public open space. Development on the strategic site will be subject to a large-scale reclamation scheme in accordance with policy **AW ???**.

Policy NSA 8 - Land South of Hirwaun/Penywaun

SA Objective		Nature of the sustainability effect of policy (including magnitude, timing, duration and reversibility of effects where known).	Assessment	Evidence and reference	Suggested mitigation and enhancement measures (<i>those in italics are already proposed in the Plan</i>)
1	Housing Provide for the overall housing requirement through a mix of dwelling types catering for all needs to promote integrated and thriving communities	Development will make a positive contribution to housing land requirement in Rhondda Cynon Taff particularly in an area with few large housing development opportunities available. The development should increase the number and mix of housing available and bring forward affordable housing,	DG		
2	Culture and Heritage Promote, protect and enhance the Culture and Heritage including landscape, archaeology and language	The area has suffered environmental degradation and the proposal offers the opportunity to improve the surrounding area.	LG		
3	Communities Promote integrated	Development will support the role of Hirwaun as a key settlement and will	DG		

Policy NSA 8 - Land South of Hirwaun/Penywaun				
SA Objective	Nature of the sustainability effect of policy (including magnitude, timing, duration and reversibility of effects where known).	Assessment	Evidence and reference	Suggested mitigation and enhancement measures (<i>those in italics are already proposed in the Plan</i>)
	communities, with opportunities for living, working and socialising for all	reinforce its' role as a multifunctional centre. The development of the site presents a significant opportunity for the creation of mixed use development, which includes housing, employment, leisure and improved education facilities for the existing community. The infrastructure demands, need for land restoration and phasing of the development indicate that the benefits of the development will inevitably be long term i.e. beyond the life of the LDP. However the impacts will be major and positive.		
4	Health Provide an environment that encourages a healthy and safe lifestyle and promotes well-being	The provision of the proposed education development, good quality housing and employment opportunities, combined with access to the countryside should have significant health benefits.	LG	The population of the northern strategy area suffers poor general health.
5	Economy Provide for a sustainable economy	The creation of employment of this scale in the northern strategy area has the potential to have significant economic benefits for RCT and the wider region. The development will promote new	LG	

Policy NSA 8 - Land South of Hirwaun/Penywaun				
SA Objective	Nature of the sustainability effect of policy (including magnitude, timing, duration and reversibility of effects where known).	Assessment	Evidence and reference	Suggested mitigation and enhancement measures (<i>those in italics are already proposed in the Plan</i>)
	employment in a key location in Aberdare.			
6	Employment Provide for a diverse range of job opportunities	LG		
7	Transport Reduce the need to travel and promote more sustainable modes of transport	LG		
8	Built Environment Provide a high quality built environment that promotes	LG		

Policy NSA 8 - Land South of Hirwaun/Penywaun				
SA Objective	Nature of the sustainability effect of policy (including magnitude, timing, duration and reversibility of effects where known).	Assessment	Evidence and reference	Suggested mitigation and enhancement measures (<i>those in italics are already proposed in the Plan</i>)
	community pride			
9	Landscape Improve, protect and enhance the countryside	The site is linked to a land restoration proposal which will remediate the impact of earlier coal extraction. The site is set between the Brecon Beacons to the north and a tall escarpment to the south. The proposal should have a positive impact on this dramatic landscape.	DG	
10	Biodiversity Protect and enhance the diversity and abundance of wildlife habitats and native species	The site is adjacent to the Blaen Cynon SAC designated for the Marsh Fritillary butterfly. Whilst the site does not encroach over designated habitat areas it occupies land to the south of the site and consideration should be given to whether development in the long term will result in significant (negative) effects at this designated site.	Y	The potential for significant impact on the designated site, including the requirement for mitigation measures is considered in detail in the accompanying/ separate Habitats Regulations Assessment Report.
11	Water Promote sustainable water management including promoting use of sustainable drainage systems	No impact on flooding or the water environment.	B	
12	Climate Change	Development on this scale will inevitably	LG	

Policy NSA 8 - Land South of Hirwaun/Penywaun					
SA Objective		Nature of the sustainability effect of policy (including magnitude, timing, duration and reversibility of effects where known).	Assessment	Evidence and reference	Suggested mitigation and enhancement measures (<i>those in italics are already proposed in the Plan</i>)
	Manage the effects of climate change	result in increased carbon emissions but in the context of the need for development all measures have been taken to reduce the impact.			
13	Energy Increase the supply of renewable energy and reduce energy consumption	The site is large to enough to consider community energy production through wind turbines of combined heat and power systems. Potential for positive outcome.	LG		
14	Land and Soils Promote efficient use of land and soils	Much of the site is degraded land with no agricultural value. Overall positive outcome.	LG		
15	Waste Minimise waste, especially waste to landfill	All new development will be subject to the requirement to meet BREEM excellent standard or equivalent. A requirement of this standard is the provision of internal and external recycling facilities. Waste management plans will be expected for the larger sites. There will be an inevitable cumulative increase in the production of waste but this must be considered within the national framework with requires this level of development but it will be managed in accordance with the waste	LG		

Policy NSA 8 - Land South of Hirwaun/Penywaun				
SA Objective	Nature of the sustainability effect of policy (including magnitude, timing, duration and reversibility of effects where known).	Assessment	Evidence and reference	Suggested mitigation and enhancement measures (<i>those in italics are already proposed in the Plan</i>)
	hierarchy.			
16	Minerals Promote efficient and appropriate use of minerals	The development protects the parts of the locality which have known coal reserves.	B	
<p>Summary:</p> <p>The proposal has the potential to bring significant economic and social gains to the area, through the progression of objectives for housing, communities, employment and the economy. The appraisal identifies the potential for significant adverse impacts identified on the biodiversity designation at an adjacent European Site. The issues specific to this site, including the potential for significant effect were identified as part of the HRA Screening undertaken at Preferred Strategy stage, and a more detailed 'Appropriate Assessment' for this site accompanies the Deposit Plan in the Habitats Regulations Assessment report.</p>				

Policy NSA 9 - Housing Allocations

In accordance with policy CS 4 land is allocated in the Northern Strategy Area for residential development on non strategic sites in the following locations:

	Site	Dwellings
1.	Land South of Rhigos Road, Hirwaun	15
2.	Land East of Trenant, Penywaun	100
3.	Land South of Llwydcoed Community Centre, Llwydcoed	15
4.	Land rear of Birchwood, Llwydcoed	25
5.	Land at the Brickworks and dairy site, Llwydcoed	150
6.	Land at Tegfan Farm, Trecynon	140
7.	Land at Nant Y Wenallt, Abernant	150
8.	Land bordered by Cefn Pennar Road, Cwmbach	40
9.	Land at Dyffryn Row, Cwmbach	25
10.	Land at Ynyscynon Farm, Cwmbach	100
11.	Land to the end of Godreaman, Godreaman	120
12.	Land at Gwernifor Grounds, Mountian Ash	15
13.	Land rear of Maerdy Road, Maerdy	50
14.	Land rear of Gwernllwyn Terrace, Tylorstown	30
15.	Site off Fenwick Street, Pontygwaith	40
16.	Old hospital site and playground, Treherbert	50
17.	Land at Ynysfeio Avenue Treherbert	150
18.	Site at the end of Mace Lane, Treorchy	40
19.	Site off Cemetery Road, Treorchy	80
20.	Hospital site, Llwynypia	190
21.	Land at Park Street, Clydach Vale	30
22.	Cefn Lane, Glyncoch	30
23.	Land at Dinas Road/ Graig Ddu Road, Porth	25
24.	Land at Catherine Terrace, Cymmer	15

Policy NSA 9 - Housing Allocations					
SA Objective		Nature of the sustainability effect of policy (including magnitude, timing, duration and reversibility of effects where known).	Assessment	Evidence and reference	Suggested mitigation and enhancement measures (<i>those in italics are already proposed in the Plan</i>)
1	Housing Provide for the overall housing requirement through a mix of dwelling types catering for all needs to promote integrated and thriving communities	The clarity for developers and development management staff provided by local plan allocations should assist the provision of housing, both market and affordable on the larger sites) at the required build rates over the plan period. Positive impact.	DG	It is necessary to increase build rates to achieve the projected housing requirement. (WAG Household Projections for Wales 2006)	
2	Culture and Heritage Promote, protect and enhance the Culture and Heritage including landscape, archaeology and language	The sites have been subject to detailed assessment and there is no predicted adverse impact on the historic landscape or built environment.	B		
3	Communities Promote integrated communities, with opportunities for living, working and socialising for all	A wide range of site size is proposed from 15 to 190 units. The size of the site should be proportionate to the settlement adjacent or in which the site is proposed and care must be taken that community facilities are not overwhelmed or over stretched by new development. Further work on the ability	?		

Policy NSA 9 - Housing Allocations				
SA Objective	Nature of the sustainability effect of policy (including magnitude, timing, duration and reversibility of effects where known).	Assessment	Evidence and reference	Suggested mitigation and enhancement measures (<i>those in italics are already proposed in the Plan</i>)
	of existing facilities to sustain these levels of development should be carried out to inform the required levels of planning contribution. However, actively encouraging and facilitating development in the northern strategy area may assist in reducing north/south disparity.			
4	Health Provide an environment that encourages a healthy and safe lifestyle and promotes well-being	Provision of and access to open space has been given consideration in making the allocations and some are large enough to encompass allotment provision. Generally, NFPA standards will be applied.	LG	
5	Economy Provide for a sustainable economy	The only impact on the economy may be that facilitating the provision of a range of size, location and tenure of housing may help reduce population decline and provide a more diverse work force. This in turn may encourage indigenous and inward investment. Minor possible positive impact.	LG	
6	Employment Provide for a diverse	Comments apply as above.	LG	

Policy NSA 9 - Housing Allocations					
SA Objective		Nature of the sustainability effect of policy (including magnitude, timing, duration and reversibility of effects where known).	Assessment	Evidence and reference	Suggested mitigation and enhancement measures (<i>those in italics are already proposed in the Plan</i>)
	range of job opportunities				
7	Transport Reduce the need to travel and promote more sustainable modes of transport	The appraisal of the majority of sites indicates that there are community facilities within walking distance and access to public transport. Three sites do not appear to have acceptable access to facilities and/or transport, namely 1, 2, and 23. Two of these are small sites but the site of 100 should be given further consideration. There will be an inevitable cumulative increase in the use of cars but this must be considered within the national framework with requires this level of development and the most sustainable sites have generally been chosen.	L C		Site 2 – reconsideration ?
8	Built Environment Provide a high quality built environment that promotes community pride	All development can be of a high quality of design and the appraisals indicate that many of the sites will lend an opportunity to improve the existing built environment. Positive impact.	LG		
9	Landscape Improve, protect	A few issues of visual impact from short and long distance views and relationship	B		Landscaping to be an integral and important part of any

Policy NSA 9 - Housing Allocations					
SA Objective		Nature of the sustainability effect of policy (including magnitude, timing, duration and reversibility of effects where known).	Assessment	Evidence and reference	Suggested mitigation and enhancement measures (<i>those in italics are already proposed in the Plan</i>)
	and enhance the countryside	with the countryside have been identified e.g. sites 8 and 19 but the Council consider that adequate mitigation is possible through appropriate landscaping.			design proposals.
10	Biodiversity Protect and enhance the diversity and abundance of wildlife habitats and native species	Sites 9,20 and 22 raise biodiversity issues due to their proximity to Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation. Potential for adverse and irreversible impact.	Y		Further work should be carried out to ascertain whether mitigation is plausible.
11	Water Promote sustainable water management including promoting use of sustainable drainage systems	The inadequacy of the foul drainage system is a significant issue in RCT and several sites are particularly noted as having potential drainage issues e.g. sites 17 and 18. Potential for adverse impact on the water environment. However no sites have been allocated within identified floodplains.	Y L C	Water Framework Directive.	Discussions should be held with the statutory undertakers and the EA before these sites are progressed through the plan.
12	Climate Change Manage the effects of climate change	Sites which have been identified as having poor access to public transport and in areas with inadequate sewerage should be reassessed to avoid adverse impact. Most sites are however,	L C C		

Policy NSA 9 - Housing Allocations				
SA Objective	Nature of the sustainability effect of policy (including magnitude, timing, duration and reversibility of effects where known).	Assessment	Evidence and reference	Suggested mitigation and enhancement measures (<i>those in italics are already proposed in the Plan</i>)
	allocated in locations with good access to facilities and public transport. See also further comments under transport.			
13	Energy Increase the supply of renewable energy and reduce energy consumption	LG		
14	Land and Soils Promote efficient use of land and soils	LG		
15	Waste Minimise waste, especially waste to landfill	LG		

Policy NSA 9 - Housing Allocations				
SA Objective	Nature of the sustainability effect of policy (including magnitude, timing, duration and reversibility of effects where known).	Assessment	Evidence and reference	Suggested mitigation and enhancement measures (<i>those in italics are already proposed in the Plan</i>)
	level of development but it will be managed in accordance with the waste hierarchy.			
16	Minerals Promote efficient and appropriate use of minerals	LG		
<p>Summary:</p> <p>Overall the sites perform acceptably well against the sustainability criteria when taken within the context that this level of development is required by national development spatial strategy. A number of issues were noted by the sustainability appraisal in relation to transport, landscape and biodiversity impacts of some sites and it is recommended that these are revisited to ascertain that acceptable mitigation is possible and consideration given to any other possible alternative sites.</p>				

Policy NSA 10 – Housing Density

Proposals for residential development will be permitted where the net residential density level is a minimum of 30 dwellings per hectare. Variation in density levels may be permitted where it can be demonstrated that the proposed development:

1. Does not adversely effect the character of the site or surrounding area;
2. Makes efficient use of the site, and
3. Has regard to the amenity of existing and future residents.

Policy NSA 10 – Housing Density

SA Objective	Nature of the sustainability effect of policy (including magnitude, timing, duration and reversibility of effects where known).	Assessment	Evidence and reference	Suggested mitigation and enhancement measures (<i>those in italics are already proposed in the Plan</i>)
1	<p>Housing Provide for the overall housing requirement through a mix of dwelling types catering for all needs to promote integrated and thriving communities</p>	<p>L C</p>	<p>RCT CBC Local Housing Strategy 2007 indicates a need for 870 units per annum over the next five years.</p> <p>4,000 empty properties in RCT. Housing Matter – a Local Housing Strategy fro RCT 2007-12</p>	<p>Although most of the Borough is rural, higher density levels could be more positively sought in urban areas to encourage lower land take and more affordable units.</p> <p>The mechanism to manage contributions for the refurbishment of empty dwellings is not explained.</p>

Policy NSA 10 – Housing Density				
SA Objective	Nature of the sustainability effect of policy (including magnitude, timing, duration and reversibility of effects where known).	Assessment	Evidence and reference	Suggested mitigation and enhancement measures (<i>those in italics are already proposed in the Plan</i>)
	an indirect adverse impact on the numerical provision of affordable housing. All sites under 1hectare would contribute to refurbishment of existing stock.			
2	Culture and Heritage Promote, protect and enhance the Culture and Heritage including landscape, archaeology and language	Higher densities require less land take and are therefore less likely to impinge on designated areas.	LG	As above
3	Communities Promote integrated communities, with opportunities for living, working and socialising for all	Lower densities usually indicate the provision of higher value properties which may lead to scope to seek more significant community benefit. However this should be considered against the potential to provide a greater number of dwellings in locations which already have good access to facilities.	?	Higher densities should be sought in locations with good transport links and access to facilities.
4	Health Provide an environment that encourages a healthy and safe lifestyle and	Lower densities do ostensibly give the opportunity for more public space but may lead to more private space, which then benefits the few rather than the wider community. Lower densities also usually indicate the provision of higher	LG	Whilst RCT appears to have an existing high population density this is due to the amount of terraced housing, some of which it is proposed to redevelop.

Policy NSA 10 – Housing Density				
SA Objective	Nature of the sustainability effect of policy (including magnitude, timing, duration and reversibility of effects where known).	Assessment	Evidence and reference	Suggested mitigation and enhancement measures (<i>those in italics are already proposed in the Plan</i>)
	promotes well-being			
	value properties which may lead to scope to seek more significant community benefit including open space.			
5	Economy Provide for a sustainable economy	L C	?	In the current economic climate parts of South Wales has experienced significant price drops and low priced property is easily found. (The Guardian 25.11.08) However this does not assist those seeking secure low cost accommodation for rent.
6	Employment Provide for a diverse range of job opportunities	L C	?	
7	Transport Reduce the need to travel and promote more sustainable modes of transport	Y		Higher densities should be sought in locations with good transport links and access to facilities. Inclusion of this in the policy could improve the performance to LG.
8	Built Environment Provide a high	LG		

Policy NSA 10 – Housing Density				
SA Objective	Nature of the sustainability effect of policy (including magnitude, timing, duration and reversibility of effects where known).	Assessment	Evidence and reference	Suggested mitigation and enhancement measures (<i>those in italics are already proposed in the Plan</i>)
	quality built environment that promotes community pride			
9	Landscape Improve, protect and enhance the countryside	Higher densities require less land take and are therefore less likely to impinge on designated areas. This density does not support this objective.	Y	
10	Biodiversity Protect and enhance the diversity and abundance of wildlife habitats and native species	Higher densities require less land take and are therefore less likely to impinge on designated areas. This density does not support this objective.	Y	
11	Water Promote sustainable water management including promoting use of sustainable drainage systems	Density levels do not affect overall water issues but can provide circumstances where it is more viable to include water management techniques. However lower densities do produce less demand and waste per hectare.	B	
12	Climate Change Manage the effects of climate change	Higher densities should be sought in locations with good public transport and walking and cycling routes to maximise the existing benefits thereby reducing carbon emissions. Higher density	Y	Higher densities should be sought in locations with good transport links and access to facilities. Inclusion of this in the policy could improve the

Policy NSA 10 – Housing Density				
SA Objective	Nature of the sustainability effect of policy (including magnitude, timing, duration and reversibility of effects where known).	Assessment	Evidence and reference	Suggested mitigation and enhancement measures (<i>those in italics are already proposed in the Plan</i>)
	developments (flats, terraces) can be more energy efficient than detached or semi detached units. This policy does not support this objective.			performance to LG.
13	Energy Increase the supply of renewable energy and reduce energy consumption	Higher density developments can be more energy efficient than detached or semi detached units.	Y	
14	Land and Soils Promote efficient use of land and soils	Lower densities require more land take so there is more scope for an irreversible, long term adverse impact.	Y	
15	Waste Minimise waste, especially waste to landfill	No significant impact.	B	
16	Minerals Promote efficient and appropriate use of minerals	No significant impact	B	
Summary:				
It is noted by the appraisal that the northern strategy area already has areas of densely developed terraced housing (approx 70dph) and that a mix of housing is required, but having stated that the minimum density will be 30dph, the policy could do more to facilitate dwellings at a higher dph where appropriate. This could be, for example, through the development of flats or three storey development in urban areas with good public transport connections. This would improve the performance of the policy in the light of transport, climate change and housing SA				

Policy NSA 10 – Housing Density				
SA Objective	Nature of the sustainability effect of policy (including magnitude, timing, duration and reversibility of effects where known).	Assessment	Evidence and reference	Suggested mitigation and enhancement measures (<i>those in italics are already proposed in the Plan</i>)
<p>objectives.</p> <p>As noted by the appraisal, 25% affordable housing on sites of 30 dwellings will bring forward a maximum of 7/8 such units per hectare assuming that other site costs render the provision of affordable housing viable. Therefore, the provision of family housing may be at the expense of providing secure rented accommodation for those unable to enter the housing market. It is recommended that consideration be given to amending the policy to offer more encouragement for higher density development in appropriate locations.</p>				

Policy NSA 11 – Affordable Housing

The provision of 25% affordable housing will be sought on sites of 30 units or more. On sites under 30 units, contributions will be sought for the reuse / rehabilitation of existing older housing stock in the County Borough.

Policy NSA 11 – Affordable Housing				
SA Objective	Nature of the sustainability effect of policy (including magnitude, timing, duration and reversibility of effects where known).	Assessment	Evidence and reference	Suggested mitigation and enhancement measures (<i>those in italics are already proposed in the Plan</i>)
1	Housing Provide for the overall housing requirement through a mix of dwelling types catering for all needs to promote integrated and thriving communities	DG	RCT CBC Local Housing Strategy 2007 indicates a need for 870 units per annum over the next five years. This will require the completion of sites amounting to 3,500 dwellings in the five year period. 4,000 empty properties in RCT. Housing Matter – a Local Housing Strategy for RCT 2007-12	
2	Culture and Heritage Promote, protect and enhance the Culture and Heritage including landscape, archaeology and language	B	RCT contains significant area of important historic landscape. Ref: CADW Historic Landscapes.	
3	Communities Promote integrated	DG		

Policy NSA 11 – Affordable Housing				
SA Objective	Nature of the sustainability effect of policy (including magnitude, timing, duration and reversibility of effects where known).	Assessment	Evidence and reference	Suggested mitigation and enhancement measures (<i>those in italics are already proposed in the Plan</i>)
	communities, with opportunities for living, working and socialising for all	and community facilities. This is particularly important for those on lower incomes and this policy will have a positive and cumulative beneficial effect.		
4	Health Provide an environment that encourages a healthy and safe lifestyle and promotes well-being	The allocated sites are in suitable locations with access to public transport and community facilities. This is particularly important for those on lower incomes and this policy will have a positive and cumulative beneficial effect.	DG	There is a disparity in health and levels of deprivation across the district. SA/SEA Baseline.
5	Economy Provide for a sustainable economy	The affordable housing should assist in retaining young people and young families in the area. This will provide a more flexible workforce to support the economy.	LG	
6	Employment Provide for a diverse range of job opportunities	As above	LG	
7	Transport Reduce the need to travel and promote	The allocated sites are in suitable locations with access to public transport and community facilities. As the	LG	Rural sites should be kept to the minimum required to reduce use of the car.

Policy NSA 11 – Affordable Housing					
SA Objective		Nature of the sustainability effect of policy (including magnitude, timing, duration and reversibility of effects where known).	Assessment	Evidence and reference	Suggested mitigation and enhancement measures (<i>those in italics are already proposed in the Plan</i>)
	more sustainable modes of transport	affordable housing will be part of the allocations there will be no additional impact. (The allocated sites have been subject to the STA site selection process.).			
8	Built Environment Provide a high quality built environment that promotes community pride	As the affordable housing will be part of the allocations there will be no additional impact. (The allocated sites have been subject to the STA site selection process.).	B		
9	Landscape Improve, protect and enhance the countryside	As the affordable housing will be part of the allocations there will be no additional impact. (The allocated sites have been subject to the STA site selection process.).	B	RCT contains significant areas of important historic landscape and 20 identified SLAs. Ref: CADW Historic Landscapes.	
10	Biodiversity Protect and enhance the diversity and abundance of wildlife habitats and native species	As the affordable housing will be part of the allocations there will be no additional impact. (The allocated sites have been subject to the STA site selection process.).	B	RCT contains 2 SACs, 14 SSSIs and 32 key Countryside Sites. CCW.	

Policy NSA 11 – Affordable Housing				
SA Objective	Nature of the sustainability effect of policy (including magnitude, timing, duration and reversibility of effects where known).	Assessment	Evidence and reference	Suggested mitigation and enhancement measures (<i>those in italics are already proposed in the Plan</i>)
11	Water Promote sustainable water management including promoting use of sustainable drainage systems	As the affordable housing will be part of the allocations there will be no additional impact. (The allocated sites have been subject to the STA site selection process,).	B	
12	Climate Change Manage the effects of climate change	As the affordable housing will be part of the allocations there will be no additional impact. (The allocated sites have been subject to the STA site selection process,).	B	
13	Energy Increase the supply of renewable energy and reduce energy consumption	As the affordable housing will be part of the allocations there will be no additional impact. (The allocated sites have been subject to the STA site selection process,).	B	
14	Land and Soils Promote efficient use of land and soils	As the affordable housing will be part of the allocations there will be no additional impact. (The allocated sites have been subject to the STA site selection process,).	B	4,000 empty properties in RCT. Housing Matter – a Local Housing Strategy fro RCT 2007-12
15	Waste Minimise waste, especially waste to	As the affordable housing will be part of the allocations there will be no additional impact. (The allocated sites	B	RCT has shown a relative decrease in municipal waste generated compared to

Policy NSA 11 – Affordable Housing				
SA Objective	Nature of the sustainability effect of policy (including magnitude, timing, duration and reversibility of effects where known).	Assessment	Evidence and reference	Suggested mitigation and enhancement measures (<i>those in italics are already proposed in the Plan</i>)
landfill	have been subject to the STA site selection process,).		adjacent Boroughs. Strategic Planning Guidance for South East Wales.	
16 Minerals Promote efficient and appropriate use of minerals	As the affordable housing will be part of the allocations there will be no additional impact. (The allocated sites have been subject to the STA site selection process,).	B	4,000 empty properties in RCT. Housing Matter – a Local Housing Strategy for RCT 2007-12	
<p>Summary:</p> <p>The appraisal notes that the percentage of affordable housing sought by the policy is low in UK/ national terms. However, it is acknowledged that this policy reflects the specific economy and existing dwelling stock in the northern strategy area and is a component part of the regeneration strategy and need for a wider mix of house types. As the affordable housing will generally be part of allocated sites which have been subject to the site selection methodology (incorporating sustainability appraisal) there will be no specific environmental impact from the inclusion of affordable housing that is not addressed by an appraisal of the wider sustainability implications.</p>				

Policy NSA 12 – Housing Development Within and Adjacent To Settlement Boundaries

Development in the Northern Strategy Area will be permitted within the defined settlement boundaries where it can be demonstrated that:

1. The proposed development does not adversely effect the provision of open space;
2. The proposed development does not adversely affect the highway network and is accessible to local services by a range of modes of transport, on foot or by cycle;
3. The proposed development does not adversely affect the provision of car parking in the surrounding area and
4. Where sites are contaminated or subject to land instability, adequate remediation can be achieved;

In addition proposals for residential development outside, but adjoining the defined settlement boundary will be permitted where it can be demonstrated that:

5. The proposal does not result in the construction of more than 10 dwellings;
6. The site is bounded on at least one side by the defined settlement boundary and the scale, form and design of the proposed development does not adversely effect the amenity or character of the site, surrounding or wider area;
7. The proposed development is not within a green wedge or a site designated for international, national or local importance.

Development proposals in the identified area of Aberdare will only be permitted within the defined settlement boundary. Development proposals outside and adjoining the defined settlement boundary of Aberdare will not be permitted.

Development proposals within and/or adjoining the defined settlement boundaries around the Strategic Sites defined by policy CS 3 will only be permitted where they will not prejudice the development of the Strategic Sites

Policy NSA 12 – Housing Development Within and Adjacent To Settlement Boundaries					
SA Objective		Nature of the sustainability effect of policy (including magnitude, timing, duration and reversibility of effects where known).	Assessment	Evidence and reference	Suggested mitigation and enhancement measures (<i>those in italics are already proposed in the Plan</i>)
1	Housing Provide for the overall housing requirement through a mix of dwelling types catering for all needs to promote integrated and thriving communities	The policy facilitates the provision of housing development to meet the identified need. Small sites i.e. approx 10 units at 30 dph, within defined settlement boundaries areas can often be brought forward more quickly than larger allocations and there could be a short term positive impact. However allowing development outside settlement boundaries undermines the rural exception sites policy for affordable housing. Mixed impact.	I C		If more development than can be accommodated within settlement boundaries is to be allowed, a more positive approach would be to widen the settlement boundaries in settlements with appropriate location and facilities. This would also give more clarity to the purpose of Policy AW 3 – Exception Sites For Affordable Housing In The Countryside.
2	Culture and Heritage Promote, protect and enhance the Culture and Heritage including landscape, archaeology and language	Urban infill can have an adverse impact on existing architecture but this should be controlled through design policies.	B		
3	Communities Promote integrated communities, with	This policy seeks to build on existing sustainable communities which are considered to have enough facilities to	?		If more development than can be accommodated within settlement boundaries is to be

Policy NSA 12 – Housing Development Within and Adjacent To Settlement Boundaries					
SA Objective		Nature of the sustainability effect of policy (including magnitude, timing, duration and reversibility of effects where known).	Assessment	Evidence and reference	Suggested mitigation and enhancement measures (<i>those in italics are already proposed in the Plan</i>)
	opportunities for living, working and socialising for all	warrant having a defined settlement boundary. However, the strategic sites are carefully constructed to balance residential, community and employment development. If ad hoc development is allowed adjacent to the boundaries of these sites their sustainability may be brought into question. Mixed impact as the policy stands.			allowed, a more positive approach would be to widen the settlement boundaries in settlements with appropriate location and facilities. The reference to development adjacent to the boundaries of strategic sites should be removed.
4	Health Provide an environment that encourages a healthy and safe lifestyle and promotes well-being	As noted in the overall assessment good housing has a beneficial effect on health matters. The policy also requires that open space provision is not compromised by development. Positive impacts for health.	LG		
5	Economy Provide for a sustainable economy	Provision of good quality housing is indirectly good for the economy. The policy will not allow the balance between residential and employment allocations to be disrupted on the principal Town of Aberdare. However the strategic sites are carefully constructed to balance residential,	L C	Y	

Policy NSA 12 – Housing Development Within and Adjacent To Settlement Boundaries				
SA Objective	Nature of the sustainability effect of policy (including magnitude, timing, duration and reversibility of effects where known).	Assessment	Evidence and reference	Suggested mitigation and enhancement measures (<i>those in italics are already proposed in the Plan</i>)
	community and employment development. If ad hoc development is allowed adjacent to the boundaries of these sites their sustainability may be brought into question.			
6	Employment Provide for a diverse range of job opportunities	No direct impact apart from short term employment in the construction industry.	B	
7	Transport Reduce the need to travel and promote more sustainable modes of transport	The policy should have long term positive effect as it encourages development in sustainable locations with access to other modes of transport apart from the car.	LG	
8	Built Environment Provide a high quality built environment that promotes community pride	Subject to other design policy .	B	
9	Landscape Improve, protect and enhance the countryside	Aberdare is omitted from the settlements where development will be allowed outside settlement boundaries to preserve the setting of the town.	LG	If more development than can be accommodated within settlement boundaries is to be allowed, a more positive

Policy NSA 12 – Housing Development Within and Adjacent To Settlement Boundaries				
SA Objective	Nature of the sustainability effect of policy (including magnitude, timing, duration and reversibility of effects where known).	Assessment	Evidence and reference	Suggested mitigation and enhancement measures (<i>those in italics are already proposed in the Plan</i>)
	Generally settlement boundaries are used to define the acceptable planning and environmental limits to a settlement and therefore protect the surrounding landscape and setting of a town/village and exceptions are only made for affordable housing for which there is a proven local need. It is also assumed that the strategic sites have been carefully planned to sit within environmental parameters.			approach would be to widen the settlement boundaries in settlements with appropriate location and facilities. This would also reinforce the protection of the landscape.
10	Biodiversity Protect and enhance the diversity and abundance of wildlife habitats and native species	The policy refers to designated sites so there should be no adverse impact on nature conservation sites.	B	If more development than can be accommodated within settlement boundaries is to be allowed, a more positive approach would be to widen the settlement boundaries in settlements with appropriate location and facilities. This would also reinforce the protection of biodiversity.
11	Water Promote sustainable water management	No specific impact.	LG	

Policy NSA 12 – Housing Development Within and Adjacent To Settlement Boundaries				
SA Objective	Nature of the sustainability effect of policy (including magnitude, timing, duration and reversibility of effects where known).	Assessment	Evidence and reference	Suggested mitigation and enhancement measures (<i>those in italics are already proposed in the Plan</i>)
	including promoting use of sustainable drainage systems			
12	Climate Change Manage the effects of climate change	See comments on transport which will be the main factor.	LG	
13	Energy Increase the supply of renewable energy and reduce energy consumption	No specific impact.	B	
14	Land and Soils Promote efficient use of land and soils	No specific impact.	B	
15	Waste Minimise waste, especially waste to landfill	Allowing development in or adjacent to existing settlements will mean that recycling and composting facilities already exist and can be shared or improved.	LG	
16	Minerals Promote efficient and appropriate use of minerals	No specific impact.	B	

Policy NSA 12 – Housing Development Within and Adjacent To Settlement Boundaries				
SA Objective	Nature of the sustainability effect of policy (including magnitude, timing, duration and reversibility of effects where known).	Assessment	Evidence and reference	Suggested mitigation and enhancement measures (<i>those in italics are already proposed in the Plan</i>)
<p>Summary: The appraisal noted a number of key issues that it is recommended are addressed. The policy has the potential to undermine the provision of affordable housing built under the affordable housing exceptions policy and to disrupt the balance of the carefully balanced strategic sites through the addition of incremental development. It is recommended that :</p> <p>If more development than can be accommodated within settlement boundaries is to be allowed, a more positive approach would be to widen the settlement boundaries in settlements with appropriate location and facilities. This would also give more clarity to the purpose of Policy AW 3 – Exception Sites For Affordable Housing In The Countryside.</p> <p>It is recommended that the reference to development adjacent to the boundaries of strategic sites should be removed.</p>				

Policy NSA 13 – Rehabilitation / Conversion of Large Buildings

The rehabilitation and conversion of large buildings for residential purposes within the Northern Strategy Area will be permitted where it can be demonstrated that:

1. The building is located within a settlement identified in Policy **NSA ?**;
2. The building is of historic or architectural importance or is prominent and makes a valuable contribution the townscape of the settlement;
3. There is no economically viable alternative use for the building;

Policy NSA 13 – Rehabilitation / Conversion of Large Buildings

SA Objective	Nature of the sustainability effect of policy (including magnitude, timing, duration and reversibility of effects where known).	Assessment	Evidence and reference	Suggested mitigation and enhancement measures (<i>those in italics are already proposed in the Plan</i>)
1 Housing Provide for the overall housing requirement through a mix of dwelling types catering for all needs to promote integrated and thriving communities	The policy will provide another contribution to meeting the identified housing requirement and will add to the variety of property available.	DG		
2 Culture and Heritage Promote, protect	Conversion must be sympathetic to the building to avoid harm to its integrity but	DG		

Policy NSA 13 – Rehabilitation / Conversion of Large Buildings				
SA Objective	Nature of the sustainability effect of policy (including magnitude, timing, duration and reversibility of effects where known).	Assessment	Evidence and reference	Suggested mitigation and enhancement measures (<i>those in italics are already proposed in the Plan</i>)
	and enhance the Culture and Heritage including landscape, archaeology and language	finding new uses often provides the only way to secure a future for significant buildings which would otherwise fall into dereliction. Short to long term positive impact.		
3	Communities Promote integrated communities, with opportunities for living, working and socialising for all	This inevitably loses buildings for community use but reuse is preferable to dereliction which undermines civic/community pride.	LG	2005 Urban Capacity Study identified 57 disused or under used buildings with opportunities for reuse.
4	Health Provide an environment that encourages a healthy and safe lifestyle and promotes well-being	No specific impact.	B	
5	Economy Provide for a sustainable economy	The policy does require the exploration of an economic use before allowing residential. Derelict/ unmaintained buildings do not add to a sense of economic confidence and may discourage inward investment. This approach could have a minor positive	LG	

Policy NSA 13 – Rehabilitation / Conversion of Large Buildings				
SA Objective	Nature of the sustainability effect of policy (including magnitude, timing, duration and reversibility of effects where known).	Assessment	Evidence and reference	Suggested mitigation and enhancement measures (<i>those in italics are already proposed in the Plan</i>)
	impact.			
6	Employment Provide for a diverse range of job opportunities	No significant impact.	B	
7	Transport Reduce the need to travel and promote more sustainable modes of transport	There should be no adverse impact as the settlements have been acknowledged as suitable for further development subject to locational criteria.	LG	
8	Built Environment Provide a high quality built environment that promotes community pride	The policy seeks to protect historic buildings which are part of the quality of the built environment. Relatively minor but long term positive effect.	LG	
9	Landscape Improve, protect and enhance the countryside	No significant impact.	B	
10	Biodiversity Protect and enhance the diversity and abundance of	No significant impact.	B	

Policy NSA 13 – Rehabilitation / Conversion of Large Buildings				
SA Objective	Nature of the sustainability effect of policy (including magnitude, timing, duration and reversibility of effects where known).	Assessment	Evidence and reference	Suggested mitigation and enhancement measures (<i>those in italics are already proposed in the Plan</i>)
	wildlife habitats and native species			
11	Water Promote sustainable water management including promoting use of sustainable drainage systems	No significant impact.	B	
12	Climate Change Manage the effects of climate change	See comments under transport.	LG	
13	Energy Increase the supply of renewable energy and reduce energy consumption	No significant impact.	B	
14	Land and Soils Promote efficient use of land and soils	Reuse of existing buildings will have minor long term positive effect.	LG	
15	Waste Minimise waste, especially waste to landfill	Reuse of existing buildings will have minor long term positive effect.	LG	
16	Minerals Promote efficient	Reuse of existing buildings will have minor long term positive effect.	LG	

Policy NSA 13 – Rehabilitation / Conversion of Large Buildings				
SA Objective	Nature of the sustainability effect of policy (including magnitude, timing, duration and reversibility of effects where known).	Assessment	Evidence and reference	Suggested mitigation and enhancement measures (<i>those in italics are already proposed in the Plan</i>)
and appropriate use of minerals				
<p>Summary:</p> <p>The policy performs well against key SA objectives and will make best use of land and resources whilst providing a further source of potential employment or residential premises. Protection of historic buildings is a key issue for the Borough where the built heritage is under threat providing potential for positive impacts in the longer term.</p>				

Policy NSA 14 - Employment Allocations

In accordance with policy **CS ??** land is allocated in the Northern Strategy Area for employment development on non strategic sites in the following locations:-

	Site	Use	Size
6.	Strategic Site 4: Land at Robertstown, Aberdare	(B1)	3.7 h
7.	Stragic Site 1: Former Maerdy Colliery, Maerdy	(B1, B2)	1.0 h
8.	Phurnacite, Aberaman	(B1, B2)	5.9h
9.	Ferndale & Highfield Ind Estate, Maerdy	(B1, B2 & B8)	8.38h
10	Caemawr Ind Estate, Treorchy	(B1, B2)	3.6h
11	Former Mayhew Chicken Factory, Trecynon	(B1, B2 & B8)	2.88h
12	North of Fifth Avenue, Hirwaun Ind Estate, Hirwaun, and	(B2,B8)	4.17h

Policy NSA 14 - Employment Allocations					
SA Objective		Nature of the sustainability effect of policy (including magnitude, timing, duration and reversibility of effects where known).	Assessment	Evidence and reference	Suggested mitigation and enhancement measures (<i>those in italics are already proposed in the Plan</i>)
1	Housing Provide for the overall housing requirement through a mix of dwelling types catering for all needs to promote integrated and thriving communities	No impact. Sufficient land has been allocated to meet the housing requirement.	B		
2	Culture and Heritage Promote, protect and enhance the Culture and Heritage including landscape, archaeology and language	The sites are all former or underused industrial estates.	B		
3	Communities Promote integrated communities, with opportunities for living, working and socialising for all	The sites are all linked to existing communities or part of strategic sites and will strengthen communities by providing more diverse employment opportunities.	LG		
4	Health Provide an	No significant impact but employment opportunities are linked to general	LG		

Policy NSA 14 - Employment Allocations				
SA Objective	Nature of the sustainability effect of policy (including magnitude, timing, duration and reversibility of effects where known).	Assessment	Evidence and reference	Suggested mitigation and enhancement measures (<i>those in italics are already proposed in the Plan</i>)
	environment that encourages a healthy and safe lifestyle and promotes well-being	health,		
5	Economy Provide for a sustainable economy	The policy directly addresses this objective. Certainty of the allocations for specific uses may encourage inward investment.	LG	
6	Employment Provide for a diverse range of job opportunities	The policy allocates land across the northern strategy area for mainly B1 and B2 uses which is moving away from the heavy industrial base of the County Borough. Provision is still made for B8 use in Trecynon and Hirwaun. This should help to encourage a diverse range of employment opportunities to be created.	DG	
7	Transport Reduce the need to travel and promote more sustainable modes of transport	As noted above, the sites are allocated in proximity to existing settlements or as part of strategic allocations. This should reduce journey times for employment.	LG	
8	Built Environment Provide a high	No adverse impact as the sites are already in employment use. There could	LG	

Policy NSA 14 - Employment Allocations				
SA Objective	Nature of the sustainability effect of policy (including magnitude, timing, duration and reversibility of effects where known).	Assessment	Evidence and reference	Suggested mitigation and enhancement measures (<i>those in italics are already proposed in the Plan</i>)
	quality built environment that promotes community pride	be potential for improvement as sites are modernised and improved. No impact.		
9	Landscape Improve, protect and enhance the countryside	No adverse impact as the sites are already in employment use. There could be potential for improvement as sites are modernised and improved.	LG	
10	Biodiversity Protect and enhance the diversity and abundance of wildlife habitats and native species	Sites which have become derelict should be surveyed to ensure there is no biodiversity value. The site north of Fifth Avenue Hirwaun did cause concerns due to the proximity to Blaen Cynon SAC but the HRA has screened out any adverse impact.	?	
11	Water Promote sustainable water management including promoting use of sustainable drainage systems	No direct impact due to existing uses.	B	New development on the sites can be encouraged to employ sustainable water management techniques such as SUDs.
12	Climate Change Manage the effects of climate change	Transport and water issues will have the most significant impacts,	LG	
13	Energy	No significant impact.	B	Industrial estates can be good

Policy NSA 14 - Employment Allocations				
SA Objective	Nature of the sustainability effect of policy (including magnitude, timing, duration and reversibility of effects where known).	Assessment	Evidence and reference	Suggested mitigation and enhancement measures (<i>those in italics are already proposed in the Plan</i>)
	Increase the supply of renewable energy and reduce energy consumption			locations for CHP and wind turbines to produce on site energy.
14	Land and Soils Promote efficient use of land and soils	Intensification of use of previously developed land directly addresses this objective.	LG	
15	Waste Minimise waste, especially waste to landfill	No direct impact.	B	All industrial estates should be encouraged to have waste management plans.
16	Minerals Promote efficient and appropriate use of minerals	The plan has policies which protect existing mineral resources. No impact.	B	
<p>Summary:</p> <p>The appraisal noted that due to allocations being on land in existing employment uses there should be no significant adverse impacts. The policy encourages new and more diverse uses across the northern strategy area and there is potential for benefits across the range of objectives, particularly on socio-economic and community objectives which are identified issues for RCT.</p>				

Policy NSA 15 - Small Industrial and Business Sites

Small industrial and business sites (Use Classes B1, B2 and B8) will be retained for employment purposes unless it can be demonstrated that:

1. Suitable alternative sites are available elsewhere in the locality at a comparable rental; or
2. The premises have been assessed and are genuinely redundant i.e. they are vacant and have been marketed locally at a price that reflects their condition and commercial value and for a period of time that reflects the likely demand for the size of premises;

Where the Council considers that the continued use of the premises for business purposes would cause undue disturbance to residential neighbours; or where access to the site does not meet an acceptable safety standard and cannot reasonably be improved, the above criteria will not be applied.

Policy NSA 15 - Small Industrial and Business Sites

SA Objective	Nature of the sustainability effect of policy (including magnitude, timing, duration and reversibility of effects where known).	Assessment	Evidence and reference	Suggested mitigation and enhancement measures (<i>those in italics are already proposed in the Plan</i>)
1 Housing Provide for the overall housing requirement through a mix of dwelling types catering for all needs to promote integrated and	No significant effect but some historic smaller sites in settlements which have become non conforming uses in terms of the wider context may come forward for housing.	?		

Policy NSA 15 - Small Industrial and Business Sites				
SA Objective	Nature of the sustainability effect of policy (including magnitude, timing, duration and reversibility of effects where known).	Assessment	Evidence and reference	Suggested mitigation and enhancement measures (<i>those in italics are already proposed in the Plan</i>)
	thriving communities			
2	Culture and Heritage Promote, protect and enhance the Culture and Heritage including landscape, archaeology and language	No significant effect	B	
3	Communities Promote integrated communities, with opportunities for living, working and socialising for all	No significant effect but some historic smaller sites in settlements which have become non conforming uses in terms of the wider context may come forward for housing and improve the environment for the community.	LG	
4	Health Provide an environment that encourages a healthy and safe lifestyle and promotes well-being	No significant effect	B	
5	Economy Provide for a sustainable	The policy seeks to protect existing employment sites which are important for the economy as retail and residential	L C ?	

Policy NSA 15 - Small Industrial and Business Sites				
SA Objective	Nature of the sustainability effect of policy (including magnitude, timing, duration and reversibility of effects where known).	Assessment	Evidence and reference	Suggested mitigation and enhancement measures (<i>those in italics are already proposed in the Plan</i>)
economy	land values are higher and a more attractive prospect for developers than maintaining employment use. The lack of such a policy can lead to an unacceptable loss of land to housing. Positive impact.			
6	Employment Provide for a diverse range of job opportunities	LG		As above
7	Transport Reduce the need to travel and promote more sustainable modes of transport	LG		
8	Built Environment Provide a high quality built environment that promotes community pride	LG		
9	Landscape Improve, protect and enhance the	B		

Policy NSA 15 - Small Industrial and Business Sites				
SA Objective	Nature of the sustainability effect of policy (including magnitude, timing, duration and reversibility of effects where known).	Assessment	Evidence and reference	Suggested mitigation and enhancement measures (<i>those in italics are already proposed in the Plan</i>)
	countryside			
10	Biodiversity Protect and enhance the diversity and abundance of wildlife habitats and native species	No specific effect	B	
11	Water Promote sustainable water management including promoting use of sustainable drainage systems	No specific effect	B	
12	Climate Change Manage the effects of climate change	Retention of such sites can reduce the need to travel for work and therefore carbon emissions.	LG	
13	Energy Increase the supply of renewable energy and reduce energy consumption	No significant effect	B	
14	Land and Soils Promote efficient use	No significant effect but indirectly encourages the use of previously	LG	

Policy NSA 15 - Small Industrial and Business Sites				
SA Objective	Nature of the sustainability effect of policy (including magnitude, timing, duration and reversibility of effects where known).	Assessment	Evidence and reference	Suggested mitigation and enhancement measures (<i>those in italics are already proposed in the Plan</i>)
	of land and soils	developed sites.		
15	Waste Minimise waste, especially waste to landfill	No significant effect.	B	
16	Minerals Promote efficient and appropriate use of minerals	No significant effect	B	
<p>Summary:</p> <p>Employment land can be easily lost due to the higher return provided by residential development on such sites. Small employment sites can be hard to replace once lost and often play vital parts in local economies as noted in the appraisal against employment and economic SA objectives. Therefore, the policy performs well against economic and wider transport and climate change SA objectives. However, the policy also recognises that some historic employment sites generate noise and air pollution or have inadequate access and these are exempt to protect the environmental quality of residential areas.</p>				

Policy NSA 16 – Re-development of Vacant/Redundant Industrial Sites

Proposals for the conversion or redevelopment of redundant and/or vacant industrial sites will be supported where it can be demonstrated that:-

- i) The premises and/or site has been assessed and is genuinely redundant i.e. In terms of the current and future needs of the employment market;
- ii) That it has been marketed locally at a price that reflects its condition and commercial value and for a period of time that reflects the likely demand for the size of premises;
- iii) The development is compatible with other uses in the locality and there are no significant adverse impacts on the amenities enjoyed by local residents;
- iv) The redevelopment of derelict, unsightly, underused and vacant land for new mixed uses will have a positive effect in regeneration terms.
- v) The Site is not allocated in Policy **AW 19**.

*Employment-led mixed-use re-development proposals will be considered on vacant/redundant employment sites allocated in Policy **AW 19**.*

Policy NSA 16 – Re-development of Vacant/Redundant Industrial Sites

SA Objective	Nature of the sustainability effect of policy (including magnitude, timing, duration and reversibility of effects where known).	Assessment	Evidence and reference	Suggested mitigation and enhancement measures (<i>those in italics are already proposed in the Plan</i>)
1 Housing Provide for the overall housing requirement through a mix of dwelling types catering for all needs to promote	The policy will bring forward some housing as part of mixed use sites. Positive impact.	LG		

<i>Policy NSA 16 – Re-development of Vacant/Redundant Industrial Sites</i>					
SA Objective		Nature of the sustainability effect of policy (including magnitude, timing, duration and reversibility of effects where known).	Assessment	Evidence and reference	Suggested mitigation and enhancement measures (<i>those in italics are already proposed in the Plan</i>)
	integrated and thriving communities				
2	Culture and Heritage Promote, protect and enhance the Culture and Heritage including landscape, archaeology and language	Any building of historic interest on the sites should be recorded as part of the industrial history of the area. No significant impact.	LG		
3	Communities Promote integrated communities, with opportunities for living, working and socialising for all	The policy seeks mixed use on the sites so opportunities for local work are not lost. This is important for communities who have lost their work base which are an important part of social cohesion. Returns from housing development may also bring forward some community benefit through planning obligation. Positive impact.	LG		
4	Health Provide an environment that encourages a healthy and safe lifestyle and	The provision of housing and employment are important for human health. Positive impact.	LG		

<i>Policy NSA 16 – Re-development of Vacant/Redundant Industrial Sites</i>				
SA Objective	Nature of the sustainability effect of policy (including magnitude, timing, duration and reversibility of effects where known).	Assessment	Evidence and reference	Suggested mitigation and enhancement measures (<i>those in italics are already proposed in the Plan</i>)
	promotes well-being			
5	Economy Provide for a sustainable economy	The role of the older industrial sites is acknowledged but premises must be made available for new businesses which often require less space. Allowing mixed uses will provide higher returns for developers which will make the sites more attractive and likely to be developed rather than laying derelict. A relatively minor, but long term positive impact.	LG	
6	Employment Provide for a diverse range of job opportunities	As above, the redundant sites are more likely to be developed which will lead to more employment. Long term positive impact.	LG	
7	Transport Reduce the need to travel and promote more sustainable modes of transport	Transport issues are not mentioned in the policy.	Y	The policy could be improved by adding reference to land in sustainable locations.
8	Built Environment Provide a high quality built environment that	Removal of derelict and unused buildings will have a positive impact on the built environment.	LG	

<i>Policy NSA 16 – Re-development of Vacant/Redundant Industrial Sites</i>				
SA Objective	Nature of the sustainability effect of policy (including magnitude, timing, duration and reversibility of effects where known).	Assessment	Evidence and reference	Suggested mitigation and enhancement measures (<i>those in italics are already proposed in the Plan</i>)
	promotes community pride			
9	Landscape Improve, protect and enhance the countryside	Criterion c) refers to environmental impact and the policy would be used in conjunction with landscape policies. No specific impact.	LG	
10	Biodiversity Protect and enhance the diversity and abundance of wildlife habitats and native species	There is potential for adverse impact as sites do become flora and fauna habitats, but on a minor scale.	Y	Derelict sites can become important habitats and ecological surveys should be required to avoid harm.
11	Water Promote sustainable water management including promoting use of sustainable drainage systems	There should be no significant impact	B	
12	Climate Change Manage the effects of climate change	Encouraging redevelopment of sites to mixed uses can reduce the need to travel. Positive impact.	LG	
13	Energy Increase the supply	No specific impact.	B	

<i>Policy NSA 16 – Re-development of Vacant/Redundant Industrial Sites</i>				
SA Objective	Nature of the sustainability effect of policy (including magnitude, timing, duration and reversibility of effects where known).	Assessment	Evidence and reference	Suggested mitigation and enhancement measures (<i>those in italics are already proposed in the Plan</i>)
	of renewable energy and reduce energy consumption			
14	Land and Soils Promote efficient use of land and soils	The policy progress this objective and will have a long term positive impact.	LG	
15	Waste Minimise waste, especially waste to landfill	No specific impact	B	
16	Minerals Promote efficient and appropriate use of minerals	No specific impact	B	
<p>Summary:</p> <p>The appraisal identified no significant adverse impacts against the SA Framework objectives and the policy should have long term positive impacts. However, the policy could make reference to the location of the sites, as the redevelopment of sites in situations with no access to public transport or walking and cycling should be given careful consideration. Although, the impact will be on a relatively small scale there will be significant benefits in the medium and longer term from encouraging and facilitating redevelopment of the old industrial sites.</p>				

Policy NSA 17 - Retail Allocations

In accordance with policy **CS ??** land is allocated in the Northern Strategy Area for retail development at the following locations:

	Site	Floorspace
1.	Land at Oxford Street, Mountain Ash	950m ²
2.	Strategic Site 5: Land South of Hirwaun / Penywaun	2,000m ²

Policy NSA 17 proposes the construction of 2,950m² of new retail floorspace within the Northern Strategy Area over the plan period. The provision will comprise a combination of convenience (food) and comparison (non food) provision. The sites have been selected specifically to support the principal towns and key settlements and to ensure the provision of modern and accessible retail facilities in the Northern Strategy Area.

Proposals for the development of the Strategic Sites are contained in policies **????**. Details of the non-strategic sites are contained in Appendix 1.

Policy NSA 17 - Retail Allocations

SA Objective	Nature of the sustainability effect of policy (including magnitude, timing, duration and reversibility of effects where known).	Assessment	Evidence and reference	Suggested mitigation and enhancement measures (<i>those in italics are already proposed in the Plan</i>)
1 Housing Provide for the overall housing requirement through a mix of dwelling types catering for all	No significant impact	B		

Policy NSA 17 - Retail Allocations				
SA Objective	Nature of the sustainability effect of policy (including magnitude, timing, duration and reversibility of effects where known).	Assessment	Evidence and reference	Suggested mitigation and enhancement measures (<i>those in italics are already proposed in the Plan</i>)
	needs to promote integrated and thriving communities			
2	Culture and Heritage Promote, protect and enhance the Culture and Heritage including landscape, archaeology and language	No significant impact	B	
3	Communities Promote integrated communities, with opportunities for living, working and socialising for all	No significant impact	B	
4	Health Provide an environment that encourages a healthy and safe lifestyle and promotes well-being	No significant impact	B	
5	Economy Provide for a	Allocation of adequate land for retail floorspace for both convenience and	LG	Retail Assessment RCT 2007 Nathaniel Lichfield & Partners

Policy NSA 17 - Retail Allocations				
SA Objective	Nature of the sustainability effect of policy (including magnitude, timing, duration and reversibility of effects where known).	Assessment	Evidence and reference	Suggested mitigation and enhancement measures (<i>those in italics are already proposed in the Plan</i>)
	sustainable economy	comparison goods supports the local economy. Positive long term impact.		
6	Employment Provide for a diverse range of job opportunities	Allocation of adequate land for retail floorspace supports the local economy and will provide employment opportunities. Positive long term impact.	LG	
7	Transport Reduce the need to travel and promote more sustainable modes of transport	The provision of locally based retail facilities will reduce the need to travel. Short and long term cumulative positive impact.	DG	
8	Built Environment Provide a high quality built environment that promotes community pride	Application of other policies should avoid adverse impact.	LG	
9	Landscape Improve, protect and enhance the countryside	Allocation of land in appropriate locations should avoid ad hoc proposals with are inappropriate.	LG	
10	Biodiversity Protect and enhance the diversity and	As above as biodiversity and landscape are inter-related.	LG	As above

Policy NSA 17 - Retail Allocations				
SA Objective	Nature of the sustainability effect of policy (including magnitude, timing, duration and reversibility of effects where known).	Assessment	Evidence and reference	Suggested mitigation and enhancement measures (<i>those in italics are already proposed in the Plan</i>)
	abundance of wildlife habitats and native species			
11	Water Promote sustainable water management including promoting use of sustainable drainage systems	No significant impact	B	
12	Climate Change Manage the effects of climate change	The most significant impact will be through reduced car use to other retail centres. Positive impact.	DG	
13	Energy Increase the supply of renewable energy and reduce energy consumption	No significant impact	B	
14	Land and Soils Promote efficient use of land and soils	No significant impact	B	
15	Waste Minimise waste, especially waste to landfill	No significant impact	B	
16	Minerals	No significant impact	B	

Policy NSA 17 - Retail Allocations				
SA Objective	Nature of the sustainability effect of policy (including magnitude, timing, duration and reversibility of effects where known).	Assessment	Evidence and reference	Suggested mitigation and enhancement measures (<i>those in italics are already proposed in the Plan</i>)
Promote efficient and appropriate use of minerals				
<p>Summary: Allocation of land for retail use will support the local economy and employment opportunities and discourage proposals on land which is not as suitable. Positive long term impacts for socio-economic impacts with no significant adverse impacts for environmental SA objective identified.</p>				

Policy NSA 18 - The Retail Hierarchy
<p>The hierarchy of retail centres in the Northern Strategy Area is defined as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Principal Town Centres: Aberdare; 2. Key Settlements: Ferndale; Hirwaun; Mountain Ash; Porth; Treorchy; and Tonypany; 3. Local And Neighbourhood Centres: Church Village (Centre); Llantrisant Old Town, Pontyclun, Rhydyfelin, Taffs Well, Tonteg (Precinct), Treforest, Tynant <p>Proposals for retail development or changes of use to retail uses inside the defined boundaries which would maintain or enhance a centres position in the retail hierarchy will be permitted.</p>

Policy NSA 18 - The Retail Hierarchy					
SA Objective		Nature of the sustainability effect of policy (including magnitude, timing, duration and reversibility of effects where known).	Assessment	Evidence and reference	Suggested mitigation and enhancement measures (<i>those in italics are already proposed in the Plan</i>)
1	Housing Provide for the overall housing requirement through a mix of dwelling types catering for all needs to promote integrated and thriving communities	No direct significant impact	B		
2	Culture and Heritage Promote, protect and enhance the Culture and Heritage including landscape, archaeology and language	No direct significant impact	B		
3	Communities Promote integrated communities, with opportunities for living, working and socialising for all	The policy will assist in retaining vibrant community focal points and will have a positive impact.	DG		
4	Health Provide an environment that	No significant impact	B		

Policy NSA 18 - The Retail Hierarchy				
SA Objective	Nature of the sustainability effect of policy (including magnitude, timing, duration and reversibility of effects where known).	Assessment	Evidence and reference	Suggested mitigation and enhancement measures (<i>those in italics are already proposed in the Plan</i>)
	encourages a healthy and safe lifestyle and promotes well-being			
5	Economy Provide for a sustainable economy	Facilitating adequate local retail facilities will retain spend locally and support the local economy by reducing leakage. Short and long term cumulative positive impact.	DG	
6	Employment Provide for a diverse range of job opportunities	An increased retail sector will lead to further employment opportunities. Short and long term cumulative positive impact.	DG	
7	Transport Reduce the need to travel and promote more sustainable modes of transport	The policy seeks the provision of locally based retail facilities as appropriate to the settlement position in the hierarchy and will therefore reduce the need to travel for everyday needs. It will also ensure that larger retail development with significant traffic generation is not allowed in the smaller centres without good transport links. Short and long term cumulative positive impact.	DG	
8	Built Environment Provide a high	No direct significant impact.	B	

Policy NSA 18 - The Retail Hierarchy				
SA Objective	Nature of the sustainability effect of policy (including magnitude, timing, duration and reversibility of effects where known).	Assessment	Evidence and reference	Suggested mitigation and enhancement measures (<i>those in italics are already proposed in the Plan</i>)
	quality built environment that promotes community pride			
9	Landscape Improve, protect and enhance the countryside	No direct significant impact.	B	
10	Biodiversity Protect and enhance the diversity and abundance of wildlife habitats and native species	No direct significant impact.	B	
11	Water Promote sustainable water management including promoting use of sustainable drainage systems	No significant impact	B	
12	Climate Change Manage the effects of climate change	The most significant impact will be through reduced car use to other retail centres. Positive impact.	DG	
13	Energy	No significant impact	B	

Policy NSA 18 - The Retail Hierarchy				
SA Objective	Nature of the sustainability effect of policy (including magnitude, timing, duration and reversibility of effects where known).	Assessment	Evidence and reference	Suggested mitigation and enhancement measures (<i>those in italics are already proposed in the Plan</i>)
	Increase the supply of renewable energy and reduce energy consumption			
14	Land and Soils Promote efficient use of land and soils	No significant impact	B	
15	Waste Minimise waste, especially waste to landfill	No significant impact	B	
16	Minerals Promote efficient and appropriate use of minerals	No significant impact	B	
<p>Summary: The policy seeks to provide local retail facilities in proportion to the size of settlement and public transport. It should have positive effect on transport and climate change objectives through trying to manage use of the private car and positive effects on the local economy through facilitating retail development.</p>				

Policy NSA 19 – Retail Development in Principal Towns and Key Settlements

New and improved retail (Class A) facilities and other uses that are appropriate within the town centre will be permitted within the core retail area of Aberdare where:

1. The proportion of other Class A2 or A3 units does not rise above 25% of frontage length;
2. The number, frontage lengths and distribution of other Class A 2 or A3 uses in the frontage do not create an over-concentration of uses detracting from its established retail character;
3. The proposed use will provide a direct service to visiting members of the general public and generate sufficient day time and evening pedestrian activity to avoid creating an area of relative inactivity in the shopping frontage;
4. The proposal does not prejudice the effective use of upper floors, retaining any existing separate access to upper floors; and
5. The proposal will retain or provide a shop front with a display function and entrances which relate well to the design of the host building and to the streetscene and its setting, in terms of its materials, form and proportion.

Within the defined retail centres of Ferndale Hirwaun Mountain Ash Porth Treorchy and Tonypany development proposals for Class A1, A2, A3 and other uses that will add vitality and viability to the retail centre by attracting foot fall that benefits the daytime and evening economy will be permitted.

Policy NSA 19 – Retail Development in Principal Towns and Key Settlements

SA Objective	Nature of the sustainability effect of policy (including magnitude, timing, duration and reversibility of effects where known).	Assessment	Evidence and reference	Suggested mitigation and enhancement measures (<i>those in italics are already proposed in the Plan</i>)
1	Housing Provide for the overall housing requirement through a mix of dwelling	LG		

Policy NSA 19 – Retail Development in Principal Towns and Key Settlements				
SA Objective	Nature of the sustainability effect of policy (including magnitude, timing, duration and reversibility of effects where known).	Assessment	Evidence and reference	Suggested mitigation and enhancement measures (<i>those in italics are already proposed in the Plan</i>)
	types catering for all needs to promote integrated and thriving communities			
2	Culture and Heritage Promote, protect and enhance the Culture and Heritage including landscape, archaeology and language	LG		
3	Communities Promote integrated communities, with opportunities for living, working and socialising for all	LG		
4	Health Provide an environment that encourages a healthy and safe lifestyle and promotes well-being	B		
5	Economy Protecting the retail frontage in	LG		

Policy NSA 19 – Retail Development in Principal Towns and Key Settlements				
SA Objective	Nature of the sustainability effect of policy (including magnitude, timing, duration and reversibility of effects where known).	Assessment	Evidence and reference	Suggested mitigation and enhancement measures (<i>those in italics are already proposed in the Plan</i>)
	Provide for a sustainable economy	Aberdare from change of use outside A1 – A3 will assist in retaining a vital retail economy in the town centre which will hopefully reduce the spend leakage to bigger centres. A different approach is taken in the smaller settlements which seeks to build on the evening economy and social functions by allowing the introduction of more cafes, takeaways and public houses. Positive impacts for both strategies.		
6	Employment Provide for a diverse range of job opportunities	Maintaining the retail and social functions will add to the diversity of employment opportunities.	LG	
7	Transport Reduce the need to travel and promote more sustainable modes of transport	Aberdare has excellent public transport and can provide a retail focus for the northern strategy area and potentially reduce longer trips to other centres. Equally, widening the scope for evening entertainment in the other settlements may reduce trips for eating and drinking.	LG	
8	Built Environment Provide a high quality built	Consideration to the quality of the built environment is given under criterion 5 of the policy.	LG	

Policy NSA 19 – Retail Development in Principal Towns and Key Settlements				
SA Objective	Nature of the sustainability effect of policy (including magnitude, timing, duration and reversibility of effects where known).	Assessment	Evidence and reference	Suggested mitigation and enhancement measures (<i>those in italics are already proposed in the Plan</i>)
	environment that promotes community pride			
9	Landscape Improve, protect and enhance the countryside	No direct impact.	B	
10	Biodiversity Protect and enhance the diversity and abundance of wildlife habitats and native species	No direct impact.	B	
11	Water Promote sustainable water management including promoting use of sustainable drainage systems	No direct impact.	B	
12	Climate Change Manage the effects of climate change	See comments on trip reduction under transport.	LG	
13	Energy Increase the supply	No direct impact.	B	

Policy NSA 19 – Retail Development in Principal Towns and Key Settlements				
SA Objective	Nature of the sustainability effect of policy (including magnitude, timing, duration and reversibility of effects where known).	Assessment	Evidence and reference	Suggested mitigation and enhancement measures (<i>those in italics are already proposed in the Plan</i>)
	of renewable energy and reduce energy consumption			
14	Land and Soils Promote efficient use of land and soils	No direct impact.	B	
15	Waste Minimise waste, especially waste to landfill	No direct impact.	B	
16	Minerals Promote efficient and appropriate use of minerals	No direct impact.	B	
<p>Summary:</p> <p>The approach to the retail function of Aberdare and the retail/social role of the other smaller northern strategy area settlements will have positive impacts for the economy, transport and climate change. No adverse impacts identified through the appraisal against wider environmental SA objectives.</p>				

Policy NSA 20 - Major Road Schemes

In addition to those schemes identified in policy CS8 land will be safeguarded and provision made for the development of the strategic highway network in the Northern Strategy Area, including:

1. Mountain Ash Southern Cross Valley Link
2. Upper Rhondda Fach Relief Road
3. Upper Rhondda Fach Relief Road Extension (Beyond Maerdy)
4. Mountain Ash Northern Cross Valley Link

Policy NSA 21 - Major Road Schemes

SA Objective	Nature of the sustainability effect of policy (including magnitude, timing, duration and reversibility of effects where known).	Assessment	Evidence and reference	Suggested mitigation and enhancement measures (<i>those in italics are already proposed in the Plan</i>)
1	<p>Housing Provide for the overall housing requirement through a mix of dwelling types catering for all needs to promote integrated and thriving communities</p>	?		
<p>Several of the schemes are related to strategic sites identified through the LDP process and will therefore facilitate the provision of housing. Contributions will be sought from development and dependant on the level imposed could have a deterrent effect in this northern strategy area where some areas, away from the Heads of the Valley Road experience relatively low values. Viability issues could occur although this area has a low (20%) threshold for affordable housing. Impact will be</p>				

Policy NSA 21 - Major Road Schemes				
SA Objective	Nature of the sustainability effect of policy (including magnitude, timing, duration and reversibility of effects where known).	Assessment	Evidence and reference	Suggested mitigation and enhancement measures (<i>those in italics are already proposed in the Plan</i>)
	dependant on the buoyancy or otherwise of the market.			
2	Culture and Heritage Promote, protect and enhance the Culture and Heritage including landscape, archaeology and language	LG		
3	Communities Promote integrated communities, with opportunities for living, working and socialising for all	DG		
4	Health Provide an environment that encourages a healthy and safe lifestyle and promotes well-being	DG		
5	Economy Provide for a sustainable	DG		

Policy NSA 21 - Major Road Schemes					
SA Objective		Nature of the sustainability effect of policy (including magnitude, timing, duration and reversibility of effects where known).	Assessment	Evidence and reference	Suggested mitigation and enhancement measures (<i>those in italics are already proposed in the Plan</i>)
	economy	improve access to strategic development sites at Cwm Cynon Business Park, the Hirwaun/Penywaun site and the Fernhill Colliery site for example. Significant long term positive impacts through addressing the economic decline of the northern strategy area.			
6	Employment Provide for a diverse range of job opportunities	Facilitating economic development will hopefully result in increased employment opportunities. Potential for significant long term impact.	DG		
7	Transport Reduce the need to travel and promote more sustainable modes of transport	New road building should be kept to a minimum to progress this objective and environmental concerns do conflict with economic and social issues. However at the moment there is significant outcommuting for employment and there may be a gain through producing shorter trips to work.	?	22,000 (40%) residents commute out of the Borough for work. Review of Economic Analysis of RCT 2006 62%travel to work by car.	
8	Built Environment Provide a high quality built environment that promotes community pride	Will improve the existing built environment by routing traffic away from the centres of Mountain Ash and Aberdare.	LG		

Policy NSA 21 - Major Road Schemes					
SA Objective		Nature of the sustainability effect of policy (including magnitude, timing, duration and reversibility of effects where known).	Assessment	Evidence and reference	Suggested mitigation and enhancement measures (<i>those in italics are already proposed in the Plan</i>)
9	Landscape Improve, protect and enhance the countryside	Potential for significant negative effects on biodiversity which must be appraised in detail as part of any development.	Y		Mitigation strategies must be in place including landscaping and minimisation of light pollution.
10	Biodiversity Protect and enhance the diversity and abundance of wildlife habitats and native species	Potential for significant negative effects on biodiversity which must be appraised in detail as part of any development.	Y		Mitigation strategies must be in place where necessary.
11	Water Promote sustainable water management including promoting use of sustainable drainage systems	Where possible surface water run off should be managed by the use of sustainable urban drainage techniques SUDs e.g. swales to avoid adverse impacts on water quality and flooding.	?		A requirement for SUDs should be implemented.
12	Climate Change Manage the effects of climate change	Impacts as for transport and water objectives.	? L C		
13	Energy Increase the supply of renewable energy and reduce energy consumption	No significant impact	B		

Policy NSA 21 - Major Road Schemes					
SA Objective		Nature of the sustainability effect of policy (including magnitude, timing, duration and reversibility of effects where known).	Assessment	Evidence and reference	Suggested mitigation and enhancement measures (<i>those in italics are already proposed in the Plan</i>)
14	Land and Soils Promote efficient use of land and soils	There will be a significant land take associated with the road proposals which will be weighed against the economic benefit.	?		
15	Waste Minimise waste, especially waste to landfill	Construction waste should be minimised through waste management plans so there should be a controlled impact.	LG		Waste management plans must be required.
16	Minerals Promote efficient and appropriate use of minerals	Implementation of the road schemes will require significant use of resources which should be sourced as locally as possible to reduce overall environmental impact.	LG		Local sourcing wherever possible.
<p>Summary:</p> <p>There will inevitably be adverse environmental impact through the implementation of the road building schemes but this should be assessed and avoided, minimised and managed as suggested in order that the identified economic and social benefits of producing east/west links can be realised with minimal impacts on RCT's valued landscape and designated areas.</p>					

Policy NSA 21 – Park and Ride (Bus) / Park and Share Provision

Provision for park and ride (bus) / park and share facilities will be provided within the following developments:

1. Strategic Site 5: Land South of Hirwaun / Penywaun.
2. Land south of Ty Trevithick, adjacent to A470, Abercynon

Land adjacent to Penrhos roundabout, Penrhos

Policy NSA 21 – Park and Ride (Bus) / Park and Share Provision

SA Objective	Nature of the sustainability effect of policy (including magnitude, timing, duration and reversibility of effects where known).	Assessment	Evidence and reference	Suggested mitigation and enhancement measures (<i>those in italics are already proposed in the Plan</i>)
1	<p>Housing Provide for the overall housing requirement through a mix of dwelling types catering for all needs to promote integrated and thriving communities</p>	?		
2	<p>Culture and Heritage The Mountain Ash scheme will provide</p>	LG		

Policy NSA 21 – Park and Ride (Bus) / Park and Share Provision					
SA Objective		Nature of the sustainability effect of policy (including magnitude, timing, duration and reversibility of effects where known).	Assessment	Evidence and reference	Suggested mitigation and enhancement measures (<i>those in italics are already proposed in the Plan</i>)
	Promote, protect and enhance the Culture and Heritage including landscape, archaeology and language	relief to the town centre and should improve the quality of the historic environment.			
3	Communities Promote integrated communities, with opportunities for living, working and socialising for all	Improved communication and access to facilities should help reduce the existing social disparities between the northern and southern strategy areas. Positive impact.	DG		
4	Health Provide an environment that encourages a healthy and safe lifestyle and promotes well-being	Improved access will facilitate access to health, education and employment opportunities, all significant factors in improving the health of the residents.	DG		
5	Economy Provide for a sustainable economy	The road improvements are part of the strategy to facilitate economic development in the valleys and will improve access to strategic development sites at Cwm Cynon Business Park, the Hirwaun/Penywaun site	DG		

Policy NSA 21 – Park and Ride (Bus) / Park and Share Provision				
SA Objective	Nature of the sustainability effect of policy (including magnitude, timing, duration and reversibility of effects where known).	Assessment	Evidence and reference	Suggested mitigation and enhancement measures (<i>those in italics are already proposed in the Plan</i>)
	and the Fernhill Colliery site for example. Significant long term positive impacts through addressing the economic decline of the northern strategy area.			
6	Employment Provide for a diverse range of job opportunities	Facilitating economic development will hopefully result in increased employment opportunities. Potential for significant long term impact.	DG	
7	Transport Reduce the need to travel and promote more sustainable modes of transport	New road building should be kept to a minimum to progress this objective and environmental concerns do conflict with economic and social issues. However at the moment there is significant outcommuting for employment and there may be a gain through producing shorter trips to work.	?	22,000 (40%) residents commute out of the Borough for work. Review of Economic Analysis of RCT 2006 62%travel to work by car.
8	Built Environment Provide a high quality built environment that promotes community pride	Will improve the existing built environment by routing traffic away from the centres of Mountain Ash and Aberdare.	LG	
9	Landscape Improve, protect and enhance the	The potential for negative impacts means that the landscape impacts of the schemes have been appraised and	B	Mitigation strategies must be in place including landscaping and minimisation of light

Policy NSA 21 – Park and Ride (Bus) / Park and Share Provision					
SA Objective		Nature of the sustainability effect of policy (including magnitude, timing, duration and reversibility of effects where known).	Assessment	Evidence and reference	Suggested mitigation and enhancement measures (<i>those in italics are already proposed in the Plan</i>)
	countryside	mitigation proposals are required to be in place.			pollution.
10	Biodiversity Protect and enhance the diversity and abundance of wildlife habitats and native species	The potential for negative impacts means that the landscape impacts of the schemes have been appraised and mitigation proposals are required to be in place.	B		Mitigation strategies must be in place where necessary.
11	Water Promote sustainable water management including promoting use of sustainable drainage systems	Where possible surface water run off should be managed by the use of sustainable urban drainage techniques SUDs e.g. swales to avoid adverse impacts on water quality and flooding.	?		A requirement for SUDs should be implemented.
12	Climate Change Manage the effects of climate change	Impacts as for transport and water objectives.	? L C		
13	Energy Increase the supply of renewable energy and reduce energy consumption	No significant impact	B		
14	Land and Soils Promote efficient use	There will be a significant land take associated with the road proposals	?		

Policy NSA 21 – Park and Ride (Bus) / Park and Share Provision					
SA Objective		Nature of the sustainability effect of policy (including magnitude, timing, duration and reversibility of effects where known).	Assessment	Evidence and reference	Suggested mitigation and enhancement measures (<i>those in italics are already proposed in the Plan</i>)
	of land and soils	which will be weighed against the economic benefit.			
15	Waste Minimise waste, especially waste to landfill	Construction waste should be minimised through waste management plans so there should be a controlled impact.	LG		Waste management plans must be required.
16	Minerals Promote efficient and appropriate use of minerals	Implementation of the road schemes will require significant use of resources which should be sourced as locally as possible to reduce overall environmental impact.	LG		Local sourcing wherever possible.
<p>Summary:</p> <p>The appraisal notes the potential for adverse environmental impact against landscape and biodiversity SA objectives through the implementation of the infrastructure/ transport schemes but this should be avoided, minimised and managed as recommended by the appraisal. The potential positive long term economic and social benefits of producing east/west links should be pursued where it can be demonstrated that the overall environmental quality can be maintained.</p>					

Policy NSA 22- Rail Network And Station Improvements

Land will be safeguarded for rail network improvements along the route of;

1. The former rail freight line between Aberdare and the former Tower Colliery, Hirwaun; and

and for the provision of station improvements at:

2. The former Railway Site, Hirwaun
3. The Former Freight Line, Hirwaun

Policy NSA 22 - Rail Network And Station Improvements

SA Objective	Nature of the sustainability effect of policy (including magnitude, timing, duration and reversibility of effects where known).	Assessment	Evidence and reference	Suggested mitigation and enhancement measures (<i>those in italics are already proposed in the Plan</i>)
1	Housing Provide for the overall housing requirement through a mix of dwelling types catering for all needs to promote integrated and thriving communities	LG		
2	Culture and Heritage Promote, protect and enhance the	LG		

Policy NSA 22 - Rail Network And Station Improvements				
SA Objective	Nature of the sustainability effect of policy (including magnitude, timing, duration and reversibility of effects where known).	Assessment	Evidence and reference	Suggested mitigation and enhancement measures (<i>those in italics are already proposed in the Plan</i>)
	Culture and Heritage including landscape, archaeology and language			
3	Communities Promote integrated communities, with opportunities for living, working and socialising for all	LG	31.6% of residents do not have a car.	
4	Health Provide an environment that encourages a healthy and safe lifestyle and promotes well-being	LG	31.6% residents do not have access to a car.	
5	Economy Provide for a sustainable economy	DG		

Policy NSA 22 - Rail Network And Station Improvements				
SA Objective	Nature of the sustainability effect of policy (including magnitude, timing, duration and reversibility of effects where known).	Assessment	Evidence and reference	Suggested mitigation and enhancement measures (<i>those in italics are already proposed in the Plan</i>)
	economic decline of the northern strategy area.			
6	Employment Provide for a diverse range of job opportunities	Facilitating economic development will hopefully result in increased employment opportunities. Potential for significant long term impact.	DG	
7	Transport Reduce the need to travel and promote more sustainable modes of transport	Protecting the rail for passenger use will decrease the number of vehicles on the road. Long term positive impact.	DG	
8	Built Environment Provide a high quality built environment that promotes community pride	No specific impact.	B	
9	Landscape Improve, protect and enhance the countryside	As the line exists there should be no further landscape impact.	LG	
10	Biodiversity Protect and enhance the diversity and	Disused railway lines often become interesting habitats so there is potential for harm if the line is reopened.	?	A biodiversity survey should be carried with mitigation if necessary.

Policy NSA 22 - Rail Network And Station Improvements				
SA Objective	Nature of the sustainability effect of policy (including magnitude, timing, duration and reversibility of effects where known).	Assessment	Evidence and reference	Suggested mitigation and enhancement measures (<i>those in italics are already proposed in the Plan</i>)
	abundance of wildlife habitats and native species			
11	Water Promote sustainable water management including promoting use of sustainable drainage systems	No significant impact	B	
12	Climate Change Manage the effects of climate change	Impacts as for transport.	DG	
13	Energy Increase the supply of renewable energy and reduce energy consumption	No significant impact	B	
14	Land and Soils Promote efficient use of land and soils	No significant impact	B	
15	Waste Minimise waste, especially waste to landfill	No significant impact	B	
16	Minerals	No significant impact	B	

Policy NSA 22 - Rail Network And Station Improvements				
SA Objective	Nature of the sustainability effect of policy (including magnitude, timing, duration and reversibility of effects where known).	Assessment	Evidence and reference	Suggested mitigation and enhancement measures (<i>those in italics are already proposed in the Plan</i>)
Promote efficient and appropriate use of minerals				
<p>Summary:</p> <p>Reuse of existing railway lines and station improvements perform well in terms of transport, social, economic and climate change objectives. This policy approach is strongly supported by the appraisal findings and will enhance wider development proposals.</p>				

Policy NSA 23 - Cycle Network Improvements
<p>The existing network of cycle paths and community routes will be extended improved and enhanced to include schemes at:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Rhondda Community Route Network; 2. The Cynon Valley Cycle Route 3. The Heads of the Valley Cycleway & links to Hirwaun Industrial Estate 4. Pontygwaith to Maerdy 5. Cwmaman to Aberaman 6. Lady Windsor to Llanwonno 7. Gyfeillion to Llanwonno route

Policy NSA 23 - Cycle Network Improvements					
SA Objective		Nature of the sustainability effect of policy (including magnitude, timing, duration and reversibility of effects where known).	Assessment	Evidence and reference	Suggested mitigation and enhancement measures (<i>those in italics are already proposed in the Plan</i>)
1	Housing Provide for the overall housing requirement through a mix of dwelling types catering for all needs to promote integrated and thriving communities	No significant impact.	B		
2	Culture and Heritage Promote, protect and enhance the Culture and Heritage including landscape, archaeology and language	No significant impact	B		
3	Communities Promote integrated communities, with opportunities for living, working and socialising for all	The policy will enable those without a private vehicle to enjoy improved access to facilities and neighbouring settlements. Minor but positive impact.	LG	Relatively low car ownership.	
4	Health Provide an environment that	Cycling recreation routes encourage outdoor activity and a healthier lifestyle.	LG		

Policy NSA 23 - Cycle Network Improvements				
SA Objective	Nature of the sustainability effect of policy (including magnitude, timing, duration and reversibility of effects where known).	Assessment	Evidence and reference	Suggested mitigation and enhancement measures (<i>those in italics are already proposed in the Plan</i>)
	encourages a healthy and safe lifestyle and promotes well-being			
5	Economy Provide for a sustainable economy	Cycling is a popular holiday pastime and improvement and connection of routes will be an asset to the tourism industry. Minor but positive impact.	LG	
6	Employment Provide for a diverse range of job opportunities	No significant impact.	B	
7	Transport Reduce the need to travel and promote more sustainable modes of transport	Three of the southern routes are along disused railways and should not preclude their further use if required or feasible. However most of the routes will link existing communities and facilities and provide alternatives to journeys by car. Generally initiatives that encourage cycling are beneficial with long term positive impacts.	LG	
8	Built Environment Provide a high quality built environment that	No significant impact	B	

Policy NSA 23 - Cycle Network Improvements				
SA Objective	Nature of the sustainability effect of policy (including magnitude, timing, duration and reversibility of effects where known).	Assessment	Evidence and reference	Suggested mitigation and enhancement measures (<i>those in italics are already proposed in the Plan</i>)
	promotes community pride			
9	Landscape Improve, protect and enhance the countryside	Cycling routes with sympathetic surfacing are not intrusive in the landscape and as such no adverse impact is predicted.	B	
10	Biodiversity Protect and enhance the diversity and abundance of wildlife habitats and native species	No significant impact	B	
11	Water Promote sustainable water management including promoting use of sustainable drainage systems	No significant impact	B	
12	Climate Change Manage the effects of climate change	Initiatives to promote cycling and provide alternatives to the private car will have long term positive impacts through the reduction of CO2 emissions.	LG	
13	Energy Increase the supply	No significant impact	B	

Policy NSA 23 - Cycle Network Improvements				
SA Objective	Nature of the sustainability effect of policy (including magnitude, timing, duration and reversibility of effects where known).	Assessment	Evidence and reference	Suggested mitigation and enhancement measures (<i>those in italics are already proposed in the Plan</i>)
	of renewable energy and reduce energy consumption			
14	Land and Soils Promote efficient use of land and soils	No significant impact	B	
15	Waste Minimise waste, especially waste to landfill	No significant impact	B	
16	Minerals Promote efficient and appropriate use of minerals	No significant impact	B	
<p>Summary: The appraisal provides strong support for this policy which is assessed as having the potential to bring about direct positive effects on transport and climate change objectives, as well as minor but positive indirect impacts on health, communities and the economy.</p>				

Policy NSA 24 – Green Wedges

Green wedges have been identified in order to prevent coalescence between and within settlements at the following locations:

1. Land north of Tonyrefail (Trane Farm, Cae'r-Ian Farm) and Penrhiwfer (Mynydd y Gilfach)
2. Land between Penrhys (including Penrhys Cemetery) and Tylorstown
3. Land between Penrhys and Llwynypia
4. Land between Abernant (including Abernant Golf Course) and Cwmbach
5. Land between Fernhill and Mountain Ash, including Victoria Pleasure Park
6. Land north-east of Coed y Cwm and Grover's Field (Abercynon)
7. Land between Penywaun and Cwmdare / Trecynon

Within these areas development which prejudices the open nature of the land, will not be permitted.

Policy NSA 24 – Green Wedges

SA Objective	Nature of the sustainability effect of policy (including magnitude, timing, duration and reversibility of effects where known).	Assessment	Evidence and reference	Suggested mitigation and enhancement measures (<i>those in italics are already proposed in the Plan</i>)
1 Housing Provide for the overall housing requirement through a mix of dwelling types catering for all needs to promote integrated and thriving communities	No direct impact.	B		

Policy NSA 24 – Green Wedges					
SA Objective		Nature of the sustainability effect of policy (including magnitude, timing, duration and reversibility of effects where known).	Assessment	Evidence and reference	Suggested mitigation and enhancement measures (<i>those in italics are already proposed in the Plan</i>)
2	Culture and Heritage Promote, protect and enhance the Culture and Heritage including landscape, archaeology and language	Will protect the historic landscape. Long term positive effect.	DG	Significant areas of the Borough are protected for their heritage interest,	
3	Communities Promote integrated communities, with opportunities for living, working and socialising for all	Preventing coalescence of settlements protects and reinforces community. There is also an indirect impact through protecting environmental amenity.	LG		
4	Health Provide an environment that encourages a healthy and safe lifestyle and promotes well-being	Only indirect impact through improving environmental amenity.	LG		
5	Economy Provide for a sustainable economy	Any potential for tourism will be built on the landscape value of the area. This policy will have a strong positive impact.	DG		
6	Employment	Providing an attractive natural	DG		

Policy NSA 24 – Green Wedges				
SA Objective	Nature of the sustainability effect of policy (including magnitude, timing, duration and reversibility of effects where known).	Assessment	Evidence and reference	Suggested mitigation and enhancement measures (<i>those in italics are already proposed in the Plan</i>)
	Provide for a diverse range of job opportunities	environment may reduce population decline and attract inward investment as a good place to live and work. Potential for long term positive effect.		
7	Transport Reduce the need to travel and promote more sustainable modes of transport	Indirect positive impact. Protection of the landscape will reduce development opportunities in the countryside and supports the spatial strategy of the plan which concentrates rather than disperses development which lends opportunities to reduce use of the private vehicle.	LG	
8	Built Environment Provide a high quality built environment that promotes community pride	Protection of the green wedges will safeguard the setting of the towns, villages and hamlets. Positive long term effect.	LG	
9	Landscape Improve, protect and enhance the countryside	The policy directly addresses the aims of this objective and will have a long term, cumulative positive impact through the protection of important open spaces. Long term positive impact.	LG	Part of the Brecon Beacons National Park lies within RCT. There are 20 Special Landscape Areas,
10	Biodiversity Protect and	Green wedges can be important habitats and wildlife corridors.	LG	Parts of 2 SACs, 14 SSSIs and local nature reserves.

Policy NSA 24 – Green Wedges				
SA Objective	Nature of the sustainability effect of policy (including magnitude, timing, duration and reversibility of effects where known).	Assessment	Evidence and reference	Suggested mitigation and enhancement measures (<i>those in italics are already proposed in the Plan</i>)
	enhance the diversity and abundance of wildlife habitats and native species	Cumulative positive impact through the protection of the landscape and protection of flora and fauna..		
11	Water Promote sustainable water management including promoting use of sustainable drainage systems	Some of the green wedges identified will contain water courses so there will be indirect benefit for the quality of the water environment.	LG	
12	Climate Change Manage the effects of climate change	No direct impact but will contain and control development to locations with good public transport links and facilities rather than allowing spreading incremental development.	LG	
13	Energy Increase the supply of renewable energy and reduce energy consumption	No specific impact as the policy does not preclude renewable energy development e.g. wind farms.	B	
14	Land and Soils Promote efficient use of land and soils	No direct impact but will help contain and control development to settlement boundaries. Positive impact.	LG	
15	Waste	The Council seeks to reduce waste to	LG	

Policy NSA 24 – Green Wedges				
SA Objective	Nature of the sustainability effect of policy (including magnitude, timing, duration and reversibility of effects where known).	Assessment	Evidence and reference	Suggested mitigation and enhancement measures (<i>those in italics are already proposed in the Plan</i>)
Minimise waste, especially waste to landfill	landfill. Protection of the countryside for such development will indirectly support this objective.			
16 Minerals Promote efficient and appropriate use of minerals	No direct impact as the policy does not preclude mining/extraction activities.	B		
<p>Summary:</p> <p>The appraisal demonstrates that this policy performs well against key environmental SA objectives and that it will protect the quality of both the built environment and the landscape. No significant adverse impacts were identified.</p>				

Policy NSA 25 - Special Landscape Areas

Special landscape areas are identified at the following locations:

1. Mynydd y Cymmer
2. Mynydd Troed y Rhiw Slopes
3. Llwynhelyn Slopes
4. Cwm Clydach
5. Cynon Valley Northern Slopes
6. Cwm Orci
7. Rhondda Fawr Northern Cwm & Slopes
8. Hirwaun Common, Cwm Dare & Cwm Aman, and
9. Brecon Beacons Edge at Llwydcoed

Development within the defined special landscape areas will be expected to conform to the highest standards of design, siting, layout and materials appropriate to the character of the area.

Policy NSA 25 - Special Landscape Areas

SA Objective	Nature of the sustainability effect of policy (including magnitude, timing, duration and reversibility of effects where known).	Assessment	Evidence and reference	Suggested mitigation and enhancement measures (<i>those in italics are already proposed in the Plan</i>)
1	Housing Provide for the overall housing requirement through a mix of dwelling	B		

Policy NSA 25 - Special Landscape Areas				
SA Objective	Nature of the sustainability effect of policy (including magnitude, timing, duration and reversibility of effects where known).	Assessment	Evidence and reference	Suggested mitigation and enhancement measures (<i>those in italics are already proposed in the Plan</i>)
	types catering for all needs to promote integrated and thriving communities	provision.		
2	Culture and Heritage Promote, protect and enhance the Culture and Heritage including landscape, archaeology and language	The policy is another layer of protection for the historic landscape and will protect the setting of settlements. A positive long term impact.	LG	
3	Communities Promote integrated communities, with opportunities for living, working and socialising for all	No specific impacts.	B	
4	Health Provide an environment that encourages a healthy and safe lifestyle and promotes well-being	A protected well managed landscape can encourage recreation activities so an indirect positive impact can be expected.	LG	
5	Economy	Any potential for tourism will be built on	DG	

Policy NSA 25 - Special Landscape Areas					
SA Objective		Nature of the sustainability effect of policy (including magnitude, timing, duration and reversibility of effects where known).	Assessment	Evidence and reference	Suggested mitigation and enhancement measures (<i>those in italics are already proposed in the Plan</i>)
	Provide for a sustainable economy	the landscape value of the area. This policy will have a strong positive impact.			
6	Employment Provide for a diverse range of job opportunities	Providing an attractive natural environment may reduce population decline and attract inward investment as a good place to live and work. Potential for long term positive effect.	DG		
7	Transport Reduce the need to travel and promote more sustainable modes of transport	Indirect positive impact. Protection of the landscape will reduce development opportunities in the countryside and supports the spatial strategy of the plan which concentrates rather than disperses development which lends opportunities to reduce use of the private vehicle.	LG		
8	Built Environment Provide a high quality built environment that promotes community pride	Protection of the landscape will include the setting of the towns, villages and hamlets. Positive long term effect. Development will be subject to design and built environment policies.	LG		
9	Landscape Improve, protect and enhance the	The policy directly addresses the aims of this objective and will have a long term, cumulative positive impact through the	LG	There are 20 Special Landscape Areas,	The policy should be supported by text which clarifies that mitigation will not always be

Policy NSA 25 - Special Landscape Areas					
SA Objective	Nature of the sustainability effect of policy (including magnitude, timing, duration and reversibility of effects where known).	Assessment	Evidence and reference	Suggested mitigation and enhancement measures (<i>those in italics are already proposed in the Plan</i>)	
	countryside	protection of landscape value.		possible whatever the benefits of the development.	
10	Biodiversity Protect and enhance the diversity and abundance of wildlife habitats and native species	This will have an indirect long term, cumulative positive impact through the enhancement of the landscape which will assist the protection of habitats and species.	LG	Parts of 2 SACs, 14 SSSIs and local nature reserves.	The policy should be supported by text which clarifies that mitigation will not always be possible whatever the benefits of the development although this is dealt with in the detailed policies.
11	Water Promote sustainable water management including promoting use of sustainable drainage systems	No direct impact	B		
12	Climate Change Manage the effects of climate change	No significant impact.	B		
13	Energy Increase the supply of renewable energy and reduce energy consumption	There can be tension between the need for renewable energy and protection of the landscape and biodiversity, particularly in the cases of wind turbines and biofuel crops. May well have a negative short and long term effect on this objective although there are turbines	B		

Policy NSA 25 - Special Landscape Areas				
SA Objective	Nature of the sustainability effect of policy (including magnitude, timing, duration and reversibility of effects where known).	Assessment	Evidence and reference	Suggested mitigation and enhancement measures (<i>those in italics are already proposed in the Plan</i>)
	in Mynydd Hugh and Llantrisant SLA.			
14	Land and Soils Promote efficient use of land and soils	Protection of the landscape will reduce development opportunities in the countryside and supports the spatial strategy of the plan which concentrates rather than disperses development. Will encourage use of previously developed land and will have a positive impact.	LG	
15	Waste Minimise waste, especially waste to landfill	The Council seeks to reduce waste to landfill. Protection of the countryside from such development will indirectly support this objective.	LG	
16	Minerals Promote efficient and appropriate use of minerals	There could be tension between landscape protection and mining/quarrying activity. The policy could have a minor negative impact on winning local mineral resources.	?	
<p>Summary:</p> <p>The policy will be instrumental on protecting the landscape quality of the Borough on which tourism potential will be largely dependant. Landscape protection also has direct benefits for biodiversity through the indirect protection of habitats. The appraisal notes there may be conflict with renewable energy projects and mineral working and it is recommended that the policy should be supported by text which clarifies that mitigation will not always be possible whatever the benefits of the development (although this is dealt with in the detailed policies). Overall a positive long term impact.</p>				

Policy NSA 26 – Cynon Valley River Park

Development that would contribute to the protection, enhancement, enlargement, connectivity and management of important wildlife sites, species and features of nature conservation within the Cynon Valley River Park area will be supported.

Policy NSA 26 – Cynon Valley River Park

SA Objective	Nature of the sustainability effect of policy (including magnitude, timing, duration and reversibility of effects where known).	Assessment	Evidence and reference	Suggested mitigation and enhancement measures (<i>those in italics are already proposed in the Plan</i>)
1 Housing Provide for the overall housing requirement through a mix of dwelling types catering for all needs to promote integrated and thriving communities	No specific impact	B		
2 Culture and Heritage Promote, protect and enhance the Culture and Heritage including landscape, archaeology and language	No specific impact	B		
3 Communities Promote integrated	The policy specifically protects and enhances the river floodplain but	LG		

Policy NSA 26 – Cynon Valley River Park				
SA Objective	Nature of the sustainability effect of policy (including magnitude, timing, duration and reversibility of effects where known).	Assessment	Evidence and reference	Suggested mitigation and enhancement measures (<i>those in italics are already proposed in the Plan</i>)
	communities, with opportunities for living, working and socialising for all	encourages appropriate use for leisure. Positive impact as a community resource. impact		
4	Health Provide an environment that encourages a healthy and safe lifestyle and promotes well-being	A protected well managed landscape can encourage recreation activities so an indirect positive impact can be expected.	LG	
5	Economy Provide for a sustainable economy	Any potential for tourism will be built on the landscape value of the area. This policy will have a strong positive impact.	DG	
6	Employment Provide for a diverse range of job opportunities	Providing an attractive natural environment may reduce population decline and attract inward investment as a good place to live and work. Potential for long term positive effect.	DG	
7	Transport Reduce the need to travel and promote more sustainable modes of transport	No direct or significant impact	B	

Policy NSA 26 – Cynon Valley River Park					
SA Objective		Nature of the sustainability effect of policy (including magnitude, timing, duration and reversibility of effects where known).	Assessment	Evidence and reference	Suggested mitigation and enhancement measures (<i>those in italics are already proposed in the Plan</i>)
8	Built Environment Provide a high quality built environment that promotes community pride	Protection of the river valley will include the setting of the villages and hamlets. Positive long term effect. Development will be subject to design and built environment policies.	LG		
9	Landscape Improve, protect and enhance the countryside	The policy directly addresses the aims of this objective and will have a long term, cumulative positive impact through the protection of landscape value.	LG		
10	Biodiversity Protect and enhance the diversity and abundance of wildlife habitats and native species	The policy directly addresses the aims of this objective and will have a long term, cumulative positive impact through the protection of nature conservation value.	LG	Adopted LBAP.	
11	Water Promote sustainable water management including promoting use of sustainable drainage systems	Outdated and inadequate sewage systems have caused problems with river water quality in parts of RCT. Development which could pollute the water environment should not be allowed.	?		
12	Climate Change Manage the effects	Flash flooding is a feature of climate change and development should not	Y		The policy does not adequately protect the floodplain from

Policy NSA 26 – Cynon Valley River Park				
SA Objective	Nature of the sustainability effect of policy (including magnitude, timing, duration and reversibility of effects where known).	Assessment	Evidence and reference	Suggested mitigation and enhancement measures (<i>those in italics are already proposed in the Plan</i>)
	of climate change	take place on floodplains unless there is no alternative. There is potential in this policy to harm the capacity of the floodplain which could have significant adverse impact.		development which would reduce the capacity of the floodplain or state that vulnerable uses will not be considered. A revised policy could cover these issues.
13	Energy Increase the supply of renewable energy and reduce energy consumption	No significant impact	B	
14	Land and Soils Promote efficient use of land and soils	No significant impact	B	
15	Waste Minimise waste, especially waste to landfill	No significant impact	B	
16	Minerals Promote efficient and appropriate use of minerals	No significant impact	B	
Summary:				
Whilst performing well against landscape and biodiversity objectives the appraisal draws attention to issues around water quality and the capacity of the floodplain. It is recommended that a clear, stronger revised policy incorporating specifically wording on water quality and				

Policy NSA 26 – Cynon Valley River Park				
SA Objective	Nature of the sustainability effect of policy (including magnitude, timing, duration and reversibility of effects where known).	Assessment	Evidence and reference	Suggested mitigation and enhancement measures (<i>those in italics are already proposed in the Plan</i>)
capacity of the floodplain. It is recommended that a clear, stronger revised policy incorporating specifically wording on water quality and flood plain capacity, would greatly improve the potential benefits of this policy.				

Policy NSA 27– Land Reclamation Schemes

Land reclamation schemes are proposed at the following locations;

1. Aberman land reclamation scheme;
2. Tylorstown and Llanwonno land reclamation scheme;
3. Lewis Merthyr land reclamation scheme, Trehafod;
4. Gelli land reclamation scheme;
5. Graig-y-Dyffryn land reclamation scheme, Cwmpennar / Cefnpennar, Mountain Ash,
6. Cefnpennar land reclamation scheme, Mountain Ash;
7. Danylan land reclamation scheme, and
8. Albion Lower Tips land reclamation scheme, Cilfynydd

Policy NSA 27 – Land Reclamation Schemes

SA Objective	Nature of the sustainability effect of policy (including magnitude, timing, duration and reversibility of effects where known).	Assessment	Evidence and reference	Suggested mitigation and enhancement measures (<i>those in italics are already proposed in the Plan</i>)
1 Housing Provide for the overall housing requirement through a mix of dwelling types catering for all needs to promote integrated and thriving communities	No direct impact.	B		

Policy NSA 27 – Land Reclamation Schemes					
SA Objective		Nature of the sustainability effect of policy (including magnitude, timing, duration and reversibility of effects where known).	Assessment	Evidence and reference	Suggested mitigation and enhancement measures (<i>those in italics are already proposed in the Plan</i>)
2	Culture and Heritage Promote, protect and enhance the Culture and Heritage including landscape, archaeology and language	The land areas subject to the policy are not designated as having historic landscape importance so there will be no adverse effect.	B		
3	Communities Promote integrated communities, with opportunities for living, working and socialising for all	No direct impact.	B		
4	Health Provide an environment that encourages a healthy and safe lifestyle and promotes well-being	The restoration of land which may contain industrial pollutants is positive for health objectives	LG		
5	Economy Provide for a sustainable economy	The policy will be instrumental on protecting the landscape quality of the Borough on which tourism potential will be largely dependant. Also potential minor indirect impact in that a more	LG		

Policy NSA 27 – Land Reclamation Schemes				
SA Objective	Nature of the sustainability effect of policy (including magnitude, timing, duration and reversibility of effects where known).	Assessment	Evidence and reference	Suggested mitigation and enhancement measures (<i>those in italics are already proposed in the Plan</i>)
6	Employment Provide for a diverse range of job opportunities	Potential impact as above.	LG	
7	Transport Reduce the need to travel and promote more sustainable modes of transport	No direct impact.	B	
8	Built Environment Provide a high quality built environment that promotes community pride	Landscape restoration can improve the landscape setting of settlements. Positive impact.	LG	
9	Landscape Improve, protect and enhance the countryside	Direct relationship to this objective and will address existing sustainability issue. Positive impact.	DG	
10	Biodiversity Protect and enhance the	The supporting text to the policy recognises that some sites regenerate naturally and become useful habitats for	LG	

Policy NSA 27 – Land Reclamation Schemes				
SA Objective	Nature of the sustainability effect of policy (including magnitude, timing, duration and reversibility of effects where known).	Assessment	Evidence and reference	Suggested mitigation and enhancement measures (<i>those in italics are already proposed in the Plan</i>)
	diversity and abundance of wildlife habitats and native species	flora and fauna. On other sites contaminants may be removed which inhibit biodiversity, Therefore there should be no adverse impact and potential improvement for biodiversity.		
11	Water Promote sustainable water management including promoting use of sustainable drainage systems	No significant impact but pollutants may be removed from the environment which may have entered the water environment i.e. streams, groundwater catchment areas. Positive impact.	LG	
12	Climate Change Manage the effects of climate change	No direct impact.	B	
13	Energy Increase the supply of renewable energy and reduce energy consumption	No direct impact.	B	
14	Land and Soils Promote efficient use of land and soils	No direct impact.	B	
15	Waste Minimise waste, especially waste to	No direct impact.	B	

Policy NSA 27 – Land Reclamation Schemes				
SA Objective	Nature of the sustainability effect of policy (including magnitude, timing, duration and reversibility of effects where known).	Assessment	Evidence and reference	Suggested mitigation and enhancement measures (<i>those in italics are already proposed in the Plan</i>)
	landfill			
16	Minerals Promote efficient and appropriate use of minerals	No direct impact.	B	
<p>Summary:</p> <p>The appraisal suggests that this policy will be instrumental in undoing some of the land degradation which has occurred over the last two centuries in the RCT area. Landscape restoration also has direct benefits for biodiversity through the creation or improvement of habitats. Overall a positive long term impact for core environmental objectives, by addressing identified sustainability issues within the County Borough.</p>				

Policy NSA 28 - Provision Of Community Recycling Facilities				
<p>Sites in the following locations will be safeguarded for the continuation of or provision for the future use as community recycling centres:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Dinas; 2. Treorchy; 3. Ferndale; 4. Aberdare (Bryn Pica); and 5. Gelli. 				

Policy NSA 28 - Provision Of Community Recycling Facilities				
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SA Objective	Nature of the sustainability effect of policy (including magnitude, timing, duration and reversibility of effects where known).	Assessment	Evidence and reference	Suggested mitigation and enhancement measures (<i>those in italics are already proposed in the Plan</i>)
1 Housing Provide for the overall housing requirement through a mix of dwelling types catering for all needs to promote integrated and thriving communities	No impact on housing provision	B		
2 Culture and Heritage Promote, protect and enhance the Culture and Heritage including landscape, archaeology and language	No significant impact	B		
3 Communities Promote integrated communities, with opportunities for living, working and socialising for all	No significant impact	B		
4 Health Provide an environment that encourages a healthy and safe lifestyle and	Encouraging and supporting recycling reduces waste to landfill which can contaminate land and water. Minor but positive impact on health.	LG		

Policy NSA 28 - Provision Of Community Recycling Facilities				
SA Objective	Nature of the sustainability effect of policy (including magnitude, timing, duration and reversibility of effects where known).	Assessment	Evidence and reference	Suggested mitigation and enhancement measures (<i>those in italics are already proposed in the Plan</i>)
	promotes well-being			
5	Economy Provide for a sustainable economy	No significant impact	B	
6	Employment Provide for a diverse range of job opportunities	No significant impact	B	
7	Transport Reduce the need to travel and promote more sustainable modes of transport	It is assumed that these community recycling centres are for bulky goods which cannot be collected by kerbside collections. In the south the site is close to Llantrisant, a principal growth area so it should serve a maximum number of people with minimum journeys. The other main centre is Pontypridd which has Treforest nearby. In the northern strategy area Aberdare and Hirwaun will be served by Bryn Pica and Treorchy, Ferndale, Gelli and Dinas will serve the central areas which do not have good east/west access. This spread of facilities will have a positive impact on the length of journeys	LG	

Policy NSA 28 - Provision Of Community Recycling Facilities				
SA Objective	Nature of the sustainability effect of policy (including magnitude, timing, duration and reversibility of effects where known).	Assessment	Evidence and reference	Suggested mitigation and enhancement measures (<i>those in italics are already proposed in the Plan</i>)
				which need to be undertaken.
8	Built Environment Provide a high quality built environment that promotes community pride	No significant impact	B	
9	Landscape Improve, protect and enhance the countryside	The landscape impact of existing sites will not be altered but the impact of new sites must be carefully assessed.	?	
10	Biodiversity Protect and enhance the diversity and abundance of wildlife habitats and native species	The landscape impact of existing sites will not be altered but the impact of new sites must be carefully assessed No significant impact.	?	
11	Water Promote sustainable water management including promoting use of sustainable drainage systems	Recycling and sorting of electrical equipment, batteries, paints and oils should be carefully managed to avoid contamination of watercourses. However water issues are raised in Policy WM2.	B	
12	Climate Change	All recycling projects are positive for	LG	

Policy NSA 28 - Provision Of Community Recycling Facilities				
SA Objective	Nature of the sustainability effect of policy (including magnitude, timing, duration and reversibility of effects where known).	Assessment	Evidence and reference	Suggested mitigation and enhancement measures (<i>those in italics are already proposed in the Plan</i>)
	Manage the effects of climate change	climate change objectives and the spread of recycling centres ensures that overlong journeys are not required to access the facilities. Positive impact.		
13	Energy Increase the supply of renewable energy and reduce energy consumption	No direct impact but as mentioned under other policies, such sites can provide acceptable locations for renewable energy projects such as wind turbines to serve the development.	B	
14	Land and Soils Promote efficient use of land and soils	No significant impacts as several of the sites are existing.	B	
15	Waste Minimise waste, especially waste to landfill	The waste hierarchy requires landfill to be the last resort so augmenting kerbside collection with community recycling further advances this objective. Positive impact.	LG	100% coverage of kerbside collections.
16	Minerals Promote efficient and appropriate use of minerals	No direct impact		
<p>Summary: The appraisal notes that the policy builds on existing facilities and proposes new recycling facilities to improve the service across the County Borough. Very positive effects predicted for key sustainability objectives in the medium to long term and no significant adverse impacts identified.</p>				

Policy NSA 28 - Provision Of Community Recycling Facilities				
SA Objective	Nature of the sustainability effect of policy (including magnitude, timing, duration and reversibility of effects where known).	Assessment	Evidence and reference	Suggested mitigation and enhancement measures (<i>those in italics are already proposed in the Plan</i>)

<p>Policy NSA 32 - Safeguarding of Sandstone (NOW POLICY AW 14 & 15)</p> <p>The deposits of Pennant Sandstone, as shown on the proposals map, shall be safeguarded from any development, which would sterilise them or hinder their extraction.</p> <p>The identified areas of safeguarding on the proposals map include a 200 metres buffer zone.</p> <p><i>Policy NSA 33 – Safeguarding of Coal Reserves</i></p> <p>The deposits of primary and secondary coal reserves, as shown on the proposals map, shall be safeguarded from any development, which would sterilise them or hinder their extraction.</p> <p><i>The identified areas of safeguarding on the proposals map include a 500 metres buffer zone.</i></p>				
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Policy NSA 32 - Safeguarding of Sandstone (NOW POLICY AW 14 & 15)					
SA Objective		Nature of the sustainability effect of policy (including magnitude, timing, duration and reversibility of effects where known).	Assessment	Evidence and reference	Suggested mitigation and enhancement measures (<i>those in italics are already proposed in the Plan</i>)
1	Housing Provide for the overall housing requirement through a mix of dwelling types catering for all needs to promote integrated and thriving communities	No direct impact on the provision of housing.	B		
2	Culture and Heritage Promote, protect and enhance the Culture and Heritage including landscape, archaeology and language	No direct or specific impact.	B		
3	Communities Promote integrated communities, with opportunities for living, working and socialising for all	No direct or specific impact.	B		
4	Health Provide an	Mining has potential impacts on health through air and noise pollution but this is	B		

Policy NSA 32 - Safeguarding of Sandstone (NOW POLICY AW 14 & 15)				
SA Objective	Nature of the sustainability effect of policy (including magnitude, timing, duration and reversibility of effects where known).	Assessment	Evidence and reference	Suggested mitigation and enhancement measures (<i>those in italics are already proposed in the Plan</i>)
	environment that encourages a healthy and safe lifestyle and promotes well-being			
5	Economy Provide for a sustainable economy	Minerals are an essential requirement for the economy providing the raw material for infrastructure. This does not apply only to the local economy but also to the national economy. Positive impact.	LG	
6	Employment Provide for a diverse range of job opportunities	As above.	LG	
7	Transport Reduce the need to travel and promote more sustainable modes of transport	There may be some short term adverse impact but no long term effect due to the finite resources.	?	
8	Built Environment Provide a high quality built environment that promotes	The policy will ensure the ongoing provision of the traditional building materials of the area and will contribute to local distinctiveness in new development.	LG	

Policy NSA 32 - Safeguarding of Sandstone (NOW POLICY AW 14 & 15)				
SA Objective	Nature of the sustainability effect of policy (including magnitude, timing, duration and reversibility of effects where known).	Assessment	Evidence and reference	Suggested mitigation and enhancement measures (<i>those in italics are already proposed in the Plan</i>)
	community pride			
9	Landscape Improve, protect and enhance the countryside	Area wide policy seeks restoration plans. Therefore there may some short term landscape impact but there should be no long term or irreversible damage. There should be potential for landscape enhancement in some cases.	LG	
10	Biodiversity Protect and enhance the diversity and abundance of wildlife habitats and native species	Afteruse and restoration plans for quarried sites can often provide good habitat for a variety of species. As long as protected species are considered throughout the process there could be opportunity to provide more and varied habitat to support and enhance biodiversity.	LG	
11	Water Promote sustainable water management including promoting use of sustainable drainage systems	No direct or significant impact.	B	
12	Climate Change Manage the effects of climate change	The use of primary aggregate materials does not meet the demands of this objective to reduce carbon emissions.	Y	At the present time, the use of these materials is required at regional and national levels so

Policy NSA 32 - Safeguarding of Sandstone (NOW POLICY AW 14 & 15)				
SA Objective	Nature of the sustainability effect of policy (including magnitude, timing, duration and reversibility of effects where known).	Assessment	Evidence and reference	Suggested mitigation and enhancement measures (<i>those in italics are already proposed in the Plan</i>)
				no mitigation is possible,
13	Energy Increase the supply of renewable energy and reduce energy consumption	The primary aggregate materials does not meet the demands of this objective to reduce energy use. Burning fossil fuels does not meet the aims of this objective.	Y	At the present time, the safeguarding and use of these minerals is required at regional and national levels so no mitigation is possible,
14	Land and Soils Promote efficient use of land and soils	Sterilisation of resources is avoided by the requirement for pre-working of known reserves where development is necessary. Alternatives to primary won aggregates are encouraged e.g. reuse of material on PDL sites. The policy promotes wastes minimisation and encourages on site recycling of materials. The policy will progress this objective.	LG	
15	Waste Minimise waste, especially waste to landfill	The policy promotes wastes minimisation and encourages on site recycling of materials. Positive impact.	LG	
16	Minerals Promote efficient and appropriate use of minerals	The policy ensures that the County Borough contributes to the national and regional requirement for minerals. Sterilisation of resources is avoided.	LG	

Policy NSA 32 - Safeguarding of Sandstone (NOW POLICY AW 14 & 15)				
SA Objective	Nature of the sustainability effect of policy (including magnitude, timing, duration and reversibility of effects where known).	Assessment	Evidence and reference	Suggested mitigation and enhancement measures (<i>those in italics are already proposed in the Plan</i>)
<p>Summary:</p> <p>The use of non renewable materials does not meet the overall objective of sustainable development. However, the appraisal notes that materials are required for essential infrastructure projects and that that the plan is fulfilling its statutory obligation to include such policies.</p>				

Appendix VI iv: Sustainability Appraisal of Deposit LDP Southern Strategy Area Policies

Policy SSA 1 – Development in the Principal Town of Pontypridd

Proposals for residential and commercial development within the defined town centre of Pontypridd will be permitted where the development:

1. Reinforces the role of Pontypridd as a Principal Town;
2. Respects the culture and heritage of Pontypridd;
3. Is of a high standard of design and makes a positive contribution to the townscape in the defined town centre;
4. Contributes to the enhancement of Ynysangharad Park;
5. Integrates positively with the existing built form;
6. Promotes opportunities for new retail, tourism and leisure development;
7. Promotes walking and cycling;
8. Promotes accessibility to services by a range of modes of transport, and
9. Improves the provision of Car Parking.

Policy SSA 1 – Development in the Principal Town of Pontypridd

SA Objective	Nature of the sustainability effect of policy (including magnitude, timing, duration and reversibility of effects where known).	Assessment	Evidence and reference	Suggested mitigation and enhancement measures (<i>those in italics are already proposed in the Plan</i>)
1 Housing Provide for the overall housing requirement through a mix of dwelling types catering for all needs to promote	The policy facilitates housing development in the town centre to help meet the identified need. Small sites within urban areas can often be brought forward more quickly than larger allocations and there could be a short term positive impact.	DG		

Policy SSA 1 – Development in the Principal Town of Pontypridd				
SA Objective	Nature of the sustainability effect of policy (including magnitude, timing, duration and reversibility of effects where known).	Assessment	Evidence and reference	Suggested mitigation and enhancement measures (<i>those in italics are already proposed in the Plan</i>)
	integrated and thriving communities			
2	Culture and Heritage Promote, protect and enhance the Culture and Heritage including landscape, archaeology and language	Urban infill can have an adverse impact on existing architecture but this should be controlled through design policies and criterion 2.	LG	
3	Communities Promote integrated communities, with opportunities for living, working and socialising for all	This policy seeks to build on an existing sustainable community and create opportunities for new community facilities. Development to reinforce the civic role of the town centre is encouraged. Long term positive significant impact.	LG	
4	Health Provide an environment that encourages a healthy and safe lifestyle and promotes well-being	This policy seeks to build on an existing sustainable community and create opportunities for new community facilities which may include health and education. . Long term positive significant impact.	LG	
5	Economy Provide for a	The policy encourages a mix of development which will support the	LG	Regeneration of Pontypridd is supported by the LDP and the

Policy SSA 1 – Development in the Principal Town of Pontypridd					
SA Objective		Nature of the sustainability effect of policy (including magnitude, timing, duration and reversibility of effects where known).	Assessment	Evidence and reference	Suggested mitigation and enhancement measures (<i>those in italics are already proposed in the Plan</i>)
	sustainable economy	town centre and new retail, leisure and tourism development. This approach will progress the aims of this objective.		Strategy is currently under review.	
6	Employment Provide for a diverse range of job opportunities	Employment opportunities will be linked to the comments above.	LG		
7	Transport Reduce the need to travel and promote more sustainable modes of transport	The policy should have long term positive effect as it encourages development in a sustainable location with access to facilities and other modes of transport than the car. Whilst criteria 7 and 8 emphasise the need for other modes of transport than the private vehicle, Criterion 9 requires improvement to the provision of car parking which at face value is contrary to the aims of this objective. No reason is given for this criterion and the supporting text refers to the "excellent public transport links". Mixed impact because of the potential to encourage the use of the private vehicle through improved parking provision.	L C	The town has good public transport links within RCT and also with the wider region. .	Criterion 9 does not progress this objective. The criterion should either be removed or a justification given for this move away from sustainability objectives
8	Built Environment	The policy refers to the need for a high	LG		

Policy SSA 1 – Development in the Principal Town of Pontypridd					
SA Objective		Nature of the sustainability effect of policy (including magnitude, timing, duration and reversibility of effects where known).	Assessment	Evidence and reference	Suggested mitigation and enhancement measures (<i>those in italics are already proposed in the Plan</i>)
	Provide a high quality built environment that promotes community pride	standard of design and respect for historic buildings. Positive impact.			
9	Landscape Improve, protect and enhance the countryside	As the development will be town centre based there should be little significant impact on wider landscape issues. Positive impact by requiring enhancement of Ynysangharad Park.	LG		
10	Biodiversity Protect and enhance the diversity and abundance of wildlife habitats and native species	As the development will be town centre based there should be little significant impact on wider landscape issues. Positive impact by requiring enhancement of Ynysangharad Park.	LG		
11	Water Promote sustainable water management including promoting use of sustainable drainage systems	Limited impact due to likely scale of development.	B		
12	Climate Change Manage the effects	See comments on transport which will be the main factor.	LG		

Policy SSA 1 – Development in the Principal Town of Pontypridd				
SA Objective	Nature of the sustainability effect of policy (including magnitude, timing, duration and reversibility of effects where known).	Assessment	Evidence and reference	Suggested mitigation and enhancement measures (<i>those in italics are already proposed in the Plan</i>)
	of climate change			
13	Energy Increase the supply of renewable energy and reduce energy consumption	No specific impact.	B	
14	Land and Soils Promote efficient use of land and soils	Maximising the use of land within settlement boundaries reduces the need for greenfield land take.	LG	
15	Waste Minimise waste, especially waste to landfill	New development should be able to contribute to existing recycling and composting schemes.	LG	
16	Minerals Promote efficient and appropriate use of minerals	No specific impact.	B	
<p>Summary:</p> <p>Generally the policy will assist in achieving sustainable development. However the appraisal noted the potential for adverse effects which would require mitigation, over the requirement for improvements to car parking which contradicts the aims of the transport objective. It is recommended that the criterion should either be removed or a justification given for this move away from sustainability objectives.</p>				

Policy SSA 2 - Pontypridd Town Centre Enhancement

In order to improve the streetscape and retail environment in Pontypridd Town Centre, parts of Taff Street, Mill Street and High Street will be pedestrianised.

Policy SSA 2 - Pontypridd Town Centre Enhancement

SA Objective	Nature of the sustainability effect of policy (including magnitude, timing, duration and reversibility of effects where known).	Assessment	Evidence and reference	Suggested mitigation and enhancement measures (<i>those in italics are already proposed in the Plan</i>)
1 Housing Provide for the overall housing requirement through a mix of dwelling types catering for all needs to promote integrated and thriving communities	No direct or significant impact.	B		
2 Culture and Heritage Promote, protect and enhance the Culture and Heritage including landscape,	Pedestrianisation, with the resultant removal of car exhaust emissions, will improve the centre of Pontypridd both through the opportunity for townscape improvements and the impact on	DG		

Policy SSA 2 - Pontypridd Town Centre Enhancement				
SA Objective	Nature of the sustainability effect of policy (including magnitude, timing, duration and reversibility of effects where known).	Assessment	Evidence and reference	Suggested mitigation and enhancement measures (<i>those in italics are already proposed in the Plan</i>)
	archaeology and language			
3	Communities Promote integrated communities, with opportunities for living, working and socialising for all	buildings. Dirty and blackened buildings can be cleaned and remain clean and potential damage to stability from passing traffic will be removed. Positive, cumulative impact as these operations take place. .	LG	
4	Health Provide an environment that encourages a healthy and safe lifestyle and promotes well-being	Removing vehicle based pollution form anywhere has positive implications for health.	LG	
5	Economy Provide for a sustainable economy	The policy seeks to improve the environment of the town centre which should assist the vitality and viability of the retail centre, Positive, long term impact.	LG	
6	Employment	Employment opportunities will be linked	LG	

Policy SSA 2 - Pontypridd Town Centre Enhancement				
SA Objective	Nature of the sustainability effect of policy (including magnitude, timing, duration and reversibility of effects where known).	Assessment	Evidence and reference	Suggested mitigation and enhancement measures (<i>those in italics are already proposed in the Plan</i>)
	Provide for a diverse range of job opportunities			
7	Transport Reduce the need to travel and promote more sustainable modes of transport	LG	All the key settlements are well connected by rail or bus or both.	
8	Built Environment Provide a high quality built environment that promotes community pride	LG		
9	Landscape Improve, protect and enhance the countryside	B		
10	Biodiversity Protect and enhance the diversity and abundance of wildlife habitats and native species	B		

Policy SSA 2 - Pontypridd Town Centre Enhancement				
SA Objective	Nature of the sustainability effect of policy (including magnitude, timing, duration and reversibility of effects where known).	Assessment	Evidence and reference	Suggested mitigation and enhancement measures (<i>those in italics are already proposed in the Plan</i>)
11	Water Promote sustainable water management including promoting use of sustainable drainage systems	No direct or significant impact.	B	
12	Climate Change Manage the effects of climate change	See comments on transport which will be the main factor.	LG	
13	Energy Increase the supply of renewable energy and reduce energy consumption	No specific impact.	B	
14	Land and Soils Promote efficient use of land and soils	No direct or significant impact.	B	
15	Waste Minimise waste, especially waste to landfill	No direct or significant impact.	B	
16	Minerals Promote efficient and appropriate use of minerals	No specific impact.	B	

Policy SSA 2 - Pontypridd Town Centre Enhancement				
SA Objective	Nature of the sustainability effect of policy (including magnitude, timing, duration and reversibility of effects where known).	Assessment	Evidence and reference	Suggested mitigation and enhancement measures (<i>those in italics are already proposed in the Plan</i>)
<p>Summary:</p> <p>The appraisal identified no significant adverse impacts identified and noted that the policy will assist in achieving sustainable development and the regeneration of Pontypridd with particularly positive and long term benefits for culture and heritage objectives, and the progression of health and community objectives. .</p>				

Policy SSA 3 – Development in the Principal Town of Llantrisant / Talbot Green

Proposals for residential and commercial development within the defined town centre of Llantrisant / Talbot Green will be permitted where the development:

1. Reinforces the role of Llantrisant / Talbot Green as a Principal Town;
2. Respects the culture and heritage of Llantrisant / Talbot Green;
3. Is of a high standard of design and makes a positive contribution to the townscape in the defined town centre;
4. Integrates positively with existing development;
5. Promotes opportunities for new retail, tourism and leisure development;
6. Protects important area nature conservation; and
7. Makes a positive contribution to the reduction of congestion by promoting accessibility to services by a range of modes of transport.

Policy SSA 3 – Development in the Principal Town of Llantrisant / Talbot Green

SA Objective	Nature of the sustainability effect of policy (including magnitude, timing, duration and reversibility of effects where known).	Assessment	Evidence and reference	Suggested mitigation and enhancement measures (<i>those in italics are already proposed in the Plan</i>)
1 Housing Provide for the overall housing requirement through a mix of dwelling types catering for all needs to promote integrated and	The policy facilitates housing development within the town centre to help meet the identified overall need.	LG		

Policy SSA 3 – Development in the Principal Town of Llantrisant / Talbot Green				
SA Objective	Nature of the sustainability effect of policy (including magnitude, timing, duration and reversibility of effects where known).	Assessment	Evidence and reference	Suggested mitigation and enhancement measures (<i>those in italics are already proposed in the Plan</i>)
	thriving communities			
2	Culture and Heritage Promote, protect and enhance the Culture and Heritage including landscape, archaeology and language	Urban infill can have an adverse impact on existing architecture but this should be controlled through design policies and criterion 3.	LG	
3	Communities Promote integrated communities, with opportunities for living, working and socialising for all	This area has seen significant levels of growth which will continue with the implementation of the strategic site at Mwyndy/Talbot Green. However the town centre will only accommodate a small scale of development so there should not be a significant adverse impact.	B	
4	Health Provide an environment that encourages a healthy and safe lifestyle and promotes well-being	Building on existing settlements should ensure that a certain level of facilities are present but care must be taken that these facilities are not over stretched by the demands of new development in the short term. In the long term new facilities will be provided on the strategic site. .	LG	
5	Economy Provide for a	The policy encourages a mix of development which will reinforce the	LG	The area is defined as a Strategic Opportunity Area.

Policy SSA 3 – Development in the Principal Town of Llantrisant / Talbot Green					
SA Objective		Nature of the sustainability effect of policy (including magnitude, timing, duration and reversibility of effects where known).	Assessment	Evidence and reference	Suggested mitigation and enhancement measures (<i>those in italics are already proposed in the Plan</i>)
	sustainable economy	retail, leisure and tourism development of the settlement. The location of Llantrisant to the north of Cardiff makes it of regional importance to the economy. The policy ensures that no employment land will be lost to housing development which is a danger in this location. Improving the retail potential of Talbot Green may reduce the spending leakage to Cardiff. Positive impact.		Wales Spatial Plan.	
6	Employment Provide for a diverse range of job opportunities	Employment opportunities will be linked to the comments above.	LG		
7	Transport Reduce the need to travel and promote more sustainable modes of transport	The policy should have long term positive effect as it encourages development in a sustainable location with access to facilities and other modes of transport than the car. Positive impact,	LG	Llantrisant has excellent connections with Cardiff and Bristol.	
8	Built Environment Provide a high quality built environment that promotes	The policy refers to the need for a high standard of design and respect for historic buildings. Positive impact.	LG		

Policy SSA 3 – Development in the Principal Town of Llantrisant / Talbot Green				
SA Objective	Nature of the sustainability effect of policy (including magnitude, timing, duration and reversibility of effects where known).	Assessment	Evidence and reference	Suggested mitigation and enhancement measures (<i>those in italics are already proposed in the Plan</i>)
	community pride			
9	Landscape Improve, protect and enhance the countryside	As the development will be within the settlement boundary there should be little significant impact on wider landscape issues.. No adverse impact.	LG	
10	Biodiversity Protect and enhance the diversity and abundance of wildlife habitats and native species	As the development will be within the settlement boundary there should be little significant impact on wider biodiversity issues but nature conservation sites are specifically protected in the policy. No adverse impact.	LG	
11	Water Promote sustainable water management including promoting use of sustainable drainage systems	No direct specific impact.	LG	
12	Climate Change Manage the effects of climate change	See comments on transport which will be the main factor.	LG	
13	Energy Increase the supply of renewable energy	No specific impact.	B	

Policy SSA 3 – Development in the Principal Town of Llantrisant / Talbot Green				
SA Objective	Nature of the sustainability effect of policy (including magnitude, timing, duration and reversibility of effects where known).	Assessment	Evidence and reference	Suggested mitigation and enhancement measures (<i>those in italics are already proposed in the Plan</i>)
	and reduce energy consumption			
14	Land and Soils Promote efficient use of land and soils	Maximising the use of land within settlement boundaries reduces the need for greenfield land take.	LG	
15	Waste Minimise waste, especially waste to landfill	New development should be able to use and contribute to existing recycling and composting schemes.	LG	
16	Minerals Promote efficient and appropriate use of minerals	No specific impact.	B	
<p>Summary: The policy builds on and supports the ongoing development of the more buoyant southern economy and encourages the development of all functions of the Llantrisant/Talbot Green area. Improvement to the retail and employment function may reduce outcommuting for work and reduce the spend leakage to Cardiff and Bristol which progresses objectives for employment, the economy and climate change effectively. The policy also ensures that the role of Llantrisant will continue should there be a delay in implementing the strategic site proposal. Although on a relatively small scale, the policy has the potential to progress sustainable development in the County Borough.</p>				

SSA 4 – Development in the Key Settlement of Tonyrefail

Proposals for residential and commercial development within the defined town centre of the Key Settlement of Tonyrefail will be permitted where the development:

1. Supports and reinforces the role of the centre as a Key Settlement;
2. Is of a high standard of design and integrates positively with existing development;
3. Promotes the beneficial reuse of vacant and underused floorspace;
4. Supports the provision of local services; and
5. Promotes accessibility to services by a range of modes of transport.

SSA 4 – Development in the Key Settlement of Tonyrefail					
SA Objective		Nature of the sustainability effect of policy (including magnitude, timing, duration and reversibility of effects where known).	Assessment	Evidence and reference	Suggested mitigation and enhancement measures (<i>those in italics are already proposed in the Plan</i>)
1	Housing Provide for the overall housing requirement through a mix of dwelling types catering for all needs to promote integrated and thriving communities	The policy facilitates housing development within Tonyrefail town centre to help meet the identified need.	LG		
2	Culture and Heritage Promote, protect and enhance the Culture and Heritage including landscape, archaeology and language	Urban infill can have an adverse impact on existing architecture but this should be controlled through design policies and criterion 2.	LG		
3	Communities Promote integrated communities, with opportunities for living, working and socialising for all	This policy seeks to build on an existing community but services and community facilities in Tonyrefail have not kept up with the level of housing growth. Whilst this is mentioned in the supporting text, it is not addressed within the policy which simply states that development should “support provision of local services”. It is	?		Policy AW 5 seeks contributions from development to cover infrastructure needs arising from the development. A reference to this policy in the supporting text could clarify that community facilities such as health and education will not be

SSA 4 – Development in the Key Settlement of Tonyrefail				
SA Objective	Nature of the sustainability effect of policy (including magnitude, timing, duration and reversibility of effects where known).	Assessment	Evidence and reference	Suggested mitigation and enhancement measures (<i>those in italics are already proposed in the Plan</i>)
	often claimed that residential development does this by providing a quantum of development that renders services viable. However research has not always vindicated this approach and proved that there is not always a positive correlation between new housing numbers and provision or retention of services. Therefore the existing situation could be exacerbated but on a relatively small scale due to the town centre boundary. Unknown impact.			allowed to be overwhelmed by new development.
4	Health Provide an environment that encourages a healthy and safe lifestyle and promotes well-being	Good housing has a beneficial effect on health matters. Building on existing settlements should ensure that a certain level of facilities are present but care must be taken that the se facilities are not over stretched by the demands of new development as could be the case in Llantrisant.	?	
5	Economy Provide for a sustainable economy	The policy encourages a mix of development which will reinforce the retail, leisure and tourism development of the settlement This approach will	LG	

SSA 4 – Development in the Key Settlement of Tonyrefail				
SA Objective	Nature of the sustainability effect of policy (including magnitude, timing, duration and reversibility of effects where known).	Assessment	Evidence and reference	Suggested mitigation and enhancement measures (<i>those in italics are already proposed in the Plan</i>)
	progress the aims of this objective.			
6	Employment Provide for a diverse range of job opportunities	Employment opportunities will be linked to the comments above.	LG	
7	Transport Reduce the need to travel and promote more sustainable modes of transport	The policy should have long term positive effect as it encourages development in a sustainable location with access to facilities and other modes of transport than the car. Positive impact,	LG	
8	Built Environment Provide a high quality built environment that promotes community pride	The policy refers to the need for a high standard of design and respect for historic buildings. Positive impact.	LG	
9	Landscape Improve, protect and enhance the countryside	As the development will be within the settlement boundary there should be little significant impact on wider landscape issues.. No adverse impact.	LG	
10	Biodiversity Protect and enhance the	As the development will be within the settlement boundary there should be little significant impact on wider	LG	

SSA 4 – Development in the Key Settlement of Tonyrefail				
SA Objective	Nature of the sustainability effect of policy (including magnitude, timing, duration and reversibility of effects where known).	Assessment	Evidence and reference	Suggested mitigation and enhancement measures (<i>those in italics are already proposed in the Plan</i>)
	diversity and abundance of wildlife habitats and native species	biodiversity issues. No adverse impact.		
11	Water Promote sustainable water management including promoting use of sustainable drainage systems	No direct specific impact.	LG	
12	Climate Change Manage the effects of climate change	See comments on transport which will be the main factor.	LG	
13	Energy Increase the supply of renewable energy and reduce energy consumption	No specific impact.	B	
14	Land and Soils Promote efficient use of land and soils	Maximising the use of land within settlement boundaries reduces the need for greenfield land take.	LG	
15	Waste Minimise waste, especially waste to landfill	New development should be able to contribute to existing recycling and composting schemes.	LG	

SSA 4 – Development in the Key Settlement of Tonyrefail				
SA Objective	Nature of the sustainability effect of policy (including magnitude, timing, duration and reversibility of effects where known).	Assessment	Evidence and reference	Suggested mitigation and enhancement measures (<i>those in italics are already proposed in the Plan</i>)
16 Minerals Promote efficient and appropriate use of minerals	No specific impact.	B		
<p>Summary:</p> <p>The policy builds on the more buoyant southern economy and encourages the development of all functions of Tonyrefail. Improvement of the retail and employment function may reduce outcommuting for work and reduce the spend leakage to Cardiff and Bristol. It is recommended that a reference in the supporting text could clarify that community facilities such as health and education will not be allowed to be overwhelmed by new development. The appraisal notes that the policy ensures that the role of Llantrisant will continue if there is delay in implementing the strategic site proposal. Overall this policy progresses core social and economic objectives, through minor but positive benefits in the medium and longer term.</p>				

Policy SSA 5 – New Educational Facilities in Tonyrefail

Land will be made available within the proposed residential development at Trane Farm, Tonyrefail as defined by policy SSA 4 for the provision of new educational facilities.

Policy SSA 5 – New Educational Facilities in Tonyrefail

SA Objective		Nature of the sustainability effect of policy (including magnitude, timing, duration and reversibility of effects where known).	Assessment	Evidence and reference	Suggested mitigation and enhancement measures (<i>those in italics are already proposed in the Plan</i>)
1	Housing Provide for the overall housing requirement through a mix of dwelling types catering for all needs to promote integrated and thriving communities	No direct impact	B		
2	Culture and Heritage Promote, protect and enhance the Culture and Heritage including landscape, archaeology and language	No direct impact	B		
3	Communities	The proposed school will ensure that the	LG		

Policy SSA 5 – New Educational Facilities in Tonyrefail				
SA Objective	Nature of the sustainability effect of policy (including magnitude, timing, duration and reversibility of effects where known).	Assessment	Evidence and reference	Suggested mitigation and enhancement measures (<i>those in italics are already proposed in the Plan</i>)
	Promote integrated communities, with opportunities for living, working and socialising for all	housing development in Tonyrefail will not lead to a deficiency in education provision. Positive impact.		
4	Health Provide an environment that encourages a healthy and safe lifestyle and promotes well-being	There is a link between health and levels and quality of education. Indirect positive impact.	LG	
5	Economy Provide for a sustainable economy	A well educated workforce is more likely to attract economic investment. Positive long term impact.	LG	
6	Employment Provide for a diverse range of job opportunities	Good education facilities will hopefully encourage academic achievement which leads to improved employment opportunities. Minor scale but potential for long term positive impact.	LG	
7	Transport Reduce the need to travel and promote more sustainable	Local education facilities will reduce the need to travel.	LG	

Policy SSA 5 – New Educational Facilities in Tonyrefail				
SA Objective	Nature of the sustainability effect of policy (including magnitude, timing, duration and reversibility of effects where known).	Assessment	Evidence and reference	Suggested mitigation and enhancement measures (<i>those in italics are already proposed in the Plan</i>)
	modes of transport			
8	Built Environment Provide a high quality built environment that promotes community pride	Will be subject to design policies.	B	
9	Landscape Improve, protect and enhance the countryside	No direct impact	B	
10	Biodiversity Protect and enhance the diversity and abundance of wildlife habitats and native species	No direct impact	B	
11	Water Promote sustainable water management including promoting use of sustainable drainage systems	No direct impact	B	
12	Climate Change	Local education facilities will reduce the	LG	

Policy SSA 5 – New Educational Facilities in Tonyrefail				
SA Objective	Nature of the sustainability effect of policy (including magnitude, timing, duration and reversibility of effects where known).	Assessment	Evidence and reference	Suggested mitigation and enhancement measures (<i>those in italics are already proposed in the Plan</i>)
	Manage the effects of climate change	need to travel.		
13	Energy Increase the supply of renewable energy and reduce energy consumption	No direct impact	B	
14	Land and Soils Promote efficient use of land and soils	No direct impact	B	
15	Waste Minimise waste, especially waste to landfill	No direct impact	B	
16	Minerals Promote efficient and appropriate use of minerals	No direct impact	B	
<p>Summary:</p> <p>The appraisal suggests that there will positive impacts for communities, travel and climate change with indirect benefits for health through the implementation of this policy. No significant adverse impacts were identified.</p>				

Policy SSA 6 – Development in the Key Settlement of Llanharan

Proposals for residential, commercial and community development within Llanharan will be permitted where the development:

1. Is of a high standard of design and integrates positively with existing development;
2. Makes a positive contribution to the provision and improvement of community and educational facilities;
3. Promotes opportunities for new retail and tourism development;
4. Promotes accessibility to services by a range of modes of transport.
5. Does not result in the loss of local retail or community facilities; and
6. Does not result in the loss of important open space within the settlement

Policy SSA 6 – Development in the Key Settlement of Llanharan

SA Objective	Nature of the sustainability effect of policy (including magnitude, timing, duration and reversibility of effects where known).	Assessment	Evidence and reference	Suggested mitigation and enhancement measures (<i>those in italics are already proposed in the Plan</i>)
1 Housing Provide for the overall housing requirement through a mix of dwelling types catering for all needs to promote integrated and thriving communities	The policy facilitates housing development to help meet the identified overall need.	LG		
2 Culture and Heritage	Criterion 1 requires that development	B		

Policy SSA 6 – Development in the Key Settlement of Llanharan					
SA Objective		Nature of the sustainability effect of policy (including magnitude, timing, duration and reversibility of effects where known).	Assessment	Evidence and reference	Suggested mitigation and enhancement measures (<i>those in italics are already proposed in the Plan</i>)
	Promote, protect and enhance the Culture and Heritage including landscape, archaeology and language	integrates positively with existing development which includes the historic built environment. There should be no adverse impact.			
3	Communities Promote integrated communities, with opportunities for living, working and socialising for all	This area has seen significant levels of growth which will continue with the implementation of the strategic site at Llanilid. Community facilities have not kept pace with development to date but the policy encourages and facilitates the provision of community facilities and aims to assist the creation of a sustainable community. Positive impact.	LG	Llanharan Village Study.	
4	Health Provide an environment that encourages a healthy and safe lifestyle and promotes well-being	A new medical centre is proposed as part of the Llanilid strategic site and contributions to community facilities are encouraged by this policy, Should the strategic site at Llanilid not be implemented there could be an adverse effect on accessible health facilities in the area.	?	Llanharan Village Study.	

Policy SSA 6 – Development in the Key Settlement of Llanharan					
SA Objective		Nature of the sustainability effect of policy (including magnitude, timing, duration and reversibility of effects where known).	Assessment	Evidence and reference	Suggested mitigation and enhancement measures (<i>those in italics are already proposed in the Plan</i>)
5	Economy Provide for a sustainable economy	The policy encourages a mix of development which will reinforce the retail, leisure and tourism development of the settlement. location. Protecting the retail potential of Llanilid may reduce the spending leakage to Cardiff. Positive impact.	LG		
6	Employment Provide for a diverse range of job opportunities	Employment opportunities will be linked to the comments above.	LG		
7	Transport Reduce the need to travel and promote more sustainable modes of transport	The policy should have long term positive effect as it encourages development in sustainable locations with access to facilities and other modes of transport than the car. Positive impact,	LG		
8	Built Environment Provide a high quality built environment that promotes community pride	The policy refers to the need for a high standard of design Positive impact.	LG		
9	Landscape Improve, protect	As the development will be within the settlement boundary there should be	LG		

Policy SSA 6 – Development in the Key Settlement of Llanharan				
SA Objective	Nature of the sustainability effect of policy (including magnitude, timing, duration and reversibility of effects where known).	Assessment	Evidence and reference	Suggested mitigation and enhancement measures (<i>those in italics are already proposed in the Plan</i>)
	and enhance the countryside	little significant impact on wider landscape issues. No adverse impact.		
10	Biodiversity Protect and enhance the diversity and abundance of wildlife habitats and native species	As the development will be within the settlement boundary there should be little significant impact on wider biodiversity issues but nature conservation sites are specifically protected in the policy. No adverse impact.	LG	
11	Water Promote sustainable water management including promoting use of sustainable drainage systems	All new development will increase pressure on water supply and management and the sewerage system. However this issue should be addressed by other policies.	?	
12	Climate Change Manage the effects of climate change	See comments on transport and water which will be the main factor.	LG	
13	Energy Increase the supply of renewable energy and reduce energy consumption	No specific impact.	B	
14	Land and Soils	Maximising the use of land within	LG	

Policy SSA 6 – Development in the Key Settlement of Llanharan				
SA Objective	Nature of the sustainability effect of policy (including magnitude, timing, duration and reversibility of effects where known).	Assessment	Evidence and reference	Suggested mitigation and enhancement measures (<i>those in italics are already proposed in the Plan</i>)
	Promote efficient use of land and soils	settlement boundaries reduces the need for greenfield land take.		
15	Waste Minimise waste, especially waste to landfill	New development should be able to use and contribute to existing recycling and composting schemes.	LG	
16	Minerals Promote efficient and appropriate use of minerals	No specific impact.	B	
<p>Summary: No significant adverse impacts were identified through the appraisal, however, it is recommended the policy implementation ensures that community facilities, including health and education, keep abreast with the level of development permitted so that the existing situation (lack of key facilities) is not exacerbated. The appraisal also notes the potential for negative impacts, particularly given the dependence on the proposed strategic site in providing the new facilities for the locality. There is the potential for movement away from key sustainability objectives on health and for communities if the site is not implemented.</p>				

Policy SSA 7 – Former Cwm Colliery and Coking Works, Beddau

In accordance with policy CS 3 land is allocated at the Former Cwm Colliery and Coking Works, Beddau for the construction of 800 dwellings, 1.9 hectares of employment, local retail centre, a new primary school and associated public open space. Development on the strategic site will be subject to a large-scale reclamation scheme

Policy SSA 7 – Former Cwm Colliery and Coking Works, Beddau

SA Objective	Nature of the sustainability effect of policy (including magnitude, timing, duration and reversibility of effects where known).	Assessment	Evidence and reference	Suggested mitigation and enhancement measures (<i>those in italics are already proposed in the Plan</i>)
1	Housing Provide for the overall housing requirement through a mix of dwelling types catering for all needs to promote integrated and thriving communities	DG	It is necessary to increase build rates to achieve the projected housing requirement. (WAG Household Projections for Wales 2006)	
2	Culture and Heritage Promote, protect and enhance the Culture and Heritage including landscape, archaeology and language	B		

Policy SSA 7 – Former Cwm Colliery and Coking Works, Beddau					
SA Objective		Nature of the sustainability effect of policy (including magnitude, timing, duration and reversibility of effects where known).	Assessment	Evidence and reference	Suggested mitigation and enhancement measures (<i>those in italics are already proposed in the Plan</i>)
3	Communities Promote integrated communities, with opportunities for living, working and socialising for all	Development in the Principal Town would make a positive contribution to social inclusion. The site is large enough to provide contributions to improve existing facilities and will provide a new primary school and open space. A local centre is proposed to ensure access for day to day needs.	LG		
4	Health Provide an environment that encourages a healthy and safe lifestyle and promotes well-being	The proposed development is located close to recreation space and has good pedestrian links and encourages walking.	LG		
5	Economy Provide for a sustainable economy	Development of the site will have a benefit for the economy of the settlement. The proposed employment use, local retail centre, and new primary school will create local employment opportunities.	LG		
6	Employment Provide for a diverse range of job opportunities	The development of the site will contribute to the creation of employment opportunities in the settlement. The proposed employment	LG		

Policy SSA 7 – Former Cwm Colliery and Coking Works, Beddau				
SA Objective	Nature of the sustainability effect of policy (including magnitude, timing, duration and reversibility of effects where known).	Assessment	Evidence and reference	Suggested mitigation and enhancement measures (<i>those in italics are already proposed in the Plan</i>)
	use, local retail centre and new primary school will create local employment. Positive cumulative impact as the site is developed.			
7	Transport Reduce the need to travel and promote more sustainable modes of transport	Development in this location will positively promote the use of sustainable public transport. The site is well related to the proposed Tynant Park and ride terminus of the proposed Beddau - Pontyclun railway. Long term positive impact.	LG	
8	Built Environment Provide a high quality built environment that promotes community pride	The removal of the most of the coking works structures will improve the existing built environment. Potential for long term positive impact which will have indirect synergistic impacts for the local economy.	DG	
9	Landscape Improve, protect and enhance the countryside	Development would enhance, improve, and protect the existing landscape.	DG	
10	Biodiversity Protect and enhance the diversity and	It is proposed to reuse the lagoons for habitat creation which will have a positive impact. Alternatively, the site and structures may have become	L C	Mitigation should be possible for any habitats established on the redundant site.

Policy SSA 7 – Former Cwm Colliery and Coking Works, Beddau					
SA Objective		Nature of the sustainability effect of policy (including magnitude, timing, duration and reversibility of effects where known).	Assessment	Evidence and reference	Suggested mitigation and enhancement measures (<i>those in italics are already proposed in the Plan</i>)
	abundance of wildlife habitats and native species	habitats and should be assessed before any works commences to avoid adverse impact.			
11	Water Promote sustainable water management including promoting use of sustainable drainage systems	A minor part of the site is located in a C2 flood risk zone. As on all sites the use of water management techniques and SUDs will be encouraged.	Y		The site must be carefully designed to ensure that residential development is not built on parts of the site liable to flood and that development does not decrease the sites capacity for floodwater.
12	Climate Change Manage the effects of climate change	See comments under transport, energy and water	L (Y		
13	Energy Increase the supply of renewable energy and reduce energy consumption	The former industrial use of the site and retention of the cooling towers may facilitate the introduction of wind turbines to serve the development.	LG		
14	Land and Soils Promote efficient use of land and soils	Development is located on brown field land in or adjacent to a Principal Town.. The site will result in the reclamation of a significant brownfield site.	DG		Development located within or which supports a Principal Town or Key Settlement will promote sustainable design and reduce the need to travel for work, leisure, and services.
15	Waste	All new development will be subject to	LG		

Policy SSA 7 – Former Cwm Colliery and Coking Works, Beddau				
SA Objective	Nature of the sustainability effect of policy (including magnitude, timing, duration and reversibility of effects where known).	Assessment	Evidence and reference	Suggested mitigation and enhancement measures (<i>those in italics are already proposed in the Plan</i>)
Minimise waste, especially waste to landfill	the requirement to meet BREEAM excellent standard or equivalent. A requirement of this standard is the provision of internal and external recycling facilities. Waste management plans will be expected for the larger sites. There will be an inevitable cumulative increase in the production of waste but this must be considered within the national framework with requires this level of development but it will be managed in accordance with the waste hierarchy.			
16 Minerals Promote efficient and appropriate use of minerals	Site is within or close to the settlement and would not be suitable for extraction.	B		
<p>Summary: Generally the site effectively progresses key sustainability objectives and should have positive economic and social effects in a location with good public transport links which are proposed for further improvement. The landscape should also see improvement through development and the cultural aspects of the site will be retained by keeping the significant industrial features. The appraisal has highlighted a key issue - over part of the site being in a flood zone, which is counter to RCT's sustainability indicators. There is potential for mitigation which must be effective and developed in conjunction with the Environment Agency Wales and the masterplan for the site must produce a Flood Risk Assessment to demonstrate how mitigation will occur and that it will be effective.</p>				

Policy SSA 8 - Mwyndy/Talbot Green Area

In accordance with policy CS 3 land is allocated at Mwyndy/Talbot Green Area for the construction of 8500 dwellings, 32 hectares of employment, 23,200m² new retail floorspace, 10,000m² of leisure floorspace, a primary school, library / community facility and informal amenity space in a landscape setting.

Policy SSA 8 - Mwyndy/Talbot Green Area

SA Objective	Nature of the sustainability effect of policy (including magnitude, timing, duration and reversibility of effects where known).	Assessment	Evidence and reference	Suggested mitigation and enhancement measures (<i>those in italics are already proposed in the Plan</i>)
1	Housing Provide for the overall housing requirement through a mix of dwelling types catering for all needs to promote integrated and thriving communities	DG	It is necessary to increase build rates to achieve the projected housing requirement. (WAG Household Projections for Wales 2006)	
2	Culture and Heritage Promote, protect and enhance the Culture and Heritage	LG		

Policy SSA 8 - Mwyndy/Talbot Green Area				
SA Objective	Nature of the sustainability effect of policy (including magnitude, timing, duration and reversibility of effects where known).	Assessment	Evidence and reference	Suggested mitigation and enhancement measures (<i>those in italics are already proposed in the Plan</i>)
	including landscape, archaeology and language			
3	Communities Promote integrated communities, with opportunities for living, working and socialising for all	LG		
4	Health Provide an environment that encourages a healthy and safe lifestyle and promotes well-being	LG		
5	Economy Provide for a sustainable	LG		

Policy SSA 8 - Mwyndy/Talbot Green Area				
SA Objective	Nature of the sustainability effect of policy (including magnitude, timing, duration and reversibility of effects where known).	Assessment	Evidence and reference	Suggested mitigation and enhancement measures (<i>those in italics are already proposed in the Plan</i>)
economy	employment use, local retail centre, and new primary school will create local employment opportunities.			
6	Employment Provide for a diverse range of job opportunities	LG		
7	Transport Reduce the need to travel and promote more sustainable modes of transport	LG		
8	Built Environment Provide a high quality built environment that promotes community pride	LG		

Policy SSA 8 - Mwyndy/Talbot Green Area					
SA Objective	Nature of the sustainability effect of policy (including magnitude, timing, duration and reversibility of effects where known).	Assessment	Evidence and reference	Suggested mitigation and enhancement measures (<i>those in italics are already proposed in the Plan</i>)	
9	Landscape Improve, protect and enhance the countryside	The site is contained by development on three sides and potential for adverse landscape impact appears to be minimal on the western side of the site. The proposed employment site to the east will have the most impact being open to the countryside. Impact will be dependant on implementation.	?		
10	Biodiversity Protect and enhance the diversity and abundance of wildlife habitats and native species	There are a number of SINCS on the site, and development of the site will actively damage biodiversity. Improved management of other areas of biodiversity to the east of the site is proposed in mitigation but still significant potential for adverse and irreversible impact.	Y		Studies should be undertaken to ascertain that acceptable mitigation is possible or that the overall benefit outweighs the biodiversity damage.
11	Water Promote sustainable water management including promoting use of sustainable drainage systems	Part of the site is located in a C2 flood risk area. The retail and leisure element of the site only is located within the flood risk zone. Impact will be dependant on implementation.	Y ?		The issue of the cumulative impact of development in the flood risk zone is raised in the core strategy assessment.
12	Climate Change Manage the effects of climate change	Potential positive effect for climate change through the reduction of vehicle trips. Uncertain outcome with regard to	L ? C		

Policy SSA 8 - Mwyndy/Talbot Green Area				
SA Objective	Nature of the sustainability effect of policy (including magnitude, timing, duration and reversibility of effects where known).	Assessment	Evidence and reference	Suggested mitigation and enhancement measures (<i>those in italics are already proposed in the Plan</i>)
	water issues.			
13	Energy Increase the supply of renewable energy and reduce energy consumption	LG		
14	Land and Soils Promote efficient use of land and soils	LG		
15	Waste Minimise waste, especially waste to landfill	LG		

Policy SSA 8 - Mwyndy/Talbot Green Area				
SA Objective	Nature of the sustainability effect of policy (including magnitude, timing, duration and reversibility of effects where known).	Assessment	Evidence and reference	Suggested mitigation and enhancement measures (<i>those in italics are already proposed in the Plan</i>)
16 Minerals Promote efficient and appropriate use of minerals	Development would impact upon future extraction of mineral reserves.	Y C		Extraction of the resource may be acceptable before any development if there were an overriding national need.
<p>Summary: The appraisal identified that this policy provides strong progression against housing, communities, health and economy objectives and there are clear opportunities to progress sustainable design objectives. The policy also has the potential to improve the existing settlement in terms of built environment, reduction of transport movements and employment opportunities. However, the appraisal has highlighted that the area is of significant nature conservation importance and that development without strong and effective mitigation will result in adverse impacts and potentially irreversible damage to parts of the site and this issues must be carefully addressed against the other identified benefits. Additionally, the appraisal identified potential negative cumulative impacts arising from development in flood risk areas which must be considered holistically in relation to wider development within the Borough.</p>				

Policy SSA 9 - Former OCC Site Llanilid, Llanharan

In accordance with policy CS3 land is allocated at the Former OCC Site Llanilid, Llanharan for the construction of 1700 dwellings, 2000m2 retail floorspace, a medical centre, library / community facility, a new primary school and associated public open space. Development on the strategic site will be subject to a large-scale reclamation scheme. Access to the site will be provided by the construction of the Llanharan Bypass as defined policy SSA 18.

Policy SSA 9 - Former OCC Site Llanilid, Llanharan

SA Objective	Nature of the sustainability effect of policy (including magnitude, timing, duration and reversibility of effects where known).	Assessment	Evidence and reference	Suggested mitigation and enhancement measures (<i>those in italics are already proposed in the Plan</i>)
1 Housing Provide for the overall housing requirement through a mix of dwelling types catering for all needs to promote integrated and thriving communities	The clarity for developers and development management staff provided by local plan allocations should assist the provision of housing, (both market and affordable on the larger sites) at the required build rates over the plan period. Positive impact.	DG	It is necessary to increase build rates to achieve the projected housing requirement. (WAG Household Projections for Wales 2006)	
2 Culture and Heritage Promote, protect and enhance the Culture and Heritage	No adverse impact predicted and development of the site will provide a Welsh language school and a library for the area.	LG		

Policy SSA 9 - Former OCC Site Llanilid, Llanharan				
SA Objective	Nature of the sustainability effect of policy (including magnitude, timing, duration and reversibility of effects where known).	Assessment	Evidence and reference	Suggested mitigation and enhancement measures (<i>those in italics are already proposed in the Plan</i>)
	including landscape, archaeology and language			
3	Communities Promote integrated communities, with opportunities for living, working and socialising for all	A significant package of community facilities is proposed to serve the development. Positive impact.	LG	
4	Health Provide an environment that encourages a healthy and safe lifestyle and promotes well-being	The development is located in a good air quality zone and is located close to a healthcare facility. The development proposes the creation of a new medical centre.	LG	
5	Economy Provide for a sustainable economy	The proposal builds on an economic "niche" that has developed in the locality, namely the film studios. Planning permission also exists for significant leisure and tourism development. The site is in a strategic location with a motorway junction, new roundabout on the A473 adjacent to the site. The proposal in combination with the extant planning	LG	

Policy SSA 9 - Former OCC Site Llanilid, Llanharan				
SA Objective	Nature of the sustainability effect of policy (including magnitude, timing, duration and reversibility of effects where known).	Assessment	Evidence and reference	Suggested mitigation and enhancement measures (<i>those in italics are already proposed in the Plan</i>)
	permissions comprise a significant opportunity to have a major impact on the economy.			
6	Employment Provide for a diverse range of job opportunities	LG		
7	Transport Reduce the need to travel and promote more sustainable modes of transport	LG		
8	Built Environment Provide a high quality built environment that promotes community pride	B		
9	Landscape Improve, protect and enhance the countryside	E L C		
10	Biodiversity There are a number of SINCS on the	Y		Studies should be undertaken to

Policy SSA 9 - Former OCC Site Llanilid, Llanharan				
SA Objective	Nature of the sustainability effect of policy (including magnitude, timing, duration and reversibility of effects where known).	Assessment	Evidence and reference	Suggested mitigation and enhancement measures (<i>those in italics are already proposed in the Plan</i>)
	Protect and enhance the diversity and abundance of wildlife habitats and native species	strategic site. Adverse impact predicted unless mitigation measures acceptable.		ascertain that acceptable mitigation is possible or that the overall benefit outweighs the biodiversity damage.
11	Water Promote sustainable water management including promoting use of sustainable drainage systems	Development is not located in a flood zone and would protect and enhance the water environment. The employment element of the site is subject to a very minor flood risk.	B	Mitigation measures appear to be acceptable.
12	Climate Change Manage the effects of climate change	Overall reductions in car generated carbon emissions could be expected due to the potential decrease in shopping and work related journeys. No impact on the water environment.	LG	
13	Energy Increase the supply of renewable energy and reduce energy consumption	The site is large to enough to consider community energy production through wind turbines of combined heat and power systems. Potential for positive outcome.	LG	
14	Land and Soils Promote efficient use of land and soils	No significant impact.	B	

Policy SSA 9 - Former OCC Site Llanilid, Llanharan					
SA Objective		Nature of the sustainability effect of policy (including magnitude, timing, duration and reversibility of effects where known).	Assessment	Evidence and reference	Suggested mitigation and enhancement measures (<i>those in italics are already proposed in the Plan</i>)
15	Waste Minimise waste, especially waste to landfill	All new development will be subject to the requirement to meet BREEAM excellent standard or equivalent. A requirement of this standard is the provision of internal and external recycling facilities. Waste management plans will be expected for the larger sites. There will be an inevitable cumulative increase in the production of waste but this must be considered within the national framework with requires this level of development but it will be managed in accordance with the waste hierarchy.	LG		
16	Minerals Promote efficient and appropriate use of minerals	No significant impact.	B		
<p>Summary:</p> <p>The appraisal notes that the proposal has the potential to bring significant economic and social gains to the area through building on established economic opportunities. Development at the site has the potential to have significant, adverse impacts on local biodiversity designations and more detailed studies will be required to determine the nature of the impact and whether there are acceptable mitigation measures. This work should inform decisions on the nature and extent of development.</p>					

Policy SSA 10 - Housing Allocations

In accordance with policy CS 4 land is allocated in the Southern Strategy Area for residential development on non strategic sites in the following locations:

Site	Dwellings
1. Trane Farm, Tonyrefail	700
2. Collenna Farm, Tonyrefail	25
3. Collenna Farm, Tonyrefail	50
4. Site of the former Hillside Club, Tonyrefail	40
5. Land South of Brynna Road, Brynna	200
6. Land at Dolau East of primary school, Llanharan	125
7. West of Llechau, Llanharry	150
8. Penygawsi, Llantrisant	40
9. Land South of Brynteg Court, Beddau	150
10. WPD depot Station Road, Church Village	100
11. The Link Site (Meadow Farm), Church Village	160
12. Land South of the Ridings	500
13. Glyntaff Farm, Rhydfelin	80
14. Gelliwion Reclamation, Pontypridd	40

Policy SSA 10 - Housing Allocations					
SA Objective		Nature of the sustainability effect of policy (including magnitude, timing, duration and reversibility of effects where known).	Assessment	Evidence and reference	Suggested mitigation and enhancement measures (<i>those in italics are already proposed in the Plan</i>)
1	Housing Provide for the overall housing requirement through a mix of dwelling types catering for all needs to promote integrated and thriving communities	The clarity for developers and development management staff provided by local plan allocations should assist the provision of housing, (both market and affordable on the larger sites) at the required build rates over the plan period. Positive impact.	DG	It is necessary to increase build rates to achieve the projected housing requirement. (WAG Household Projections for Wales 2006)	
2	Culture and Heritage Promote, protect and enhance the Culture and Heritage including landscape, archaeology and language	The sites have been subject to detailed assessment and there is no predicted adverse impact on the historic landscape or built environment.	B		
3	Communities Promote integrated communities, with opportunities for living, working and socialising for all	A wide range of site size is proposed from 25 to 700 units. The size of the site should be proportionate to the settlement adjacent, or in, which the site is proposed and care must be taken that community facilities are not overwhelmed or over stretched by new development. Of particular concern are	Y ?		An audit of community facilities should highlight the areas on which facilities are deficient and this can be rectified through appropriate planning contributions.

Policy SSA 10 - Housing Allocations				
SA Objective	Nature of the sustainability effect of policy (including magnitude, timing, duration and reversibility of effects where known).	Assessment	Evidence and reference	Suggested mitigation and enhancement measures (<i>those in italics are already proposed in the Plan</i>)
	<p>the sites at Trane Farm (700) and South of the Ridings (500) which although not categorised as strategic as they are under the 50 ha threshold, are significant allocations in their context. It is appreciated that a new school is proposed in Tonyrefail as part of the site but this does leave the issue of other facilities.</p> <p>Further work on the ability of existing facilities to sustain these levels of development should be carried out to inform the required levels of planning contribution if existing facilities are not sufficient. Otherwise there is potential for adverse impacts will be long term and difficult to rectify once the development has been completed.</p>			
4	<p>Health Provide an environment that encourages a healthy and safe lifestyle and promotes well-being</p>	<p>Provision of, and access to, open space has been given consideration in making the allocations and some are large enough to encompass allotment provision. Generally, NFPA standards will be applied.</p>	LG	

Policy SSA 10 - Housing Allocations				
SA Objective	Nature of the sustainability effect of policy (including magnitude, timing, duration and reversibility of effects where known).	Assessment	Evidence and reference	Suggested mitigation and enhancement measures (<i>those in italics are already proposed in the Plan</i>)
5	Economy Provide for a sustainable economy	A considerable amount of out commuting takes place to Cardiff for employment and provision of this level of housing may facilitate further commuting to the benefit of the regional economy rather than the local economy. However if the housing is not located in RCT the County Borough will lose the peripheral benefits associated with its' relationship with Cardiff. Impact hard to predict,	?	
6	Employment Provide for a diverse range of job opportunities	The provision	LG	
7	Transport Reduce the need to travel and promote more sustainable modes of transport	The appraisal of the majority of sites indicates that there are community facilities within walking distance and access to public transport. Only one site raises issues of poor access to public transport and this is the site in Pontypridd (13.) There will be an inevitable cumulative increase in the use of cars but this must be considered within the national framework with requires this	LG	Possible reconsideration of site 13 ?

Policy SSA 10 - Housing Allocations				
SA Objective	Nature of the sustainability effect of policy (including magnitude, timing, duration and reversibility of effects where known).	Assessment	Evidence and reference	Suggested mitigation and enhancement measures (<i>those in italics are already proposed in the Plan</i>)
	level of development and the most sustainable sites have generally been chosen.			
8	Built Environment Provide a high quality built environment that promotes community pride	LG		
9	Landscape Improve, protect and enhance the countryside	B		Landscaping must be an integral and important part of the site design.
10	Biodiversity Protect and enhance the diversity and abundance of wildlife habitats and native species	Y		Ecological surveys should be undertaken and mitigation strategies in place prior to allocations being included.
11	Water Promote sustainable	E Y		A full flood risk assessment on the south of Ridings site should be

Policy SSA 10 - Housing Allocations					
SA Objective		Nature of the sustainability effect of policy (including magnitude, timing, duration and reversibility of effects where known).	Assessment	Evidence and reference	Suggested mitigation and enhancement measures (<i>those in italics are already proposed in the Plan</i>)
	water management including promoting use of sustainable drainage systems	does appear to be a flood risk issue connected with the site South of the Ridings which is of a significant scale (500 dwellings). The southern strategy area does not suffer from the same foul drainage issues as the northern area. No predicted adverse impact.			carried out before the site is allocated.
12	Climate Change Manage the effects of climate change	Most sites are allocated in locations with good access to facilities and public transport. See also further comments under transport.	LG		Possible reconsideration of site 13 and FRA for site above.
13	Energy Increase the supply of renewable energy and reduce energy consumption	Sites will be required to supply a percentage of electricity from renewables and all new development will be subject to the requirement to meet BREEAM excellent standard or equivalent.	LG		
14	Land and Soils Promote efficient use of land and soils	Where possible allocations have been made on previously developed land. There is little land of high agricultural value in RCT and none of this BMV land has been allocated. No adverse impact.	LG		
15	Waste Minimise waste, especially waste to	All new development will be subject to the requirement to meet BREEAM excellent standard or equivalent. A	LG		

Policy SSA 10 - Housing Allocations					
SA Objective		Nature of the sustainability effect of policy (including magnitude, timing, duration and reversibility of effects where known).	Assessment	Evidence and reference	Suggested mitigation and enhancement measures (<i>those in italics are already proposed in the Plan</i>)
	landfill	requirement of this standard is the provision of internal and external recycling facilities. Waste management plans will be expected for the larger sites. There will be an inevitable cumulative increase in the production of waste but this must be considered within the national framework with requires this level of development but it will be managed in accordance with the waste hierarchy.			
16	Minerals Promote efficient and appropriate use of minerals	There will be an inevitable increase in mineral use but the requirement for BREEAM standards will increase the use of materials from sustainable sources. Mineral sources and reserves are protected from sterilisation and these allocations are made in accordance with that policy.	LG		
<p>Summary</p> <p>In general the sites perform well against the sustainability framework objectives and provide for progression in a number of the key areas identified by the scoping process. The potential for adverse impacts, and effects that will run counter to aims of the SA Framework have been identified, particular issues are noted in relation to:</p>					

Policy SSA 10 - Housing Allocations				
SA Objective	Nature of the sustainability effect of policy (including magnitude, timing, duration and reversibility of effects where known).	Assessment	Evidence and reference	Suggested mitigation and enhancement measures (<i>those in italics are already proposed in the Plan</i>)
				<p>5. The appraisal has noted the potential for adverse impacts given the scale of development proposed at Trane Farm, Tonyrefial and South of the Ridings and further work on the ability of existing facilities to sustain these levels of development should be carried out to inform the required levels of planning contribution if existing facilities are not sufficient.</p> <p>6. The site at Collenna Farm appears to incorporate a SSSI and the site South of the Ridings incorporates part of a SINC and it is recommended that ecological surveys should be undertaken and mitigation strategies in place prior to allocations being finalised. The potential for adverse impacts on biodiversity objectives must be noted until these issues are addressed.</p> <p>7. The appraisal notes flood risk issues connected with the site South of the Ridings which is of a significant scale (500 dwellings) and it is recommended that a full flood risk assessment on the south of Ridings site should be carried out before the site is allocated. Potential for significant adverse effects on SA objectives for water.</p> <p>8. The appraisal highlighted issues of poor access to public transport at the site in Pontypridd (13.) and recommends a reconsideration of this site taking these issues in to account.</p>

Policy SSA 11 – Housing Density

Proposals for residential development will be permitted where the net residential density level is a minimum of 35 dwellings per hectare. Variation in density levels may be permitted where it can be demonstrated that the proposed development:

1. Does not adversely effect the character of the site or surrounding area;
2. Makes efficient use of the site, and
3. Has regard to the amenity of existing and future residents.

Policy SSA 11 – Housing Density				
SA Objective	Nature of the sustainability effect of policy (including magnitude, timing, duration and reversibility of effects where known).	Assessment	Evidence and reference	Suggested mitigation and enhancement measures (<i>those in italics are already proposed in the Plan</i>)
1 Housing Provide for the overall housing requirement through a mix of dwelling types catering for all needs to promote integrated and thriving communities	This density reflects the different needs of the southern and northern strategy areas. The southern area has a lot of estate development at approx 20 dph. The policy seeks development at a minimum of 35dph which will result in a significant amount of affordable housing being brought forward. Positive and cumulative positive impact but which could be improved by more encouragement for higher densities where appropriate. Cumulative effects as the allocated sites are built out.	DG	RCT CBC Local Housing Strategy 2007 indicates a need for 870 units per annum over the next five years. 4,000 empty properties in RCT. Housing Matter – a Local Housing Strategy fro RCT 2007-12 In the current economic climate parts of South Wales has experienced significant price drops and low priced property is easily found. (The	Higher density levels could be more positively sought in urban areas to encourage lower land take and provide a greater mix of dwelling types. .The supporting text does not explain the mechanism for improving existing older housing stock.

Policy SSA 11 – Housing Density					
SA Objective		Nature of the sustainability effect of policy (including magnitude, timing, duration and reversibility of effects where known).	Assessment	Evidence and reference	Suggested mitigation and enhancement measures (<i>those in italics are already proposed in the Plan</i>)
				Guardian 25.11.08) However this does not assist those seeking secure low cost accommodation for rent.	
2	Culture and Heritage Promote, protect and enhance the Culture and Heritage including landscape, archaeology and language	Higher densities require less land take and are therefore less likely to impinge on designated areas.	LG		As above
3	Communities Promote integrated communities, with opportunities for living, working and socialising for all	A minimum of 35 dph gives the potential to provide a greater number of dwellings in locations which already have good access to facilities.	LG		Higher densities should be sought in locations with good transport links and access to facilities.
4	Health Provide an environment that encourages a healthy and safe lifestyle and promotes well-being	Development at this density still gives opportunities to provide adequate private and public space in new developments, meeting one of the aims of this objective.	LG		
5	Economy		LG		

Policy SSA 11 – Housing Density					
SA Objective		Nature of the sustainability effect of policy (including magnitude, timing, duration and reversibility of effects where known).	Assessment	Evidence and reference	Suggested mitigation and enhancement measures (<i>those in italics are already proposed in the Plan</i>)
	Provide for a sustainable economy				
6	Employment Provide for a diverse range of job opportunities	For the reasons above, may not help to retain younger people in the Borough.	LG	?	
7	Transport Reduce the need to travel and promote more sustainable modes of transport	Higher densities should be sought in locations with good public transport and walking and cycling routes to maximise the existing benefits. This policy could undermine this objective and result in negative impacts.	Y		Higher densities should be sought in locations with good transport links and access to facilities. Inclusion of this in the policy could improve the performance to LG.
8	Built Environment Provide a high quality built environment that promotes community pride	Good design can be produced whatever the density.	LG		
9	Landscape Improve, protect and enhance the countryside	Higher densities require less land take and are therefore less likely to impinge on designated areas. This density does not support this objective.	Y		
10	Biodiversity Protect and	Higher densities require less land take and are therefore less likely to impinge	Y		

Policy SSA 11 – Housing Density				
SA Objective	Nature of the sustainability effect of policy (including magnitude, timing, duration and reversibility of effects where known).	Assessment	Evidence and reference	Suggested mitigation and enhancement measures (<i>those in italics are already proposed in the Plan</i>)
	enhance the diversity and abundance of wildlife habitats and native species	on designated areas. This density does not support this objective.		
11	Water Promote sustainable water management including promoting use of sustainable drainage systems	Density levels do not affect overall water issues but can provide circumstances where it is more viable to include water management techniques. However lower densities do produce less demand and waste per hectare.	B	
12	Climate Change Manage the effects of climate change	Higher densities should be sought in locations with good public transport and walking and cycling routes to maximise the existing benefits thereby reducing carbon emissions. Higher density developments (flats, terraces) can be more energy efficient than detached or semi detached units. This policy does not support this objective.	Y	Higher densities should be sought in locations with good transport links and access to facilities. Inclusion of this in the policy could improve the performance to LG.
13	Energy Increase the supply of renewable energy and reduce energy consumption	Higher density developments i.e. flats, terraces, can be more energy efficient than detached or semi detached units.	Y	

Policy SSA 11 – Housing Density					
SA Objective		Nature of the sustainability effect of policy (including magnitude, timing, duration and reversibility of effects where known).	Assessment	Evidence and reference	Suggested mitigation and enhancement measures (<i>those in italics are already proposed in the Plan</i>)
14	Land and Soils Promote efficient use of land and soils	Lower densities, and in modern urban terms 35 dph is low, require more land take so there is more scope for an irreversible, long term adverse impact.	Y		
15	Waste Minimise waste, especially waste to landfill	No significant impact.	B		
16	Minerals Promote efficient and appropriate use of minerals	No significant impact	B		
<p>Summary: The appraisal demonstrates that this policy has the capacity to deliver and that the socio-economic impacts of development are positive and will improve the situation in the long term. However, it is strongly recommended that there is greater emphasis on higher densities in appropriate locations. This approach would limit identified [negative] impacts on landscape, soils and biodiversity and improve the performance of the policy in progressing SA objectives for energy, affordable housing provision and transport.</p>					

Policy SSA 12 – Affordable Housing

The provision of 40% affordable housing will be sought on sites of 30 units or more. On sites under 30 units contributions will be sought for the reuse / rehabilitation of existing older housing stock in the County Borough

Policy SSA 12 – Affordable Housing

SA Objective		Nature of the sustainability effect of policy (including magnitude, timing, duration and reversibility of effects where known).	Assessment	Evidence and reference	Suggested mitigation and enhancement measures (<i>those in italics are already proposed in the Plan</i>)
1	Housing Provide for the overall housing requirement through a mix of dwelling types catering for all needs to promote integrated and thriving communities	The percentage of affordable housing sought compared to that sought in the northern strategy emphasises the difference between the two strategy areas. As part of the overall southern area strategy this policy should have a long term and cumulative positive impact through providing a mix of housing types and tenures.	DG	RCT CBC Local Housing Strategy 2007 indicates a need for 870 units per annum over the next five years. This will require the completion of sites amounting to 3,500 dwellings in the five year period. 4,000 empty properties in RCT. Housing Matter – a Local Housing Strategy for RCT 2007-12 3000 affordable homes required during plan period.	
2	Culture and Heritage	As the affordable housing will be part of	B	RCT contains significant area	

Policy SSA 12 – Affordable Housing					
SA Objective		Nature of the sustainability effect of policy (including magnitude, timing, duration and reversibility of effects where known).	Assessment	Evidence and reference	Suggested mitigation and enhancement measures (<i>those in italics are already proposed in the Plan</i>)
	Promote, protect and enhance the Culture and Heritage including landscape, archaeology and language	the allocations there will be no additional impact. (The allocated sites have been subject to the STA site selection process,).		of important historic landscape. Ref: CADW Historic Landscapes.	
3	Communities Promote integrated communities, with opportunities for living, working and socialising for all	The allocated sites, of which the affordable housing will be part, are in suitable locations with access to public transport and community facilities. This is particularly important for those on lower incomes and this policy will have a positive and cumulative beneficial effect.	DG		
4	Health Provide an environment that encourages a healthy and safe lifestyle and promotes well-being	The allocated sites, of which the affordable housing will be part, are in suitable locations with access to public transport and community facilities. This is particularly important for those on lower incomes and this policy will have a positive and cumulative beneficial effect.	DG	There is a disparity in health and levels of deprivation across the district. SA/SEA Baseline.	
5	Economy Provide for a	The affordable housing should assist in retaining young people and young	LG		

Policy SSA 12 – Affordable Housing				
SA Objective	Nature of the sustainability effect of policy (including magnitude, timing, duration and reversibility of effects where known).	Assessment	Evidence and reference	Suggested mitigation and enhancement measures (<i>those in italics are already proposed in the Plan</i>)
	sustainable economy	families in the area. This will provide a more flexible workforce to support the economy.		
6	Employment Provide for a diverse range of job opportunities	As above	LG	
7	Transport Reduce the need to travel and promote more sustainable modes of transport	The allocated sites, of which the affordable housing will be part, are in suitable locations with access to public transport and community facilities. As the affordable housing will be part of the allocations there will be no additional impact. (The allocated sites have been subject to the STA site selection process,).	LG	Rural sites should be kept to the minimum required to reduce use of the car.
8	Built Environment Provide a high quality built environment that promotes community pride	As the affordable housing will be part of the allocations there will be no additional impact. (The allocated sites have been subject to the STA site selection process,).	B	
9	Landscape Improve, protect	As the affordable housing will be part of the allocations there will be no	B	RCT contains significant areas of important historic

Policy SSA 12 – Affordable Housing				
SA Objective	Nature of the sustainability effect of policy (including magnitude, timing, duration and reversibility of effects where known).	Assessment	Evidence and reference	Suggested mitigation and enhancement measures (<i>those in italics are already proposed in the Plan</i>)
	and enhance the countryside		landscape and 20 identified SLAs. Ref: CADW Historic Landscapes.	
10	Biodiversity Protect and enhance the diversity and abundance of wildlife habitats and native species	B	RCT contains 2 SACs, 14 SSSIs and 32 key Countryside Sites. CCW.	
11	Water Promote sustainable water management including promoting use of sustainable drainage systems	B		
12	Climate Change Manage the effects of climate change	B		
13	Energy Increase the supply	B		

Policy SSA 12 – Affordable Housing				
SA Objective	Nature of the sustainability effect of policy (including magnitude, timing, duration and reversibility of effects where known).	Assessment	Evidence and reference	Suggested mitigation and enhancement measures (<i>those in italics are already proposed in the Plan</i>)
	of renewable energy and reduce energy consumption			
14	Land and Soils Promote efficient use of land and soils	B	4,000 empty properties in RCT. Housing Matter – a Local Housing Strategy fro RCT 2007-12	All sites have been subjected to the STA methodology which will have considered all SA framework objectives.
15	Waste Minimise waste, especially waste to landfill	B	RCT has shown a relative decrease in municipal waste generated compared to adjacent Boroughs. Strategic Planning Guidance for South East Wales.	
16	Minerals Promote efficient and appropriate use of minerals	B	4,000 empty properties in RCT. Housing Matter – a Local Housing Strategy for RCT 2007-12	
Summary:				
As the affordable housing will generally be part of allocated sites which have been subject to the candidate site selection methodology, incorporating sustainability objectives, there be no specific environmental impact from the inclusion of affordable housing that will not have been addressed as part of the site selection method. The appraisal highlights a very positive impact on the provision of housing to meet the				

Policy SSA 12 – Affordable Housing				
SA Objective	Nature of the sustainability effect of policy (including magnitude, timing, duration and reversibility of effects where known).	Assessment	Evidence and reference	Suggested mitigation and enhancement measures (<i>those in italics are already proposed in the Plan</i>)
needs of those who cannot enter the private market for either sale or rent, which has the potential to result in long term and cumulative positive effects for local communities.				

Policy SSA 13 – Housing Development Within Settlement Boundaries				
<p>Development will be permitted within the defined settlement boundaries where it can be demonstrated that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8. The proposed development does not adversely effect the provision of open space; 9. The proposed development is accessible to local services by a range of modes of transport, on foot or by cycle; 10. The proposed development does not adversely effect the provision of car parking in the surrounding area; 11. The site is not contaminated or subject to land instability; 				

Policy SSA 13 – Housing Development Within Settlement Boundaries					
SA Objective		Nature of the sustainability effect of policy (including magnitude, timing, duration and reversibility of effects where known).	Assessment	Evidence and reference	Suggested mitigation and enhancement measures (<i>those in italics are already proposed in the Plan</i>)
1	Housing Provide for the overall housing requirement through a mix of dwelling types catering for all needs to promote integrated and thriving communities	Windfall sites are an important contribution to meeting the overall housing requirement. Positive impact.	DG		
2	Culture and Heritage Promote, protect and enhance the Culture and Heritage including landscape, archaeology and language	The policy does not mention design but this is controlled by other policies.	B		
3	Communities Promote integrated communities, with opportunities for living, working and socialising for all	The policy allows what will inevitably small scale development in settlements which are considered suitable for further development. No adverse impact.	LG		
4	Health Provide an	The policy allows what will inevitably small scale development in settlements	LG		

Policy SSA 13 – Housing Development Within Settlement Boundaries				
SA Objective	Nature of the sustainability effect of policy (including magnitude, timing, duration and reversibility of effects where known).	Assessment	Evidence and reference	Suggested mitigation and enhancement measures (<i>those in italics are already proposed in the Plan</i>)
	environment that encourages a healthy and safe lifestyle and promotes well-being	which are considered suitable for further development and have adequate health and education facilities. No adverse impact.		
5	Economy Provide for a sustainable economy	No significant or direct impact.	B	
6	Employment Provide for a diverse range of job opportunities	No significant impact.	B	
7	Transport Reduce the need to travel and promote more sustainable modes of transport	There should be no adverse impact as the settlements have been acknowledged as suitable for further development subject to locational criteria. This is denoted by them having settlement boundaries. Criterion 2 seeks accessibility by modes other than the car and criterion 3 will not allow reduction in existing parking. It is assumed that the latter is to prevent problems from displacement parking.	LG	

Policy SSA 13 – Housing Development Within Settlement Boundaries					
SA Objective		Nature of the sustainability effect of policy (including magnitude, timing, duration and reversibility of effects where known).	Assessment	Evidence and reference	Suggested mitigation and enhancement measures (<i>those in italics are already proposed in the Plan</i>)
8	Built Environment Provide a high quality built environment that promotes community pride	The policy does not mention design but this is controlled by other policies.	B		
9	Landscape Improve, protect and enhance the countryside	Part of the reason for drawing settlement boundaries is to prevent erosion of the landscape value around settlements. Containing development will protect the landscape.	LG		
10	Biodiversity Protect and enhance the diversity and abundance of wildlife habitats and native species	Part of the reason for drawing settlement boundaries is to prevent erosion of the landscape value around settlements. Containing development will protect the landscape and have a synergistic impact on protection of the biodiversity of the countryside. . The policy does not mention design but this is controlled by other policies.	LG		
11	Water Promote sustainable water management including promoting	No significant impact as long as water supply and sewerage capacities are not exceeded.	LG		

Policy SSA 13 – Housing Development Within Settlement Boundaries				
SA Objective	Nature of the sustainability effect of policy (including magnitude, timing, duration and reversibility of effects where known).	Assessment	Evidence and reference	Suggested mitigation and enhancement measures (<i>those in italics are already proposed in the Plan</i>)
	use of sustainable drainage systems			
12	Climate Change Manage the effects of climate change	See comments under transport.	LG	
13	Energy Increase the supply of renewable energy and reduce energy consumption	No significant impact.	B	
14	Land and Soils Promote efficient use of land and soils	Windfall sites and redevelopment of PDL reduce greenfield land take. Positive impact.	LG	
15	Waste Minimise waste, especially waste to landfill	Development within existing settlements will have access to and may provide improvements to existing recycling and composting facilities. Positive impact.	LG	
16	Minerals Promote efficient and appropriate use of minerals	Reuse of existing buildings will have minor long term positive effect.	LG	
Summary:				
The appraisal identifies that this policy performs well against key SA objectives and that this approach will make best use of land and resources and provide a further source of potential housing land. No significant adverse impacts are identified.				

Policy SSA 13 – Housing Development Within Settlement Boundaries				
SA Objective	Nature of the sustainability effect of policy (including magnitude, timing, duration and reversibility of effects where known).	Assessment	Evidence and reference	Suggested mitigation and enhancement measures (<i>those in italics are already proposed in the Plan</i>)
and provide a further source of potential housing land. No significant adverse impacts are identified.				

Policy SSA 14 - Employment Allocations				
In accordance with policy CS 6 land is allocated in the Southern Strategy Area for employment development on non strategic sites in the following locations:-				
	Site	Use	Size	
1.	South of Llantrisant business park	(B1, B2, B8)	4.85	
2.	Coed Ely, Tonyrefail	(B1, B2)	14.32	
3.	Gellihiron South, Rhydfelin	(B2, B8)	1.47h	

Policy SSA 14 - Employment Allocations
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SA Objective	Nature of the sustainability effect of policy (including magnitude, timing, duration and reversibility of effects where known).	Assessment	Evidence and reference	Suggested mitigation and enhancement measures (<i>those in italics are already proposed in the Plan</i>)
1 Housing Provide for the overall housing requirement through a mix of dwelling types catering for all needs to promote integrated and thriving communities	No impact. Sufficient land has been allocated to meet the housing requirement.	B		
2 Culture and Heritage Promote, protect and enhance the Culture and Heritage including landscape, archaeology and language	There should be no adverse impact due to the locations which are already connected with or in employment use.	LG		
3 Communities Promote integrated communities, with opportunities for living, working and socialising for all	The sites are all linked to existing communities or part of strategic sites and will strengthen communities by providing more diverse employment opportunities.	LG		
4 Health Provide an environment that encourages a healthy and safe lifestyle and	No significant impact but employment opportunities are linked to general health,	LG		

Policy SSA 14 - Employment Allocations				
SA Objective	Nature of the sustainability effect of policy (including magnitude, timing, duration and reversibility of effects where known).	Assessment	Evidence and reference	Suggested mitigation and enhancement measures (<i>those in italics are already proposed in the Plan</i>)
	promotes well-being			
5	Economy Provide for a sustainable economy	The policy directly addresses this objective. Certainty of the allocations for specific uses may encourage inward investment.	LG	
6	Employment Provide for a diverse range of job opportunities	The policy allocates land across the southern strategy area for mainly B1 and B2 uses which is moving away from the heavy industrial base of the County Borough. Provision is still made for B8 use in Llantrisant and Rhydfelin. This should help to encourage a diverse range of employment opportunities to be created.	LG	
7	Transport Reduce the need to travel and promote more sustainable modes of transport	As noted above, the sites are allocated in proximity to existing settlements or as part of strategic allocations. This should reduce journey times for employment.	LG	
8	Built Environment Provide a high quality built environment that promotes community pride	No adverse impact as the sites are already in or adjacent to employment uses. There could be potential for improvement as sites are modernised and improved. No impact.	LG	

Policy SSA 14 - Employment Allocations					
SA Objective		Nature of the sustainability effect of policy (including magnitude, timing, duration and reversibility of effects where known).	Assessment	Evidence and reference	Suggested mitigation and enhancement measures (<i>those in italics are already proposed in the Plan</i>)
9	Landscape Improve, protect and enhance the countryside	No adverse impact as the sites are already in employment use. There could be potential for improvement as sites are modernised and improved.	LG		
10	Biodiversity Protect and enhance the diversity and abundance of wildlife habitats and native species	Sites which have become derelict should be surveyed to ensure there is no biodiversity value.	?		
11	Water Promote sustainable water management including promoting use of sustainable drainage systems	Some potential for adverse impact but this will be dependant on the specific use.	?	New development on the sites can be encouraged to employ sustainable water management techniques such as SUDs.	
12	Climate Change Manage the effects of climate change	Transport and water issues will have the most significant impacts,	LG	All industrial estates should be encouraged to have waste management plans.	
13	Energy Increase the supply of renewable energy and reduce energy consumption	No direct impact but with potential for positive impact.	?	Industrial estates can be good locations for CHP and wind turbines to produce on site energy.	

Policy SSA 14 - Employment Allocations				
SA Objective	Nature of the sustainability effect of policy (including magnitude, timing, duration and reversibility of effects where known).	Assessment	Evidence and reference	Suggested mitigation and enhancement measures (<i>those in italics are already proposed in the Plan</i>)
14	Land and Soils Promote efficient use of land and soils	Intensification of use of previously developed land directly addresses this objective. No land of high agricultural classification is involved.	LG	
15	Waste Minimise waste, especially waste to landfill	No direct impact.	B	Industrial estates should be encouraged to produce waste management plans.
16	Minerals Promote efficient and appropriate use of minerals	The plan has policies which protect existing mineral resources. No impact.	B	
<p>Summary:</p> <p>No adverse impacts have been identified and the policy aims to improve and diversify the RCT local economy. Allocation of available and suitable land for employment purposes may encourage inward investment and a more diverse range of job opportunities with positive long term impacts predicted. The sites' location in or near key settlements will encourage reduced reliance on the private vehicle for trips to work with potentially wider benefits for environmental objectives and climate change aims.</p>				

Policy SSA 15 - Retail Allocations

In accordance with policy CS 7 land is allocated in the Southern Strategy Area for retail development at the following locations:

	Site	Floorspace
1.	Land Adjacent To Pontypridd Retail Park, Pontypridd	5,500m ²
2.	Strategic Site 8: Former OCC Site, Llanilid, Llanharan	2,000m ²
3.	Land East Of Mill Street, Tonyrefail	2,000m ²

Policy SSA 15 - Retail Allocations					
SA Objective		Nature of the sustainability effect of policy (including magnitude, timing, duration and reversibility of effects where known).	Assessment	Evidence and reference	Suggested mitigation and enhancement measures (<i>those in italics are already proposed in the Plan</i>)
1	Housing Provide for the overall housing requirement through a mix of dwelling types catering for all needs to promote integrated and thriving communities	No significant impact	B		
2	Culture and Heritage Promote, protect and enhance the Culture and Heritage including landscape, archaeology and language	No significant impact	B		
3	Communities Promote integrated communities, with opportunities for living, working and socialising for all	No significant impact	B		
4	Health Provide an	No significant impact	B		

Policy SSA 15 - Retail Allocations				
SA Objective	Nature of the sustainability effect of policy (including magnitude, timing, duration and reversibility of effects where known).	Assessment	Evidence and reference	Suggested mitigation and enhancement measures (<i>those in italics are already proposed in the Plan</i>)
	environment that encourages a healthy and safe lifestyle and promotes well-being			
5	Economy Provide for a sustainable economy	LG	Retail Assessment RCT 2007 Nathaniel Lichfield & Partners	
6	Employment Provide for a diverse range of job opportunities	LG		
7	Transport Reduce the need to travel and promote more sustainable modes of transport	DG		
8	Built Environment Provide a high quality built environment that promotes community pride	LG		
9	Landscape	LG	Allocation of land in appropriate	

Policy SSA 15 - Retail Allocations				
SA Objective	Nature of the sustainability effect of policy (including magnitude, timing, duration and reversibility of effects where known).	Assessment	Evidence and reference	Suggested mitigation and enhancement measures (<i>those in italics are already proposed in the Plan</i>)
	Improve, protect and enhance the countryside	locations should avoid ad hoc proposals with are inappropriate.		
10	Biodiversity Protect and enhance the diversity and abundance of wildlife habitats and native species	As above as biodiversity and landscape are inter-related.	LG	
11	Water Promote sustainable water management including promoting use of sustainable drainage systems	No significant impact	B	
12	Climate Change Manage the effects of climate change	The most significant impact will be through reduced car use to other retail centres. Positive impact.	DG	
13	Energy Increase the supply of renewable energy and reduce energy consumption	No significant impact	B	
14	Land and Soils	No significant impact	B	

Policy SSA 15 - Retail Allocations					
SA Objective		Nature of the sustainability effect of policy (including magnitude, timing, duration and reversibility of effects where known).	Assessment	Evidence and reference	Suggested mitigation and enhancement measures (<i>those in italics are already proposed in the Plan</i>)
	Promote efficient use of land and soils				
15	Waste Minimise waste, especially waste to landfill	No significant impact	B		
16	Minerals Promote efficient and appropriate use of minerals	No significant impact	B		
<p>Summary: The appraisal demonstrates that the allocation of land for retail use will support the local economy and employment opportunities and discourage proposals on land which is not as suitable. This approach provides for positive long term impacts.</p>					

Policy SSA 16 - The Retail Hierarchy

The hierarchy of retail centres in the Southern Strategy Area is defined as follows:

1. Principal Town Centres: Pontypridd and Llantrisant (Including Talbot Green);
2. Key Settlements: Llanharan and Tonyrefail;
3. Local And Neighbourhood Centres:
Gelli, Maerdy, Pentre (Queens), Penygraig, Ton Pentre, Trebanog, Treherbert, Tynewydd, Williamstown, Ynyshir, Ystrad (Star), Aberaman, Abercynon, Gadlys, Penrhiwceiber, Trecynon and Ynysybwl

Proposals for retail development or changes of use to retail uses inside the defined boundaries which would maintain or enhance a centres position in the retail hierarchy will be permitted.

Policy SSA 16 - The Retail Hierarchy

SA Objective	Nature of the sustainability effect of policy (including magnitude, timing, duration and reversibility of effects where known).	Assessment	Evidence and reference	Suggested mitigation and enhancement measures (<i>those in italics are already proposed in the Plan</i>)
1	Housing Provide for the overall housing requirement through a mix of dwelling types catering for all needs to promote integrated and thriving communities	B		

Policy SSA 16 - The Retail Hierarchy					
SA Objective		Nature of the sustainability effect of policy (including magnitude, timing, duration and reversibility of effects where known).	Assessment	Evidence and reference	Suggested mitigation and enhancement measures (<i>those in italics are already proposed in the Plan</i>)
2	Culture and Heritage Promote, protect and enhance the Culture and Heritage including landscape, archaeology and language	No direct significant impact	B		
3	Communities Promote integrated communities, with opportunities for living, working and socialising for all	The policy will assist in retaining vibrant community focal points and will have a positive impact.	DG		
4	Health Provide an environment that encourages a healthy and safe lifestyle and promotes well-being	No significant impact	B		
5	Economy Provide for a sustainable economy	Facilitating adequate local retail facilities will retain spend locally and support the local economy by reducing leakage. Short and long term cumulative	DG		

<i>Policy SSA 16 - The Retail Hierarchy</i>				
SA Objective	Nature of the sustainability effect of policy (including magnitude, timing, duration and reversibility of effects where known).	Assessment	Evidence and reference	Suggested mitigation and enhancement measures (<i>those in italics are already proposed in the Plan</i>)
	positive impact.			
6	Employment Provide for a diverse range of job opportunities	DG		
7	Transport Reduce the need to travel and promote more sustainable modes of transport	DG		
8	Built Environment Provide a high quality built environment that promotes community pride	B		
9	Landscape Improve, protect and enhance the	B		

<i>Policy SSA 16 - The Retail Hierarchy</i>				
SA Objective	Nature of the sustainability effect of policy (including magnitude, timing, duration and reversibility of effects where known).	Assessment	Evidence and reference	Suggested mitigation and enhancement measures (<i>those in italics are already proposed in the Plan</i>)
	countryside			
10	Biodiversity Protect and enhance the diversity and abundance of wildlife habitats and native species	No direct significant impact.	B	
11	Water Promote sustainable water management including promoting use of sustainable drainage systems	No significant impact	B	
12	Climate Change Manage the effects of climate change	The most significant impact will be through reduced car use to other retail centres. Positive impact.	DG	
13	Energy Increase the supply of renewable energy and reduce energy consumption	No significant impact	B	
14	Land and Soils Promote efficient use	No significant impact	B	

<i>Policy SSA 16 - The Retail Hierarchy</i>				
SA Objective	Nature of the sustainability effect of policy (including magnitude, timing, duration and reversibility of effects where known).	Assessment	Evidence and reference	Suggested mitigation and enhancement measures (<i>those in italics are already proposed in the Plan</i>)
	of land and soils			
15	Waste Minimise waste, especially waste to landfill	No significant impact	B	
16	Minerals Promote efficient and appropriate use of minerals	No significant impact	B	
<p>Summary:</p> <p>The policy seeks to provide local retail facilities in proportion to the size of settlement and public transport. The appraisal shows that it will have a positive effect on transport and climate change objectives through trying to manage use of the private car and positive effects on the local economy through facilitating retail development.</p>				

Policy SSA 17 – Retail Development in Principal Towns and Key Settlements.

New and improved retail (Class A) facilities and other uses that are appropriate within the town centre will be permitted within the core retail area of Pontypridd where:

1. The proportion of other Class A2 or A3 units does not rise above 25% of frontage length;
2. The number, frontage lengths and distribution of other Class A 2 or A3 uses in the frontage do not create an over-concentration of uses detracting from its established retail character;
3. The proposed use will provide a direct service to visiting members of the general public and generate sufficient day time and evening pedestrian activity to avoid creating an area of relative inactivity in the shopping frontage;
4. The proposal does not prejudice the effective use of upper floors, retaining any existing separate access to upper floors; and
5. The proposal will retain or provide a shop front with a display function and entrances which relate well to the design of the host building and to the streetscene and its setting, in terms of its materials, form and proportion.

Policy SSA 17 – Retail Development in Principal Towns and Key Settlements.

SA Objective	Nature of the sustainability effect of policy (including magnitude, timing, duration and reversibility of effects where known).	Assessment	Evidence and reference	Suggested mitigation and enhancement measures (<i>those in italics are already proposed in the Plan</i>)
1 Housing Provide for the overall housing requirement through a mix of dwelling types catering for all needs to promote integrated and thriving communities	Criterion 4 ensures that opportunities for living over the shop in Aberdare are not lost. Minor but positive impact.	LG		
2 Culture and Heritage	Traditional shopfronts will be retained or	LG		

Policy SSA 17 – Retail Development in Principal Towns and Key Settlements.				
SA Objective	Nature of the sustainability effect of policy (including magnitude, timing, duration and reversibility of effects where known).	Assessment	Evidence and reference	Suggested mitigation and enhancement measures (<i>those in italics are already proposed in the Plan</i>)
	Promote, protect and enhance the Culture and Heritage including landscape, archaeology and language			
3	Communities Promote integrated communities, with opportunities for living, working and socialising for all	LG		
4	Health Provide an environment that encourages a healthy and safe lifestyle and promotes well-being	B		
5	Economy Provide for a sustainable economy	LG		

Policy SSA 17 – Retail Development in Principal Towns and Key Settlements.				
SA Objective	Nature of the sustainability effect of policy (including magnitude, timing, duration and reversibility of effects where known).	Assessment	Evidence and reference	Suggested mitigation and enhancement measures (<i>those in italics are already proposed in the Plan</i>)
	taken in the smaller settlements which seeks to build on the evening economy and social functions by allowing the introduction of more cafes, takeaways and public houses. Positive impacts for both strategies.			
6	Employment Provide for a diverse range of job opportunities	Maintaining the retail and social functions will add to the diversity of employment opportunities.	LG	
7	Transport Reduce the need to travel and promote more sustainable modes of transport	Pontypridd has good public transport links and can provide a retail focus between Aberdare and Llantrisant and potentially reduce longer trips to other centres outside the County Borough. Equally, widening the scope for evening entertainment in the other settlements may reduce trips for eating and drinking.	LG	
8	Built Environment Provide a high quality built environment that promotes community pride	Consideration to the quality of the built environment is given under criterion 5 of the policy.	LG	
9	Landscape	No direct impact.	B	

Policy SSA 17 – Retail Development in Principal Towns and Key Settlements.				
SA Objective	Nature of the sustainability effect of policy (including magnitude, timing, duration and reversibility of effects where known).	Assessment	Evidence and reference	Suggested mitigation and enhancement measures (<i>those in italics are already proposed in the Plan</i>)
	Improve, protect and enhance the countryside			
10	Biodiversity Protect and enhance the diversity and abundance of wildlife habitats and native species	No direct impact.	B	
11	Water Promote sustainable water management including promoting use of sustainable drainage systems	No direct impact.	B	
12	Climate Change Manage the effects of climate change	See comments on trip reduction under transport.	LG	
13	Energy Increase the supply of renewable energy and reduce energy consumption	No direct impact.	B	
14	Land and Soils	No direct impact.	B	

Policy SSA 17 – Retail Development in Principal Towns and Key Settlements.				
SA Objective	Nature of the sustainability effect of policy (including magnitude, timing, duration and reversibility of effects where known).	Assessment	Evidence and reference	Suggested mitigation and enhancement measures (<i>those in italics are already proposed in the Plan</i>)
	Promote efficient use of land and soils			
15	Waste Minimise waste, especially waste to landfill	No direct impact.	B	
16	Minerals Promote efficient and appropriate use of minerals	No direct impact.	B	
<p>Summary:</p> <p>The appraisal highlights that the approach to the retail function of Pontypridd and the retail/social role of Llanharan and Tonyrefail will have positive impacts for the economy, transport and climate change SA objectives with long term benefits predicted. No adverse impacts are identified by the appraisal.</p>				

Policy SSA 18 - Major Road Schemes

In addition to those schemes identified in policy CS 8 land will be safeguarded and provision made for the development of the strategic highway network in the Southern Strategy Area, including:

1. Tonyrefail Bypass and Ynysmaerdy to Coed Ely Dualling
2. A473 Llanharan Bypass, and
3. A473 Talbot Green Bypass

Policy SSA 18 - Major Road Schemes

SA Objective	Nature of the sustainability effect of policy (including magnitude, timing, duration and reversibility of effects where known).	Assessment	Evidence and reference	Suggested mitigation and enhancement measures (<i>those in italics are already proposed in the Plan</i>)
<p>1 Housing Provide for the overall housing requirement through a mix of dwelling types catering for all needs to promote integrated and thriving communities</p>	<p>Several of the schemes are related to strategic sites identified through the LDP process and will therefore facilitate the provision of housing, particularly in the Tonyrefai/ Ynysmaerdy and Talbot Green areas. Contributions will be sought from development and dependant on the level imposed could have a deterrent effect on developers.</p>	<p>?</p>		
<p>2 Culture and Heritage Promote, protect and enhance the Culture and Heritage</p>	<p>Llanharan bypass scheme is required for the LLanilid film studio complex which represents modern culture in Wales. An indirect but very positive impact on this</p>	<p>LG</p>		

Policy SSA 18 - Major Road Schemes				
SA Objective	Nature of the sustainability effect of policy (including magnitude, timing, duration and reversibility of effects where known).	Assessment	Evidence and reference	Suggested mitigation and enhancement measures (<i>those in italics are already proposed in the Plan</i>)
	including landscape, archaeology and language	objective.		
3	Communities Promote integrated communities, with opportunities for living, working and socialising for all	The Llanharan bypass will alleviate traffic impacts in Llanharan, Brynna and Dolau thereby improving the environment and access to facilities.	DG	
4	Health Provide an environment that encourages a healthy and safe lifestyle and promotes well-being	Improved access will facilitate access to health, education and employment opportunities, all significant factors in improving the health of the residents.	LG	
5	Economy Provide for a sustainable economy	The road improvements are part of the strategy to facilitate economic development in the southern strategy area and reduce dependence on Cardiff for employment. Significant long term positive impacts.	DG	
6	Employment Provide for a diverse	Facilitating economic development will hopefully result in increased employment	DG	

Policy SSA 18 - Major Road Schemes				
SA Objective	Nature of the sustainability effect of policy (including magnitude, timing, duration and reversibility of effects where known).	Assessment	Evidence and reference	Suggested mitigation and enhancement measures (<i>those in italics are already proposed in the Plan</i>)
	range of job opportunities			
7	Transport Reduce the need to travel and promote more sustainable modes of transport		22,000 (40%) residents commute out of the Borough for work. Review of Economic Analysis of RCT 2006 62% travel to work by car.	
8	Built Environment Provide a high quality built environment that promotes community pride	LG		
9	Landscape Improve, protect and enhance the countryside	Y		Mitigation strategies must be in place including landscaping and minimisation of light pollution.
10	Biodiversity Protect and enhance the	Y		Mitigation strategies must be in place where necessary.

Policy SSA 18 - Major Road Schemes					
SA Objective		Nature of the sustainability effect of policy (including magnitude, timing, duration and reversibility of effects where known).	Assessment	Evidence and reference	Suggested mitigation and enhancement measures (<i>those in italics are already proposed in the Plan</i>)
	diversity and abundance of wildlife habitats and native species	and whether mitigation measures are appropriate.			
11	Water Promote sustainable water management including promoting use of sustainable drainage systems	Where possible surface water run off should be managed by the use of sustainable urban drainage techniques SUDs e.g. swales to avoid adverse impacts on water quality and flooding.	?		A requirement for SUDs should be implemented.
12	Climate Change Manage the effects of climate change	Impacts as for transport and water objectives.	?	L C	
13	Energy Increase the supply of renewable energy and reduce energy consumption	No significant impact	B		
14	Land and Soils Promote efficient use of land and soils	There will be a significant land take associated with the road proposals although three schemes are dualling rather than complete new roads. The effects/ impacts must be considered in the light of the predicted economic	?		

Policy SSA 18 - Major Road Schemes				
SA Objective	Nature of the sustainability effect of policy (including magnitude, timing, duration and reversibility of effects where known).	Assessment	Evidence and reference	Suggested mitigation and enhancement measures (<i>those in italics are already proposed in the Plan</i>)
		benefits. Overall effects are uncertain.		
15	Waste Minimise waste, especially waste to landfill	Construction waste should be minimised through waste management plans so there should be a controlled impact.	LG	Waste management plans must be required.
16	Minerals Promote efficient and appropriate use of minerals	Implementation of the road schemes will require significant use of resources which should be sourced as locally as possible to reduce overall environmental impact.	LG	Local sourcing wherever possible.
<p>Summary:</p> <p>The socio-economic effects of developing road schemes are for this policy appraised as largely positive and beneficial for community development. There will inevitably be some adverse environmental impact through the implementation of the road building schemes (particularly for landscape and biodiversity issues) and these effects should be avoided, minimised and managed as recommended by the appraisal so that the economic and social benefits of producing east/west links outweigh the environmental effects.</p>				

Policy SSA 19 - Rail Network And Station Improvements

Land will be safeguarded for rail network improvements along the route of;

1. The former rail freight line between Pontyclun and Beddau

And for the provision of station improvements at:

1. Cowbridge Road, Talbot Green
2. Cardiff Road, Llantrisant
3. Llantrisant Road, Gwaun Miskin, And
4. Parish Road, Tynant

i)

Policy SSA 20 - Rail Network And Station Improvements

SA Objective	Nature of the sustainability effect of policy (including magnitude, timing, duration and reversibility of effects where known).	Assessment	Evidence and reference	Suggested mitigation and enhancement measures (<i>those in italics are already proposed in the Plan</i>)
1 Housing Provide for the overall housing requirement through a mix of dwelling types catering for all needs to promote integrated and	No significant impact	B		

Policy SSA 20 - Rail Network And Station Improvements				
SA Objective	Nature of the sustainability effect of policy (including magnitude, timing, duration and reversibility of effects where known).	Assessment	Evidence and reference	Suggested mitigation and enhancement measures (<i>those in italics are already proposed in the Plan</i>)
	thriving communities			
2	Culture and Heritage Promote, protect and enhance the Culture and Heritage including landscape, archaeology and language	No significant impact	B	
3	Communities Promote integrated communities, with opportunities for living, working and socialising for all	No significant impact	B	
4	Health Provide an environment that encourages a healthy and safe lifestyle and promotes well-being	No significant impact	B	
5	Economy Provide for a sustainable	RCT's roads are congested and this policy will encourage use of the rail network for commuters and shoppers	DG	62% travel to work by car.

Policy SSA 20 - Rail Network And Station Improvements				
SA Objective	Nature of the sustainability effect of policy (including magnitude, timing, duration and reversibility of effects where known).	Assessment	Evidence and reference	Suggested mitigation and enhancement measures (<i>those in italics are already proposed in the Plan</i>)
	economy	which will reduce traffic numbers which in turn aids efficiency of the economy. Positive impact.		
6	Employment Provide for a diverse range of job opportunities	No significant impact	B	
7	Transport Reduce the need to travel and promote more sustainable modes of transport	Encouraging use of the rail network directly addresses the aims of this objective and should have a long term positive impact.	DG	62% travel to work by car. 19,000 of whom travel to Cardiff.
8	Built Environment Provide a high quality built environment that promotes community pride	No significant impact	B	
9	Landscape Improve, protect and enhance the countryside	No significant impact	B	
10	Biodiversity Protect and	No significant impact	B	

Policy SSA 20 - Rail Network And Station Improvements				
SA Objective	Nature of the sustainability effect of policy (including magnitude, timing, duration and reversibility of effects where known).	Assessment	Evidence and reference	Suggested mitigation and enhancement measures (<i>those in italics are already proposed in the Plan</i>)
	enhance the diversity and abundance of wildlife habitats and native species			
11	Water Promote sustainable water management including promoting use of sustainable drainage systems	No significant impact	B	
12	Climate Change Manage the effects of climate change	Encouraging use of the rail network directly addresses the aims of this objective by reducing vehicle related carbon emissions and should have a long term positive impact.	DG	62% travel to work by car. 19,000 of whom travel to Cardiff.
13	Energy Increase the supply of renewable energy and reduce energy consumption	No significant impact	B	
14	Land and Soils Promote efficient use of land and soils	No significant impact	B	

Policy SSA 20 - Rail Network And Station Improvements					
SA Objective		Nature of the sustainability effect of policy (including magnitude, timing, duration and reversibility of effects where known).	Assessment	Evidence and reference	Suggested mitigation and enhancement measures (<i>those in italics are already proposed in the Plan</i>)
15	Waste Minimise waste, especially waste to landfill	No significant impact	B		
16	Minerals Promote efficient and appropriate use of minerals	No significant impact	B		
<p>Summary: Any policies which facilitate the use of railways rather than the private vehicle will have positive environmental impacts, particularly for climate change SA objectives, with indirect benefits for the economy and predicted improvements in access for those members of the community without a car.</p>					

Policy SSA 20 – Park and Ride (Bus) / Park and Share Provision

Provision for park and ride (bus) / park and share facilities will be provided within the following developments:

1. Strategic Site 7: Mwyndy / Talbot Green
2. Brown Lennox Site, Pontypridd
3. Land south of Makro, Parc Nantgarw
4. Land adjacent to A4119 & B4264 School Road

Policy SSA 20 – Park and Ride (Bus) / Park and Share Provision

SA Objective	Nature of the sustainability effect of policy (including magnitude, timing, duration and reversibility of effects where known).	Assessment	Evidence and reference	Suggested mitigation and enhancement measures (<i>those in italics are already proposed in the Plan</i>)
1 Housing Provide for the overall housing requirement through a mix of dwelling types catering for all needs to promote integrated and thriving communities	No significant impact	B		
2 Culture and Heritage Promote, protect and enhance the Culture and Heritage including landscape,	No significant impact	B		

Policy SSA 20 – Park and Ride (Bus) / Park and Share Provision				
SA Objective	Nature of the sustainability effect of policy (including magnitude, timing, duration and reversibility of effects where known).	Assessment	Evidence and reference	Suggested mitigation and enhancement measures (<i>those in italics are already proposed in the Plan</i>)
	archaeology and language			
3	Communities Promote integrated communities, with opportunities for living, working and socialising for all	No significant impact	B	
4	Health Provide an environment that encourages a healthy and safe lifestyle and promotes well-being	No significant impact	B	
5	Economy Provide for a sustainable economy	RCT's roads are congested and this policy will encourage use of the rail network for commuters and shoppers which will reduce traffic numbers which in turn aids efficiency of the economy. Positive impact.	DG	62% travel to work by car.
6	Employment Provide for a diverse range of job opportunities	No significant impact	B	

Policy SSA 20 – Park and Ride (Bus) / Park and Share Provision					
SA Objective		Nature of the sustainability effect of policy (including magnitude, timing, duration and reversibility of effects where known).	Assessment	Evidence and reference	Suggested mitigation and enhancement measures (<i>those in italics are already proposed in the Plan</i>)
7	Transport Reduce the need to travel and promote more sustainable modes of transport	Encouraging use of the bus and rail network and car sharing directly addresses the aims of this objective and should have a long term positive impact.	DG	62% travel to work by car. 19,000 of whom travel to Cardiff.	
8	Built Environment Provide a high quality built environment that promotes community pride	No significant impact	B		
9	Landscape Improve, protect and enhance the countryside	No significant impact	B		
10	Biodiversity Protect and enhance the diversity and abundance of wildlife habitats and native species	No significant impact	B		
11	Water Promote sustainable water management	No significant impact	B		

Policy SSA 20 – Park and Ride (Bus) / Park and Share Provision				
SA Objective	Nature of the sustainability effect of policy (including magnitude, timing, duration and reversibility of effects where known).	Assessment	Evidence and reference	Suggested mitigation and enhancement measures (<i>those in italics are already proposed in the Plan</i>)
	including promoting use of sustainable drainage systems			
12	Climate Change Manage the effects of climate change	Encouraging use of the bus and rail network and car sharing directly addresses the aims of this objective by reducing vehicle related carbon emissions and should have a long term positive impact.	DG	62% travel to work by car. 19,000 of whom travel to Cardiff.
13	Energy Increase the supply of renewable energy and reduce energy consumption	No significant impact	B	
14	Land and Soils Promote efficient use of land and soils	No significant impact	B	
15	Waste Minimise waste, especially waste to landfill	No significant impact	B	
16	Minerals Promote efficient and appropriate use of minerals	No significant impact	B	

Policy SSA 20 – Park and Ride (Bus) / Park and Share Provision				
SA Objective	Nature of the sustainability effect of policy (including magnitude, timing, duration and reversibility of effects where known).	Assessment	Evidence and reference	Suggested mitigation and enhancement measures (<i>those in italics are already proposed in the Plan</i>)
<p>Summary: Provision of park and ride/ park and share facilities, supports overarching objectives for more sustainable travel and a reduction in the use of the private car for commuting and leisure journeys. Indirect benefits for climate change objectives are also likely and the positive, long terms effects of making improvements to transport provision should be cumulative.</p>				

Policy SSA 21 - Cycle Network Improvements

The existing network of cycle paths and community routes will be extended improved and enhanced to include schemes at:

1. Church Village Bypass Community Route
2. Treforest Connect 2
3. Extension of Connect 2 scheme to Pontypridd
4. Maesycloed to Porth
5. Glyntaff to Nantgarw
6. Trallwn to Cilfynydd, and
7. Pontypridd to Tonyrefail via Llantrisant
8. Gyfeillion to Llanwonno route

Policy SSA 21 - Cycle Network Improvements

SA Objective		Nature of the sustainability effect of policy (including magnitude, timing, duration and reversibility of effects where known).	Assessment	Evidence and reference	Suggested mitigation and enhancement measures (<i>those in italics are already proposed in the Plan</i>)
1	Housing Provide for the overall housing requirement through a mix of dwelling types catering for all needs to promote integrated and thriving communities	No significant impact.	B		
2	Culture and Heritage	No significant impact	B		

Policy SSA 21 - Cycle Network Improvements				
SA Objective	Nature of the sustainability effect of policy (including magnitude, timing, duration and reversibility of effects where known).	Assessment	Evidence and reference	Suggested mitigation and enhancement measures (<i>those in italics are already proposed in the Plan</i>)
	Promote, protect and enhance the Culture and Heritage including landscape, archaeology and language			
3	Communities Promote integrated communities, with opportunities for living, working and socialising for all	LG	Relatively low car ownership.	
4	Health Provide an environment that encourages a healthy and safe lifestyle and promotes well-being	LG		
5	Economy Provide for a sustainable economy	LG		
6	Employment Provide for a diverse			

Policy SSA 21 - Cycle Network Improvements				
SA Objective	Nature of the sustainability effect of policy (including magnitude, timing, duration and reversibility of effects where known).	Assessment	Evidence and reference	Suggested mitigation and enhancement measures (<i>those in italics are already proposed in the Plan</i>)
	range of job opportunities			
7	Transport Reduce the need to travel and promote more sustainable modes of transport	Any provision of routes that encourage and enable walking and cycling will progress the aims of this objective. Positive and cumulative impact as routes are provided.	LG	
8	Built Environment Provide a high quality built environment that promotes community pride	No significant impact	B	
9	Landscape Improve, protect and enhance the countryside	Cycling routes with sympathetic surfacing are not intrusive in the landscape and as such no adverse impact is predicted.	B	
10	Biodiversity Protect and enhance the diversity and abundance of wildlife habitats and native species	No significant impact	B	
11	Water	No significant impact	B	

Policy SSA 21 - Cycle Network Improvements				
SA Objective	Nature of the sustainability effect of policy (including magnitude, timing, duration and reversibility of effects where known).	Assessment	Evidence and reference	Suggested mitigation and enhancement measures (<i>those in italics are already proposed in the Plan</i>)
	Promote sustainable water management including promoting use of sustainable drainage systems			
12	Climate Change Manage the effects of climate change	Initiatives to promote cycling and provide alternatives to the private car will have long term positive impacts through the reduction of CO2 emissions.	LG	
13	Energy Increase the supply of renewable energy and reduce energy consumption	No significant impact	B	
14	Land and Soils Promote efficient use of land and soils	No significant impact	B	
15	Waste Minimise waste, especially waste to landfill	No significant impact	B	
16	Minerals Promote efficient and appropriate use of minerals	No significant impact	B	

Policy SSA 21 - Cycle Network Improvements				
SA Objective	Nature of the sustainability effect of policy (including magnitude, timing, duration and reversibility of effects where known).	Assessment	Evidence and reference	Suggested mitigation and enhancement measures (<i>those in italics are already proposed in the Plan</i>)
<p>Summary:</p> <p>The policy which supports improvements to the cycle network will bring about direct positive effects on transport and climate change objectives with minor but positive indirect impact on health, communities and the economy. Potential for long term positive effects.</p>				

Policy SSA 22 – Green Wedges

Green wedges have been identified in order to prevent coalescence between and within settlements at the following locations:

1. Land between Gilfach Goch / Hendreforgan and Parc Eirin (Tonyrefail)
2. Land between Parc Eirin (Tonyrefail) and Ty'n y Bryn / Gelli Seren (Tonyrefail)
3. Land between Llanharan, Llanharry and Pontyclun
4. Land between Llantrisant and Beddau (Brynteg)
5. Land between Beddau / Tynant and Llantwit Fardre (Crown Hill) / Church Village
6. Land between Efail Isaf and Llantwit Fardre
7. Land between Glyncoch and Ynysybwl

Within these areas development which prejudices the open nature of the land, will not be permitted.

Policy SSA 22 – Green Wedges

SA Objective	Nature of the sustainability effect of policy (including magnitude, timing, duration and reversibility of effects where known).	Assessment	Evidence and reference	Suggested mitigation and enhancement measures (<i>those in italics are already proposed in the Plan</i>)
1 Housing Provide for the overall housing requirement through a mix of dwelling types catering for all needs to promote integrated and thriving communities	No direct impact.	B		

Policy SSA 22 – Green Wedges					
SA Objective		Nature of the sustainability effect of policy (including magnitude, timing, duration and reversibility of effects where known).	Assessment	Evidence and reference	Suggested mitigation and enhancement measures (<i>those in italics are already proposed in the Plan</i>)
2	Culture and Heritage Promote, protect and enhance the Culture and Heritage including landscape, archaeology and language	Will protect the historic landscape. Long term positive effect.	DG	Key areas of the Borough are protected for their heritage interest.	
3	Communities Promote integrated communities, with opportunities for living, working and socialising for all	Preventing coalescence of settlements protects and reinforces community. There is also an indirect impact through protecting environmental amenity.	LG		
4	Health Provide an environment that encourages a healthy and safe lifestyle and promotes well-being	Only indirect impact through improving environmental amenity.	LG		
5	Economy Provide for a sustainable economy	Any potential for tourism will be built on the landscape value of the area. This policy will have a strong positive impact.	DG		
6	Employment	Providing an attractive natural	DG		

Policy SSA 22 – Green Wedges				
SA Objective	Nature of the sustainability effect of policy (including magnitude, timing, duration and reversibility of effects where known).	Assessment	Evidence and reference	Suggested mitigation and enhancement measures (<i>those in italics are already proposed in the Plan</i>)
	Provide for a diverse range of job opportunities	environment may reduce population decline and attract inward investment as a good place to live and work. Potential for long term positive effect.		
7	Transport Reduce the need to travel and promote more sustainable modes of transport	Indirect positive impact. Protection of the landscape will reduce development opportunities in the countryside and supports the spatial strategy of the plan which concentrates rather than disperses development which lends opportunities to reduce use of the private vehicle.	LG	
8	Built Environment Provide a high quality built environment that promotes community pride	Protection of the green wedges will safeguard the setting of the towns, villages and hamlets. Positive long term effect.	LG	
9	Landscape Improve, protect and enhance the countryside	The policy directly addresses the aims of this objective and will have a long term, cumulative positive impact through the protection of important open spaces. Long term positive impact.	LG	Part of the Brecon Beacons National Park lies within RCT. There are 20 Special Landscape Areas.
10	Biodiversity Protect and	Green wedges can be important habitats and wildlife corridors.	LG	Parts of 2 SACs, 14 SSSIs and local nature reserves.

Policy SSA 22 – Green Wedges				
SA Objective	Nature of the sustainability effect of policy (including magnitude, timing, duration and reversibility of effects where known).	Assessment	Evidence and reference	Suggested mitigation and enhancement measures (<i>those in italics are already proposed in the Plan</i>)
	enhance the diversity and abundance of wildlife habitats and native species	Cumulative positive impact through the protection of the landscape and protection of flora and fauna..		
11	Water Promote sustainable water management including promoting use of sustainable drainage systems	Some of the green wedges identified will contain water courses so there will be indirect benefit for the quality of the water environment.	LG	
12	Climate Change Manage the effects of climate change	No direct impact but will contain and control development to locations with good public transport links and facilities rather than allowing spreading incremental development.	LG	
13	Energy Increase the supply of renewable energy and reduce energy consumption	No specific impact as the policy does not preclude renewable energy development e.g. wind farms.	B	
14	Land and Soils Promote efficient use of land and soils	No direct impact but will help contain and control development to settlement boundaries. Positive impact.	LG	
15	Waste	The Council seeks to reduce waste to	LG	

Policy SSA 22 – Green Wedges				
SA Objective	Nature of the sustainability effect of policy (including magnitude, timing, duration and reversibility of effects where known).	Assessment	Evidence and reference	Suggested mitigation and enhancement measures (<i>those in italics are already proposed in the Plan</i>)
Minimise waste, especially waste to landfill	landfill. Protection of the countryside for such development will indirectly support this objective.			
16 Minerals Promote efficient and appropriate use of minerals	No direct impact as the policy does not preclude mining/extraction activities.	B		
<p>Summary:</p> <p>The policy for Green Wedges performs well and will protect the quality of both the built environment and the landscape. No adverse impacts identified and potential for long term positive impacts through the establishment and maintenance of wildlife corridors and open spaces for public enjoyment offers long term cumulative & synergistic benefits.</p>				

SSA 23 - Special Landscape Areas

Special landscape areas are identified at the following locations:

1. Llanharry Surrounds
2. Talygarn Surrounds
3. Ely Valley at Miskin
4. Coed-yr-Hendy & Mwyndy
5. Llantrisant Surrounds
6. Mynydd y Glyn & Nant Muchudd Basin
7. Mynydd Hugh & Llantrisant Forest
8. Efail Isaf, Garth & Nantgarw Western Slopes
9. Craig yr Allt
10. Taff Vale Eastern Slopes, and
11. Treforest Western Slopes

Development within the defined special landscape areas will be expected to conform to the highest standards of design, siting, layout and materials appropriate to the character of the area.

SSA 23 - Special Landscape Areas

SA Objective	Nature of the sustainability effect of policy (including magnitude, timing, duration and reversibility of effects where known).	Assessment	Evidence and reference	Suggested mitigation and enhancement measures (<i>those in italics are already proposed in the Plan</i>)
1	Housing Provide for the overall housing requirement through a mix of dwelling types catering for all	B		

SSA 23 - Special Landscape Areas				
SA Objective	Nature of the sustainability effect of policy (including magnitude, timing, duration and reversibility of effects where known).	Assessment	Evidence and reference	Suggested mitigation and enhancement measures (<i>those in italics are already proposed in the Plan</i>)
	needs to promote integrated and thriving communities			
2	Culture and Heritage Promote, protect and enhance the Culture and Heritage including landscape, archaeology and language	LG		
3	Communities Promote integrated communities, with opportunities for living, working and socialising for all	B		
4	Health Provide an environment that encourages a healthy and safe lifestyle and promotes well-being	LG		
5	Economy Provide for a	DG		

SSA 23 - Special Landscape Areas				
SA Objective	Nature of the sustainability effect of policy (including magnitude, timing, duration and reversibility of effects where known).	Assessment	Evidence and reference	Suggested mitigation and enhancement measures (<i>those in italics are already proposed in the Plan</i>)
	sustainable economy	policy will have a strong positive impact.		
6	Employment Provide for a diverse range of job opportunities	Providing an attractive natural environment may reduce population decline and attract inward investment as a good place to live and work. Potential for long term positive effect.	DG	
7	Transport Reduce the need to travel and promote more sustainable modes of transport	Indirect positive impact. Protection of the landscape will reduce development opportunities in the countryside and supports the spatial strategy of the plan which concentrates rather than disperses development which lends opportunities to reduce use of the private vehicle.	LG	
8	Built Environment Provide a high quality built environment that promotes community pride	Protection of the landscape will include the setting of the towns, villages and hamlets. Positive long term effect. Development will be subject to design and built environment policies.	LG	
9	Landscape Improve, protect and enhance the countryside	The policy directly addresses the aims of this objective and will have a long term, cumulative positive impact through the protection of landscape value.	LG	There are 20 Special Landscape Areas,

SSA 23 - Special Landscape Areas					
SA Objective		Nature of the sustainability effect of policy (including magnitude, timing, duration and reversibility of effects where known).	Assessment	Evidence and reference	Suggested mitigation and enhancement measures (<i>those in italics are already proposed in the Plan</i>)
10	Biodiversity Protect and enhance the diversity and abundance of wildlife habitats and native species	This will have an indirect long term, cumulative positive impact through the enhancement of the landscape which will assist the protection of habitats and species.	LG	Parts of 2 SACs, 14 SSSIs and local nature reserves.	
11	Water Promote sustainable water management including promoting use of sustainable drainage systems	No direct impact	B		
12	Climate Change Manage the effects of climate change	No significant impact.	B		
13	Energy Increase the supply of renewable energy and reduce energy consumption	There can be tension between the need for renewable energy and protection of the landscape and biodiversity, particularly in the cases of wind turbines and biofuel crops. May well have a negative short and long term effect on this objective although there are turbines in Mynydd Hugh and Llantrisant SLA.	B		
14	Land and Soils	Protection of the landscape will reduce	LG		

SSA 23 - Special Landscape Areas					
SA Objective		Nature of the sustainability effect of policy (including magnitude, timing, duration and reversibility of effects where known).	Assessment	Evidence and reference	Suggested mitigation and enhancement measures (<i>those in italics are already proposed in the Plan</i>)
	Promote efficient use of land and soils	development opportunities in the countryside and supports the spatial strategy of the plan which concentrates rather than disperses development. Will encourage use of previously developed land and will have a positive impact.			
15	Waste Minimise waste, especially waste to landfill	The Council seeks to reduce waste to landfill. Protection of the countryside from such development will indirectly support this objective.	LG		
16	Minerals Promote efficient and appropriate use of minerals	There could be tension between landscape protection and mining/quarrying activity. The policy could have a negative impact on winning local mineral resources.	Y		
<p>Summary:</p> <p>The policy will be instrumental on protecting the landscape quality of the Borough on which tourism potential will be largely dependant. Landscape protection also has direct benefits for biodiversity through the indirect protection of habitats and the maintenance of wildlife corridors and networks. The appraisal notes that there may be conflict with renewable energy projects and mineral working, which will need to be considered. Overall this policy in implementation should provide for a positive long term impact.</p>					

Policy SSA 24 – Land Reclamation Schemes

Land reclamation schemes are proposed at the following locations;

1. Coed Ely land reclamation aftercare scheme, Tonyrefail.
2. Albion Lower Tips land reclamation scheme
3. Hetty land reclamation scheme
4. Cefn yr Hendy land reclamation scheme, Miskin
5. Former Cwm Colliery and Coking Works land reclamation scheme, Beddau

Policy SSA 24 – Land Reclamation Schemes

SA Objective	Nature of the sustainability effect of policy (including magnitude, timing, duration and reversibility of effects where known).	Assessment	Evidence and reference	Suggested mitigation and enhancement measures (<i>those in italics are already proposed in the Plan</i>)
1 Housing Provide for the overall housing requirement through a mix of dwelling types catering for all needs to promote integrated and thriving communities	No direct impact.	B		
2 Culture and Heritage Promote, protect	The land areas subject to the policy are not designated as having historic	B		

Policy SSA 24 – Land Reclamation Schemes					
SA Objective		Nature of the sustainability effect of policy (including magnitude, timing, duration and reversibility of effects where known).	Assessment	Evidence and reference	Suggested mitigation and enhancement measures (<i>those in italics are already proposed in the Plan</i>)
	and enhance the Culture and Heritage including landscape, archaeology and language	landscape importance so there will be no adverse effect.			
3	Communities Promote integrated communities, with opportunities for living, working and socialising for all	No direct impact.	B		
4	Health Provide an environment that encourages a healthy and safe lifestyle and promotes well-being	The restoration of land which may contain industrial pollutants is positive for health objectives	LG		
5	Economy Provide for a sustainable economy	The policy will be instrumental on protecting the landscape quality of the Borough on which tourism potential will be largely dependant. Also potential minor indirect impact in that a more attractive environment may encourage economic investment.	?		

Policy SSA 24 – Land Reclamation Schemes					
SA Objective		Nature of the sustainability effect of policy (including magnitude, timing, duration and reversibility of effects where known).	Assessment	Evidence and reference	Suggested mitigation and enhancement measures (<i>those in italics are already proposed in the Plan</i>)
6	Employment Provide for a diverse range of job opportunities	Potential impact as above.	?		
7	Transport Reduce the need to travel and promote more sustainable modes of transport	No direct impact.	B		
8	Built Environment Provide a high quality built environment that promotes community pride	Landscape restoration can improve the landscape setting of settlements. Positive impact.	LG		
9	Landscape Improve, protect and enhance the countryside	Direct relationship to this objective. Positive impact.	DG		
10	Biodiversity Protect and enhance the diversity and abundance of wildlife habitats and	The supporting text to the policy recognises that some sites regenerate naturally and become useful habitats for flora and fauna. On other sites contaminants may be removed which inhibit biodiversity, Therefore there should	LG		

Policy SSA 24 – Land Reclamation Schemes				
SA Objective	Nature of the sustainability effect of policy (including magnitude, timing, duration and reversibility of effects where known).	Assessment	Evidence and reference	Suggested mitigation and enhancement measures (<i>those in italics are already proposed in the Plan</i>)
	native species	be no adverse impact on biodiversity.		
11	Water Promote sustainable water management including promoting use of sustainable drainage systems	No significant impact but pollutants may be removed from the environment which may have entered the water environment i.e. streams, groundwater catchment areas. Positive impact.	LG	
12	Climate Change Manage the effects of climate change	No direct impact.	B	
13	Energy Increase the supply of renewable energy and reduce energy consumption	No direct impact.	B	
14	Land and Soils Promote efficient use of land and soils	No direct impact.	B	
15	Waste Minimise waste, especially waste to landfill	No direct impact.	B	
16	Minerals Promote efficient and appropriate use	No direct impact.	B	

Policy SSA 24 – Land Reclamation Schemes				
SA Objective	Nature of the sustainability effect of policy (including magnitude, timing, duration and reversibility of effects where known).	Assessment	Evidence and reference	Suggested mitigation and enhancement measures (<i>those in italics are already proposed in the Plan</i>)
of minerals				
<p>Summary:</p> <p>The policy will be instrumental in supporting and enhancing the protection of landscape quality within the Borough on which tourism potential will be largely dependant. Landscape restoration also has direct benefits for biodiversity through the creation or improvement of habitats. Restoration also offers indirect benefits for community (pride in sense of place and health benefits from the creation of accessible open spaces). Overall a positive long term impact.</p>				

Policy SSA 25 - Provision Of Community Recycling Facilities

Sites in the following locations will be safeguarded for the continuation of or provision for the future use as community recycling centres:

- a) Treforest Industrial Estate

Policy SSA 25 - Provision Of Community Recycling Facilities

SA Objective	Nature of the sustainability effect of policy (including magnitude, timing, duration and reversibility of effects where known).	Assessment	Evidence and reference	Suggested mitigation and enhancement measures (<i>those in italics are already proposed in the Plan</i>)
<p>1 Housing Provide for the overall housing requirement through a mix of dwelling types catering for all needs to promote integrated and thriving communities</p>	<p>No impact on housing provision</p>	<p>B</p>		
<p>2 Culture and Heritage Promote, protect and enhance the Culture and Heritage including landscape, archaeology and language</p>	<p>No significant impact</p>	<p>B</p>		

Policy SSA 25 - Provision Of Community Recycling Facilities					
SA Objective		Nature of the sustainability effect of policy (including magnitude, timing, duration and reversibility of effects where known).	Assessment	Evidence and reference	Suggested mitigation and enhancement measures (<i>those in italics are already proposed in the Plan</i>)
3	Communities Promote integrated communities, with opportunities for living, working and socialising for all	No significant impact	B		
4	Health Provide an environment that encourages a healthy and safe lifestyle and promotes well-being	Encouraging and supporting recycling reduces waste to landfill which can contaminate land and water. Minor but positive impact on health.	LG		
5	Economy Provide for a sustainable economy	No significant impact	B		
6	Employment Provide for a diverse range of job opportunities	No significant impact	B		
7	Transport Reduce the need to travel and promote more sustainable	It is assumed that these community recycling centres are for bulky goods which cannot be collected by kerbside collections. The site is close to Llantrisant,	LG		

Policy SSA 25 - Provision Of Community Recycling Facilities				
SA Objective	Nature of the sustainability effect of policy (including magnitude, timing, duration and reversibility of effects where known).	Assessment	Evidence and reference	Suggested mitigation and enhancement measures (<i>those in italics are already proposed in the Plan</i>)
	modes of transport	a principal growth area so it should serve a maximum number of people with minimum journeys. The other main centre is Pontypridd which has Treforest nearby. This spread of facilities will have a positive impact on the length of journeys which need to be undertaken.		
8	Built Environment Provide a high quality built environment that promotes community pride	No significant impact	B	
9	Landscape Improve, protect and enhance the countryside	The landscape impact of the new sites should be considered under landscape policies.	B	
10	Biodiversity Protect and enhance the diversity and abundance of wildlife habitats and native species	The biodiversity impact of new sites should be considered under biodiversity policies.	B	
11	Water	Recycling and sorting of electrical	B	

Policy SSA 25 - Provision Of Community Recycling Facilities				
SA Objective	Nature of the sustainability effect of policy (including magnitude, timing, duration and reversibility of effects where known).	Assessment	Evidence and reference	Suggested mitigation and enhancement measures (<i>those in italics are already proposed in the Plan</i>)
	Promote sustainable water management including promoting use of sustainable drainage systems	equipment, batteries, paints and oils should be carefully managed to avoid contamination of watercourses.		
12	Climate Change Manage the effects of climate change	All recycling projects are positive for climate change objectives and the spread of recycling centres ensures that overlong journeys are not required to access the facilities. Positive impact.	LG	
13	Energy Increase the supply of renewable energy and reduce energy consumption	No direct impact but such sites can provide acceptable locations for renewable energy projects such as wind turbines to serve the development.	LG	
14	Land and Soils Promote efficient use of land and soils	Only one site is proposed so the scale is not significant.	B	
15	Waste Minimise waste, especially waste to landfill	The waste hierarchy requires landfill to be the last resort so augmenting kerbside collection with community recycling further advances this objective. Positive impact.	LG	100% coverage of kerbside collections.
16	Minerals Promote efficient	No significant impact.	B	

Policy SSA 25 - Provision Of Community Recycling Facilities				
SA Objective	Nature of the sustainability effect of policy (including magnitude, timing, duration and reversibility of effects where known).	Assessment	Evidence and reference	Suggested mitigation and enhancement measures (<i>those in italics are already proposed in the Plan</i>)
and appropriate use of minerals				
<p>Summary:</p> <p>No adverse impacts are identified in relation to this policy and the appraisal indicates that it will assist progress towards sustainable development with potential positive outcomes for waste, transport, energy and climate change SA objectives.</p>				

Policy SSA 30 Safeguarding of High Purity Carbonate and Carboniferous Limestone. (NOW POLICIES AW 14 & 15)

The deposits of High Purity and Carboniferous Limestone, as shown on the proposals map, shall be safeguarded from any development, which would sterilise them or hinder their extraction.

The identified areas of safeguarding on the proposals map include a 200 metres buffer zone.

Policy SSA 30 - Safeguarding of High Purity Carbonate and Carboniferous Limestone. (NOW POLICIES AW 14 & 15)

SA Objective	Nature of the sustainability effect of policy (including magnitude, timing, duration and reversibility of effects where known).	Assessment	Evidence and reference	Suggested mitigation and enhancement measures (<i>those in italics are already proposed in the Plan</i>)
1 Housing Provide for the overall housing requirement through a mix of dwelling types catering for all needs to promote integrated and thriving communities	No direct impact on the provision of housing.	LG		
2 Culture and Heritage Promote, protect and enhance the Culture and Heritage including landscape, archaeology and	No direct or specific impact.	B		

Policy SSA 30 - Safeguarding of High Purity Carbonate and Carboniferous Limestone. (NOW POLICIES AW 14 & 15)				
SA Objective	Nature of the sustainability effect of policy (including magnitude, timing, duration and reversibility of effects where known).	Assessment	Evidence and reference	Suggested mitigation and enhancement measures (<i>those in italics are already proposed in the Plan</i>)
	language			
3	Communities Promote integrated communities, with opportunities for living, working and socialising for all	No direct or specific impact.	B	
4	Health Provide an environment that encourages a healthy and safe lifestyle and promotes well-being	Mining has potential impacts on health through air and noise pollution but this offsets this with Policy AW17 which protects established settlements.	B	
5	Economy Provide for a sustainable economy	Minerals are an essential requirement for the economy providing the raw material for infrastructure. This does not apply only to the local economy but also to the national economy. Positive impact.	LG	
6	Employment Provide for a diverse range of job opportunities	As above.	LG	
7	Transport Reduce the need to	There may be some short term adverse impact but no long term effect due to	?	

Policy SSA 30 - Safeguarding of High Purity Carbonate and Carboniferous Limestone. (NOW POLICIES AW 14 & 15)				
SA Objective	Nature of the sustainability effect of policy (including magnitude, timing, duration and reversibility of effects where known).	Assessment	Evidence and reference	Suggested mitigation and enhancement measures (<i>those in italics are already proposed in the Plan</i>)
	travel and promote more sustainable modes of transport			
8	Built Environment Provide a high quality built environment that promotes community pride	LG		
9	Landscape Improve, protect and enhance the countryside	LG		
10	Biodiversity Protect and enhance the diversity and abundance of wildlife habitats and native species	LG		
11	Water Promote sustainable	B		

Policy SSA 30 - Safeguarding of High Purity Carbonate and Carboniferous Limestone. (NOW POLICIES AW 14 & 15)				
SA Objective	Nature of the sustainability effect of policy (including magnitude, timing, duration and reversibility of effects where known).	Assessment	Evidence and reference	Suggested mitigation and enhancement measures (<i>those in italics are already proposed in the Plan</i>)
	water management including promoting use of sustainable drainage systems			
12	Climate Change Manage the effects of climate change	Impact as for transport	?	
13	Energy Increase the supply of renewable energy and reduce energy consumption	No direct impact	B	
14	Land and Soils Promote efficient use of land and soils	Sterilisation of resources is avoided by the requirement for pre-working of known reserves where development is necessary The policy will progress this objective.	LG	
15	Waste Minimise waste, especially waste to landfill	The policy promotes wastes minimisation and encourages on site recycling of materials. Positive impact.	LG	
16	Minerals Promote efficient and appropriate use of minerals	The policy ensures that the County Borough contributes to the national and regional requirement for minerals. Sterilisation of resources is avoided.	LG	

Policy SSA 30 - Safeguarding of High Purity Carbonate and Carboniferous Limestone. (NOW POLICIES AW 14 & 15)				
SA Objective	Nature of the sustainability effect of policy (including magnitude, timing, duration and reversibility of effects where known).	Assessment	Evidence and reference	Suggested mitigation and enhancement measures (<i>those in italics are already proposed in the Plan</i>)
<p>Summary:</p> <p>The use of non renewable materials does not meet the overall objective of sustainable development, although opportunities exist e.g. for habitat creation/ restoration as part of overall restoration activities. It is accepted that materials are required for essential infrastructure projects and that the plan is fulfilling its statutory obligation to include such policies, additionally sourcing materials close to where they will be used minimises the negative effects of transport.</p>				

Policy SSA 31 - Safeguarding of Sandstone (NOW POLICIES AW 14 & 15)

The deposits of Pennant Sandstone, as shown on the proposals map, shall be safeguarded from any development, which would sterilise them or hinder their extraction.

The identified areas of safeguarding on the proposals map include a 200 metres buffer zone.

6.

Policy SSA 31 - Safeguarding of Sandstone (NOW POLICIES AW 14 & 15)

SA Objective		Nature of the sustainability effect of policy (including magnitude, timing, duration and reversibility of effects where known).	Assessment	Evidence and reference	Suggested mitigation and enhancement measures (<i>those in italics are already proposed in the Plan</i>)
1	Housing Provide for the overall housing requirement through a mix of dwelling types catering for all needs to promote integrated and thriving communities	No direct impact on the provision of housing.	LG		
2	Culture and Heritage Promote, protect and enhance the Culture and Heritage including landscape,	No direct or specific impact.	B		

Policy SSA 31 - Safeguarding of Sandstone (NOW POLICIES AW 14 & 15)				
SA Objective	Nature of the sustainability effect of policy (including magnitude, timing, duration and reversibility of effects where known).	Assessment	Evidence and reference	Suggested mitigation and enhancement measures (<i>those in italics are already proposed in the Plan</i>)
	archaeology and language			
3	Communities Promote integrated communities, with opportunities for living, working and socialising for all	No direct or specific impact.	B	
4	Health Provide an environment that encourages a healthy and safe lifestyle and promotes well-being	Mining has potential impacts on health through air and noise pollution but this offsets this with Policy AW17 which protects established settlements.	B	
5	Economy Provide for a sustainable economy	Minerals are an essential requirement for the economy providing the raw material for infrastructure. This does not apply only to the local economy but also to the national economy. Positive impact.	LG	
6	Employment Provide for a diverse range of job opportunities	As above.	LG	

Policy SSA 31 - Safeguarding of Sandstone (NOW POLICIES AW 14 & 15)					
SA Objective		Nature of the sustainability effect of policy (including magnitude, timing, duration and reversibility of effects where known).	Assessment	Evidence and reference	Suggested mitigation and enhancement measures (<i>those in italics are already proposed in the Plan</i>)
7	Transport Reduce the need to travel and promote more sustainable modes of transport	There may be some short term adverse impact but no long term effect due to the finite resources.	?		
8	Built Environment Provide a high quality built environment that promotes community pride	The policy will ensure the ongoing provision of the traditional building materials of the area and will contribute to local distinctiveness in new development.	LG		
9	Landscape Improve, protect and enhance the countryside	Area wide policy seeks restoration plans. Therefore there may some short term landscape impact but there should be no long term or irreversible damage. There should be potential for landscape enhancement in some cases.	LG		
10	Biodiversity Protect and enhance the diversity and abundance of wildlife habitats and native species	Afteruse and restoration plans for quarried sites can often provide good habitat for a variety of species. As long as protected species are considered throughout the process there could be opportunity to provide more and varied habitat to support and enhance	LG		

Policy SSA 31 - Safeguarding of Sandstone (NOW POLICIES AW 14 & 15)				
SA Objective	Nature of the sustainability effect of policy (including magnitude, timing, duration and reversibility of effects where known).	Assessment	Evidence and reference	Suggested mitigation and enhancement measures (<i>those in italics are already proposed in the Plan</i>)
	biodiversity.			
11	Water Promote sustainable water management including promoting use of sustainable drainage systems	No direct or significant impact.	B	
12	Climate Change Manage the effects of climate change	The use of such materials does not meet the demands of this objective to reduce carbon emissions.	Y	
13	Energy Increase the supply of renewable energy and reduce energy consumption	The use of such materials does not meet the demands of this objective to reduce energy use.	Y	
14	Land and Soils Promote efficient use of land and soils	Sterilisation of resources is avoided by the requirement for pre-working of known reserves where development is necessary. Alternatives to primary won aggregates are encouraged e.g. reuse of material on PDL sites. The policy promotes wastes minimisation and encourages on site recycling of materials. The policy will progress this	LG	

Policy SSA 31 - Safeguarding of Sandstone (NOW POLICIES AW 14 & 15)				
SA Objective	Nature of the sustainability effect of policy (including magnitude, timing, duration and reversibility of effects where known).	Assessment	Evidence and reference	Suggested mitigation and enhancement measures (<i>those in italics are already proposed in the Plan</i>)
	objective.			
15	Waste Minimise waste, especially waste to landfill	The policy promotes wastes minimisation and encourages on site recycling of materials. Positive impact.	LG	
16	Minerals Promote efficient and appropriate use of minerals	The policy ensures that the County Borough contributes to the national and regional requirement for minerals. Sterilisation of resources is avoided.	LG	
<p>Summary: The use of non renewable materials does not meet the overall objective of sustainable development, although opportunities exist e.g. for habitat creation/ restoration as part of overall restoration activities. It is accepted that materials are required for essential infrastructure projects and that the plan is fulfilling its statutory obligation to include such policies, additionally sourcing materials close to where they will be used minimises the negative effects of transport.</p>				

Policy SSA 32 – Preferred Area of Known Mineral Resource (**NOW POLICIES AW 14 & 15**)

Land adjacent to Craig yr Hesg Quarry, Pontypridd is identified as a Preferred Area of Known Mineral Resource.

Policy SSA 32 – Preferred Area of Known Mineral Resource (**NOW POLICIES AW 14 & 15**)

SA Objective		Nature of the sustainability effect of policy (including magnitude, timing, duration and reversibility of effects where known).	Assessment	Evidence and reference	Suggested mitigation and enhancement measures (<i>those in italics are already proposed in the Plan</i>)
1	Housing Provide for the overall housing requirement through a mix of dwelling types catering for all needs to promote integrated and thriving communities	No direct impact on the provision of housing.	LG		
2	Culture and Heritage Promote, protect and enhance the Culture and Heritage including landscape, archaeology and language	No direct or specific impact.	B		
3	Communities	No direct or specific impact.	B		

Policy SSA 32 – Preferred Area of Known Mineral Resource (NOW POLICIES AW 14 & 15)					
SA Objective		Nature of the sustainability effect of policy (including magnitude, timing, duration and reversibility of effects where known).	Assessment	Evidence and reference	Suggested mitigation and enhancement measures (<i>those in italics are already proposed in the Plan</i>)
	Promote integrated communities, with opportunities for living, working and socialising for all				
4	Health Provide an environment that encourages a healthy and safe lifestyle and promotes well-being	Mining has potential impacts on health through air and noise pollution but this offsets this with Policy AW17 which protects established settlements.	B		
5	Economy Provide for a sustainable economy	Minerals are an essential requirement for the economy providing the raw material for infrastructure. This does not apply only to the local economy but also to the national economy. Positive impact.	LG		
6	Employment Provide for a diverse range of job opportunities	As above.	LG		
7	Transport Reduce the need to travel and promote more sustainable	There may be some short term adverse impact but no long term effect due to the finite resources.	?		

Policy SSA 32 – Preferred Area of Known Mineral Resource (NOW POLICIES AW 14 & 15)				
SA Objective	Nature of the sustainability effect of policy (including magnitude, timing, duration and reversibility of effects where known).	Assessment	Evidence and reference	Suggested mitigation and enhancement measures (<i>those in italics are already proposed in the Plan</i>)
	modes of transport			
8	Built Environment Provide a high quality built environment that promotes community pride	LG		
9	Landscape Improve, protect and enhance the countryside	LG		
10	Biodiversity Protect and enhance the diversity and abundance of wildlife habitats and native species	LG		
11	Water Promote sustainable water management including promoting	B		

Policy SSA 32 – Preferred Area of Known Mineral Resource (NOW POLICIES AW 14 & 15)				
SA Objective	Nature of the sustainability effect of policy (including magnitude, timing, duration and reversibility of effects where known).	Assessment	Evidence and reference	Suggested mitigation and enhancement measures (<i>those in italics are already proposed in the Plan</i>)
	use of sustainable drainage systems			
12	Climate Change Manage the effects of climate change	Y		
13	Energy Increase the supply of renewable energy and reduce energy consumption	Y		
14	Land and Soils Promote efficient use of land and soils	LG		
15	Waste Minimise waste, especially waste to landfill	LG		
16	Minerals	LG		

Policy SSA 32 – Preferred Area of Known Mineral Resource (NOW POLICIES AW 14 & 15)				
SA Objective	Nature of the sustainability effect of policy (including magnitude, timing, duration and reversibility of effects where known).	Assessment	Evidence and reference	Suggested mitigation and enhancement measures (<i>those in italics are already proposed in the Plan</i>)
Promote efficient and appropriate use of minerals	Borough contributes to the national and regional requirement for minerals. Sterilisation of resources is avoided.			
<p>Summary:</p> <p>The use of non renewable materials does not meet the overall objective of sustainable development, although opportunities exist e.g. for habitat creation/ restoration as part of overall restoration activities. It is accepted that materials are required for essential infrastructure projects and that the plan is fulfilling its statutory obligation to include such policies, additionally sourcing materials close to where they will be used minimises the negative effects of transport.</p>				

Policy SSA 33 - Safeguarding of Sand and Gravel Resources (NOW POLICIES AW 14 & 15)

The following sites contain resources of sand and gravel and will be safeguarded from any development, which would sterilise them or hinder their extraction.

The identified areas of safeguarding on the proposals map include a 100 metres buffer zone.

- i) Llanilid, East of Felindre Road
- ii) Brynsadler, North of Llanharry Road
- iii) South of Tylegarw, Pontyclun
- iv) Ceulan Farm, Miskin
- v) Pant Marsh, Talbot Green
- vi) Llantrisant and Pontyclun golf course
- vii) Rhiwsaeson Road, Cross Inn
- viii) Heol y Creigiau, Rhiwsaeson

Policy SSA 33 - Safeguarding of Sand and Gravel Resources (NOW POLICIES AW 14 & 15)

SA Objective	Nature of the sustainability effect of policy (including magnitude, timing, duration and reversibility of effects where known).	Assessment	Evidence and reference	Suggested mitigation and enhancement measures (<i>those in italics are already proposed in the Plan</i>)
1 Housing Provide for the overall housing requirement through a mix of dwelling types catering for all needs to promote	No direct impact on the provision of housing.	LG		

Policy SSA 33 - Safeguarding of Sand and Gravel Resources (NOW POLICIES AW 14 & 15)				
SA Objective	Nature of the sustainability effect of policy (including magnitude, timing, duration and reversibility of effects where known).	Assessment	Evidence and reference	Suggested mitigation and enhancement measures (<i>those in italics are already proposed in the Plan</i>)
	integrated and thriving communities			
2	Culture and Heritage Promote, protect and enhance the Culture and Heritage including landscape, archaeology and language	No direct or specific impact.	B	
3	Communities Promote integrated communities, with opportunities for living, working and socialising for all	No direct or specific impact, although policy allows [potentially] for working within 100m of settlements/ facilities.	?	
4	Health Provide an environment that encourages a healthy and safe lifestyle and promotes well-being	Mining has potential impacts on health through air and noise pollution but this offsets this with Policy AW17 which protects established settlements.	B	
5	Economy Provide for a sustainable	Minerals are an essential requirement for the economy providing the raw material for infrastructure. This does not apply only	LG	

Policy SSA 33 - Safeguarding of Sand and Gravel Resources (NOW POLICIES AW 14 & 15)				
SA Objective	Nature of the sustainability effect of policy (including magnitude, timing, duration and reversibility of effects where known).	Assessment	Evidence and reference	Suggested mitigation and enhancement measures (<i>those in italics are already proposed in the Plan</i>)
	economy	to the local economy but also to the national economy. Positive impact.		
6	Employment Provide for a diverse range of job opportunities	As above.	LG	
7	Transport Reduce the need to travel and promote more sustainable modes of transport	There may be some short term adverse impact but no long term effect due to the finite resources.	?	
8	Built Environment Provide a high quality built environment that promotes community pride	The policy will ensure the ongoing provision of the traditional building materials of the area and will contribute to local distinctiveness in new development.	LG	
9	Landscape Improve, protect and enhance the countryside	Area wide policy seeks restoration plans. Therefore there may some short term landscape impact but there should be no long term or irreversible damage. There should be potential for landscape enhancement in some cases.	LG	
10	Biodiversity Protect and	Afteruse and restoration plans for quarried sites can often provide good	LG	

Policy SSA 33 - Safeguarding of Sand and Gravel Resources (NOW POLICIES AW 14 & 15)				
SA Objective	Nature of the sustainability effect of policy (including magnitude, timing, duration and reversibility of effects where known).	Assessment	Evidence and reference	Suggested mitigation and enhancement measures (<i>those in italics are already proposed in the Plan</i>)
	enhance the diversity and abundance of wildlife habitats and native species	habitat for a variety of species. As long as protected species are considered throughout the process there could be opportunity to provide more and varied habitat to support and enhance biodiversity.		
11	Water Promote sustainable water management including promoting use of sustainable drainage systems	No direct or significant impact.	B	
12	Climate Change Manage the effects of climate change	The use of such materials does not meet the demands of this objective to reduce carbon emissions.	Y	At the present time, the use of these materials is required at regional and national levels so no mitigation is possible,
13	Energy Increase the supply of renewable energy and reduce energy consumption	The use of such materials does not meet the demands of this objective to reduce energy use. Burning fossil fuels does not meet the aims of this objective.	Y	At the present time, the safeguarding and use of these minerals is required at regional and national levels so no mitigation is possible,
14	Land and Soils Promote efficient use of land and soils	Sterilisation of resources is avoided by the requirement for pre-working of known reserves where development is necessary. Alternatives to primary won	LG	

Policy SSA 33 - Safeguarding of Sand and Gravel Resources (NOW POLICIES AW 14 & 15)				
SA Objective	Nature of the sustainability effect of policy (including magnitude, timing, duration and reversibility of effects where known).	Assessment	Evidence and reference	Suggested mitigation and enhancement measures (<i>those in italics are already proposed in the Plan</i>)
	aggregates are encouraged e.g. reuse of material on PDL sites. The policy promotes wastes minimisation and encourages on site recycling of materials. The policy will progress this objective.			
15	Waste Minimise waste, especially waste to landfill	LG		
16	Minerals Promote efficient and appropriate use of minerals	LG		
<p>Summary:</p> <p>The use of non renewable materials does not meet the overall objective of sustainable development, although opportunities exist e.g. for habitat creation/ restoration as part of overall restoration activities. It is accepted that materials are required for essential infrastructure projects and that the plan is fulfilling its statutory obligation to include such policies, additionally sourcing materials close to where they will be used minimises the negative effects of transport.</p>				

Policy SSA 34 – Safeguarding of Coal Reserves (NOW POLICIES AW 14 & 15)

The deposits of primary and secondary coal reserves, as shown on the proposals map, shall be safeguarded from any development, which would sterilise them or hinder their extraction.

The identified areas of safeguarding on the proposals map include a 500 metres buffer zone.

Policy SSA 34 – Safeguarding of Coal Reserves (NOW POLICIES AW 14 & 15)

SA Objective	Nature of the sustainability effect of policy (including magnitude, timing, duration and reversibility of effects where known).	Assessment	Evidence and reference	Suggested mitigation and enhancement measures (<i>those in italics are already proposed in the Plan</i>)
1 Housing Provide for the overall housing requirement through a mix of dwelling types catering for all needs to promote integrated and thriving communities	No direct impact on the provision of housing.	LG		
2 Culture and Heritage Promote, protect and enhance the Culture and Heritage including landscape, archaeology and	Mining is a part of the cultural heritage of the valleys.	?		

Policy SSA 34 – Safeguarding of Coal Reserves (NOW POLICIES AW 14 & 15)				
SA Objective	Nature of the sustainability effect of policy (including magnitude, timing, duration and reversibility of effects where known).	Assessment	Evidence and reference	Suggested mitigation and enhancement measures (<i>those in italics are already proposed in the Plan</i>)
	language			
3	Communities Promote integrated communities, with opportunities for living, working and socialising for all	No direct or specific impact.	B	
4	Health Provide an environment that encourages a healthy and safe lifestyle and promotes well-being	Mining has potential impacts on health through air and noise pollution but this offsets this with Policy AW17 which protects established settlements.	B	
5	Economy Provide for a sustainable economy	Coal does provide a secure, if time limited national fuel source which is positive for the economy. Exploitation of sources will provide employment matched to local skills.	LG	
6	Employment Provide for a diverse range of job opportunities	As above.	LG	
7	Transport Reduce the need to	There may be some short term adverse impact but no long term effect due to	?	

Policy SSA 34 – Safeguarding of Coal Reserves (NOW POLICIES AW 14 & 15)					
SA Objective		Nature of the sustainability effect of policy (including magnitude, timing, duration and reversibility of effects where known).	Assessment	Evidence and reference	Suggested mitigation and enhancement measures (<i>those in italics are already proposed in the Plan</i>)
	travel and promote more sustainable modes of transport	the finite resources.			
8	Built Environment Provide a high quality built environment that promotes community pride	No significant effect,	B		
9	Landscape Improve, protect and enhance the countryside	Area wide policy seeks restoration plans. Therefore there may some short term landscape impact but there should be no long term or irreversible damage. There should be potential for landscape enhancement in some cases.	LG		
10	Biodiversity Protect and enhance the diversity and abundance of wildlife habitats and native species	Afteruse and restoration plans for quarried sites can often provide good habitat for a variety of species. As long as protected species are considered throughout the process there could be opportunity to provide more and varied habitat to support and enhance biodiversity.	LG		
11	Water Promote sustainable	No direct or significant impact.	B		

Policy SSA 34 – Safeguarding of Coal Reserves (NOW POLICIES AW 14 & 15)					
SA Objective		Nature of the sustainability effect of policy (including magnitude, timing, duration and reversibility of effects where known).	Assessment	Evidence and reference	Suggested mitigation and enhancement measures (<i>those in italics are already proposed in the Plan</i>)
	water management including promoting use of sustainable drainage systems				
12	Climate Change Manage the effects of climate change	The winning and use of fossil fuels does not meet the demands of this objective to reduce carbon emissions.	O		At the present time, the use of these materials is required at regional and national levels so no mitigation is possible,
13	Energy Increase the supply of renewable energy and reduce energy consumption	Burning fossil fuels does not meet the aims of this objective.	O		At the present time, the safeguarding and use of these minerals is required at regional and national levels so no mitigation is possible,
14	Land and Soils Promote efficient use of land and soils	Sterilisation of resources is avoided by the requirement for pre-working of known reserves where development is necessary. Alternatives to primary won aggregates are encouraged e.g. reuse of material on PDL sites. The policy promotes wastes minimisation and encourages on site recycling of materials. The policy will progress this objective.	LG		
15	Waste Minimise waste,	The policy promotes wastes minimisation and encourages on site recycling of	LG		

Policy SSA 34 – Safeguarding of Coal Reserves (NOW POLICIES AW 14 & 15)					
SA Objective		Nature of the sustainability effect of policy (including magnitude, timing, duration and reversibility of effects where known).	Assessment	Evidence and reference	Suggested mitigation and enhancement measures (<i>those in italics are already proposed in the Plan</i>)
	especially waste to landfill	materials. Positive impact.			
16	Minerals Promote efficient and appropriate use of minerals	The policy ensures that the County Borough contributes to the national and regional requirement for minerals. Sterilisation of resources is avoided.	LG		
<p>Summary:</p> <p>The burning of fossil fuels coal does not meet the overall objective of sustainable development and will have negative effects on SA key objectives for energy and climate change which seek more long term sustainable solutions and reductions in carbon emissions. However, it is noted that coal does provide/ secure fuel supplies and is positive for employment/ economy and wider community (heritage) issues that are particularly pertinent for RCT. Additionally the plan is fulfilling its statutory obligation to include such policies, therefore negative impact on environmental SA objectives must be considered in this socio-economic context.</p>					

Appendix VII: LDP Progression Table

Sustainability Appraisal: Progression Table		
Policy	SA / SEA Comment	Proposed Change
CORE POLICIES		
CS 1 Development in the North	The policy addresses the socio economic problems associated with this part of the County Borough and provides a strong framework to help reverse existing trends in the pockets of unemployment, deprivation and poor housing. Cultural and environmental issues are also given consideration to ensure that economic pressures do not result in adverse impacts on the existing built environment, landscape and biodiversity. However the policy could be improved by reference to the water environment which is lacking in the plan generally and is required to meet the Water Directive Framework. An overarching climate change and water policy embedded in the plan core policies would significantly improve the environmental performance of this plan.	Agreed. Amend the drat LDP to include a new core policy on climate change. The draft policy is attached as Appendix A.
CS 2 Development in the South	The policy clearly reflects the differences between the northern and southern strategy areas and provides a strong policy base to implement the overall strategy. It seeks to control levels of development to that which do not exceed environmental capacity and will have strong social and economic.	No change required to the policy.
CS 3 Strategic Sites	The strategy generally performs well and will progress sustainable development in the County Borough. However there are issues that require further consideration such as the site specific and cumulative impacts of this level of development on biodiversity and the capacity of identified flood risk zones. There does appear to be a high level of degradation/ development of land identified as SINCS and the cumulative impact must be assessed. The individual site	Noted, no changes required to the policy detailed policy guidance in respect of each site is contained in the the Northern and Southern Strategy Area Sections of the Plan.

Sustainability Appraisal: Progression Table		
Policy	SA / SEA Comment	Proposed Change
	assessments are contained in the Northern and Southern Strategy Area sections of this appraisal.	
CS 4 Housing Requirements	No adverse impacts have been identified at this strategic level and all sites have been the subject of a site selection methodology which has been assessed by consultants Enfusion. More detailed appraisal of the strategic sites can be found under the strategy area policies.	No change required to the policy.
CS 5 Affordable Housing	The policy will ensure that affordable housing is provided which will have direct impacts on social objectives such as housing and health and may well have indirect positive impacts on the economy through the retention of young people, particularly in the northern strategy area. Landscape cultural and biodiversity impacts should have been screened out on the major sites where most of the affordable housing will take place.	No change required to the policy.
CS 6 Employment Requirements	As part of the strategic site strategy this policy performs well and may have positive impacts on the northern strategy area economy in particular and reduce out commuting for employment.	No change required to the policy.
CS 7 Retail Development	Retail allocations should benefit the local economy by reducing spending leakage outside the County Borough. It is also positive for transport as it may reduce trips to other centres.	No change required to the policy.
CS 8 <i>Transportation</i>	There will inevitably be some adverse environmental impact through the implementation of the road building schemes but this should be minimised and managed as suggested so that the economic and social benefits of producing east/west links outweigh the environmental effects.	Noted. Supplementary Planning Guidance will be produced in respect of the strategic transportation management scheme. The reasoned justification will be amended to read as follows: <i>Be an essential element of the overall transportation strategy. The Council will seek to ensure that the construction of new roads is</i>

Sustainability Appraisal: Progression Table		
Policy	SA / SEA Comment	Proposed Change
		undertaken in a manner which balances the socio economic benefits with the environmental impact of construction.
CS 9 Waste Management	Allocating waste facilities on existing industrial estates minimises environmental impacts. No adverse social or economic impacts are identified. A positive policy will / should help improve the Council's aims of minimising landfill and increasing recycling and composting.	No change required to the policy.
<i>New Policy CS 10 – Minerals</i>		
AREA WIDE POLICIES		
AW 1 New Housing	The policy takes a wide ranging and innovative approach to meeting the projected housing requirement and performs well against the sustainability framework objectives. The policy makes use of all existing resources and does not rely on new build any more than necessary. Most of the potential impacts identified can be resolved through the requirement for specific standards of design and construction. Socially and economically the policy performs well.	No change required to the policy.
AW 2 Sustainable Locations	The policy generally performs well but two recommendations are made which would further improve the performance of the policy: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Make reference to local nature conservation designations in criterion viii • Amend criterion ix to "are well related to existing water, sewerage, electrical, gas and telecommunications 	Agreed Policy the policy will be amended to read as follows: viii) The proposed development is not within a green wedge, special landscape area, or an internationally, nationally or locally

Sustainability Appraisal: Progression Table		
Policy	SA / SEA Comment	Proposed Change
	<p>infrastructure and <i>improvements to such services will be provided where necessary</i>"</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> All applications in Flood Zone C will require a Flood Risk Assessment to accompany any planning application so could criterion v. omit item b) and replace it with a requirement for sustainable urban drainage systems? 	<p><i>designated nature conservation site.</i></p> <p>ix) Are well related to existing water, sewerage, electrical, gas and telecommunications <i>infrastructure and improvements to such services will be provided where necessary</i></p> <p>Comments in relation to criterion v) are noted. No change is proposed it is considered that the requirement for a sustainable urban drainage system have been addressed in new CS policy on Climate Change.</p>
AW 3 Affordable Housing in the Countryside	<p>No unacceptable adverse impacts are identified apart from the need to clarify the wording of the policy which in its present form could deter the provision of affordable housing. It is recommended that the policy should be amended to clearly reflect the intention and wording of TAN 2 as follows: Criterion i) "The proposed development cannot be accommodated within the defined residential settlement boundaries <i>on land which private market housing would not permitted</i>" ;</p>	<p>Agreed amend Policy AW3 to read as follows:</p> <p>i) "The proposed development cannot be accommodated within the defined residential settlement boundaries <i>on land which private market housing would not permitted</i>" ;</p>
Policy AW 4 Gypsy & Traveller has been deleted		

Sustainability Appraisal: Progression Table		
Policy	SA / SEA Comment	Proposed Change
AW 4 Community Infrastructure and Planning Obligations	Whilst the policy performs very well against most sustainability framework objectives, there is an underlying concern that the list of contributions sought may deter, or render unviable, development which is needed to bring about the regeneration of the County Borough, particularly in the northern strategy area. Both developers and development management planners require clear guidance on this topic and it is hoped that the SPG gives clear and understandable guidance on the level of contribution which will be expected.	Noted. The policy will be amended to read: Contributions <i>may</i> be sought in respect of:... Detailed Supplementary Planning Guidance will be provided in respect of Planning Obligations.
AW 5 New Development	This is a specific policy addressing design issues from the small i.e. extensions and shop fronts replacements to large i.e. the design of public places and spaces and the need for masterplanning on significant sites. The policy performs well against built environment, social, economic and cultural objectives and also on transport issues. No adverse environmental impacts have been identified as it is considered that landscape and biodiversity issues are covered by Policy AW9. However concerns are again raised about the water environment and it is recommended that an appropriate water policy is incorporated in the plan to meet the requirements of the WFD and consultations carried out with the EA.	Noted. Policy issues in respect of the Water Environment are addressed in new Core policy on Climate Change.
AW 6 Design and Placemaking	The policy covers three aspects of development amenity and accessibility issues and sustainable design and construction, and all aspects perform well against the Sustainability Framework objectives. No adverse impacts have been identified and there should be a cumulative, ongoing progression of all the objectives.	No change required to the policy.

Sustainability Appraisal: Progression Table		
Policy	SA / SEA Comment	Proposed Change
AW 7 Built Environment	The policy has two distinct parts, the protection of the historic built environment and the protection of open space, allotments, bridleways and cycle tracks. This is a broad interpretation of the term "built environment" and the real intention of the policy is only clear on reading the supporting text. Although no adverse impacts are identified, the implementation of this policy may be improved by changes to wording and possibly the title, or even splitting the policy into two distinct parts. It is also recommended that the policy would be more robust if the wording were amended to "will <u>only</u> be permitted" to emphasise that development in near or on such historic sites, and development which improves or enhances public open space, allotments and rights of way, will not be an everyday occurrence and that such opportunities may be quite limited. Although it is preferable for policies to be written in the affirmative, protection policies, and the supporting text does refer to national designations such as SAMs, are acceptable in the negative as Policy AW9 below.	Agreed. The policy will be amended to read as follows: Development proposals which impact upon sites of architectural and / or historical merit and sites of archaeological importance will only be permitted where it can be demonstrated that the proposal would preserve or enhance the character and appearance of the site. Development proposals which affect areas of public open space, allotments, public rights of way, bridleways and cycle tracks will only be permitted where it can be demonstrated that :-
AW 8 Natural Environment	The policy performs extremely well against the environmental and economic objectives and will ensure continuing protection of the natural environment from inappropriate development. No adverse impacts have been identified	No change required to the policy.
AW 9 Buildings in the Countryside	The policy makes best use of substantial buildings in the countryside which leads to the identified positive impacts. Concern is only expressed that ecological surveys with reference to protected species are not required as a matter of course on rural buildings proposed for conversion/renovation. This amendment to the supporting text would improve the biodiversity rating to LG.	Agreed. The reasoned justification will be amended to read as follows: ...worthy of retention. <i>All planning applications for the alteration, renovation or conversion of buildings in the countryside must be accompanied by an appropriate ecological</i>

Sustainability Appraisal: Progression Table		
Policy	SA / SEA Comment	Proposed Change
		<i>survey.</i>
AW 10 Environmental Protection and Public Health	The policy will have a positive impact on the quality of the environment of RCT and no adverse impacts have been identified. It is recommended that the policy would be improved by the addition "water pollution" to criterion vii. to ensure clarity of protection for the water environment. This could be further explained in the supporting text to cover rivers, groundwater sources and wetlands.	Agreed. Amend the policy to read as follows: vii) Water Pollution and the reasoned justification to read as follows: ...high levels of noise, light, water and / or air pollution..
AW 11 Existing Employment and Retail Use	No adverse impacts identified. The policy balances the social and economic objectives well, ensuring that employment is not lost unnecessarily and that use is made of PDL for housing where there will be no adverse economic impact.	No change required to the policy
AW 12 Renewable Energy	The policy directly addresses the energy and climate change objectives and will have indirect positive impacts on health and the economy. The policy also balances the need for renewable energy supplies and the need to protect the landscape, biodiversity and cultural assets of the County Borough. Very positive impact.	No change required to the policy
AW 13 Large Wind Farm Development	The major impact is on landscape value and this policy requires a site within the SSA. As noted above, onshore wind turbines have the greatest capacity to meet renewable targets in the short to mid term. Issues of necessary transmission cables and pylons to serve developments of this scale are even more important and this and site restoration need to be dealt with to improve the performance of the policy	Noted. The issues raised will be dealt with in detail in Supplementary Planning Guidance on Renewable Energy.

Sustainability Appraisal: Progression Table		
Policy	SA / SEA Comment	Proposed Change
<i>New AW 14 – Safeguarding of Minerals</i>	<i>Please see comments below</i>	
<i>AW15 Community Amenity Protection Buffer Zones</i>	<i>Please see comments below</i>	
AW 15 Waste Management - Deleted		
NORTHERN STRATEGY AREA		
NSA 1 Development in Aberdare	No adverse impacts identified and generally the policy will assist in achieving sustainable development.	No change required to the policy
NSA 2 Development in Town Centres of Key Settlements	No adverse impacts identified and generally the policy will assist in achieving sustainable development.	No change required to the policy
NSA 3 Development in Hirwaun	Although the policy appears to perform well Hirwaun does have identified problems with relation to the provision of community facilities. The LDP policy NSA 8 seeks to resolve this through the development of a strategic site with new retail, leisure, health and education facilities. However only 400 dwellings of this development is expected to take place during the plan period with the community facilities being in place after 750 of the proposed total 1,000 dwellings are built. Therefore there could be a significant amount of development with no improved facilities unless his policy is stringently implemented. Hirwaun is well connected to other settlements by bus and it is hoped that this will mitigate against the potential unsustainable situation.	No change required to the policy NSA3. The reasoned justification of Policy NSA 8 will be amended to read as follows: No more than 75% of the development, <i>permitted over the plan period</i> , shall be completed ...
NSA 4 Former Meardy Colliery	The site makes use of an unused Colliery Site and proposes a mixture of employment, tourist and recreation uses which meet the	No change required to the policy

Sustainability Appraisal: Progression Table		
Policy	SA / SEA Comment	Proposed Change
	sustainability framework objectives. The proposal should bring about long term social, economic and environmental improvements.	
NSA 5 Former Fernhill Colliery	The site has positive impacts on landscape issues but raises concerns over the availability of public transport and the impact on the SINC and the water environment. At this strategic level of assessment the site could have negative impacts.	Noted. The Council is aware of the local nature conservation value of parts of the site and issues of accessibility. Careful consideration will be given through the master planning of the site of the need to manage and mitigate against the impact of development.
NSA 6 Former Phurnacite Plant	The site will have a positive economic impact but the issue of the cumulative reduction of the RCT flood plain through development should be addressed.	Noted. The allocation of 500 dwellings has been withdrawn until such time as the flood risk issues are satisfactorily resolved.
NSA 7 Land at Roberstown / Abernant	The proposal has the potential to bring significant economic and social gains to the area. There are potential adverse impacts identified on biodiversity and flood issues.	Noted. The Council is aware of the flooding issues and local nature conservation value of parts of the site. Careful consideration will be given through the master planning of the site of the need to manage and mitigate against the impact of development
NSA 8 Land South of Hirwaun / Penywaun	The proposal has the potential to bring significant economic and social gains to the area. However there are potential adverse impacts identified on biodiversity which require further work to be undertaken to be certain that unacceptable adverse effects are avoided.	Noted. The Council is aware of the local nature conservation value of parts of the site. Careful consideration will be given through the master planning of the site of the need to manage and mitigate against the impact of development.
NSA 9 Housing Allocations	Overall the sites perform acceptably well against the sustainability criteria when taken within the context that this level of development is required by national development spatial strategy. A few concerns are raised over the transport, landscape and biodiversity	Noted. All the sites allocated for residential development have been fully assessed in accordance with the Candidate Site Assessment Methodology. The Council is

Sustainability Appraisal: Progression Table		
Policy	SA / SEA Comment	Proposed Change
	impacts of some sites and it is recommended that these are revisited to ascertain that acceptable mitigation is possible and consideration given to any other possible alternative sites.	confident that issues relating to transport, biodiversity and landscape can be resolved by careful master planning of the site.
NSA 10 Housing Density	It is accepted that the northern strategy area already has areas of densely developed terraced housing (approx 70dph) and that a mix of housing is required, but having stated that the minimum density will be 30dph, the policy could still do more to facilitate dwellings at a higher dph where appropriate. This could be, for example, through the development of flats or three storey development in urban areas with good public transport connections. This would improve the performance of the policy in the light of transport, climate change and housing objectives. As noted above, 25% affordable housing on sites of 30 dwellings will bring forward a maximum of 7/8 such units per hectare assuming that other site costs render the provision of affordable housing viable. Therefore the provision of family housing may be at the expense of providing secure rented accommodation for those unable to enter the housing market. It is recommended that consideration be given to amending the policy to offer more encouragement for higher density development in appropriate locations.	Noted. The reasoned justification will be amended to read as follows: Developments that propose lower <i>or higher</i> density levels will be permitted...
NSA 11 Affordable Housing	As noted above, the percentage of affordable housing is low in UK terms. However it is acknowledged that this policy reflects the specific economy and existing dwelling stock in the northern strategy area and is a component part of the regeneration strategy and need for a wider mix of house types. As the affordable housing will generally be part of allocated sites which have been subject to	No change required to the policy

Sustainability Appraisal: Progression Table		
Policy	SA / SEA Comment	Proposed Change
	the STA site selection methodology there be no specific environmental impact from the inclusion of affordable housing.	
NSA 12 Settlement Boundaries	<p>The policy has the potential to undermine the provision of affordable housing built under the affordable housing exceptions policy and to disrupt the balance of the carefully balanced strategic sites through the addition of incremental development. It is recommended that :</p> <p>If more development than can be accommodated within settlement boundaries is to be allowed, a more positive approach would be to widen the settlement boundaries in settlements with appropriate location and facilities. This would also give more clarity to the purpose of Policy AW 3 – Exception Sites For Affordable Housing In The Countryside.</p> <p>The reference to development adjacent to the boundaries of strategic sites should be removed</p>	Disagree. The settlement boundaries in the plan have been fully reviewed. The boundaries in the Northern Strategy Area have been amended, where appropriate to allow for additional development opportunities. The policy has been specifically formulated to allow development, in exceptional circumstances, which can meaningfully improve the supply of housing in the area. It should be noted that the policy only applies to those parts of the Northern Strategy Area where there is a clearly defined problem in housing supply.
NSA 13 Large Buildings	The policy performs well against most objectives and will make best use of land and resources whilst providing a further source of potential employment or residential premises.	No change required to the policy
NSA 14 Employment Allocations	Assessment missing	
NSA 15 Small Industrial and business Sites	Employment land can be easily lost due to the higher return provided by residential development on such sites. Small employment sites can be hard to replace once lost and often play vital parts in local economies. Therefore the policy performs well against economic, transport and climate change objectives. However the policy also recognises that some historic employment	No change required to the policy.

Sustainability Appraisal: Progression Table		
Policy	SA / SEA Comment	Proposed Change
	sites generate noise and air pollution or have inadequate access and these are exempt to protect the environmental quality of residential areas.	
NSA 16 Redundant Industrial Sites	No significant adverse impacts are identified and the policy should have long term positive impacts on most objectives. However the policy could make reference to the location of the sites as the redevelopment of sites in situations with no access to public transport or walking and cycling should be given serious consideration. Although the impact will be on a relatively small scale there will be significant benefit from encouraging and facilitating redevelopment of the old industrial sites.	The identification of these sites has the potential to undermine their continued existence. Therefore no policy change is proposed.
NSA 17 Retail Allocations	Allocation of land for retail use will support the local economy and employment opportunities and discourage proposals on land which is not as suitable. Positive long term impact.	No change required to the policy
NSA 18 Retail Hierarchy	The policy seeks to provide local retail facilities in proportion to the size of settlement and public transport. It should have positive effect on transport and climate change objectives through trying to manage use of the private car and positive effects on the local economy through facilitating retail development.	No change required to the policy
NSA 19 Retail Developments in Principal Towns and Key Settlements	The approach to the retail function of Aberdare and the retail/social role of the other smaller northern strategy area settlements will have positive impacts for the economy, transport and climate change. No adverse impacts identified.	No change required to the policy

Sustainability Appraisal: Progression Table		
Policy	SA / SEA Comment	Proposed Change
Policy NSA 20 - Local And Neighbourhood Shops Is deleted		
NSA 20 Major Road Schemes	There will inevitably be adverse environmental impact through the implementation of the road building schemes but this should be minimised and managed as suggested above so that the economic and social benefits of producing east/west links outweigh the environmental effects.	An appropriate amendment has been made to policy CS8.
NSA 21 Park and Ride / Park and Share	The appraisal notes the potential for adverse environmental impact against landscape and biodiversity SA objectives through the implementation of the infrastructure/ transport schemes but this should be avoided, minimised and managed as recommended by the appraisal. The potential positive long term economic and social benefits of producing east/west links should be pursued where it can be demonstrated that the overall environmental quality can be maintained.	No change required to policy.
NSA 22 Rail Network and Station Improvements	Reuse of existing railway lines and station improvements perform well in terms of transport, social, economic and climate change objectives.	No change required to the policy
NSA 23 Cycle Network	The policy will bring about direct positive effects on transport and climate change objectives with minor but positive indirect impact on health, communities and the economy.	No change required to the policy
Policy NSA 25 – Development in Aberdare Conservation Area is deleted		

Sustainability Appraisal: Progression Table		
Policy	SA / SEA Comment	Proposed Change
NSA 24 Green Wedges	The policy performs well and will protect the quality of both the built environment and the landscape. No adverse impacts identified.	No change required to the policy
Policy NSA 26 is deleted		
NSA 25 Special Landscape Areas	The policy will be instrumental on protecting the landscape quality of the Borough on which tourism potential will be largely dependant. Landscape protection also has direct benefits for biodiversity through the indirect protection of habitats. As noted there may be conflict with renewable energy projects and mineral working. Overall a positive long term impact.	No change required to the policy
NSA 26 Cynon Valley River Park	Whilst performing well against landscape and biodiversity objectives concerns must be raised about water quality and the capacity of the floodplain. A clear, stronger revised policy incorporating specifically citing water quality as an issue would greatly improve the potential benefits of this policy.	Noted. Amend policy to read as follows: ...nature conservation value <i>and water quality</i> .
NSA 27 Land Reclamation Schemes	The policy will be instrumental in undoing some of the land degradation which has occurred over the last two centuries. Landscape restoration also has direct benefits for biodiversity through the creation or improvement of habitats. Overall a positive long term impact.	No change required to the policy
NSA 28 Community Recycling	The policy builds on existing facilities and proposes new recycling facilities to improve the service across the County Borough. Very positive for sustainability and no adverse impacts identified.	No change required to the policy

Sustainability Appraisal: Progression Table		
Policy	SA / SEA Comment	Proposed Change
<p>Policy NSA 32 - Safeguarding of Sandstone and Policy NSA 33 – Safeguarding of Coal Reserves <i>Are deleted. The policies have been replaced with policy AW 14 and 15</i></p>		
<p>SOUTHERN STRATEGY AREA</p>		
<p>SSA 1 Development in Pontypridd</p>	<p>Generally the policy will assist in achieving sustainable development. However concern is raised over the requirement for improvements to car parking which contradicts the aims of the transport objective. It is recommended that the criterion should either be removed or a justification given for this move away from sustainability objectives</p>	<p>Agreed. The policy will be amended by the deletion of Criterion 9.</p>
<p>SSA 2 Pontypridd Town Centre</p>	<p>No adverse impacts identified and the policy will assist in achieving sustainable development and the regeneration of Pontypridd.</p>	<p>No change required to the policy</p>
<p>SSA 3 Development in Llantrisant / Talbot Green</p>	<p>The policy builds on the more buoyant southern economy and encourages the development of all functions of the Llantrisant/Talbot Green area. Improvement of the retail and employment function may reduce outcommuting for work and reduce the spend leakage to Cardiff and Bristol. The policy also ensures that the role of Llantrisant will continue if there is delay in implementing the strategic site proposal. Although on a relatively small scale, the policy definitely progresses sustainable development in the County Borough.</p>	<p>No change required to the policy</p>
<p>SSA 4 Development in Tonyrefail</p>	<p>The policy builds on the more buoyant southern economy and encourages the development of all functions of Tonyrefail. Improvement of the retail and employment function may reduce outcommuting for work and reduce the spend leakage to Cardiff</p>	<p>No change required to the policy</p>

Sustainability Appraisal: Progression Table		
Policy	SA / SEA Comment	Proposed Change
	and Bristol. The policy also ensures that the role of Tonyrefail will continue if there is delay in implementing the strategic site proposal. Although on a relatively small scale, the policy definitely progresses sustainable development in the County Borough.	
SSA 5 Education Facilities in Tonyrefail	Positive impacts for communities, travel and climate change with indirect benefits for health. No adverse impacts identified.	No change required to the policy
SSA 6 Development in Llanharan	No adverse impacts identified but it is important that community facilities, including health and education, keep abreast with the level of development permitted so that the existing situation is not exacerbated. Some concern must be expressed at the dependence of the proposed strategic site providing the new facilities for the locality and the implications if that site is not implemented.	Concerns noted. The Council is however, confident that the delivery of new residential and commercial development in Llanharan will be sufficient to achieve the objectives of this policy.
SSA 7 Cwm Colliery & Coking Works	Generally the site performs well against sustainability objectives and should have positive economic and social effects in a location with good public transport links which are proposed for further improvement. The landscape should also see improvement and the cultural aspects of the site will be retained by keeping the significant industrial features. Concern is expressed over part of the site being in a flood zone and the masterplan for the site must produce a Flood Risk Assessment which ensures mitigation is achievable.	Noted. The site has been subject of a strategic flood consequences assessment. The results of this and other assessment work will be the basis of developing an appropriate masterplan for the site.
SSA 8 Mwyndy / Talbot Green	The site generally performs well and has the potential to improve the existing settlement in terms of built environment, reduction of transport movements and employment opportunities. However the area is of significant nature conservation importance and the	Noted. The Council is aware of the local nature conservation value of parts of the site. Careful consideration will be given through the master planning of the site of the need to manage

Sustainability Appraisal: Progression Table		
Policy	SA / SEA Comment	Proposed Change
	inevitable and irreversible damage to parts of the site must be weighed against the other identified benefits.	and mitigate against the impact of development.
SSA 9 Llanilid	The proposal has the potential to bring significant economic and social gains to the area. The only adverse impact identified is on biodiversity which has been highlighted above	Noted. The Council is aware of the local nature conservation value of parts of the site. Careful consideration will be given through the master planning of the site of the need to manage and mitigate against the impact of development.
SSA 10 Housing Allocations	<p>In general the sites perform well against the sustainability framework objectives, but the following sites do raise sustainability issues.</p> <p>9. Concern must be expressed at the scale of development proposed at Trane Farm, Tonyrefail and South of the Ridings and further work on the ability of existing facilities to sustain these levels of development should be carried out to inform the required levels of planning contribution if existing facilities are not sufficient.</p> <p>10. The site at Collenna Farm appears to incorporate an SSSI and the site South of the Ridings incorporates part of a SINC and it is recommended that ecological surveys should be undertaken and mitigation strategies in place prior to allocations being finalised.</p> <p>11. There does appear to be flood risk issues connected with the site South of the Ridings which is of a significant scale (500 dwellings) and it is recommended that a full flood risk</p>	<p>Noted.</p> <p>1. Both the sites identified have been subject to a detailed assessment as part of the Candidate Site Assessment Process. As a result the need for additional education provision has been identified. In order to ensure clarity the requirement policy SSA 5 will be amended to read:</p> <p>New Educational Facilities</p> <p>Land will be made available within the proposed residential development at Trane Farm, Tonyrefail and Land south of The Ridings, Tonteg and east of Station Road, Church Village</p>

Sustainability Appraisal: Progression Table		
Policy	SA / SEA Comment	Proposed Change
	<p>assessment on the south of Ridings site should be carried out before the site is allocated.</p> <p>12. One site raises issues of poor access to public transport and this is the site at Glyntaff Farm, Rhydfelin. Possible reconsideration of site.</p>	<p>as defined by policy SSA 10 for the provision of new educational facilities.</p> <p>2. The reasoned justification for both sites will be amended to ensure that development cannot take place until such time as a detailed ecological survey and mitigation strategy has been agreed.</p> <p>3. The sites identified have been subject to a detailed assessment as part of the Candidate Site Assessment Process and there are no significant issues of flood risk on this site.</p> <p>4. The sites identified have been subject to a detailed assessment as part of the Candidate Site Assessment Process. The site is well located to public transport and a range of services.</p>
SSA 11 Housing Density	<p>Basically the policy performs and will be instrumental in achieving sustainable development. However, more encouragement for higher densities in appropriate locations would improve the performance on energy, affordable housing provision and transport.</p>	<p>Noted. The reasoned justification will be amended to read as follows:</p> <p>...surrounding area. <i>Equally, developments that propose higher densities will be given favourable consideration where it can be demonstrated that the proposal will not have an adverse impact on the character of the site or surrounding area.</i></p>

Sustainability Appraisal: Progression Table		
Policy	SA / SEA Comment	Proposed Change
SSA 12 Affordable Housing	As the affordable housing will generally be part of allocated sites which have been subject to the STA site selection methodology there be no specific environmental impact from the inclusion of affordable housing. A very positive impact on the provision of housing to meet the needs of those who cannot enter the private market for either sale or rent.	No change required to the policy
SSA 13 Settlement Boundaries	The policy performs well against most objectives and will make best use of land and resources and provide a further source of potential housing land.	No change required to the policy
SSA 14 Employment Allocations		No change required to the policy
SSA 15 Retail Allocations	Allocation of land for retail use will support the local economy and employment opportunities and discourage proposals on land which is not as suitable. Positive long term impact.	No change required to the policy
SSA 16 Retail Hierarchy	The policy seeks to provide local retail facilities in proportion to the size of settlement and public transport. It should have a positive effect on transport and climate change objectives through trying to manage use of the private car and positive effects on the local economy through facilitating retail development.	No change required to the policy
SSA 17 Retail Development in Principal Towns and Key Settlements	The approach to the retail function of Pontypridd and the retail/social role of Llanharan and Tonyrefail will have positive impacts for the economy, transport and climate change. No adverse impacts identified.	No change required to the policy
<i>SSA 18 Neighbourhood and Local Shops has been deleted</i>		
SSA 18	There will inevitably be some adverse environmental impact through	An appropriate amendment has been made

Sustainability Appraisal: Progression Table		
Policy	SA / SEA Comment	Proposed Change
Major Road Schemes	the implementation of the road building schemes but this should be minimised and managed as suggested above so that the economic and social benefits of producing east/west links outweigh the environmental effects.	to policy CS8.
SSA 19 Rail Network and Station Improvements	Any policies which facilitate the use of railways rather than the private vehicle will have positive environmental impacts with indirect benefits for the economy and general issues of access for those without a car.	No change required to the policy
SSA 20 Park and Ride / Park and Share	Positive long term objective and no indirect adverse impacts.	No change required to the policy
SSA 21 Cycle Network Improvements	The policy will bring about direct positive effects on transport and climate change objectives with minor but positive indirect impact on health, communities and the economy.	No change required to the policy
<i>Policies SSA 23 & 24 Llantrisant Conservation Area have been deleted</i>		
SSA 22 Green Wedges	The policy performs well and will protect the quality of both the built environment and the landscape. No adverse impacts identified.	No change required to the policy
SSA 23 Special Landscape Areas	The policy will be instrumental in protecting the landscape quality of the Borough on which tourism potential will be largely dependant. Landscape protection also has direct benefits for biodiversity through the indirect protection of habitats. As noted there may be conflict with renewable energy projects and mineral working. Overall a positive long term impact.	No change required to the policy

Sustainability Appraisal: Progression Table		
Policy	SA / SEA Comment	Proposed Change
SSA 24 Land Reclamation Schemes	The policy will be instrumental on protecting the landscape quality of the Borough on which tourism potential will be largely dependant. Landscape restoration also has direct benefits for biodiversity through the creation or improvements of habitats. Overall a positive long term impact	No change required to the policy
SSA 25 Community Recycling	No adverse impacts identified. A policy that will assist progress towards sustainable development with potential positive outcomes for waste, transport, energy and climate change.	No change required to the policy
SSA 26 Preferred Area of Known Mineral Resource	The use of non renewable materials does not meet the overall objective of sustainable development. However it is accepted that materials are required for essential infrastructure projects and that the plan is fulfilling its statutory obligation to include such policies.	No change required to the policy
<i>New Policy SSA 27 Land at Beddau Caravan Park</i>		
<i>Policy SSA 30 – Safeguarding of High Purity Carbonate and Carboniferous Limestone, Policy SSA 33 - Safeguarding of Sand and Gravel Resources ,Policy SSA 31 - Safeguarding of Sandstone and Policy SSA 34 – Safeguarding of Coal Reserves has been deleted The policies have been replaced with policy AW 14 and 15.</i>		

Policy CS XX – Climate Change

Rhondda Cynon Taf will seek to address climate change and reduce energy demand by: -

A) Addressing the causes of climate change through:

1. Requiring development proposals to reduce their predicted CO2 emissions by a minimum of 10%;
- 2. Implementing through the waste hierarchy-covered elsewhere, contributions limited would remove – take this out completely**
3. Supporting development proposals that encourage the reuse of existing buildings and brownfield sites
4. Promoting the provision of renewable energy generation from microgeneration equipment (where appropriate) in new and existing development and refurbished development: and
5. Supporting Development proposals that incorporate decentralised heating, cooling and power networks powered by renewable energy sources, or that connect to existing Combined Heat and Power or communal/district heating networks where the potential to convert to a renewable energy source has been examined and possible.

B) Adapting to direct and indirect impacts of climate change through:

- 1. Requiring flood risk assessments on development proposals in 1:100 year floodplains this required anyhow by regulations, look to enforce the**

sustainable development indicator on development contrary to TAN15 – either remove or include a requirement in line with SA indicator

- 2.
3. Managing flood risk through incorporating measures in design and construction to reduce the effects of flooding, including sustainable drainage systems (SUDS) and flood resilient design for infrastructure and property
4. Requiring new development to reduce the demand for water through recycling rainwater and grey water recycling; and
5. Supporting climate responsive development including location, orientation, density, layout, built form, ensuring in-built flexibility for varying uses over the lifetime of the development, low carbon design

Evidence from the UK Climate Impact Programme (UKCIP) suggests that climate change is happening. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change highlights that we are already experiencing the effects of climate change and if these changes deepen and intensify, there will be even more extreme impacts.

The UKCIP has produced scenarios for changes in Wales over the period up to 2080. The potential impacts in Wales of the changes, as suggested by these scenarios, include increased direct risks of:

- More extreme weather events including drier summers;
- Storminess and flash flooding leading to a greater risk of flooding and pressure on sewer systems;
- A risk of ice sheets melting and thermal expansion of the oceans, leading to rising sea-levels and the risk of coastal and river damage/erosion;
- Very high summer temperatures causing health

problems;

* Permanent changes in the natural environment such as habitat and species loss, for example in upland and wetland areas;

- Summer water shortages and low stream flows (coupled with higher demand);
- Subsidence in prone areas; and
- Thermal discomfort in buildings and health problems in summer, including heat-related deaths linked to air pollution

Indirect impacts for Wales from the effect of climate change on other parts of the world include:

- Migration of people from vulnerable areas;
- Movement and loss of species and habitats; and
- Changes in food supplies and tourism.

The Earth's climate has undergone change over long periods of time and has caused ice ages or desertification. Previously, these changes were driven by long-term natural processes, such as sun spot activity, geological processes or the cycle of the Earth's orbit around the Sun.

The Welsh Assembly Government's 'Renewable Energy Route Map for Wales' sets out that the climate is changing much more quickly than ever before and the change in temperature mirrors the increase in atmospheric carbon due to human activity.

Carbon dioxide and other gases, collectively known as 'greenhouse gases', act as a partial blanket that increases the amount of heat from the sun that is trapped by the atmosphere. Since the industrial revolution, concentrations of greenhouse gases have increased, reducing heat loss from the Earth and resulting in warming of the

Earth's surface and lower atmosphere. It is this warming effect that will have a profound impact on our climate and in turn on our lives. The 'Renewable Energy Route Map for Wales' sets out that it is important to find ways in which to adapt to this change. The LDP Core Policy on climate change will seek to provide adaptation techniques to achieve this.

The Welsh Assembly Government believes that climate change is the greatest long-term challenge facing the world today. Addressing climate change is therefore the Welsh Assembly Government's principal concern for achieving sustainable development. The Draft MIPPS on Climate Change produced by the Welsh Assembly Government provides guidance on how local planning authorities should address the issue of climate change.

The Draft MIPPS on Climate Change advises that local planning authorities should include within their development plans a policy requiring major developments to reduce their predicted CO2 emissions by a minimum of 10% (from the current baseline required by building regulations) through improvements to the energy performance of buildings, efficient supply of heat, cooling and power, and on site renewable energy.

The Draft MIPPS on Climate Change indicates that LDPs should provide policies that aim to reduce the overall negative environmental impact of major developments and to improve climate change adaptability in the plan area.